

Portland, Oregon

March 12, 1877

Colonel Daniel Hall

Dover, N.H.

Dear Hall,

Your kind letter is received. I know Hancock was in command after his arrival, but of course, I did not realize <sup>it</sup> from the manner of his introducing himself in the midst of the excitement of the occasion. Hence my irritation when I received the order itself, having then the leisure to peruse it carefully. In fact it is not of any importance as you suggest. Please obtain copy of my answer to Hancock in Army and Navy Journal of Jan'y 6, 1877. You will see that my ground of controversy is the same as you suggest.

I did search for everything about yourself in your letters to me and otherwise, but being so far from Washington and writing from memory, I hardly dared trust myself to anything but a suggestion concerning you, so you may imagine how glad I am to get your letters. Towards General Reynolds I feel just as you have expressed yourself in your letter to Col. Livermore.



I never solicited the favorable reports concerning myself, nor asked anybody to associate my name with that of General Meade in the vote of thanks. Everything was spontaneous and grew out of actual things known and read of all men at the time.

I am not over anxious concerning my record. I have been besmirched time and again, but I make few replies and precious little defence against envy, hatred or malice, and do not propose to do so.

I wrote the article on Gettysburg at the request of the Editor of "Atlantic" and directly for the compensation he could give me, with an earnest desire to contribute something of interest, and nothing but truth to history.

So far as I trust simply to recollection, I am as likely to be right and as liable to be wrong as most men whose faculties are yet in their possession. My article has no anger in it; The spirit of Hancock's appears to me to be anything but charitable or kind. Judging by it you would think me, from its spirit rather than declaration, something akin to a fraud. I do not reciprocate the sentiment.

Hancock did nobly for his country in times of trial and he ought not to be biased against me by over



estimate of partial friends, nor by any afterclap of ambition. We have stood side by side in times of danger and he knows that I am neither a coward nor a fool. Weaknesses will crop out in him and me, but it is unwise to expose them too freely to the carping souls who delight in a fight whether between dogs or men. The higher the standing of the men, the brighter the gleaming of their eyes. If you could at your leisure write me carefully your recollections of the orders you carried for me at Gettysburg and elsewhere, also the same regarding other Staff Officers associated with you, I shall be delighted and will make use of that sometime to correct any wrong bias I may have and to do you the honor you and they deserve.

With kind remembrances

I remain very truly your friend.

(Sgd) O. O. Howard

P.S. You wrote me a very important letter bearing on the facts above referred to, in 65 or 66, but repeated searches have failed to find it. Did you keep a copy of it?

O. O. H.



Mar 14 [187]7

Gen W. T. Sherman

Dear General,

I have had some private intimation that there will be a vacancy soon, probably by resignation, in the Brigadierships.

Of course there will be many recommendations and it have some regard to may be that promotion will seniority. I wish to say that Col. Nelson A. Miles (5<sup>th</sup> Infantry) served in several battles with me or under my eye, in the early part of the war. He, once when severely wounded in the throat, had himself brought to me, stopping the flow of blood with his fingers & thumb closing the wound, in order to point out the place where he thought reinforcements would be

most effective. For gallantry persistency & ability as an officer few if any could excel Miles.

I give him my cordial recommendation for his own glorious service.

Should you wish from me a detailed account of his record I will at any time gladly furnish it.

Very respectfully yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Brig. Gen. U. S. A.



Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> [1877]

To/

Gen. Francis C. Barlow

My dear General:

Nothing

has given me more satisfaction  
than your kind letter of  
Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> just received. I  
see that you can see beyond  
newspaper criticisms as I  
knew you could. Your  
name is often mentioned by  
[me?] & I enjoy seeing  
it always connected with  
right & justice, but should  
you ever be [ ? ] I should  
still trust you. God bless  
you & yours.

Very truly your friend

O.O.Howard



20 Mar [1877]

Col. E. C. Watkins

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find  
find a census of  
Nez Perce Reservation  
Indians.

I send it for your  
information. (?)

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard

U. S. Army



Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 1877

To/

W. F. Sanders, Esq.

Helena, Montana

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> is  
at hand. I enclose you an account that  
I had on reaching this city; also a copy of the  
dispatch. I shall try to write a series of  
sketchy material concerning the campaign  
& march for the Chicago Advance.

These articles may serve your purpose  
better than my official report which I will  
send you, (I mean a copy) as soon as  
written. My journal has too much in it that  
would not apply & I can not so easily have  
a copy made as of my report.

Col. Mason of my staff kept full notes but  
says much is of too personal character to be pub-  
lished. Should the material I send you be in  
your judgement, insufficient you <sup>should</sup> could correspond  
with him. direct Col. E. C. Mason 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry.



I am not worried with regard to the  
part my command bore in the campaign;  
in fact I was the Senior Officer in the  
Dept. of Dakota, & therefore bore the re-  
sponsibility of what the several Officers,  
viz:- Miller, E. Miles, Sanford, Sturgis and N. A. Miles  
N. A. Miles did. The campaign which  
was rendered lively by Josephs escapades was  
conducted under my direction, & therefore  
I must submit to be loaded with the  
usual amount of criticism.

I think my friends will be fully satisfied  
that it was a work well done, when they  
shall have examined the entire chain  
                                  in my judgement  
including the links. I do not ^ deserve  
the curses of your good people; and am  
grateful for your expressions of kindly favor.

Helena,

Montana

Very truly yours,

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Brig Gen. U. S. Army



(unofficial)

Nov. 27 [1877]

Gen W.T. Sherman

U.S.A.

Dear General,

I see by this  
mornings telegrams from Washington  
that the Nez Perce captured in the  
East have been imprisoned at  
Leavenworth. Some time ago I  
reported that I had taken  
some prisoners before I  
started in pursuit of Joseph.  
I still have them in confine  
ment about forty in all -  
May I not take them soon  
to join the others or shall  
I keep them till spring & then  
do so. I would like before long  
for both public & private  
[natives ?] to visit Washington  
see you or  
and if ^ in the Spring I can  
be directed to take the prisoners

to Fort Leavenworth it will  
be a great help to me.

I did not get your  
kind letter by the hands of  
Lt. Colonel Gilbert, till a  
copy was furnished me at  
St. Paul, so that I did  
not turn back myself or  
turn over my little Column  
to another.

Your dispatches to me & those  
of our excellent Division  
(recd. at Henry Lake)  
Commander ^ helped me  
wonderfully in regaining  
the morals of my officers &  
soldiers which was disturbed  
by extreme hardship & discomfort.

It would have been a great  
hardship to me personally to have  
stopped short of success.

With great personal regard.

I remain as ever Your friend

(sgd) O.O.Howard



P.S. I enclose two slips that may aid you in an official &  
unofficial glance at our matters - O.O.H.



Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1877

To/

J. H. Hamilton

Horse Prairie, Beaden Head County,  
Montana,

Dear Sir:

I am

directed by Gen Howard to acknowledge the receipt  
of your communication of Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> which reached him Yes  
him Yesterday.

All captured horses were left  
with Col. Miles. They were in very bad condition  
but very few American horses were living.  
Of course it would be imposible for  
the General to give you any definite  
information, further than this. He is  
grateful for your kind expressions.

Yours, &c.

M. C. Wilkinson

Aide de Camp



Nov 28<sup>th</sup> [187]7

To/

Jno B. Montieth

U.S. Ind. Agt.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

recd. The accounts will receive immediate attention. General Howard directed me to say that he had been expecting to write you.

The Indian guides, John & George remained back with the prisoners. They were faithful & true all the way through. They sent kind regards to you & wanted you to tell their families of safety &c. Chapman no doubt will take good care of them.

Some of the agencies in Oregon Col. Watkins inspected to his satisfaction; some were in poor shape. I remained with him until the last one, [Sibley ?] was visited. We had often occasion to draw comparisons. Certainly never unfavorable to you, or yours.

Ever truly yours, (sgd) M. C. Wilkinson,

aide.



December 4, [187]7

General John Gibbon.

U. S. Army

Dear General:

Your letter of November 12th is just received. In order that you may know just what I thought and said, I enclose you herewith an extract from my official report, made to my Division Commander from Henry Lake, Montana. My own letter to you written in pencil, on the field, you are welcome to publish.

As to my giving the information to the St. Louis Globe Democrat, it is a mistake. I did not furnish the information on which the article was based to that paper or to any other. I was not in St Louis at all, as I returned from Chicago direct to Omaha, via Cedar Rapids. I saw a similar



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

article, perhaps identical, in a Chicago paper.

Now, Gibbon, as the atmosphere has been filled with  
[false ?] rumors and untrue reports, and as I have been  
accused of using my pen too freely during the  
campaign in the way of publication, which  
is certainly contrary to the fact, I am unwilling  
to write to the Editors in my own behalf, and  
would prefer not to do it in any event, so please  
put my report before the public if you like, where-  
ever you think best. It will probably all be  
published, before this letter can reach you, in  
connection with Department reports.

Hoping this may find you entirely  
recovered from your wound.

I remain, very truly yours

O. O. Howard

Brigadier General. U. S. Army.



Decem. 4<sup>th</sup> 1877

Col. C. H. Larrabee

Seattle, W. T.

Dear Colonel;

Your kind note, with article from Evening Post, is at hand. My conduct at the surrender is in accordance with my own belief of the courtesy due from a Commanding Officer to his subordinate, under similar circumstances, and especially when the junior belongs, as Col. Miles did, to a separate department from the one I commanded. As to the criticism in the article, that I sent boastful dispatches and used my pen too freely. This is hardly true. My first dispatch to my wife was never intended for the public, and I merely hoped to comfort her in view of my sudden and unexpected call to war, and it was published contrary to my sanction or wish, by whom I do not know, certainly not by my wife or myself. My other dispatches were sent to my Division Commander, and my Adjutant General, or to parallel commanders, in obedience to the calls of duty, viz to submit my plans and information for their guidance and co operation. I congratulate you and your daughter on the safe return of Captain Burton. His faithful service will never be forgotten.



by me.

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Brig. Genl. U. S. Army