Salt Lake, 10 July 1885.

Genl. John Gibbon

Fort Laramie

Your promotion gives me a real satisfaction. You will enjoy the Department of the Columbia. Accept hearty Congratulations.

(signed) O. O. Howard
Dear Captain:

Many things have happened or rather come to pass since we came together in April 1863. Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Lookout Valley, Missionary Ridge. The campaigns of Sherman from Chattanooga to Atlanta, from Atlanta to Savannah, and from Savannah to Den- tonville, North Carolina; the home march to Washington; the final Review. The celebrated Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands with its six years of accumulated Labors and Records; Congressional Investigation and Army Court of Inquiry. The six years in the
Columbia and the three Indians Campaigns, viz: - the Nez Percé, the Piute and the Bannocks, and the sheep-eaters, with their long rough marches and battles. The two years sojourn at West Point, N. Y.; and the three years of the Platte; all these names and phrases are to me, this day of parting, wonderfully suggestive of marches, battles, inspections, day and night toilings, helpfulness in trouble, sympathy in pain, joys in triumph, chagrin at false friends, loyal service to the country and to the Great King, so much so that my eyes fill and my heart swells as I think that I am growing old and need you still so much.

I wish the good of the service could have spared me your loyal service. But we know at the last Sladen that such friends as you and me
never really part. And that is owing not to our prominent virtue, but to the goodness of God. So fare-thee-well.

Sincerely your friend

(sgd.) Oliver Otis Howard
Brig and But. Major General
U. S. Army
Nov. 18 [188]5

Hon. A. R. Shepherd

My dear friend=

Mrs. Howard bro't. sometime ago me our cards that were prepared ^ to send you with our congratulations upon the double marriage. Accept for the young people our best wishes for a long life and a happy one. I always remember your great work & your energy.

Sincerely Yours

O.O. Howard
Miss M. Gertrude Smith

care Nurses Hospital

De Kalb Avenue

Brooklyn

N.Y.

Nov. 27th [188] 5

My dear Gertie:

I am hungry & thirsty

for a letter. Why not say a word —
write a note? You were to be

married: I bore that better than I had

previously expected: for I was jealous for

you with great jealousy when you

took me into that large store in Broadway,

and more so afterward when you told me

that after that winter school, you were

to go back into your own house, then

be married to that fine looking happy

young man, Mr. C. And now that

you have gone & done all that

& perhaps more, I am cut; neglected; ignored
forgotten! If I were like an ordinary friend, a poor heart-sick lover regularly jilted, or a grandfather doting on a spoiled child, and not a proud, strong, loving, true man of middle age, who has verily adopted you for bad or for worse; for hot or for cold; for spring or for fall; aye, for aye! then you might keep school all winter, paint china & knick-knacks, have a sweet friend to love you, pass thro the terrors & the joys of courtship; and then the superb delights of early married life and not say one word to me! But dear precious child, if this should find you ill, long, long confined to a sick bed! then I shall be sorry. But why didn't your good mother write at least a postal card? "Gertie is quite sick, write her a letter, or come & see us, &c."

Now if you can wisper & are not angry with your "venerable Friend" - and how could you be - dictate a few words. If young Mr. C. has proved recreant, remember one who does not chang. You can come & you can go, - when he sees, when he hears, when he thinks, when he imagines, - the happy sprightly, cheery little girl who can walk fast or ride horse-back at a gallop tells him. "Nonsense! General!"

I like to hear you say even that. Old folks must not be too particular nor too exacting. Mad or pleased, right or wrong, sick or well, rich or poor, engaged or free, married or unmarried. I give you joy my child. So let us know how it is. John is about well again. Chancy is farming seven
miles out. Harry & his mother are just back from Kansas City; where they went to consult Dr. Fryer again about Harry's eyes. "He must leave the bank & be taught by dictation." John is in the "Subscription Book business." Jamie at Troy. Guy & Jeanie at Fort Niagara. Harry & Bessie & Mamma went to see Grace this summer & were coming back when John was so desperately wounded. He kept some time at death's door - but God heard our prayer & our supplication. Give my love to your good mother. And without joking receive all the good you can extract from anything that a certain white-headed old friend can bestow.

Sincerely & forever yours,
O.O.H.
Miss M. Gertrude Smith
care Mrs. E. P. Smith
Nurse's Hospital
De Kalb Ave.
Brooklyn
N.Y.

8th Dec. [1885]

That was a letter, dear child, that of Dec. 1, a letter worth reading.
You are happy, so God bless you & fill your cup — even is mine did get broken. Was'nt (sic) it a shame!
The first one, basket & all lost, & the second broken. I do not feel the least bit jealous of Mr. Crawford.
I guess he is the sort of man I would like to marry, were I what have
I _have_ so often wished — viz. "a queenly woman." I expect my promotion in
March & orders to San Fransisco; but
I do hope that I may be present at that
charming wedding. Too good for you?
Nonsense, my child, nothing is too
good for you. I respect him for having
the instincts of a true heart to discover
what I knew all the time from the
furious Washington ponies, thro. the
30 miles horse-backing, till now. I expect us
to be promoted, but there's many a "cup" between us
is far; And California the packet is far from
well lived. Still there are courts - not
court-ships - which may lead thro. on
to New York." But we will give you
the most hearty welcome, - the bridal chamber & the Yosemite. The National Park is too big for lovers just married. One couple quarreled when we were there. The bride cried & promised no to flirt and so the bridegroom maintained his Tyranny! Mr. C. must allow no flirting except with "the old man" whom you snubbed because he couldn't (sic) ride horses faster. His rights are not of the kind to be impeached - for they are purely paternal & of hearty - God-Speed you & him - & him & you. He must be a very dutiful son that your good mamma takes to him so kindly. Grace writes "all well!" Sladen says: "her 3d baby is the prettiest, cunningest, smartest & loveliest little girl that ever was." He tries by this picture to bait us, & hurry us over there. Write her a few lines & tell her how happy you are. The Lord bless & keep you, little one.

Sincerely
O.O.H.
Capt. Joseph A. Sladen
Fort Vancouver
Vancouver
Washington Terr.

Jan 4th 1886

Dear Captain Sladen: I was glad enough
to get your letter; I rejoiced with you over your
good fortune, and cried out, "that's too bad!"
with much real feeling over your bad
fortune. Our silver robbery enabled me to have
a fellow-feeling. It was too bad that you
had to be robbed at Grace's house for one
would be thrown off his guard there!
yours
But is now the rule about "accidents"
and "best regulated families." I do hope
Grace is doing well. She writes most
kindly of "Mrs. Thompson." It must be
our "Milly" is it not? If you meet
Mrs. Milly Thomson,
tell her she still has that "Piece"
which she set her cap for en route
to California in 1879. I am greatly gratified
for her kindness to Grace & her [?1], &
shall not attempt to pay her till after my
promotion. Then nous verrons - Oh, I
mean Wir sehen sollen - or wir sehen
wollen. You are already well back
Pacific coast-ward! Commissary &
no reveille. You had as much as
that with me except at odd times -
as when the bright, round, full Arizona
sun shone in your sleepy - morning
eyes - or when when (sic) you had to get
up to keep the 27° below zero of the
[Washakee ?] route from stiffening your
left foot. Nobody knows about my promotion - a low growl comes now
& then like this from Arizona - "It must
never be forgotten that Gen C. had all the Indians

surrounded (in 1871 (?) when Genl. Howard
came & took them away from these
deserved fate & arranged with Cochise
to enable him to raid into Mexico."
Or this from Chicago Herald: "Gen. Howard
thinks Western towns pay well for
Lectures!" It is said: "Sundry Generals
are working for the vacancy of
General Pope!" Perhaps, - but how!
I am not forwarding letters of recom-
mendations and I guess others are not,
for Gen. Pope's place. Gen. Breck is dilligent as
usual. Henry is good & communicative;
Hall assiduous and envious; Sommers well
& talkative & proud still of Dr. Sommers, Junior;
Hawkins retaliating against inuendos & poker
handed attacks of the Comm.of Genl, your
respected chief at Washington. O e
enlisted clerk of Hall's "[suicided ?]", Adams
by name. He had a penitentiary record.
This time for a wonder I was not personally victimized. [David ?] jogs away without change. My new aids I fear will not replace you & Guy at church! I begin to appreciate a good baptist who honors his folks. The baptists are treating me with much respect in remembrance of you. Mrs. Howard keeps quite well - seldom a headache. Chancey finds winter farming not so easy. The air is full of wind & drifting snow today: and yet Chancey's corn is not all in. John is hard to change & give up the old love - but, thank fortune, the troubling cause has at last left town & your East. He is trying to sell books by subscription with Mr. O'Neil. It is absorbing & that is wholesome. Harry's with Kress at Indianapolis Today - but soon goes afterward thence to Glencoe & to Guy. We propose to give him abundance of verbal teaching when he finally gets back to us. Jaimie, from Troy same [?] , writes often & is getting on weel with two years work in one. Bessie, after the vacation - jumps, went back to the High School in this morning's snowstorm. Edwin St. John Greble & wife live in the "Capt. Coolidge House." Love to Mrs. S. & the children. Have good news from Fred?

(Note: Continued at bottom of page in the original)