

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

Nov 3d [1885]

Captain J. A. Sladen, U. S. Army,

Dear Captain:

Many things have happened
or rather come to pass since we came to-
gether 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, help-
fulness in trouble, sympathy in pain,
joys in triumph, chagrin at false friends,
loyal service to the cuntry 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
school all winter, paint china &
knic-knacs, 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 ^{friend} 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
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 could'nt (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 3^d 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 [188] 6

Dear Captain Sladen: I was glad enough
to get your letter; I rejoiced with you over your
good fortune, and cried out, "thats 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]
her ^ 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 [?] , &
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^o below zero of the
[Washakee ?] route from stiffening your
left foot. Nobody knows about my promotion
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 enviful; Sommers well
& talkative & proud still of Dr. Sommers, Junior;
Hawkins retaliating against inuendos & poker
handed attacks of the Comm^{ng} Gen^l, 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,
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 snow-
storm. 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)

All were glad of your messages - Affectionately
Your friend

(sgd) O. O. Howard