

Captain J. A. Sladen

Portland, Oregon

Governor's Island, N. Y.,

April 14th 1890

Dear Captain:-

Sometime ago I purposed to write you a full letter and my purpose was so strong that I cannot yet believe that it was only a dream. What I was going to do, after telling you all the news, was to invite you and all your family, as many of them as you wish to bring, to come to my house and spend all the time you can, so as to take in the graduation of your son and all that pertains thereto. Of course you are going to make an extraordinary effort to see him graduate, and carry him through the last hop. Mrs. Howard and the children say "amen" to this proposition, in fact, it has sprung from Mrs. Howard herself, from Harry, Bessie and from me, each acting independently and all jointly, so do not hesitate to put in an appearance.

Lots of things have occurred, like Crook's death, Miles and Grierson's promotion and the like. The river of time flows on with some eddies, backsets and ripples, but the debris, like worn-out old officers and broken down citizens, are carried on fast to the final water-fall, and so swept out into the ocean of eternity. Ofcourse you and I, Deo Volente, will be ready for the final plunge whether it come sooner or later.

May God's best blessings be upon you and yours.

Affectionately yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard