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652 1/1/1857

*From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* [O.O. Howard]

OOH-0597

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy Jan 1, 1857

Dear Father

As I have not yet learned how to write I have got uncle Rowland to write for me. I miss you very often & continues when Mamma says where's papa? I look all about for you & sometimes try to ring the bell. I wish you a very "happy new year". I have tumbled down several times today but it hurt my feelings full as bad as it did my head. I have been down in Uncle's room & had a nice time playing "peep" under his bed. I don't think I have learned much since you went away.

I want to ride so I don't know what to do. I saw lots of sleighs full of little boys & girls not much bigger than I am & they had some music which pleased me so much that I kept time on the window pane all the time they were passing by. There have also been a great many sleighs & bells to see Miss Edith & Mrs Boggs today & I love to look out of the window & cry whoa & oh-jack! When they drive up & away. Mamma put a card on her door saying "Mrs Howard does not receive company today" so we didn't have any except Rowland & Mr Lee who rang the bell & sent their card up. Uncle Rowland & Mr. Lee went to call some. I call "Annnn" very often & have very good times with her and Katie down in the Kitchen.

Lieut. Todd is to take Mr. Boggs place when he goes away next Tuesday.

Grandmother is not very well, but I love to plague her all I can because she loves to have me. I wish you had'nt sold Pony so Uncle could have carried me to ride. Now I've got my new hat & Mamma has got my new cloak most done. Then there's my mittens. I could go just as well as not.

Uncle Rowland goes over to Troy & takes the cars every morning at quarter before Eight. So we have breakfast at 7 1/4. I don't care for I love to get up early but it is rather hard for Mamma & Mrs Lee. I wish Mamma would let me see those pretty pretty pictures in her Christmas book, if it is as big as I am.

I have some "cukes" every morning after the rest get through. Mamma let me see your letters but I tore one of the envelopes & she took them away tho' I held on good & cried a little, just to let them see that I must have my own way in everything. I guess I shan't write to you again till next 4th of July so you must make the most of this.

O I had a real pretty spoon & fork given me Christmas day by Mrs Thornton & Mrs Lee. Uncle Rowland showed me twenty five dollars in gold that they gave him for lecturing. I guess I <will> lecture one of these days if I can get those yellow shiners wouldn't you? I wish I could sit still long enough to have my picture to send you, but I can't, there is so much to look at. I don't love to sleep alone with Mamma & I wish you would come home.

Tell me about the Indians & the pretty flags they hang out all round in the woods. I'm going to learn to read those blocks you gave me pretty soon. Mamma wants me to tell you that she sent you a draft for \$20.45 for you to put your name on the back so that she could get the money for me.

I'm going to make a picture one of these days & get shiners.

Guy Howard X His Mark

Witness R.B. Howard

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654 1/4/1857

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0599

Palatka Fa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Palatka Fa  
Jan 4th 1857

My dear Mother,

I did not get an opportunity to write you from Savannah, but I had a pleasant passage in the steam Ship Alabama. We left N.York at 3 o'clock Saturday a week ago yesterday & arrived in Savannah Georgia Tuesday noon. Wednesday morning I took a steamer for Florida. We were till nine o'clock last night getting through to this place. I came in an old boat. We had plenty of dirt & rough fare - no state rooms, but slept in a small cabin aft. We followed an inland passage along the coast, which passage looked very much like a river. We went out to sea seven or eight miles just before entering the St. John's, crossing what is called the St. John's bar. The reason we were so long on the way was that we were stopped by the fog.

I had a good deal of pleasant company. Travelers get pretty well acquainted when they are together so long. We had a Rev Mr. Thomas president of Emory College Georgia, three Catholics, one a Bishop & two priests, a gentleman & two ladies from New York, an old man from N. York state somewhere coming south for his health, a young lawyer from St. Louis, with a lame leg, another from Arkansas with the consumption, a rich man & a spiritualist from Louisiana, a young planter, who lives in South Carolina & owns a plantation in this State, a Doctor from Georgia, who has slaves in Georgia, but is carrying them home and one or two overseers of plantations. They nearly all took a fancy to make friends with me. The Bishop expounded the doctrines of his church, & as he was a learned man & had traveled the world over could make himself very entertaining. The spiritualist found me a candid listener to his wondrous revelations. The lawyer wanted my interest to get him a place so that he might pay his way while in Florida & the young planter & myself found each other very pleasant companions. Together we combated the priests sophistry - together we watched the porpoises & pelicans, & looked out for alligators along the bank of Black Creek River, where we went twenty miles & back out of our way to meet a mail contract.

The only three of those who reached Palatka were the President Thomas, the planter Mr. Kinsler & an overseer. The planter goes on with me tomorrow by stage sixty miles on my route. I shall have to ride three days & one night before I reach Tampa on Tampa Bay. Thence sixty or seventy miles by sea to Fort Myers. I have enjoyed the trip, been well all the time, wasn't even sea sick.

I went to a Presbyterian church today & heard a good sermon. Everything here in Florida is in most primitive, houses rough & unpainted & sand, sand all the time. The trees are magnificent - Magnolias as large as our red Oaks & green as in the summer, groves of oranges, with their yellow fruit in beautiful contrast with their green leaves & live oaks, which are green the year-round. Palatka is on the right bank as you ascend the St. John's. It has not got so many houses as Mayan village, has one steam Mill & two or three stores. The church is a log house. The St. John's is a succession of beautiful lakes & apparently has no current at all. Everything is new to me. The people are social & kind, the Negroes happy & respectful. I haven't heard a white man speak an unkind word to a Negro since I came from N. York but Irishmen get plenty of abuse from whites & Negroes.

One little scene on the boat grieved me; there were two little children a boy & a girl under twelve. I had noticed them. The little girl had looked up to me when I passed. I noticed her and she laughed & hid her face. When we got to St. Mary's on the Florida coast, I saw some Negroes come aboard the boat & speak to the girl, one of whom was a woman. The little girl was crying. I soon went ashore with the young lawyer. We saw the women crying behind a house. The young lawyer asked the woman what was the matter. She said the child was hers & her master would'nt buy her because the owner asked six hundred dollars for her - he would'nt pay but five hundred.

The boat went on & took the child along. I saw that she was happy again & playful, but I suspect the mother felt differently. Our steward whose name was Simon a Negro & a slave, said it was too bad. He said he had a good master, let him go where he pleased & hire out. He says bad mas'r make bad servant & bad servant make bad mas'r sometimes. This was his soliloquy. I did'nt ask him what suggested it. I give the slave holders the credit as far as I have seen them of treating their slaves as indulgent parents to their children. The slaves go to them

with all their little wants & complaints. One boy was asked at Pickalata what they had paid him for taking care of the horses. He says promptly "nothing". My master owns the line of stages from this place to St. Augustine & I stay up here & take care of the horses for him.

I am glad to observe these things - glad to see that this relation is generally so amicable between the Masters & his slaves, for having so deep a root it will not speedily be possible to enfranchise them, and their capacity for self-government & independence is evidently not yet. They had better be cared for as they are now in this place than turned loose on the world, with all their simplicity & improvident habits without a proper education. The master has a great care & a high responsibility to his Negroes & to his Maker and if he is a Christian he feels it. Tis wrong to think these men are not Christians. It won't do for us to judge them.

I have observed closely for I was curious. I have concluded that we should have been like this people, if God had planted us here, I find men here just like men with us. I am not defending slavery but showing you how it makes me feel to visit here & what would be precisely your experience should you journey with me.

I have got a long ride tomorrow, so I bid you good night. Give my love to all. I hope father is well. Direct to Tampa Florida & I shall get your letter. May Heaven guard us both until we meet.

Yr affectionate son  
Otis

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655 1/4/1857

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0601

Palatka Fa. (Mr. Duval's house)

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Palatka Fa. (Mr. Duval's house)  
January 4, 1857

My dearest wife

You will see by the above that I am thus far on my journey. I closed my last to you just before we entered the Savannah River on Tuesday. We sailed up the Savannah slowly, where scenery altogether new to me opened upon us. The whole country had the appearance of a grand marsh. The river has hardly any current & seems like an inlet of the ocean. We arrived along side of the wharf about eleven a.m. but the river is so narrow that we were an hour at least in turning round before we could go on shore. We found that the Florida Steamer had been delayed in her passage up & would not leave till Wednesday.

Our view of Savannah from this quarter was sorry enough, far more gloomy than the river side of Troy, for in Troy you can look up & see fine buildings in the distance. Here the bricks of the buildings are of a mongrel description, light-colored & dirty and banks of sand completely obscure any view of the town.

As soon as we got on shore we moved up the steep into the town. Here I found a town altogether different from my anticipation. It seems a beautiful little village on a space of Earth as level as the house floor. Shops & stores mixed up with the houses, parks in the middle of streets separating one part from the other. Streets at right angles throughout with green trees on both sides. The city is so quiet that it makes you feel as if it was Sunday. I could walk a mile & more without meeting a carriage. Sometimes a little woolly head would strike up & sing a merry air or set himself to whistling briskly, but I felt inclined to tell him not to disturb the general quiet. But with all the beauty & rest of Savannah it don't seem as if I could live there contentedly, for there is no variety in landscape & very little energy of the people apparent.

In fact the enterprise of some of our busy towns would not seem in keeping with the scenery as the climate. But we had one exciting scene that showed there was energy there, though latent. A fire broke out near the hotel where I was stopping in the upper story of a large brick block. Guns were fired and bells were ringing faster & faster. The streets were filled with people. There was in a moment the greatest uproar & confusion. In an incredibly short space of time, five or six engines were on the spot, and then such a time I never saw before. Engines playing water shouting from all directions, the Negroes were singing in unison at the brakes. One would sing alone a few words then all join the chorus, & didn't the brakes come down? The perspiration rolled down in streams, but they seemed delighted & worked with all their might. Soon the streets were flooded so that you could hardly cross them. The fire was extinguished, the engines were run about the streets by the Negroes singing and in a little while all was hushed again, except the sound of the patrol galloping through the mud.

It was rainy in Savannah all day. It would be fair & then in a few minutes rain again. I met Lts. Evans & Trowbridge at the Pulaski house. George Crabtree, Maria's particular friend, whom I had met before at uncle John's and Mr. Sawtelle, Lieut. Sawtelle's father. I went while in Savannah to see their crack monument to Pulaski, the Polish hero, who was killed there during a siege in 1779. It is a very fine monument, has a square base or pedestal, a long shaft, a cap & the goddess of Liberty with her olive wreath in one hand & weapons laid aside in the other. Around the lower part of the shaft are four cannons inverted carved on each corner & near the base the Eagle with his usual accompaniments. It would have amused you to have heard an Englishman, my companion of the walk, criticize the work.

I sat in the office of the Pulaski house till after 12, talking with my friends & then retired. I had a pleasant sleep but was up bright & early, for I had left my slippers on the Alabama & the Fa boat was to leave at 8 o'clock. I went for them, returned, had a good breakfast and then started for the boat with my valise & sword in my hand. You need not imagine me on a magnificent steamer but on an old flatboat about as wide as she is long with the steam engine about mid-ships. We had a drizzling rain nearly all the time. We left Savannah a little after nine, and followed an inland passage sometimes about as wide as the Hudson & sometimes just wide enough for the boat to pass till we got within seven or eight miles of the mouth of the St. Johns River. We stopped at a place called Brunswick, afterwards at St. Mary's three or four hours, which for filth, sand & old buildings I never saw

equaled. Our Slab city in Leeds is a paradise compared with it.

We went down as far as Fernandina (the terminus of a railroad in process of building) & stayed all (Thursday) night alongside of a dock. The next day we put out to sea to cross St. Johns bar & took a course between breakers on either side. Many of the passengers went to bed and some were sick. I stayed on the upper deck & enjoyed the prospect. The old boat would pass & jump & tip & roll like a good one, but I was not sick. The ladies were rather frightened, but there was no danger. We soon got across.

The water was full of porpoises, jumping up & disappearing and the beach was frequently covered with cormorants or pelicans thousands in a flock. We reached Jacksonville about ½ past 3 PM Friday. This I found the most lively little town I had seen. We went on nine or ten miles & were overtaken by a fog, anchored & staid another night. We went on in the morning till we came to the mouth of a little stream called Black Creek. Sailed up this 25 miles, to Middle Burg & back to the St. Johns & then on up to this place Palatka. We arrived about 9 o'clock p.m. I found Capt. <De Busey> here looking for his wife to join him.

I would like to write you about my traveling companions & the splendid views on the St. Johns. Everything is new and strange to me. I have thought of you much. I went to church here today. Shall leave in the morning (Monday) for Tampa.

How are you all? God grant that you are well. Kiss Guy for me. Tell him his father wants to see him. My love to Roland & mother. Remember me kindly to all. I hope & trust you are not unhappy. Heaven guard you & bless you.

Yr husband  
Otis

I am very anxious to hear from you, how you manage & whether our darling is a good boy. Can he say papa yet?

It will take me till Wednesday night to get to Tampa. They say here there is not a healthier place in the United States than Tampa.

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656 1/4/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0602

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan. 4, 1857

My dearest Husband

I first thought I would not commence this, my second letter, until I had received the letter you were to mail at Savannah, but to-night I am thinking so much about you, that I wish to write fearing I will be more lonely if I only think, and keep my thoughts to myself.

Brother Rowland mailed a letter to you to-day and I would have added a note but he enclosed one he had received from Dellie and that made letter enough. I intend that one of us shall write, so that there will be letters mailed to you twice a week. I must tell you that we get along nicely. I settled all the bills for last month myself, excepting the gass bill. The bills outside were not quite as much as last month. I think everything will pass pleasantly and I will not have much, if any, extra care during the remainder of our stay here. I only feel anxious about you and regret I cannot hear from you oftener and sooner, but darling, as soon as I do begin to receive letters from you, I trust you will write as often as you conveniently can. I must write to you very often that you may not be overanxious about us, or annoyed by long silence.

Little Guy is not asleep this evening so he comes to help mother write, in his way, very often. If he sees horses at the door, thinks he must ride, and brings me his creeping skirt, towel or anything to put on him so he can go ride. Then Annie takes him in his carriage up and down the hall and into Mrs. Lee's room and our rooms, which he seems to think is as good a ride as if he was riding after a horse.

Mrs. Dunlop, and her friend (whom we have seen there) Mrs. Sheward called here the day after New Year's. Mrs. D wished me to give her kind regards to you, and say she did not know you had received orders, 'till the day before, Mr. Dunlop informed her (he was at Mrs. Boggs New Year's day). I did not receive company that day but hung a card on the door on which I wrote "Mrs. Howard does not receive company to-day." I have since heard that Mrs. Tibbets did the same. Mrs. Boggs is now packing to leave here next Tuesday for Baltimore, where Mr. Boggs will leave her for the present. Edith goes with her. He has not yet received orders. It is now nine o'clock and little Guy not asleep yet, and probably will not be till I go to bed with him so, my dearest Otis, I will write a "Good Night." Heaven protect you always.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

My dearest Otis, I was very, very happy to get your letter this morning; (it is the one you wrote on board the Steamship) and I will now fill this sheet and have it mailed to-day if possible.

I am very glad your voyage to Savannah was so pleasant. I think I shall receive another letter from you by Monday next. This one I presume came back by the "Steamship Alabama" as the postmark is "New York" and has no other. I mailed a letter to you (my first letter) one week ago to-day and directed it to Fort Myers, Tampa Florida not via Tampa. So this will be the third letter you have had written to you from us. I presume brother R. told you I enclosed a check of \$20.48, from a firm in Boston by request of Mr. Bernard Gilpin for you to endorse.

Mr. Boggs has received his orders to "Baton Rouge" on Monday evening last. He has not yet returned from Baltimore, in fact they are on their way to Baltimore to-day, will return Saturday sell off, and pack up and start as soon as relieved by Mr. Shunk who has been ordered here, and also Lieut. Todd and Mr. Thornton says Maj. Bell. Mr. Boggs will take Mrs. Boggs through Richmond to Augusta on his way to his post, where she will remain 'till next April.

The last news from Maj. Symington was that he was gaining but slowly. I do not think the society here will be as pleasant as it has been a few years past. Poor Mrs. Lee is feeling rather "blue" about it, is dreading to have us all go. I believe she does not now intend to go to Beaufort in the spring, but wishes her Mother and cousin Neila De Treville to come to her. I hope they will for she would be happier with them, and better contented.

We received a letter from Uncle Hicks this morning saying that he would like us to come and board with them. I now think I would prefer to live with them than Aunt Joan's, as their family would be smaller and I rather Guy would not be with many children and Aunt has only Rosa. Uncle says, "We have been wanting a boy sometime." Thinks Guy as good as he could get.

Mrs. Lee has purchased the furniture in my chamber and the carpet, and will take more things. I intend and hope to get ready to go to Maine, as soon as Brother Rowland's lectures are finished. Guy has waked and wishes to help me. He is now giving your letter to grandmother, going back and forth and is very happy. He is very fond of his blocks, and is just as good a boy as ever.

If there is anything you need, and you apply for any of the men here, I hope you will let me send to you if the things are such as I can send, and get here better than you can there.

I made Edith a present of the smallest prayer book, and she was very much pleased with it.

All send love to you, and I hoping you are well and happy remain ever your affectionate little wife

Lizzie H.

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658 1/10/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

*To:* My dearest husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0603

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Jan. 10, /57

My dearest husband

It is now Saturday evening, and I did hope to receive a letter from you by this time, but I suppose I ought not to expect one so soon. I wish I knew how long it takes a letter to come from Tampa here. I must wait patiently 'till I can get a letter from you and then count the days from the time it was mailed. I "count days" now but to what object I scarcely know. Sometimes they seem pretty <[hole in paper]> to.

But I do not make myself unhappy. I cannot avoid having lonely feelings, and must miss you very much, dearest, every day. But I feel it my duty not to look too much at the dark side, but to be as happy and cheerful as possible for my own, and dear little Guy' s sake, and it will render it more pleasant for those that see me constantly. We can think of each other, love each other, and write to each other, and it is such a pleasure to write to you, and I know you must feel the same. I want you to hear from us so often that you will be surprised, but very glad, every letter you receive. I could not wait till to-morrow but wish to write or commence this letter this evening.

Little Guy went to sleep very early and I did not want to do anything else. The distance between us does not seem so great when I am writing, and I feel nearer to you. I shall not ask for an excuse to write often, but do it from pleasure, and to pay for deficiency and neglect in years gone by. But I trust in your heart you forgave me that long ago! When I first accompanied you to Troy - as your little wife, was I not happy then? And have I not been <[hole in paper]> since? Indeed I have, most truly happy, and I pray and trust that this separation will before long be ended, and when it is ended "the rainbow will come", as "Guy" told "Amy" at one time. The Sentinel says, "half past nine o'clock" and little Guy begins to be restless so I better leave this to finish to-morrow sometime. He goes to sleep in his crib, and when I go to bed I take him into my bed. Mother still occupies her room as before you left, and every thing goes smoothly about the house.

Sunday evening

None of us I am sorry to say have been to church today. It snowed all day yesterday and today but we have not much more snow on the ground than when you left here. Mr. Boggs returned from Baltimore last evening, he says he saw the sun everyday he was gone and no snow beyond Philadelphia. Mrs. Boggs I think was very glad to go from here: he is not looking as well as when you left. I think he is really out of health. I shall ask him to-morrow how he intends to dispose of his furniture, if at auction I shall propose that we send ours at the same time, after Mrs. Lee takes all she needs. Mr. Lee had four boxes made for me, while he was the only officer on the post.

Brother Rowland's lectures finish the 25th of Feb, and I wish to be all ready to go to Maine the 26th, which is Thursday. I am anxious to leave as soon as we have nothing to keep us here; the next seven weeks will soon pass away if I can hear from you often during the time, and I shall have just enough to do to keep me busy so the weeks will not be over long.

I had the pig killed last Friday. I found it would be better to kill and eat him than to sell him; and in the afternoon when Thomas came in, I told him now the pig was killed there was nothing but that the girls must do. I felt I must be as economical as possible and I could not afford to pay him for only building the furnace fire, and did not want him to do it for nothing, and I would have to take the care of it now. I then gave him \$1.50 for what he had done, and told him to come on Monday and I would give him a piece of meat. Annie takes good care of the furnace and Mr. Lee says to save coal. I hope you will approve of the change.

I have some doubt about disposing of the carriage, that I think will be the only thing to leave, and as long as our boxes remain here I shall not care so much. I did not come up stairs last evening 'till about nine o'clock, for Mr. Boggs came in directly after tea; for that reason I have my letter to finish this morning. Mrs. Lee has been in



with a box of things that she wants. It includes everything in the kitchen, dining room tables, chairs and bedstead in the girls room. I have scarcely anything left to send away, excepting the sofa and marble top table. My rocking chair is the only chair left not sold. I have no fear but I can dispose of the rest to advantage.

I don't think I will write very interesting letters if I write as often. I certainly cannot tell much news in every letter, but I do not think you wish me to tell you only the news. I do not know but you may get two or three letters at the same time, but never mind I shall write often till you tell me not to. I do hope the 'Orderly' will bring me a letter this day noon. I so much want to hear from you. I have been very well ever since you went away and so has Guy and Mother. He has not forgotten you for when I asked him where is father? He points towards the door if I am in my chamber, and towards the window when in the parlor. He has taken a great liking to his "ponies" lately. I will close this letter and give it to the 'Orderly' when he comes (just after 1 o'clock).

All wish to be remembered. Guy is asleep or he would send a kiss. Now good bye for the present.

With much love I remain your affectionate little wife.  
Lizzie A. Howard

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659 1/14/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0604

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Jan 14, 1857

My dearest Husband

I write to you again so soon to tell you how happy I was to receive your letter, telling me of your good health and pleasant journey as far as Palatka. You must have been very glad to find someone you knew at Savannah and I am very glad you had pleasant companions all the way to spend the time with and not be thinking too much about home. I received your letter Monday evening (Jan 12) after I mailed one to you in the morning. I presume you will get more than one letter from me at a time, as you cannot get the mail at Tampa every day. At least, I should think not.

Mr Shunk is expected here to-day. Mr. Boggs has everything packed and will leave the next day after Mr Shunk gets here. He took dinner with us yesterday. We had everything good and I am very glad I did invite him. He leaves some of his packed boxes here, to be sent to Baton Rouge, whenever Mrs Boggs is ready to meet him there. Mrs Lee has purchased his dining set, and a few little things. She has taken of mine as many things, as I care to have her. As soon as the men are done putting up ice, I shall send the few remaining things to Mr Parks at Albany to sell at Auction.

My darling Otis: you cannot imagine how fat and boyish little Guy is fast getting to be. I am writing in Mother's room at her table, and Annie has Guy in my room, and he is having just the best play that ever was. When Mr Boggs returned from Baltimore, we opened the door between the houses to speak with him. I went to shake hands with him, and as soon as I did it, Guy ran in as straight as possible and held his hand to Mr Boggs. It amused us all. I went to the Lyceum Lecture last evening. (Lecture by Alfred B Street of Albany, not very interesting). I spoke with Miss Emma Willard. She inquired after you very kindly.

I am quite well today, but feel rather dull, and somewhat lame caused by going out last evening, but I shall go again when I think I may hear a good lecture. I am beginning to be anxious to have the time come when we can go to Maine, for no reason whatever, only I know I am going and want to start. Mother is down in the kitchen: just sent me a bowl of chicken broth and I ate it without even offering you any. I wonder what you will have to eat: Everything nice Mrs Lee says, and thinks, herself, of oranges &c. I hope you will have everything good and cooked good and never be hungry. I do so hope if there is anything I can send you that would add to your comfort you will permit me to do so. I saw in yesterday's paper the death of Capt J.C. Casey, of the Subsistence Department at Tampa. He died of consumption & so I do not think it is unhealthy there. I really do hope it is not unhealthy because I will not be so likely to be constantly thinking you will get sick.

We are all well and have been since you went away. I have not been sick any. The day you went away I found that Guy had cut his second tooth. The third one (upper tooth) will soon be through. I am thankful he is well during all this trouble of cutting teeth. I have not yet received a letter from your Mother. Probably she is waiting to hear from me again. Won't she be glad to see Guy? I intend to make her a visit soon after I go to Lewiston. I think I shall like to stay at Lewiston. It will certainly be a rest from housekeeping. I will only have to sew, receive your letters, write to you, and help take care of Guy.

Guy waked just as I finished writing the above and as Mother is busy down stairs and Annie too, I will finish my letter with him about me. I have given him five spools to play with and he is amusing himself with them. He likes to play by himself very well. Adelia Thornton has been quite sick, but is now getting better again, and thinks she had better not come home. Guy came and gave my letter a few marks and went away again to play.

I hope to hear from you again very soon. The last three days of your journey, I should judge would be the most tiresome. I will continue to trust that you are well and happy, and will remain so.

With best love, I remain your affectionate little Wife,  
Lizzie Howard

Lieut O.O. Howard

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661 1/17/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0605

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
Saturday Jan 17, 1857

My dear Brother

Lizzie had a letter from Mother night before last, urging her to come directly to Leeds & bring her Mother & Guy. Mother says that she is prepared to make her very comfortable & enlayes on the great amount of substantial household stores that she has laid by, her small family, her longing to have Guy with her, & her desire to have a chance to hear the first news from you. She speaks with confidence of Dr. Loring & think Lizzie will feel contented at Leeds with Guy & the letters. What do you think best? I have not talked with Lizzie about it, but if she could feel contented at our house I wish she & Guy could stay there till you return. It would be the least expensive & the most pleasing of anything she could do to Mother. I wrote Mother last night & told her that I thought the chief objection you & Lizzie would have to it would be the absence of an experienced Physician. If Mother's health continues good & her family small I am quite in favor of the project - at least during most of the Spring months. I shall not determine what to do myself until that is settled & I have seen Father about my finances. I would like to attend the Harvard Law School. I think a good law school is just the thing for me.

Mr Boggs had a letter from some responsible gentleman in Washington a few days since, saying that there was no doubt of the speedy passage of the Army pay bill by which you will get you \$30.00 additional pay. We are expecting every day to see it introduced in the House. I believe it dates back to last June. So you will get a snug little sum if it passes.

Lizzie came down to Albany in the 11 o'clock train Thursday & I met her at the R.R Station. She first called on Mrs Sprague & then we went "Shopping" till 3 o'clock & then took the train home. It was pretty cold for her when coming down from the Depot, but she has been none the worse for it since. Mrs Waite is very well now. Guy is very glad to see me when I get home from Albany every night & I always have an hour's play with him down in the parlor before I come to my room. He seems perfectly well, as fat and happy as ever.

Mrs & Mr Lee are as usual. Mr Boggs has got all packed up & is only waiting for Shunk to relieve him that he may start for Baton Rouge & relieve Lieut. Todd, who comes here. He has expected Mr Shunk every day since Wednesday. Mrs Boggs & Edith have been in Baltimore a week.

There is no change in my daily proceedings. I think I get a little insight into some branch of the law every day. I had a letter from Dellie Thursday. He was well. He has gone into a speculation in the form of selling books & Stationary at the houses in Andover. I rather doubt the propriety of the move.

Lizzie went over to Troy with Mr Lee & myself last Tuesday Evening & heard your poetical friend Mr Street of Albany & the Library. The lecture didn't amount to much, but she seemed to enjoy the walk as it was a pleasant evening.

Sabbath Evening

I have just come down from Lizzie's room where Master Guy & myself have been having a fine time. He has been stringing his spools on a stick & performing certain other wonderful & extraordinary exploits at which Mother & Uncle Rowland have been greatly pleased & Grandmother in ecstasies. She remarked, today that he had a thousand ways like his Father & asked me if I did not observe them. I told her I would let his other Grandmother decide on that when she sees him.

It has been a very cold, blustering day & none of us have been at Church. I have been reading Emerson's English Traits, <It> an excellent & characteristic work, but very common sense & easy to understand. Mr & Mrs Lee have read 17 Chapters of Proverbs in alternate verses. Mrs Lee has had her wedding "wreath" out to show me tonight. Mr Lee has spent some time in my room this afternoon conversing on general topics. We are expecting Mr McGrath to sell the cow before long. I have done nothing about the carriage yet. We are all

anxious now to get away as soon as possible. I take full notes of my law lectures, copy a good many papers for Jackson & Judge Conkling. They are both very kind to me. The weather has continued cold with no abatement since you left.

We have seen a recent account of the murder of the "Shine" family in Fla by the Indians. I should think such a thing would stir Harney up to a summary vengeance. There has been no news from him in the papers since Jan 1. when he was at "Fort Myers - sending out troops".

I had a letter from Ella last evening. I have been drawing as dark a picture of my poverty & prospects as I could & telling her that she will have to marry a poor man & go, I know not whither. In reply she quotes Ruth 1st Chap 16 & 17 verses & there is no doubt that she is just as faithful & self-sacrificing as those verses imply. I do not deserve her. She would be very glad to hear from you if you get any time to write this winter & very glad to answer your letter.

Shunk has not arrived & Boggs has a good mind to shoot himself from impatience. He sits there disconsolate among his boxes, the picture of discontent.

I had a letter from John Harrison [Otis] Thursday. Uncle & Aunt & Laura will remain with him till Spring. He thinks Aunt Martha will dread to go back to Leeds. His family are well. We haven't heard from Aunt Ann or Frank. I want to go down to N.Y. some Saturday if I can. You needn't trouble to write me personally unless it is more convenient for you. Lizzie will tell me all you say to her, but, of course, I should be very grateful for a letter if you can get time, which I suppose is very much employed. I envy you nothing at your new post, but your delightful climate.

Hamlin & Dr. Nourse, formerly of Hallowell, have been sent to the U.S. Senate from Maine. They will probably put Davis back upon the bench. The Governor speaks very decidedly against his removal.

It is getting cold & I must close.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

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662 1/17/1857 *From:* William H Goodrich *To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0606

East Windsor Hill  
CONN

*Source:* Bowdoin

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East Windsor Hill Jan 17 [1857? Entered in pencil]

Lieut. Howard

Sir

Perhaps you will remember the stranger whom you conducted over the buildings at West Point in Dec last; and who gave his name as William H Goodrich: that person and myself are identical, and I shall long remember the kindness which you then showed me, making the day which I spent there, one of peculiar pleasure to refer to.

The object of this communication is to ask you sir, for a list of districts having no representative at West Point, as I have an acquaintance at Washington who can perhaps introduce me to the member of congress, from some of such districts, and among so many perhaps I can find one, from whom I can obtain a nomination.

Should you see fit sir, to honour me with an answer to this, will you state whether the third district in this state (Conn) has now a representative there, as in answer to the application which I made to Mr. Dean, he told me his vacancy was long since filled and I thought, he might perhaps have referred to the nominee of last spring, not knowing the fact, which you told me, that he was rejected.

Pardon the length of this letter sir, and if you should notice it will you direct to; with since respect, your humble servant,

William H Goodrich  
East Windsor Hill,  
Conn.

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663 1/18/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0607

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, Jan 18 / 57

My dearest Husband:

I cannot let brother Rowland send his letter until I write a note to be enclosed. I love to write often to you, and I know you like to hear from us as often as you can.

I received a long letter from your Mother last Friday; she gives me a very kind invitation to come to her, and stay as soon as we leave here. How that will be, can better be decided after I go to make her a visit, which I intend to do soon after I go to Maine. I would like very much to be with her, but all in all it might be too hard for her. I cannot make any permanent plans for the future while I remain here. I wish to attend to things here while here and leave in good shape. I intend to have the boxes numbered and take a list of everything packed in each box. I think it will be well to do so. I presume we shall leave here on the 26th of Feb. if the weather is suitable to take Guy out. I cannot help being ready by that time. All the things I have to dispose of are the sofa, marble-top table, work table, three kitchen chairs, rocking-chair, crib, little carriage, cricket, painted table, half-round table, two wash stands & mother's bedstead. Do you not think they are reduced to a small number? I shall send them to Albany next week. I want them all to bring me \$66.80 and hope they will.

I went to Albany last Thursday in the Cars, on this side of the river. Mr Lee walked to the 'Depot' with me, and brother Rowland met me there (Albany). I called to see Mrs Sprague, found her quite well at home. She has lived at Tampa, accompanied her husband when he was stationed there. She tells me that is a delightful climate, and even in Summer when the weather is very warm, it is not an uncomfortable heat. I wish you were to be at that place all the time you are to remain in Florida.

I do not see anything scarcely in the 'papers' about Gen Harney's proceedings. I saw that he was at Tampa on the first day of January sending troops to different stations. I hope he was there when you arrived at that place.

I have never thought since you left that I ought to be with you. We would be most happy together, but I do not think now it would be best.

Mr Boggs is here yet, waiting for Mr Shunk. He is very uneasy to get started in order to take his wife to Augusta and stay with her one week. Mrs Lee has really given up going to Beaufort in the spring. Everything moves smoothly about the house and I shall try to have it continue so during the remainder of our short stay. A little more than five weeks more to spend here before brother R. can go.

Not one word yet about Guy! He is having his second nap now; continues to call 'Ann' very often, and ma-ma is very familiar with him, but sometimes hesitates about pa-pa, but looks very wise when I ask about papa. He understands a great deal more than when you went away, and I do not think he manifests a very bad disposition.

Monday morning.

My dearest Otis. I am very glad you cannot be having so bad a snow storm as we are. I must bid you good morning and close as Mr Lee will take it to the office.

Yours with much love,

Lizzie Howard

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664 1/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0608

Ordnance Depot  
Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Tampa Fla. Jan 18th 1857

My dearest wife,

I received the first letter I have got since I left you on the 24th ult last night. Along with it came one from Guy dated the 2nd and one from Rowland dated the 5th of January. By this time you have mine from Savannah and another from Palatka, and there are still two others from Tampa, one that I mailed a week ago today and another the Wednesday following. The mails leave here Mondays and Thursdays, and arrive the evenings before.

I was delighted to get your good long letter last night, so cheerful, so much more so than I anticipated. You made a little mistake in the direction, putting on both Tampa and Fort Myers. The latter place is about one hundred and seventy miles below but there was no danger of its getting past me here, as I was on the lookout.

General Harney started from this place day before yesterday with his staff on horseback to visit all the Posts in Florida. He has called into service nine companies of Volunteers, the greater part of them were mustered in after I came and I had to issue them arms, accoutrements and ammunition. I found here an Ordnance Sergeant, & two rough wood-buildings, one for the store house and the other for ammunition. They are built on a part of the Military reserve and at about a hundred yards from the bay, in a direct line and surrounded by a wooden fence. There is a row of houses facing inwards nearer the bay than these buildings. These are used as officers quarters. I moved into quarters yesterday from the hotel where I continue to take my meals. My Quarters are comparatively isolated. Lieut Mack of the 4th Artillery who has charge of the Commissary Depot has a part of the same. When I have time I will give you a sketch of the military reserve & of the quarters &c. We have a few ladies on the Post. Mrs Page & her sister, Miss Devall. (Maj Page, who is in bad health is the Asst Adjutant General for the Dept of Florida). Mrs McKinstry (the wife of Maj McKinstry, Asst Quartermaster to whom I turn over everything for transportation). Mr Hazard has gone to meet his wife. I suspect she is on board the Steamer out in the bay - waiting till the wind dies away so as to come in. Mrs Morris, the wife of Maj Morris who is in command of this Post is also on board the Steamer on her way to join him. Mr Hazard is Adjutant to Maj Morris, both belong to the 4th Artillery.

This is said to be a healthy place, but it would make you homesick to live as we do. My bed room is a poor show for a shed. It has a floor & windows but is unfinished. The musketoes & cockroches already have made their appearance. An Artillery Officer Lieut Magilton of the 4th Artillery had been sent here to do Ordnance duty. I relieved him. He has now been sent to Fort Mellon, 100 miles or more above Palatka. He leaves in the stage tomorrow morning. We have struck up quite a friendship. He leaves a wife in Ohio. Maj Scott whom Boggs knew in Boston at Ft Independence left here this morning for the Allyfire twenty miles distant. He & his two Lieuts Mack & Dana are married and leave their wives behind them. Capt. Dekussy also left here yesterday or day before for Fort Capron. He had written his wife to meet him at Palatka but had to countermand. She is at Fort Hamilton.

I would rather risk you & our darling Guy, at the north than here through the hot summer. Tell Rowland I am sorry I cannot write him this time. I had set apart today to write letters home, but I have been called upon to fill requisitions, invoices, receipts & write business letters.

I do love you my darling Lizzie more than I used to do though I always have since I have known you. Now I understand you & my heart is troubled for you. But you bear up so bravely & are disposed to look trouble & trial straight in the face and make the most of your blessings, that I can't help praising you and would kiss you if I could. I will get the check you sent cashed here and send you another bye & bye when I draw my pay. I hav'nt drawn my transportation yet, shall not till we hear from Washington. You did not say whether you recd a draft of 50 dolls from New York. I presume you did.

The Indians paid no attention to the white Flags of Gen. Harney, and he declared war against them as soon as he heard of the massacre of that poor family at New Smyrna. We have now 36 companies of 85 men each. 9



are volunteers & the rest are artillery & infantry in the field. So you see there are upwards of 3,000 soldiers in search of the Indians distributed all over Florida. The Volunteers are all <> and a hard set they are. Their Captains are pretty good men, but have very little control over their soldiers.

Give my love to Rowland & Mother & Mr & Mrs Lee. I trust you are all as well as I am. Guy's letter was just the thing. Didn't I tell you he was smart - a letter like that at a year old. Dellie had a grand time among his relations in Boston. I am glad to get a letter, a paper or anything. They are rarities. You musn't spoil Guy by loving him too much. I shall be jealous of him. Kiss him however for me. May Heaven bless & protect you my darling wife.

Yr affectionate & loving husband  
Otis

It is almost dark - cold today - wind blows - writing in the loft of the store house, where there are no glass windows.

Maj Scott heard that Mr Boggs was going to Baton Rouge, Todd & Shunk to Watervliet, Rottoman to Pittsburg. Give my regards to Shunk if he has come, also to Mr Todd if he remembers me, or to Mr & Mrs Boggs if they are there.

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665 1/20/1857 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0609

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[a sketch of Otis's building is here at the top of the letter, but is not shown in this transcription.]

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla  
January 20th 1857

My dearest wife

Tomorrow is mail day & as I have received but one letter from you since I left I shall expect at least one tomorrow. I am now fairly settled in my quarters. Lieut Mack and myself are writing, before a large fire, on the same table. By reference to the above sketch you can form some idea of the shape of this tenement. Mr Mack's office will be mine by and by.

The night was so cold yesterday that I slept in this room, the only place where we can have a fire. The ice on my basin this morning was a quarter of an inch in thickness. When the wind comes from the north we have very cold weather, but as soon as the wind changes it is warm again, but it has not been so warm that I have been uncomfortable with a great coat on.

My room is fitted up in style. I bought a bowl & pitcher, a pail, a looking glass, a candle stick & two lbs of candles, also a box of blacking and a brush. Lieut Magitton lent to me his cot, mattress & bedding. Lieut Day who is here on a sick leave gave me a mattress and Lt. Mack a pillow. All these with my blanket make me a fine bed. For four dollars I am furnished. I made me a clothes-press out of a packing box and took another box for a wash-stand. It is the opinion that Floridians get us out here to bring them money. This is evinced in the prices they set upon everything they sell us. Now the best plan is to buy as little as possible. I pay 20 dollars per month for my board. This is cheaper than we can mess in this place, for every species of provisions is higher here than at Troy, except fish & venison.

The Quartermaster's Clerk has written to the Post Master General for a book of distances and as soon as it gets here, I am going to draw my transportation. Then I will send you a draft to your Order. You can use what you want & deposit the balance in the bank. When you leave Watervliet, you need not draw out the money in the bank, unless you wish to use it, or only so much as you require, for it is as safe there as any where and drawing interest. I did not send you back the draft you sent me, for two reasons. One was that it was late Saturday night when I got it and I could'nt then replace it by another for the mail which left Monday morning early, and I thought I could use it now & send you a larger one in a few days. A draft to your Order is the best & safest, though I might have endorsed that over to your Order but I did'nt think of it. I got it cashed yesterday.

I called to day upon Mrs Morris & Mrs Hazard who arrived Sunday. I told Mrs Morris I would like to have put you in her charge. They came out in a ship sent by Government with two or three hundred recruits & several officers for Florida. She sailed from New York on the 1st of January, and they said had a delightful passage. Hazard married his wife in Baltimore last September. She is delighted to get here, thinks she can put up with anything. Her husband is very liable to be ordered into the field. In addition to the ladies I mentioned before & their new arrivals, is the paymaster's (Major Leonard's) wife. She lives in town & not in the Garrison. I saw her riding on horseback the other day but have'nt visited her yet. I think you & little Guy are really better off at the north. It is well enough now, but the summer with continued hot weather & oceans of musketoes to plague you would be almost insufferable and, maybe, as soon as this Campaign closes I shall be on my way to the North, but as Mr. Todd & Shunk are both sent to Watervliet I don't see much chance for us there. I presume you don't care much for that, as you don't fancy Watervliet over much.

It is now about ten and I presume you and Guy are in our bed. Does he kick any nowadays? Why cant I peep in upon you just a moment & give you a kiss a piece.

Lieut Mack married his wife in Oswego N.Y. She went home after he left her in Boston. He came by a Government Transport with Maj J.B. Scott & his company. He is doing Commissary duty here.

Good night my darling. I will go to sleep too. May God watch over us both.

(Wednesday) the wind has changed and the weather is as warm as it is in September with us at the North. It is very quiet here since we have got rid of General Harney and the Volunteers. I have taken your letter to the Depot to finish, and am writing on a packing box with a smaller one for a stool. Lieut Mack and I have a very cozy time together. He showed me a Daguerrotype of his wife this morning. She is larger than you with light hair & complexion and blue eyes.

Rowland says you have breakfast at 1/4 past seven. I am glad, for I want him to have every facility to perfect himself in the study of the law. We never lose anything by these little sacrifices. I hope you will have confidence in him and allow him to assist you when you have need of assistance. I presume you will pack up what you don't want to sell or take with you & get them stored at the Arsenal. You know Mr Witbeck promised to make boxes for you of convenient size. Whenever I send you a Check, My darling, don't forget to acknowledge it immediately. I shall mention it in a letter preceding or following so that if one did not come to hand after it was sent you might know of it. The route from here to Palatka is still a little uncertain, though the stage has a guard or Escort to accompany it over the most dangerous part of the route. There was no Guard when I came through, but the mail contractor threatened to give up his contract & stop the stages, if one was not furnished. I was exposed to the measles on the way across, but did not know it and again a little more than a week since, but did not take them. The mumps, measles & small-pox don't seem to fancy me, and I hope Florida Musketoos wont.

I see my little wife's affection in looking over & arranging those letters. You must do as you choose about destroying any. You know there are ups & downs in life. It is well to preserve a recollection of our shortcomings in order to avoid them in future, but if you wish to blot out that short page in our love, which was a mere cloud passing over the Sun, it is well. I now rest happy & contented in your affection whether present or absent. I leave with you a little hostage, & you with me your image & him in my heart.

Guy says Grandmother is not very well. Is she well now? Give her my love and tell her to forget all unpleasant things & be a kind good mother to you. Rowland's letter accompanies this.

Your faithful & loving husband  
Otis

Give my best regards to Mrs Thornton & her family. Does she hear that her husband is coming home.

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666 1/22/1857 *From:* Mrs O.O. Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-0610

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 22 / 57

My dearest Husband

I have been so engaged for the last two days that I could not write this letter sooner, but I hope you may not think we (any of us) are sick, as we are all perfectly well, and I hope and trust you are also. There has been a very severe snow storm here this week, so that the cars could not run regularly, and I must think that is the reason I have not as yet received a letter from you, since the one you mailed Jan 5 at Palatka. I would be so glad if the orderly would bring me one to-day noon. It is almost time for him. I received a letter from Uncle Edward Waite last evening with an invitation for you and myself to attend Lizzie's wedding this week. I did not imagine that she would be married so soon. I must write her a letter of congratulation & c.

Mr Boggs left here yesterday morning. Mr Shunk arrived about ten o'clock Sunday morning, having left West Point Saturday afternoon. The storm I spoke of was the cause of his delay, and we hear there is at Washington two feet of snow. All the people in the post spent last evening at Mrs Thornton's by invitation, a very pleasant little company. It seems very natural to have Mr Shunk here again, and hear his funny jokes. He comforts me by telling me that no Officer ever comes home for five years, who has been sent to Florida, and presumes you will be sent to California from there. I believe if I knew everything he said would prove true, I could not help smiling to his manner of saying it.

Mr Lee took Guy in to see him to-day and Guy was rather shy and sat in Mr Lee's lap as still as a mouse 'till I went to the door when he down and ran to me, but he went back as I requested him to, and shook hands with both, before I took him home. It is now four o'clock in the afternoon and I will finish my letter while Guy is asleep.

I do wish I could hear from you, dearest. Time will seem so long 'till I hear you are well and comfortable. I so desire to get to Maine, that I am not patient one hour any day. I feel as if I was losing all the time I remain here. I can hear from you sooner here than in Maine, and that is the only thing that makes me so willing to stay five weeks longer. I feel, dearest Otis, that I should be doing something that I cannot well do here and it will be so late - near spring - when I get settled at Lewiston. You will say five weeks cannot make much difference, well I don't know as it can. I guess if I could only hear from you I would be all bright again.

I have advertised (as Mr Boggs did). Brother Rowland wrote an advertisement mentioning the carriage, cow, and furniture and put it up in the P.O. I shall send the furniture to Albany as soon as I can. The men are now putting up ice and the horses cannot be spared at present. I thought possibly somebody might come to see the cow if I advertised. Mr Lee does not seem to think he can buy her. I told him he might have her for the same you gave, and send the money to me, in the course of two months, but I think he does not want to run in debt for anything. That is right generally, but he does not know the advantage of a cow in a family - how much it would save him in a very short time.

I write this letter as I can catch the time. It is now late in the evening. Guy was not sleepy this evening, and was a very good boy, therefore we all remained down stairs nearly the whole evening. All have gone to bed but myself, (unless brother Rowland is down stairs he was a short time ago) and I wish to finish my letter to-night that I can send it to the P.O. very early by R. in the morning.

The Cars from New York to-day arrived here at half past 4 P.M. I did think I would have a letter. I do want to hear from you very much, darling. I wish Florida was'nt so far. You desire that I shall tell you all my little troubles. I don't have any. I only have one big one, and that is, I have received no letter from you when I think I ought. I know you have written before this time. I will hope it will come to-morrow, and now go to bed to dream of you.

Dear little Guy is a sweet little bed fellow. He wakes me every morning by getting up on his hands and peeping

into my face, saying something in his own language. I don't think I have written much in this letter, and in fact after I have closed every letter, I then think I have not written much. I have not told you half I would. I don't know as anything can interest you more than to tell you about ourselves, and you must tell me what to write. What I leave out that you would like to know &c.

Now, dearest Otis, I must write a good night, and trust you are in the keeping of Him who kindly watches over all his children, and that among them you are numbered and your little boy, and your affectionate wife,

Lizzie H.

Recd at Fort Brooke, Fla, dated Jan 22 57 Mrs O.O. Howard

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668 1/24/1857 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

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

OOH-0611

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Jan. 24, 1857.

My dear brother

I have learned from Rowland first that you were ordered to Florida, now that you are at Tampa Fla, where a letter will reach you. I leave it for you without any questions from myself to tell me all about your situation for the present & the probabilities of the Future. Hence I will occupy my paper with telling you about my own circumstances.

I came from my school in Falmouth to Brunswick today. I started from Falmouth at 8 o'clock. Came to Yarmouth Junction & waited till 3 o'clock before the train came from Portland. Today has been the coldest day ever known in Maine! Thermometers were this morning, at Augusta, Brunswick, Yarmouth, Lewiston & Portland from 36 to 42° below zero. Prof. Cleaveland says it is the coldest ever known in this Climate.

So the R.R. Superintendent tho't it would not pay to run but one train of cars each way & I waited six hours at the Junction. I froze my face in riding a mile notwithstanding all efforts to the contrary. So you see, as is often said, there is no great loss without some small gain & if you have lost the pleasure of family & friends this winter, you must also have found a warmer climate.

My room is in the fourth story of South College - north east corner & looked rather dreary at first, but I had at close of last term filled my closet with wood, which I have found very convenient. I soon had a rousing fire & having taken supper at the Commons and made a short call at Mrs Grows' I sit before it with comfort not felt by every citizen of Maine.

Rowland & your family were thriving when I heard last - not long ago. But Rowland seems to have almost got sick of law or perhaps I should say wisely come near the resolution to give it up. Yet I may be mistaken. He wrote quite a serious yet interesting letter last to me of 10 pages! He says he is naturally better fitted for other things & the ministry for instance than for the law. I think he would be a fine preacher if he should become a minister & has the power by the help of the Spirit of doing much good. He spoke of the success of his lecture which I had not heard much about before. The great trouble with him is the want of money. How I wish I had enough for him & myself too. He dreads to teach school yet says he will have to do it.

My school prospered fine all the time. It closed last night. Was just two months long, for which I received 66 dollars to bring to Brunswick & pay my debts which amount to just about that sum.

We had a Debating Club which I was instrumental in starting & assisted to sustain. I wrote the Constitution & Bylaws & prepared as a member of the business Committee the doings of each meeting. I took part in the debates. A classmate of mine taught in next District & was a member of the Club. We had a paper which I contributed to very freely & on the whole the Club was very profitable & pleasing to me.

Many of my scholars wanted me to take the Academy in their place & if I wish I can have it in the Fall. We had a dreadful storm here Monday last. I had but 8 scholars out of 58 but I walked a mile facing the wind. I am not very tough but I am in hopes I have some of the energy & a small degree of the perseverance which you used so eloquently to recommend to me.

I am troubled very much by my throat, but the trouble has not reached my lungs yet, since I had that Typhoid Fever 3 or 4 years ago. I have been so hoarse during the last week that I could hardly speak. It will not do for me to teach school any more. I must do something else that will pay as well & not destroy my health & voice.

Dellie is getting along pretty well in his studies but says his room-mate is not what he ought to be. Mother was enjoying herself the last time she wrote. Father not very well. Probably you have heard from her as late as I. Prof. Packard has gone to Biddeford so we shall not have a lesson for Monday morning. We have Prof. Smyth's Geometry in the forenoon. I hope to stand well this term as I am in season & we have Rhetoric which I know I can get as well as any body in my class. Every thing about your present situation & how you got there

will be very interesting to me. I was in hopes to visit my two brothers in Troy next summer but my disappointment is small compared with yours. I'm alone but in good spirits.

Your affectionate brother  
Chas. H. Howard

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669 1/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RH  
Gilmore]

OOH-0612

West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Troy N.Y. Jan. 25th [1857]

Dear Brother,

It has been some time now since I received your good long letter, but I haven't seemed to see any time till now to answer it.

I don't know as I quite understand the nature of your business. Do you go round from house to house in Andover peddling! Does it not take some time that ought to be devoted to your studies? You must reflect that you are in Andover to learn & that alone. I wish I knew the circumstances. I own, I fear that the "business" is hardly reputable & that you have been induced to take it up by some designing person who wished to make money out of you.

Are you sure that you had better go to College? I do not think much of a college education to fit a boy for any business except that of a minister. It costs now over \$1000 & that amt of money, if put at interest, would make quite a capital to begin the world with. Had you better not attend an English Academy & fit yourself for a business life of some kind - Farming, Engineering, Medicine, Trade & even Law are not much better acquired after a Classical Education.

The point is. What do your tastes lead you to? What is best adapted to your mind? If you design to be a Classical Scholar, you ought to know by this time whether you can excel in that.

One of my objects in recommending Father to send you to Andover was to try & see if you would succeed in or enjoy Classical Studies. We are all of us fitted for something. If we can't do one thing we can another. The first thing to think of by boys in our circumstances is, how we may best prepare ourselves to get a living. If we can't do that, we can do nothing beyond.

Write me fully & freely. I have your best good very much at heart. You have not a single moment to waste, nor a single cent. We have not heard from Otis since he reached his destination. I have no letter from Mother lately. Charles wrote me that he was to close his School yesterday. Do you suppose he is at Brunswick. I sent a letter to B. for him yesterday.

The thermometer was 26 degrees below zero here yesterday morning. Today the weather is more mild & pleasant. We shall start for Maine the very last of February. What is the fare from Boston to Andover?

I attend the law School every day except Saturdays & am at Albany all day. You will be surprised to see what a large stout boy Guy has grown. When is your vacation? Mrs Waite is not very well. Lizzie & Guy are well. I hope you will take time & write me fully what your feelings are about the matters I have mentioned.

Remember me to Humphrey & his brother and as your affectionate Bro.  
Rowland



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670 1/25/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0613

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 25 / 57

My dearest Husband

I scarcely have the courage to begin another letter to you, but having made the promise to write to you twice every week, I will persevere, hoping I may receive a letter from you before it is finished making due allowance for all delays by storms &c. I do think if you were well, I would have heard long ago. This letter, darling, will be the sixth one that I have mailed to you and brother Rowland says he has sent three. I did not know he had written but two. In one of those I enclosed a note and in another he enclosed one he had received from Dellie.

I try not to be over anxious about you and try to make myself believe that it is not time to receive a letter, but I will not be convinced. I know I ought not to trouble you with, or write such a down hearted letter as this, but I cannot write cheerfully when I am so worried, fearing something has befallen you. I don't know what I would do if I were all alone.

Now my dear little boy is such a little treasure, and I take ever so much comfort with him. He now understands everything I say to him, and when he teases for anything I say, 'please ma-ma', then he will change his tone and turn up his little hand very kindly and try to say 'I thank' and gets it 'a-tack'. Every time brother Rowland comes home he goes to have him take him up, and he will call uncle. He wanted two sleeps yesterday, but I did not want him to have the second sleep, so I took him up, and began to talk to him about his playthings, and asked where grandmother was, Mr Lee, and where is ma-ma? He looked up and pointed into my face, and when I asked where is father? He raised himself up, and put on a very grave yet knowing expression, and pointed to the door as much as to say, don't you remember he went away? I did feel bad to have him tell me so plainly.

He is all ready to go to Maine. His cloak is very pretty indeed. I have made him two morning dresses (and you will be glad to hear) high in the neck and long sleeves. They are cheap but pretty, and are very convenient for as soon as he gets up I take off his night dress, and put one of these on and he is ready to go down stairs. Who says I don't wash his face? You? I am astonished. When we go from here, wherever we go, we shall find colder houses and I wanted him comfortable when he first gets up and he does not always wake in time to be fully dressed before breakfast. The remainder of the time set for us to stay here is fast growing shorter - a little more than four weeks, and I hope we may all be well and happy as can be at the end of that time.

I know I must hear from you very soon and I would be very happy to hear you were very well. I did not think when I took my pen to write that I could write as much as I have already. Everybody was sleepy very early to-night, and came upstairs directly after tea, and as Guy went to sleep before seven o'clock I have had a long evening to myself. I will not say I have been writing steadily, for if I had I would have more than filled this sheet. I have spent about half the time resting, thinking and looking at Guy. He does not have to be rocked to sleep. I put him right into my bed alone and he is soon asleep.

It is now half past nine and I think I had better go to sleep too, and dream as usual of my dearest Otis.

Monday morning, Jan 26, 15 minutes of twelve o'clock.

I fear I shall be obliged to send this to the P.O. without hearing from you, but I will try to believe that you are not sick, or that anything has happened to you to cause me to grieve. The papers say that Gen. Harney has withdrawn his flags, and will proceed directly to hostilities. Someone in Florida has written to Mr Boggs, but as it did not reach here till after he left Mr Shunk remailed it to Baton Rouge, where he will probably be about a week from this time. Brother Rowland saw it and said it was not your hand writing on the envelope. I will have to send only this sheet this time, as Guy has waked and wishes to be taken up.

As you can see by the writing, I asked Mr Shunk about sending things to Albany. He said he would attend to it. Mr & Mrs Lee have received an invitation to a party at Albany. I presume they knew you were away, and

thought I was not here. I do not know then Mr Robert Townsend but presume he was married last winter to a young lady from Troy. I do hope, dearest, that you do receive our letters, and know we are well. I will close now hoping I shall hear from you soon.

Think of me, and believe me ever your affectionate little wife,  
Lizzie Howard

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671 1/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Husband [O  
O Howard]

OOH-0614a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 28. 1857

My dearest Husband,

I am to commence another letter to you, but I intend it shall not be so gloomy as the last one I sent you. I have not yet received a letter from you, but I think you are well and have written although I have not. Yesterday's paper says "no mails have been received from the south for one week"; (I mean New York papers.) This it is that gives me so much courage.

Brother Rowland received this week a letter from Mother and one from Laura. Your Mother wrote in very good spirits and seemed very happy to receive brother Rowland's letters in which he told her very much about himself. Mother is still very anxious for us to stay with her while in Maine. I shall visit her as soon as I get to Maine, and we will talk it over. Then we will consult you, and ask your advice.

She received a letter from you on the 16th of January - it was written the same time that mine was, at Palatka. I received mine on the 12th, four days earlier. I presume letters to me after I get to Maine will be two days later than they are here. I wish letters could fly or be sent by Telegraph. How happy I will be when I hear from you. I think the whole south must be buried in snow, and they know not how to get out.

Cousin Laura wrote from Leeds. She was passing a week with Mother. She is very glad to spend the Winter in Lewiston, says Aunt Martha, likes better than she expected. Laura says that Hellen's boy is the fattest, and she guesses the smartest boy she knows, weighs 25 lbs, at six months old. I should think that he was too fat. Mother wrote that she had been to Church but once this winter - the roads were so drifted and Laura said it had been such good sleighing at Lewiston, that she had not thought of the blocked roads in the country.

Rowland has also received a letter from Aunt Ann, saying that Frank has not been able to leave the house, and will go to Nassau in ten days. Sarah and Frankie go with him. They will not return before July. She invited brother Rowland to visit her so I think that she will remain in Brooklyn for the present.

Uncle Ensign, Aunt Martha and Laura will go back to Leeds soon after we get to Maine. Laura says about the middle of March. I wonder that they go back so soon, but presume it is on account of the farm. I hope nothing will prevent us from starting for Maine, the next morning after four weeks from tonight.

McGrath came to see me yesterday about selling the cow; the man that bought the other cow of you when we left here for Augusta, will give thirty five dollars for her, and wants to take her now. I told Mc Grath I could not let her go till I was ready to leave on account of the milk for my little boy. I did not wish to change milk here. He was to see the man again. I have not sent my furniture to Albany yet. The men have not finished putting up ice unless they finished to-day. You cannot imagine how cold the weather has been some of the time for the past two weeks. I dare not say how much below zero.

Do you get or see any papers from New York? I shall take the 'New York Times' after I am settled in Maine - take it just for the Army news. I cut out these & send you from the 'Herald'. I think it begins to look like increase of pay. I have ever so much money on hand, and have not taken any from the Bank. I shall not need it and do not know what to do about taking it out when I go away. I shall consult Mr Lansing if I do not have time to hear from you. Mr Lee payed his board bill for the present month to-day, and Mrs Lee payed me for every-thing belonging in the kitchen which amounted to \$14.15 cts. They will not be in debt to me when I go away. Next months pay will pay me for anything else they will take, unless he concludes to take the cow. I want to finish this to-night, so brother Rowland can take it to the P.O. when he goes to Albany in the morning.

Guy is very well, gone to bed for the night. He calls Uncle a great deal. If he hears any body walking down stairs, or Mr Shunk going up stairs 'tis Uncle! Smart boy he, and he eats nearly as much dinner as I do every day. Mother took cold the night we all visited at Mrs. Thorntons, and is not quite well. I am very well, and all the

rest.

I don't feel as if I had written all I wished, but I have covered this sheet. I think of you all the time, my darling Otis, and do hope our separation may not be prolonged over five months. Heaven knows I would be so happy, and a very good girl if you could come home before, but I will be cheerful and trust all is for the best and we will be all the happier in the future for this separation. Guy would send a kiss to pa-pa if he was awake, but instead please accept the best love from me and believe me your affectionate little wife.

Lizzie H.

My first letter to you was directed to Fort Myers and contained a draft of \$20.45.

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis']

Recd at Fort Brooke Fla

dated Jan 28, 1857

Mrs OO Howard

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673 1/30/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

*To:* My dearest Otis [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0614b

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke, Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Jan 30 / 57

My dearest Otis

I am so happy to-night I must tell you of it, if I write only a few words for it is rather late to begin a letter. I received three letters to-night, all from you, darling, and I am very glad to hear from you, and to know that you are well. I saw by telegraph that the Southern mail reached Washington last Wednesday and I felt I would have a letter when they reached New York. Now I hope my letters will come quite regularly, or at least not be detained again by storm so long on their way. These letters are dated Jan 10th, 14th and 18th. I wrote a note and enclosed in brother Rowland's letter that day (the 18th) which I suppose you must have received by this time, and since then before you receive this you should get one written the 22d another the 25th, and the one before this mailed on the 28th of this month. I shall write to Mother to-morrow now I can give news of you. I presume she will receive it with one from you, as I know you would write her also.

How very anxious I have been at times about you, my darling Otis, but now I can not realize it - those unpleasant feelings are all gone and I comparatively very happy. I do love you so much, and I know we will be truly very happy after this separation, for I do trust you will return, "unto <> and to me." I shall not retire as early as usual if I write more to-night, as I heard the sentinel just say the time 'half past nine o'clock &c". So I will write good night to you, and hope you are as well and happy as myself.

Sunday evening, Feb 1st.

I wrote the above last Friday evening, and last evening I wrote a letter to brother Charlie, in answer to one I receive from him a few days since, and to-day I have been writing to Mother. Now comes your turn, my dearest Otis, and what of so very many thing that I want to tell you shall I choose to write?

The time is fast passing that we intend to spend here - a little longer than three weeks. I have not done much about breaking up since yet, but have got everything ready to pack, such as marking bedding &c, have had all my blankets washed. I fear the letter will be too heavy if I write a whole sheet, so I will cover only this half. I shall continue to write to you twice a week and wish it could be so you would receive a letter every mail.

I do think it is much better for us all that Guy and I [remain here] while you are in Florida, and I think you can make yourself more comfortable alone than if you had us there to care for. Guy goes to sleep every night in my bed. He has four teeth. I did not read his letter but fear it was too smart.

Charlie writes that he hopes I will make my stay in Leeds, thinks you would like to have me at your old home, and knows your Mother would like it. I do not think that Lewiston or Auburn are healthy places for children, that is the greatest objection to living there. I might go to Leeds the last of July and stay during the rest of the Summer. I cannot decide till I get there, and see how things will be. I shall make myself contented where I do stay, and take as good care of myself and dear little Guy as I shall be able to.

I must again write good night to you, and tell you to keep yourself in good health, and think often <[torn edge of paper]>  
<Lizzie>

[Written in another hand]  
Recd at Fort Brooke, Fla  
dated Jan 30 1857  
Mrs O. O. Howard

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672 1/28/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0615

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.  
January 28th 1857

My dearest wife,

A week ago today as I wrote you I had to put letters into the mail before I took yours out and last Sunday I did not get any, so again to day I will have to mail this before I can get anything from the mail. By this operation I can't reply by return of mail as I would like to do unless your letters arrive Saturday night. But that you may hear from me, I will write semi-weekly whether I have a letter to reply to or not. Your last letter dated the 12th inst showed that you had not then been apprised of my arrival at Tampa. You had not even got my letter from Palatka. Still all uneasiness has ceased by this time for you must have at least two letters & perhaps four.

Everything goes on uniformly here; one day is very much like the preceeding. General Harney has made some changes in the distribution of his troops since he left & has by this time arrived at Fort Myers himself. All the troops are moving south, towards Lake Okeechobee. The Everglades are south of this lake and so the Big Cypress Swamp, the former occupying the Eastern & Central & the latter the Western portion of that section. No Indians had been seen when we got the last reports. There is probably some island in the midst of the Everglades, that has not yet been discovered, where the Indians have concealed their women & children. Nobody who is at all acquainted with Florida will wonder at the immense labor & cost of carrying on operations here. I have kept a little diary all the time but it does not amount to much. If you like however I will copy that portion written since my last letter.

(Sunday January 25th).

I was in hopes we would have no work to do to day, but I found a requisition for ammunition waiting for me when I returned from breakfast. The papers must be made out & the stores got in readiness forthwith, and so they were as soon as possible, and I hope to be quiet the rest of the day. I was told there was no preaching in town to day, so I am at my Quarters, felt not a little disappointed to get nothing by yesterday evening's mail, not even a paper. I have finished a letter to my wife this morning and have two more lying on my table, one to Mother and another to Miss Ella P. Colonel Monroe arrived last evening by the Palatka stage. He is Lieutenant Colonel, now in command of the 4th Artillery. He seems to be quite an aged man, looks older by a good many years than General Harney. He was never married, is very courteous in his manners.

(Monday January 26th)

I don't always write here because I have anything very important to record, but in order to take some cognizance of time as it passes. The business of to day is so much like that of yesterday that days slip by without being marked. Yesterday evening at twilight, I began to feel slightly depressed, but I seized upon Bacon's essays (Rowland's gift) and was soon myself again.

Mr Mack and I read and talked the evening away and bed time came before I was aware of it. We got to speaking of Henry Ward Beecher, his sermons & lectures. I told my experience; how I visited his Church and what I heard. This suggested the Chapter in the Bible that he preached from. I found it Deut 27th and read it with the following. I shall try to remember those mountains Ebal & Gerizim, the mountains of curses & blessings.

(Tuesday, January 27th)

Yesterday evening Lieut Mack and I paid a visit to the paymasters, found the Major & Mrs Leonard at home. We had a very pleasant game of <Qulpu>. The young madam reminds me very strongly of Lizzie; just about her height & size, same color of hair and eyes & similar features, particularly the forehead and nose. She played the Guitar & sang some French & English pieces. The Major's house is a half mile distant from the Fort. After some refreshments we reached our quarters by Eleven.

This day has been passed like the preceeding. I have written two letters one to Frank Sargent & the other to Perry Lee. Had a long conversation with Colonel Monroe about the duties of my department here. The Colonel

made us a call & had much to say about Florida, smoked a pipe & left. Had a long & invigorating ride on horseback this evening, visited the Graveyard nearly a mile out of town, returned, took a different direction, followed up the Hillsborough River to a Steam sawmill, which is the pride of Tampa. Spent the time from supper till ten P.M. at the Quarters of Major Morris & Mr Hazzard. I don't think I have improved the day to the best advantage. (End of quotation from Diary)

Now I have come down to the present time. How is my little wife & my darling boy? It seems as if I could see him busy with his blocks. His father's step won't disturb him now. Can he go up stairs or down stairs? I know he can go into "the Lady's chamber". Do you know I am expecting a great many letters tonight, one from mother, one from Rowland, one from Charlie & two from you, besides half a dozen business letters.

The weather is charming as warm as summer. Every body has got his garden planted, that is every body who is not too lazy to plant at all. I expect I have done Tampa injustice, just to think! Plant potatoes in January. A gentleman told me that everything would look differently (different(?) Mrs Symington) here in the Spring. I suppose this deep sand will be covered with a green carpet, but when I see it I will write you. The live oaks are beautiful now. They are quire tall, spread themselves considerably, their branches are covered with green leaves & let fall from them large tassels of moss.

Do you want to know what I do every day? Get up a little after seven, when Peter Kane comes thundering in to build the fire - dress, fold up my bed a la West Point - Breakfast at Eight, return - I won't mention the reed-stem pipe, because we have got out of Virginia tobacco - go to the Depot by nine - do my work there, be it much or little - return - read & write until dinner (as now) - We dine at two - The afternoon's work is irregular - go to ride two hours before sun-set & ride till the Sun goes down, return, change clothes & get ready for tea - go to tea at 6 - return & spend the evening as the inclination prompts. Very soon, one of these companies of Florida mounted volunteers will be mustered out of service & afterwards mustered in again. The arms &c must be received & receipted for & others will be issued. Soon what I have made requisition for will be here. There is work enough ahead, but now I am comparatively idle.

How is Guy's Grandmother & Uncle Rowland, Mr & Mrs Lee & Mr Shunk, for I presume he is there by this time. Remember me to each & to all. I hope Mrs Thornton's & Mr Lansing's family are well. Tell Mr Lansing there are plenty of fish here. I am boarding, if I was keeping house or mess I should be catching them.

Good bye my darling, till I get your good letters to answer. One kiss to Guy & as many more as you say.

Affectionately yr Husband

Otis

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674 1/31/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0616

Fort Brooke, Tampa,  
Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.  
January 31st 1857.

My dearest wife,

It is Saturday night & the last day of the month and as it would do my heart good to see you and have a chat with you, perhaps "about the weather & the skies", I will do what comes nearest to it, write you a few lines before mounting my cot for the night. After putting your letter into the box last Wednesday evening, I had the pleasure of taking out not four or five, but one letter from you dearest, dated January 14th. It was fourteen days on the way. You had then received only mine from Palatka. It seems queer after having written as many as six letters from this place to receive one as far back as the 14th in answer to the one you received from Palatka.

(Sunday afternoon Feb 1st).

Mr Mack asked my assistance in some accounts of his last night and when we had finished it was after 12 and so we read a chapter in the Bible and retired. There was no through Mail yesterday so that we were all disappointed.

Lieut. J. H. Wheelock is here on his way home in Boston. He was an instructor in philosophy at West Point, when I was there. He has just resigned and intends to go into business with his father very soon. He will leave at the same time with the mail that carries this letter. He paid us a visit at Watervliet, when you were gone to Maine in 1855. If you or Rowland could see him, he could tell you how I am situated.

I had a horse-back ride yesterday afternoon with Maj Leonard & wife and Miss Duvall the sister of Mrs Major Paige. Mrs Leonard had me for a beau, but my horse was too uneasy to make me a decent escort. She rode a little Florida pony which did not match my large horse very well, but we had quite a lengthy ride of five or six miles.

February is such a short month I fear you wont get many letters before you will be ready to leave for Maine. I shall however direct letters to you till the 14th inst. In my next look out for a check. After the 14th I shall direct to Lewiston, so that you may hear from me on your arrival.

Lieut Wheelock says his father's place of business is No. 460 corner of Essex & Washington Sts. Col H Wheelock is his fathers name. If Rowland would go there, if you remain in the city of Boston long enough, he would meet him or know where he was to be found.

We have had several callers this afternoon & they have spoiled my letter. Kiss little Guy for me. Give my love to all. We have no army news of importance. No Indians found yet. I shall write a long letter by Wednesday's mail & as I said enclose you a check. I want you to write all about your monetary affairs. I continue in perfect health. My regards to the offs & people on the post. I would like to write more but it is getting late. So good night & God bless you my dearest wife.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

There are a few minutes more. I went to Church this morning, hope you were able to do the same. The weather continues very pleasant & warm. We had a short & fine shower of rain yesterday, what farmers would call a growing rain. I have bought of Lt Wheelock two blankets & a feather pillow. We have a "gang" at Mr Duke's hotel. I am making preparation by this means not for you as I should like to do, but for the time when Lieut Magitton returns for his things. I shall buy some shirts soon. These you could not send me so cheap as I could buy them here. I am glad little boy is so well & so fat. That's right let him grow & be happy. I hope his mother is so too. There are hundreds of little things I would like to ask you, but I presume you can imagine them, and as I must close this letter I will reserve everything till next time. Is it very cold at Troy? Have you had any sleigh ride? Does Mr Shunk tease you about Florida. Tell me how much Mrs Lee took & what you have



realized for everything.

Lots of love to Rowland, Mother & our darling Guy.  
Yr affectionate Otis  
(in haste)