
675 2/1/1857

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0617

Watervliet

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet
Feb. 1st 1857

My dear Brother

This is my "love-letter" paper and admits of a pretty long letter at a small postage & convenient size, but I will not promise that this shall be long, on account of the dearth of topics. But I suppose anything is of interest to you. You may be sure that I was delighted that Lizzie should receive those three letters which have been so long delayed. I ran all the way from the P.O. & handed them to her in instalments of one each. So she could read & digest one without being oppressed by the anticipated pleasure of the next.

Mr Lee & myself have been over to St Johns Church today. None of the lades have been out. Indeed the walking was impracticable, but over head it has been the warmest, sunniest day of the whole winter.

Guy seems to consider me more & more indispensable to him. I know "Papa" would be jealous if he could hear him say "Uncle" first. Lizzie & I get on swimmingly & whether absent or present she is just the nicest little wife you could have. Mrs Waite's health is not very good & it has the usual depressing effects on her spirits. But the prospect of being so soon with those after her own heart at Lewiston, will soon make her more cheerful & hopeful. I am less useful to Lizzie than I wish I could be, on acct. of my absence at Albany & my occupation with my own affairs even while here.

Guy is going to be a regular beauty. I should count myself blessed beyond anything that money can <better> were I Father to such a noble boy. In spite of the responsibility imposed, the danger of sickness & death, the trial of absence & the thousand fears for him every way there is, there must be a blessing in such a possession beyond all power of expression and all measure of gratitude. God bless you all - Father, Mother & Son & keep for you all, intact & unbroken, the rich bounties He has granted you in domestic love.

I went to hear <Chulberg>, the great pianist yesterday week & was perfectly delighted with him. Mr Lee & I went to hear H.W. Beecher Tuesday Evening last before the Y.M.A. of Troy. We got no seats, of course, but what we heard was fully up to your description of his Eloquence, which was, surely eulogistic & enthusiastic enough. Do you see the N.Y. papers as soon as they can reach Tampa by mail? You will see how suddenly "Bully Brooks" died & passed to his long acct & how a Mr Savage in the House said that his great act was like that of Brutus & like that would always command the approbation of right thinking men!

The Army Bill (Quitmans) passed the house without much opposition & we are looking every day for the Senate to pass it. It dates the pay back to July. I think I will have to leave the Carriage here, subject either to your order, or to be sent to Mr Pack in the Spring & sold at Auction as you think best. Lizzie has been offered \$35.00 for the cow, but has not decided whether to take it yet, I believe. We have sold nothing except to Mr Lee. The furniture will be sent to Pack sometime this week, that he may sell & we realize, before our departure which is now in about 3 ½ weeks only.

I am now decidedly in favor of Lizzie's & Guy's spending the greater part of the Spring with Mother. If Lizzie prefers to be at Lewiston the last of the Spring & the first of the Summer, she can go, you know, very easily. If Lizzie could enjoy it as well I do hope she will consent to gratify mother who is very anxious to have her & Guy. I don't see why both Grandmothers can't be satisfied, as Guy can be with both of them a part of the time. I fear I cannot get an answer to this before we leave, but if you write in time, let us have your advice & pleasure.

I want to go down to N.Y. some Saturday before I go away. I had a letter from Aunt Anne saying that Frank was no better & that they will leave for Nassau tomorrow (Frank & Sarah & their little boy). I want to stop a day in Boston, to see about the Cambridge Law School & the expense of studying law in Boston, to go out & see Dellie, to see Mrs Patten & Lizzie (her daughter) at Somerville. Lizzie would like to stop but Mrs Waite does not seem pleased with the arrangement.

Mr Shunk is a "good fellow" & I like him first rate. I have a case in the "moot Court" tomorrow & have my part fully prepared. I think our side will beat. Charles finished his School Saturday week & is at Brunswick. Dellie still at Andover. I had a letter from Wing Friday. He keeps his old place & <Length> has gone to Illinois. He gives very flattering accounts of his prospects & is "determined to be a rich man" - wants I should invest some money in House lots! Wonder where I would get it! He expresses great gratitude for your kindness at Augusta & a desire to hear from you.

I have been sadly disappointed in not getting a letter from "my Ella" today. These snow storms are bad things for regular correspondence. I had one last Wednesday & also from Capt. Patten. He is closing up his mercantile business. Laura Howard has been making Mother a visit & wrote me a very good letter from Leeds. I design to write to Aunt Martha Jane before we go on, and ascertain whether she is still in Sommerville & if we had better go out there, if we stop in Boston. Aunt Anne has heard nothing from Perry & Fred. It is a dreadful winter for Shipping, the papers are full of disasters.

I am connected with the Young Men's Debating Soc. here & have once participated in their exercises & shall again tomorrow evening. Shall you travel or be stationary? Shunk anticipates a busy time for you. There is no need of my saying "write often" for you will. Everything about you is of interest to us all.

Affectionately,
Your Bro
Rowland

676 2/1/1857

From: Lizzie Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0618

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy Feb 1st 1857

My dear Mother

I received your kind letter some time since, but as brother Rowland wrote you very soon after, I thought I would wait till I had news from Otis. We were all very well when your letter was received but now mother has been unwell since Wednesday. She is getting better, and will soon be well I trust. All the rest of us are very well. Guy has four teeth, can say quite a number of words, calls Uncle constantly.

I thank you very much for the invitation to stay with you, during the time Otis is from us, but I cannot under the circumstances, decide before I go to Maine where I had better make my stay. The only, or rather the greatest objection I have to Lewiston is on account of Guy. I do not think it a healthy place for children. I will visit you very soon after I leave here, for I presume I shall stop at Lewiston, make that our first stopping place after we leave Watervliet Arsenal. Then I will talk with you and consult Otis and learn his wishes.

I do not think of going to Florida unless Otis should remain two years, or much longer than he now anticipates. It is not a comfortable place (the quarters) for ladies and children. There are a few ladies there, wives of Artillery Officers, but he says he had rather risk Guy and myself at the north than there. I presume he can make himself more comfortable alone than to have us with him, although we would be very happy to be together. Every letter I have written to him has been a cheerful letter, and I shall strive to continue to have them so. I did not receive my letters regularly. The first ones were detained by storm. Therefore last Friday eve, I received three, all he had written. The first letter written Jan 10th gave me a description of the remainder of his journey, and that Gen Harney was at Fort Myers when he arrived at Tampa. He sailed immediately for Fort Myers (one hundred and seventy miles below Tampa) in the steamer Fashion belonging to the government. Gen Harney received him very cordially, and he, Gen Harney and two other officers returned to Tampa the next day (Saturday) and he was assigned to duty as Ordnance Officer. The second letter written on the fourteenth of Jan, was only to say that he had not received a letter since he left home. The last letter was written on the 18th. I have already given the news of it condensed considerably. He gets the mail twice a week Wednesdays and Saturdays, and leaves Thursday and Sunday or Monday. I direct letters to Tampa Fla.

Gen Harney had gone out with his staff to visit all the Posts in Florida. He has declared war with the Indians. He has 36 companies, 85 men in each, 9 of the companies volunteers, mounted, and the rest artillery and infantry. I presume you may have a letter soon from him perhaps as soon as you get this. I should judge that Otis had had a great deal to do since he arrived at his Post. He writes that he never was in better health, and I do hope he may remain in the best of health.

I am now writing in the evening. My dear little boy has gone to sleep. I put him into my bed as soon as he is undressed every night and he is soon asleep, and he does not wake till seven o'clock the next morning.

I am very glad that Esther has gone to live with Mrs Ames. It will so much to her advantage. I hope Rosco's health has improved since last Fall. I think he must be quite well, as you say Col G. has no one else to help him. Brother Rowland received a letter from Aunt Ann saying Mr Sargent, wife and little boy would soon go to Nassau, as he gets no better. I presume she will not now visit us. I am glad to hear that Cynthia, Rowland and Jonnie are well. I suppose he is almost as large as Guy.

I have not yet begun to take up carpets or done much towards moving. I have had all my blankets washed, and am marking all my bedding preparatory to packing. I wish to have packed everything in good order.

I wrote to Charlie yesterday, and shall write to Otis as soon as I finish this. Rowland just came in, and said he would write to you also. I received a very kind brotherly letter from Charlie, a few mornings since. I am very glad his school was pleasant to him. I know it must have been so to the scholars. We heard from Laura a short time since. I did not imagine they would go back to L so early as the middle of March. Remember me [to] all

friends & give my love to Rowland, Cynthia and tell her to kiss Jonnie for me.

Believe me very affectionately your daughter
Lizzie Howard

677 2/3/1857

From: Mrs OO Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0619

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy, N.Y.

Ft. Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy, N.Y. Feb 3, 1857

My dearest Husband

I do think Guy is the best, or one of the best children I ever knew. He has just gone to sleep by himself in my bed, does not make the least fuss about it. He fell down on the carpet to-day, and left the print of the threads on his forehead and made his nose bleed for the first time. I was a little frightened at first, but he soon returned to his playthings, and seemed to forget it. He is very fond of filling his wooden needle full of spools and will put on six or eight sometimes, and then two on my 'white taped pencil'.

My furniture has all been sent to Mr Parks to sell. Sargeant Smith & Mr Madan went with it once yesterday, and to-day once. I wrote a note and sent him yesterday and brother Rowland is to call and see him at his rooms. I do hope the things will bring nearly what they are worth, but I shall not worry. They must bring what they can, and I shall make the best of it.

Guy had his nap on the lounge to-day, slept as well and as long as usual. I was very glad to get another letter from you this morning, and brother Rowland received his also. I do think you should have received more than one letter from me before the 20th of last month. I have written regularly, and mailed two letters every week, only when brother Rowland has written, I have merely enclosed a note. I form a very good idea of your quarters from the sketch at the top of your dear, kind letter, and of the military reserve. Mr Lee says, he supposes you imagined yourself a 'Topog' while sketching the 'reserve'. I took it downstairs when I went to dinner. I fear you are having it too cold for that climate, and the changes may produce sickness. I do hope you will not be sick so far from us; and if you did take the measles you are now sick with them. I hope not but if you did take them do not expose yourself too much to the cold while they are coming out, or while they are out. This will reach you too late for me to prescribe if you are sick, but I will trust to your judgement, and the skill of Dr Head.

Wednesday Evening.

I will now finish my letter, that brother Rowland may mail it early in the Cars. I hope, darling Otis, you received tonight one, at least, of the many letters I have written you. Perhaps like me you got quite a number at one mail. I know they will be welcome to you, my Otis, whenever you get them. I love to write as often as twice a week if it is only to tell you I am well.

I do not think you have fitted up your room in great style, but I think you have 'done wisely' in not purchasing furniture, but I do want you to make yourself as comfortable as you can. I wish I could send you something, I don't know what, that you would like. I wish you had taken bedding with you although you are now supplied with both bed and bedding. I am very glad of the least kindness shown you by those about you, and have no doubt you also appreciate it.

I get the 'Army Register' to find the names of the officers you speak of and are with, as I have never known them. I wish to form some idea of them and their characters, but it may I should not judge of them rightly by their rank, regiment and native state. I am so much "northern", would I not be partial? Mr Shunk has been here some time. He received a letter from Mr Todd, who wished to know when Mr Boggs would be at 'Baton Rouge' on account of private business he wished to know. He is engaged to a young lady at St Louis, and we thought he might be going to be married on his way here.

You need not hasten to send me money for I am in no need of any. I sold the Cow this morning to the same man for 35 dollars. He will take her away Monday next, and after that leave us two quarts of milk every day.

Last evening was not as long as I imagined, and I did not get my letter finished. I will try to finish it now, Thursday morning, and give it to the Orderly at noon.

Gen Wool is coming home, and I hope I shall see him before I leave. I do not know when he will be here. Mrs

Thornton hopes the Major will return in the spring. I do not begin to think when you will return to us. I can only hope you may not be gone very, very long, and that you may continue in good health is my constant prayer.

I am still very well and have no fears, for myself. I do hope we will leave here just three weeks from to-day. I have nothing to do now but to pack what I leave here, and what I take with me to Maine. I will take good care of myself and not do much, but merely look on while others work. Brother Rowland is very kind to do all I ask him. Will see Mr Parks, and tell him that you have a carriage to sell but not send it to him. There was a man here the other day, asked to see Mrs Howard. He said he had been looking at the carriage Mr Howard had to sell, asked the price. I told him seventy dollars, and I would like to sell it before I went away. He said he would consider of it.

Guy has just come up from the kitchen to have his nap so good bye, my darling Otis. Mother sends her love to you, and believe me ever your loving little wife.

Lizzie Howard

I asked Guy to send a kiss to father and he pointed towards the door.

I did receive by check 50 dollars from you while in New York.

[the following was written in another hand]

Recd at Ft. Brooke Fla

dated Feb 3d 57

Mrs O O Howard

678 2/4/1857

From: Charley (CHM)

To: Dear friend Oliver

OOH-0620

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta Febr'y 4th 1857

Wednesday A.M.

Dear friend Oliver

Your esteemed favor of Jan'y 16th came to hand this morning and I can assure you it astonished me to find you directing your letters from other quarters than "Watervliet", although I had heard through "Cap't Gorgas" that you had been ordered to Florida still I could not realize it until now. First to Maine, then to Florida, this is moving about rapidly, and to the extremes, but still aside from the seperation from one's family in many respects you must enjoy it. The change can be but agreeable of climate, people, manners, customs &c. It is not pleasant to break up housekeeping and divide one's family for any length of time I am aware - particularly the exposure attending you from all sources still the new ideas that are obtained in an entire change of scene is beneficial to say the least. I should enjoy it I know.

I am very glad to hear you are well and that you remember your old friends in Augusta. I hope you will not forget that I think of you very often and wish you back to the pleasant quarters at the Kennebec Arsenal. It may be selfish in me in part for I have missed you so much since you left. Still I can but think you enjoyed yourself here and would like to have remained. I must confess that I owe an apology, for not writing you ere this but all I can say is something has turned up every day that has prevented me and with all have been pretty busy since I was at your house at West Troy last fall. It is not because I have not wanted to hear from you or that I wished to drop our correspondence - far from it. Should you write me just as often as you have leizure I will endeavor to reply to all in due season.

I should be pleased to do something with Mr Hart if an arrangement could be made mutually satisfactory. Hay can be bought here as low as at any point in Maine and from May to November shipped from here direct and from Nov to May (at Bath) which is thirty miles below Augusta, it can be shipped, these places being connected by Rail Road. And Good Pressed Hay Delv'd at Depot here can be bought for twelve Dollars per Ton now - as the season advances it will probably be higher. A large quantity of Hay was damaged in the field last summer, consequently great care should be taken in selecting prime lots. If it is not too much trouble you can see Mr Hart and get the particulars - how he wishes the Hay bought - What Kind as near as possible, also the terms and if he is responsible as well as good for all transactions he proposes to undertake.

I will do his business for him here for as small a commission as is done any where, but do not care to assume very great risks with an entire stranger at such a distance. I will rely upon you Oliver and as you are acquainted with me and know how I am situated any arrangement you may make I will be greatly obliged to have you forward when ever he (Mr Hart) is in want of any thing that can be bought here such as Hay, Oats, Barley, Beans &c and the prices are now as follows [respectively] \$12/ton, 45cts/Bush, \$1/Bush, \$2 1/4/Bush.

Perhaps it is troubling you too much and if so Mr Hart can write me by your reading him this. Until I hear from you or him, will not write him.

The Good people you know here are all well and not many changes. Mr Dana was here this winter and created as much sensation as he did last summer attending Tea Parties, riding about &c. The Scandal of the town has him now engaged to Lizzie Briggs. It remains to be seen, whether it is so. Time brings about all these things, however he is really a very nice fellow and is thought a great deal of here. H. W. Severance is now here. He that is engaged to Hannah Child and they will probably be married soon going back to Calafornia to live. Without doubt Mrs Cushing will go with them. They are the same as when you was here - just as lively and as handsome. They will be missed very much particularly at home.

Doct Briggs & family are well. AD Brown & family live just the same and are the same in all particulars. Geo Williams is a bachelor still but as gallant as of yore. Cap't Gorgas & family seem to enjoy themselves riding about this cold weather and are generally liked I imagine. He is a very still quiet man. They have improved their quarters very much in many respects and think they have considerable company. All of the good people here in town are the same - very few changes. Sarah & the children are well and we live in the same place in

the same way as when you was here. They wish to be Kindly remembered and your name is frequently mentioned by us both.

With my best wishes Oliver for yourself & wife I remain your friend
Charley [Charles Mulliken]

Brown says we sympathise with you. He is in my counting room now and sends his kindest regards. CHM

Friend Howard I pity you as I know how he should be happy. <> Mrs Howard make us a visit whenever it is her pleasure.

679 2/4/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0621

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.
February 4, 1857

My dearest wife,

It is Wednesday afternoon and I must have a letter in readiness for this evening's mail. It will be four weeks tonight since I entered this place for the first time. You may think I will add "how time slips away"! No it does not go on so very fast either. It is rather a dull place when your wife & child are seventeen hundred miles away - rather a lonely place when you lie down & get up without them, when you go out & come in and do not find them. Sometimes you want to talk with the one, sometimes it would do you good to play with the other, but what will you do when you cant have these comforts & these innocent pleasures? Look sad & mope? Murmur at your luck & keep wishing? Walk your room & worry yourself with bootless complainings & repinings? Oh! No. Speak patience to your heart! Give exercise to your mind. "The rain-bow comes after the shower." Be dilligent in all you do, cultivate a cheerful spirit, make the most of God's blessings. All will be well. One may study his life long. One may work day & night. He cannot arrive at a more practical solution of the problem of life's philosophy. Perhaps just this state of mind cannot be attained except by the Christian's ladder, then use that ladder certainly.

I am expecting a letter tonight, my darling. That is one of my blessings. I am writing you another, and that is another of my blessings. I have now drawn my transportation & enclose you 150 dolls of it and my month's pay in another check. I shall register the letter here for safety. You must write me what you do with it, how much you use & how much you leave deposited in the State Bank. The whole amount of what I send you is two hundred & thirty six dollars. My transportation was 174 dolls.

Last night the Quartermaster sent me what they call some Old Tampa Oysters. They are larger than ever Mrs Lee dreamed of. I invited in the three Quartermasters clerks, Capt Kilburn & Dr Head; & we had a grand roast. One was almost large enough for a meal, but they were most excellent. You say you hope I have something good to eat. Yes, I have enough that is good. I don't know exactly what good beef, good pork, good venison, good chickens; but the sweet potatoes are all watery and not so good as those you have. Every body here prefers the irish .

If you were here I would plant a garden & put in it every sort of nice thing, and am not sure but I shall as it is, just to keep me busy. Mr Mack proposes it. There was once a fine garden connected with these quarters. A man by the name of Ferris built the house on the government land and was lately obliged to leave. He undertook to remove his house, but was stopped just after he had made way with the greater part of the Garden fence. So that we have no fence around the garden plot and it will not pay to put one there at private expense.

You noticed the death of Capt Casey. He died some time before I came here. It is thought he would not have lived so long by a great many years, if he had not been here. Major Page, the asst adjutant General is here in part for his health. He is able to do duty every day, but he coughs badly and looks emaciated. Lieutenant Day is here also for the consumption. I never have heard of a case of consumption commencing here. Hundreds come here to get cured, but very often too late to receive any benefit. There is a sad case where I board, Dr Lesley is in the last stages of the of disease & his wife is wearing herself out taking care of him. Their children are at home & he poor man has left them to die here. There is not a single case of fever of any kind in the place. Mr Day belongs to the Artillery & not to the Dragoons as I wrote before. I have become quite intimate with him. He has seen a great deal of hard service in the field in Oregon & California since he graduated. He was three years before me. He looks very well generally but one of his lungs is almost gone with the pneumonia and he often has an unnatural flush on his cheek. He is always cheerful and his spirits keep him up in a great measure. He rides on horseback every day. I hope he will recover.

The mail has arrived from Palatka earlier than usual. I hope it has brought something for me. I have'nt yet heard anything from Washington since I have been here. I don't know whether the Colonel will send me any men or not. I shall feel a little more independent if I get some men. Several requisitions have gone on but we

have as yet got no reply.

I am glad Guy is putting those little teeth through. I hope the little fellow will have health, while his father is gone, and always if it can be so. Does he kiss Mama as affectionately as he used to.

It is getting dark. I cannot see the lines, but never mind. I wonder Mother has not written. She will be truly glad to see you & Guy. I would'nt wonder if she were anxious for you to go & live with her. Yes, it will be a rest from house-keeping to live at Lewiston. You must'nt mind little grievances there. Be generous, be kind to them all. Rise above their foibles. Remember, my darling, that true dignity is not pretentious. True greatness seldom shows itself. People who have not risen much in the world are very apt to be full of envy & back-bitings. We must pity & not dispise them. I say this because I think you will be exposed to many little annoyances. I don't like to think you will have to suffer all alone, but Caesar's wife should be worthy of Caesar. We must both cultivate courage & fortitude.

Remember me to Miss Emma when you see her & to all the Willard family. I would like to have seen Mrs Wool before I left. Remember me to all my friends at Troy. What makes Mrs Thornton think that Major Bill will be sent to Watervliet? I hope Mrs Thornton & her little family are well. Give her my kind regards.

Tell Rowland I shall answer his letter as soon as I get it. Give him, Mother & Guy lots of love. I need not tell you, my dearest Lizzie, how much I love you & how happy it would make me to fold you in my arms. We have just heard that Lt. Perkins came across a party of Indians, but thought it imprudent to attack them, near Ft. Kissimmee. Maj Pemberton has put him in arrest for not doing so. I want you to remember me with much regard to Mr & Mrs Lee.

From your loving husband
Otis

680 2/7/1857

From: F T Sargent

To: Lieut O O Howard

OOH-0622

Brooklyn

Source: Bowdoin

Brooklyn Feby 7th 1857

Dear Otis

As you have been gone nearly six weeks, it is fair to presume that you are long since at the end of your journey and settled down in your new home(?) - at all events I hope you have safely arrived and reported yourself at head quarters, so just before I take my departure for a more congenial atmosphere, I will inflict upon you a few lines.

But first let me thank you on behalf of the recipients, for the very acceptable presents for New Years. Mother and Franky were highly delighted with theirs, Sarah read hers through on New Years day & was much pleased with reading again those beautiful verses and in such elegant binding. As for myself I can not say so much, mine being the larger book. I have not yet read it through, but have looked it through, and so far as I have read, must say that I admire the quaint style in which it is written, & expect to enjoy it on my passage to Nassau.

The vessel is ready for sea, waiting for a wind, and we, Sarah & Franky & I are waiting for her. My health has been about the same as when you left, until within the last two or three weeks, when I think I have been improving. Still I am advised by the Dr to go south until May. We shall no doubt get off on Monday. We shall leave the house as it is, and I hope my health will allow me to come home in May. If not I cannot tell what will be done.

We heard from Perry [Lee] at Kingston. He came near losing his vessel the first day out of New York in a severe gale, sprung a leak &c &c.

Henry Strickland has decided on going West, and starts with Mr Skills (Ada's Beaux) the first of the week to locate & will take his family out in the spring. We heard of your Mother about a week ago. She was well then. I have tried written to Wm Merrick but have no word from him yet, & do not know how Maria is, cannot understand why I have not heard from them. Have had a pleasant letter (to Mother) from Rowland. They were all well and of course missed you much. Think of going East soon.

Do you know Mr I J Merritt of Troy? He goes out with us as US Consul at Nassau.

I notice that the Army pay bill is likely to pass both Houses & become a law. I congratulate you on this. How do you get along with the Indians? I see the truce has been called in, and Genl Kearney has seven scouting parties out.

I hope you will write to me & let us know all about your movement prospects &c.

The young man that wanted to take your orders for the South, has been ordered to Baton Rouge.

We have been in complete confusion for two weeks making preparations to go away, and Sarah is pretty near tired out. I don't think she would care to go just now if she liked to have me go alone, however I hope <he> may grant us safety, and that my health may be completely restored.

Franky talks famously, often says "Otis gone."

All join me in <loud> & good wishes to you. May God bless & keep you,

Yr aff Cousin
F T Sargent

Lieut O O Howard

681 2/8/1857

From: Otis H [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0623

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla.
February 8th 1857

My dearest Wife,

Last Wednesday after mailing your letter containing the checks, I was made happy by receiving two letters, one Rowland's with yrs enclosed & the other your own, mailed the 20th & 23d respectively. Now I will write a little while before Church this morning. We have but one minister in the place. He is I should think an Irishman & a Methodist. I heard him last Sunday morning. He preached good doctrine, good common sense & was in earnest. I was pleased & thought nobody could complain. But some young men who heard him in the evening were mimicking & ridiculing him.

Your letter & Rowland's mentions Mother's pressing invitation for you all to go & live with her. If you would not confine yourself too much to the house, I don't know but you would be as happy there & as well. You know my Mother is never so much in her proper element as by the sick bed. If you are sick I feel confidence in the affectionate care of your Mother & mine. We are apt to have too little confidence in a young physician. Yet they have a double interest in doing well. They have a reputation to establish and no old reputation to fall back upon.

My darling, I feel very anxious for you & wish you to act in accordance with your best judgment. I know Mother would be happier to have you there than at Lewiston, but I expect your Mother would prefer Lewiston. Wouldn't little Guy summer it better at Leeds? I don't think I am an unprejudiced judge, for I confess a preference for Leeds as a place to live in, for health or sickness. But again I say My darling, Do as you think will be best for yourself & Guy. Keep up good courage Lizzie, may be I will be home to see you in June. I wish you were here during these beautiful months of January, February & March. But let us be content.

Mrs Maj. Page had a little girl born yesterday afternoon. I saw the Major last night & said to him, "All well, Major?" He answered - all is well, which you could see by his happy face meant a good deal. He has the consumption. His oldest boy can't be more than six. His children are Frank, Lucy, Powhattan (commonly called Posey) & now the Baby. It seems to be the fashion in his family to alternate between boys & girls. I think of Guy, when I see his little Frank mounted on a horse & riding off by himself. I think of Guy hereafter. Mrs McKinstry's child is two years old. She calls him "Guy", his name being Carlyle. It sounded so much like our darling's name, that I stopped in passing the yard where he was playing & asked his mother his name.

I will resume after Church. I have just returned from Church. We had a sermon upon the history of Moses, who forsook pleasure for affliction. "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Hebrews XI.25. The text is enough of itself without the sermon.

It will be well to do as you propose, take a list of the things in each box, but I am afraid you are laying out quite a task for yourself. Can Rowland ascertain what it would cost to take the carriage to Leeds by cars. Perhaps more that it would be worth, O, yes it would not pay. You can leave it to be sold, if you do not have a chance to dispose of it before you go. You called to see Mrs Sprague. Her husband was here during the Mexican war. We have a large book written by him which I have been reading, The History of the Florida War with the Indians. I expect Mrs Sprague was here with her husband all the time he was here. There is no doubt that I shall remain here all the time as you have by this time gathered from my letters. Gen Harney is now at Fort Myers. His troops are very actively engaged scouring the whole country, working step by step into the swamps & Everglades. We have got the news that our pay bill has passed the house. Nobody here thinks it will be retrospective. You don't see anything in the papers, about Gen Harney's proceedings because he don't report anything. Telegraphic news even has to be communicated to Savannah or Washington by letters. The news of a battle would be three days in reaching him by an express if it happened in the interior & would be four or five days in getting here & ten days or more in reaching New York. Hence you would not read of it in the paper till some twenty days after its occurrence. However three thousand men & more have already been hard at work for two months, but nothing has yet been done towards bringing affairs to a crisis.

The indians are few in number & their haunts almost impenetrable. You may wade in the water up to your neck, push yourself in little flat boats till provisions and strength give out and find nothing. You may take a company & penetrate into the Hammocks, pass within three rods of a party of indians & never see them. They will not attack a party unless they can kill nearly the whole at the first fire. They must have concealed their women & children on some Island in the Big Cypress or the Everglades. General Harney is determined to leave no means untried to find them. They (Harney's men) burn up the woods as much as they can & keep moving.

This day is as warm & pleasant as any day in mid summer at the north. The trees are full of birds warbling & singing. The gardens are planted & vegetables begin to show themselves. You can hardly credit such a tale when you look forth upon the black hills covered with snow. The space of time between broad sunlight & darkness is very short. Twilight does not last long enough to make you gloomy, and the sun sets you a good example, making you get up quickly as soon as you are awake. Tell Rowland to be careful how he "draws those dark pictures of prospects &c." They try the heart too severely, and they are all in the imagination. He will understand.

I sent you two checks, as I said, one \$86.83 & the other \$150.00. If this letter arrives soonest you will know the other is close. I shall direct twice more to Watervliet.

Next Saturday 14th February - two years ago. Brick house, Chatham St. You can kiss Guy instead of his father, that day. [Otis and Lizzie were married 14 Feb 1855.]

Lots of love to all. Tell Guy his father will soon be as fat as he is, he hopes. I almost envy Mama her little bedfellow. My kindest regards to Mr Lee & wife & to Mr, I am sorry I can't say Mrs Shunk. Tell him I expect to see my little wife & little boy before I am thirty.

All is well that ends well (?)

Your most obedient & Loving Husband
Otis H.

Add my congratulations, that there are now no Lizzie Waites, and tell me who has annihilated the second Lizzie Waite. (the name I mean). Don't be offended. Lizzie Waite is a sweet name for a girl. Would you like to take it back.

682 2/8/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0624

Source: Bowdoin

Sabbath Evening Feb. 8th 57

My dear Brother

This must be my apology for an answer to your long kind letter which I received the first of the week. Nothing could make us so well contented with your absence as the good accounts we hear from you. Lizzie also kindly read me extracts from her Friday Evening's letter, which she has been answering today. She has doubtless told you of the sale of the cow & the sending off of the furniture. It seems too bad to make such a sacrifice of the latter as we shall have to, if it is sold at Auction. I think the best course with the carriage is to leave it here till Spring & then Mr Parke can dispose of it more advantageously than is possible at present. Lizzie seems quite well & happy, especially these last two days. Of Guy, his Mothers accts are more interesting than mine can be. Mrs Waite seems quite smart today but she has truly a most unfortunate disposition. I now think Lizzie had better go to Leeds directly. I think she will be as happy there & Guy as well off as anywhere, but I fear it would have to be without her Mother's consent & so I hesitate about proposing it. Mrs W does not want to stop in Boston any either.

The river has broken up with this prolonged rain & warm weather & presents an awful as well as majestic aspect today. The ice was about two feet thick & it is a great sight to see it rolling, groaning & tumbling between the crowded banks. I fear much damage will be done to property & some to life by this terrible freshet. I cannot cross to Troy in the morning, so I shall wait & go in the 9 o'clock train on this side. I hope it will soon freeze. It is so far to the Bridge & the ferries are impracticable.

I spoke in our "Moot Court" Friday & am assigned to a very hard "case" to come off next week. I mean if possible to acquit myself well, for I wish to leave a good impression behind me when I leave the School, So that hereafter when my fellow students meet me in business they won't be afraid to speak well of & trust me as a Lawyer. Thorn says he has heard me spoken of as the best "Speaker" in the school. My ambition now is to achieve a more substantial reputation than that. Dr Thorn's son is a fine fellow and a pleasant companion. Pity he is so little. Jackson says "Remember me to your brother & tell him I am taking good care of you morally & intellectually." He is very kind & so are Mssrs Townsend & Conking. Write Jack a short & pithy letter & express your obligations & tell him the Florida news. Thats the only way I can pay him. I think tho that a valuable client not secure tho my means the other day.

I had a good long loving letter from Ella this morning. Charles spent last Sabbath with her. The K&P R.R. didn't run for a week & Charles came near not getting back to Brunswick again. No news since I wrote from Dellie or Mother. Mr & Mrs Lee are as usual. I will write you real long letters as soon as law school is done.

Rowland

Monday morn Feb 9th

No mails will probably leave today. The water kept rising all the afternoon. Yesterday & at 9 o'clock last night the gas went out. Mr Lee came to my door at 7 this morning & told me that the grounds were submerged. The water is over the top of the door of what used to be your office & it reaches up to the Engine House. No boats could be had for money. He offered one man \$5.00 an hour for one to relieve Mr Lansing & Mrs Thornton. The whole of those lower stories are under water. The men have built two rafts and are now trying to break the ice through to Mr Lansing. It has turned off cold & the grounds from the Canal to the old Channel of the river are a field of ice. In 1832 there was the same state of things. Never since. Many families only saved themselves by boats. I have heard of no loss of life. A large two story white house went down river about five o'clock this morning.

It is now after 9 o'clock & the water has fallen two feet & the men have got their raft as far as the Hospital & we have news that there is a boat coming. I couldn't help laughing to hear Mr Lansing. He stuck his head out of the chamber window & yelled "Do, for God's sake, buy a boat if you can't hire one. We can get neither fire nor

water & are freezing to death. That's all we have heard from him as yet. Not a word from the Guard or Mrs. Thornton. The offices are full of water & the papers must be ruined. Mr Lee's new lot of books & yours too, in the Post Library have probably gone for it. I will go out again now & see how things are getting along. All the lumber on the wharf is of course gone. The ice formed a dam three miles below here & hence this flood.

Evening.

Mr Lee & I have been "inspecting" the Offices. We went to the door in a boat & then by means of chairs and boxes visited them all without getting very wet. Every desk & table lies flat on its back. Books, papers, Drawing & documents of all kinds are completely soaked. The four upper shelves of the Library were saved, all the rest were spoiled. The New Shakespeare, Burke & Dickens (8 large volumes) are reduced to pulp. I suppose the loss of some of Deans papers & the whole of the Drawings will be the most, but nothing looked so sad to me as the destruction of the Post Library.

Tuesday morn

The water has gone down 4 feet & there is not more than two inches on the Office floors. It has frozen over & is now good crossing on the ice to Mrs Thorntons & Mr Lansings. I will send yu a paper giving you an acct of the freshet. At one time the water in front of the hospital was 12 ft deep. I don't know whether the mails will go today. Lizzie, Guy & Mrs Waite all nicely this morning.

Rowland

683 2/8/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0625

Ft Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy, N.Y. Feb. 8, 1857

My dearest Husband,

I have now commenced to receive your kind letters regularly. One mail Jan. 25th was brought me last Friday - three days later than the one mailed on the 21st ult. I am always so very happy to get a letter and the last one was written in so very kind a tone and with so much affection, that I could not not keep back the tears of joy and love while I read. I do feel a little anxious about you, and your health all the time. Just enough to make me fully appreciate yourself and your affection, and to make me most happy to receive a letter saying you are perfectly well. I am writing now about eleven o'clock Sunday morning. Guy has just gone to sleep and is lying on my bed, and Mother is writing to Maine in her room (and she has the ink that is why I use my pencil.) Mother is very well now, but has been quite sick over a week so that she did not sit up any and Dr. Viele was in a number of times. Dr. said there was no action of the liver at the time. I did not tell you because I feared it would make you over anxious about myself and I trusted that she should soon be quite well, as she is. I am very glad she is not sick, now or later for we have no time to lose, if we go from here on the 26th of this month, and I do hope we shall.

I squared my accounts last evening, and have cash on hand \$144.24, besides what is in the Bank (\$210.00). Learnett's bill \$9.48, Meat bill 4.86 (remember we had the pig killed to eat), Gass bill \$3.60, Bread bill \$3.32. I think I am a good girl to keep account of all the money I spend. (?) I think I had better find a good place to deposit your money on interest in Maine. I presume I will not need for my own use \$50.00 per month, and shall wish to add to it sometimes. Brother Rowland thinks I better not leave it here. I might leave it 'till I found a place to deposit it with safety.

Evening

I finished writing the above just before dinner. Mother went down to dinner for the first time since week before last. You must not think I ought to have told you of her sickness before. I did not want you troubled about us. I shall continue to write to you twice every week as long as I am well, and I do wish you could receive a letter every mail, but I do not know when to mail them to have you get them at those times.

The weather here has been very warm and spring-like nearly all last week, and the ice on the river broke this afternoon and looks ragged enough. The snow is nearly all gone on the hills, and inside the Arsenal grounds below the Canal, and in some places above. I do not think I shall "look out the window" much at present as things do not look very inviting. Brother Rowland and Mr Lee have gone to look at the river. Guy is busying himself about the room with my shoes, his playthings, papers &c. Mrs Lee is sitting by the window looking for Mr Lee. Mother is lying on the lounge. It has been foggy all day but now it is raining hard, and seems as if we would have a long storm. Guy is beginning to be a great talker. Can say Uncle, Ann, Apple, Mama, mam night, (for good-night) biddy, biddy, minny (for money), and tries to say many other words. Mrs Lee taught him to say Mam (in answer to her) and night. He cannot get acquainted with Mr Shunk - does not see him very often. Mr Shunk went to Albany yesterday to see his class-mate, Mr Craig and bride. Went with Green, Johnston and two others and has not returned. He has a great many young men to visit him. I do not know why Mrs Boggs will stay at Augusta. No, my darling Otis I do not want to go to Tampa for I do not think it would be as well for you, for myself, or for Guy to be there. You say you would'nt think she would like to remain there with his father's family nor I presume, darling Otis, you did not think how that might be interpreted by me. Mother has given me a very strong invitation to live with her while you are gone, (and Charlie urges it.) but if I am to take that as your wish about my going to your Mother, I ought not under any circumstances to go. I will not think so for I do not believe you thought of such a thing. True, Mother G does not know how I am situated and when she does know, may not think it would be well for me to be there, I would think it would bring her too much care and extra trouble. I will give myself no uneasiness for I can arrange all that after I get to Maine.

Evening. 9 o'clock.

Guy has gone to sleep. Mother says he eats as much as any man. I fed him at the supper table and she was

there. She has not seen him eat for some time, only drink his milk between meals. He went to the Piano after supper to have it opened, for him to play, and sat there some time dreaming. I think I had better send my Piano to Maine. I can keep it in Aunt Sarah's parlor very well now she has a new house. Send it a few day's before I start. I can pack my bed and such things I wish to take with me in the same box. I know you have no objections and I would feel better than to leave it here in the store-house. I tell Mother I am glad the snow is disappearing. I think there will be a better chance of my selling the carriage before I go. I have seen quite a number on wheels this afternoon.

Guy was so thirsty from eating so much toast for supper that he waked a little while ago, and drank as much water, as he did the night you gave him some at Augusta.

I did not think my sheet was so nearly filled. I would write another sheet, but I have nothing very urgent to tell you or very interesting or more news. Guy is turning all sort of ways - is half asleep and half awake. I think he does kick pretty hard some nights, and I frequently find his feet where his head should be. He has grown a great deal since you went away, can take the brush off the top of my bureau when it is over the edge a very little.

If I mail this to-morrow morning, I think you ought to receive it by Saturday the 21st. Brother Rowland goes to Albany on the cars this side of the river to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, and he will drop it at the P.O. on his way. He just came in to my room and laughed to see Guy, who has turned over, and round so many times, that he is or was naked on the outside of the bed. He said leave this open and he will add something. He wrote one week ago to you and I added a note. The gas is very dull to-night. I have to have a fluid lamp lighted beside it, in order to see to write.

I have one of those counting room almanacs, merely a card with the days of the week at the top, and the number of days in each month underneath. I keep count of every letter I write you, and make a mark across the date this way X and when I get one of your dear letters I make a mark this way I and when I enclose a note in one of brother Rowland's letters I mark it this way \. During the month of Jan, I received one from you on the twelveth and three on the thirtyeth.

Now Good night darling and God bless you and keep you is the prayer of your little wife.

Lizzie Howard

Monday evening

My darling Otis

I would write more to tell you what has taken place here since I wrote this long but as brother Rowland has been writing to you today I presume he has told all. I will only add that we are all very well, and I love you very, very much, my best Otis. I am going to bed now.

Your Lizzie

[written in a different hand]

Recd Ft Brooke Fla

dated Feb 18th

Mrs O O Howard

685 2/11/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0627

Fort Brooke Tampa

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke Tampa
Feb 11th 1857

My dearest wife

I meant to have commenced a letter to you this forenoon, but as I had official work to hinder me, I will cut riding this afternoon and spend the time between this (four o'clock) and tea time at your service. I have answered all letters received so this must be independent.

It seems to me you must know all about Tampa, Fort Brooke & its environs. What would you have me write? "What your heart wishes as your fancy dictates"? Methinks I hear you say. Suppose you met a stranger from Tampa Florida direct, who knew me here. What would you ask him? "Is he well? Yes, very well. Does he seem contented? Yes, so, so. He seems a little like a man in love, whose Love is not there. What does he find to do? Oh! he is Ordnance Officer at Fort Brooke and has to make out invoices & receipts & write letters. He tries Greens Carbines with Lt Mack, firing at a target. He talks with the Colonel about a new store building - with Major McKinstry asking him to put up a fence around his Garden - with Major Page about the Volunteers. He reads the Caxtons, a little of Bacon, a little of Shakespeare and the life of Captain Vicars of the British Army and at certain times you might find him reading the Epistles of St Paul. He goes to ride in the afternoon on a very fine horse, a bay. He rides sometimes ten miles.

He generally writes to somebody thrice each week. Why isn't it known that he is married? Oh, Yes all the young ladies have found that out long since. Don't he ever say anything about his little wife & little boy. He talks about them sometimes, but he looks like a man that would think about them when he wasn't talking. If there are any more things you would like to ask of the Stranger note them down. He will be able to tell you for he has been quite intimate at the Lieutenant's Quarters.

I hav'nt yet got a single answer to the numerous letters that I have written you from this place, and not a word yet from Washington. I hope my men will be here tonight. I have got a good deal for them to do. I want first an Office repaired and have got a great many arms to overhaul. I want an Office table & Desk that I cant buy. I want a trap door to the chamber of the Store house, to keep careless people from falling through &c&c. I want to see my darling wife & little boy, Guy. I don't think an Armorer & 3 Artificers will assist me in this at all.

Colonel John Monroe has come in. I told him he must excuse me while I finished this note. If he was a married man or ever had been one he would understand me, but unfortunately his hair is white & his head is bald, his whiskers white & he wears spectacles & yet he never knew what it was to have a darling wife or a happy little boy. Patience Colonel, patience, you are a jolly, good hearted man & would not deny a poor, lovely little wife the consolation of a letter from her husband?

Oh! No. Tampa is all alike. The trees are all alike, Florida is all alike, and I fear my letters are a little monotonous, but you know Darling that my heart is in the right place. I don't know what I should say to you if I could take to myself the wings of the Fairie or any other spirit and jump down suddenly into your midst. I expect I should kiss you & Guy & Mother & then tell you of my journey and what I had seen or make you the talker & I the listener. If we said silly things or wise things it would all be the same.

How is Lizzie? How is Guy; If not asleep what is he doing. How is Mother; Is she talking about Guy Howard still? How is Uncle Roland? How are Mr & Madam Lee? How is Old Shunk? Does he tease Mrs Lee? Does he Knock his pipe on the spittoon in the other room several times a day? Is he dignified? Does he entertain with his double Rations & increased pay? Does he walk about in the snow with cow-hide boots & pants inside, a thick coat buttoned to the chin, & a slouch hat, coming to a point on the very top, and tipped slightly to one side? Do you look out of the window any? Longing to go to Maine?

Well, you will soon be there. Don't let the hours seem long. Don't work too hard, sew too much. Remember the "Sheet" that you talked about once on a time. Where you have'nt cartridges, use powder & lead. Where

you hav'nt venison, eat pork & beans. In short confine yourself to what you have, make a virtue of necessity & so will I.

I found an idea in the Caxtons pretty well expressed & therefore took note of it. It is this: "God made us - not to indulge only in crystal pictures, weave idle fancies, pine alone & mourn over what we cannot help, but to be alert & active, givers of Happiness". It was the belief once in the West of England, that the absent may be seen in a piece of Crystal by those who have this special Gift. The foregoing words were quoted from Young Pisistratus Caxton's speech to his cousin Blanch when he was about leaving for Australia. She observed them. She was spirited active & a giver of Happiness - It is thus I hope my darling wife will make the time speed away till the "Rainbow comes again".

But all I have said to you I have to garner up for my own use. Among strangers, I have to make them friends. Much above I have to work hard to observe my own precepts. But not a gloomy hour have I passed since I have been here. My own weaknesses & shortcomings, my want of conformity to the will of my Divine Master are my drawbacks & hindrances to contentment.

I am looking for a letter from you tonight. The mail failed last time & I will be sure tonight. I expect it would tax my patience a little if none came. Give my love to all individually. I have written just as fast as my pen could go, and have not time to read it over. You may correct the mistakes and if you cant find out the meaning, it don't matter. You can turn to these last words. I love my little wife as ever. Kiss Guy. May God protect you all.

Affectionately Yr husband
Otis

684 2/11/1857 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0626

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Feb. 11, 1857

Dear Brother

I have not yet heard from you by letter but know you would like to have one from your native state & your brother at any time. I went to Bath last Monday afternoon in the cars in order to hear Henry W. Beecher. I heard him with the greatest pleasure in the evening. I found Capt Pattens folks well. Ella went to the lecture with me. She came up with their horse & sleigh & a woman that lives with them, the next day & brought me up. She showed me a letter from you which gave me some idea how you were situated, what occupied with &c. Rowland had written some before, as much as he knew I suppose for when he wrote they had not got your letters from Tampa. But Lizzie wrote me not long ago & told about your journey &c. I hope I shall have a letter soon though I believe my last was only an apology for a letter. I have not heard from mother since I came to Brunswick & I do not know what the matter can be. It has been nearly a month since I heard last. Dellie wrote a few days ago. He is still engaged from time to time in selling paper. Ella seemed pleased with your letter & I guess will answer it soon. I spent nearly a week with her while her father was in Roxbury, during a storm which we had week ago last Sat. Sun. & Monday. I went down Sat & the cars did not run again till Wednesday. I enjoyed my visit there very much because she seemed to be pleased.

It is now almost ten o'clock in the evening. I have got out my Horace lesson for tomorrow morning. Think I shall go to bed pretty soon as I have been up till twelve for several nights. It has been a very cold day today, but we have a good Franklin Stove & keep warm enough while in the house but look out for the ears when out of doors. I have been caulking my windows today so that I may not be compelled to warm the surrounding atmosphere quite so much. One thing is delightful with you - that is the climate. I believe you said in Ella's letter that you had seen them planting. But I should not like quite so much woods & so many swamps it seems to me. Please to give me a minute account of your daily duties & tell me if your wages are the same as you had at Troy. Rowland & Lizzie, it appears, are coming to Maine but what Rowland will do when he gets here & where Lizzie will stay seem to be undecided. Mother wants Lizzie to go and live with her.

My term closes about the middle of April. Dellie is to come home the last of March. The Medical lectures began a few days ago but I think there are but few medics here yet. The Seniors & Juniors go to Prof Cleaveland's lectures now at two o'clock. I shall have the privilege, if nothing happens to prevent, next Spring at this time. They are having a sort of protracted meeting at the Baptist Church now. A man from Lowell preaches. I was down last night. I sing there Sabbath days. Two of my choir - young ladies - are seeking Religion. Ella has quite an interest & there are some young men of my class whom I hope this season may not leave unconverted. Rowland it seems is not fully decided to be a lawyer. I asked him whether he did not think he ought to be a minister & he answered it much more seriously than I feared he would.

I did not think I should write so much before going to bed, but my Chum does not seem to start so I remain. He, being Pencinian Secretary is writing invitations for the whole Freshman class to join that brotherhood.

Though it is so cold tonight yet it looks beautifully to gaze on the bright full moon & the stars which always sparkle best in a clear cold night like this. As I sat here by my table looking out toward the East at <the> 1st of the Evening I saw the moon rise above the tops of the pines. I know not whether I was thinking of you before or not but it came into my mind whether you mightn't be gazing on the same moon at the same time - at any rate you might by this time see cheerful faced Luna were you to look out.

I have just had a pause in writing, as Josh Laightons senior, came up & asked chum & I to go down to his room & have some parched corn. I went down but bro't the corn up here & with him & another we soon devoured it. We bro't it here because I had the best fire. My chum is now playing the violin in right good earnest & they are listening & I am keeping time to a dancing time with the point of my pen. I have pretty well waked now. Now they & I engage in a song. These things are peculiar to College life. I have congenial spirits, as we are, fit together in College they cannot fail to contribute to each other's present pleasure if not lasting advantage. Laighton & Currier are Seniors. My Chum Abbott is a Junior - I a sophomore. "O boys carry me along" now greets my ears. But this is more interesting to me I suppose than to you, and I think I will not write any more

tonight except the two words to express my prayer for you "Good Night".

Thursday Forenoon, 10 ½ o'clock now finds me ready to continue my letter. It must be finished before my Trigonometry lesson comes off at 11 because I can carry it to the P.O. after that and it will go out in this noon's mail. We have but one train a day each way now. It is a bright clear cold morning which it will only require an effort of the memory to bring to your mind and which needs no description of mine in order for you to see in your mind the town of Brunswick as it looks today.

We have Rhetoric in the afternoon now & recite to Prof. Chamberlain. I do better in this than in any thing else & I like to study it but my class all call it dry & hard. Prof. Chamberlain & I always seemed to get along swimmingly but the other Profs don't seem to like me at all. But no matter I do about as well as I can. I shall not get a Junior part. I should like to have done so for the sake of pleasing my friends but do not think I shall despair & give up my studies because I do not get one. I have some correspondents but no very constant ones except my brothers & mother. I hope you will remember that your letters to them are never seen by me, that I am alone here at Brunswick & am as anxious for the welfare of my oldest brother as ever I was and am at the present time desirous to have a letter.

May God be with you
Your Affectionate Brother
Chas. H. Howard

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

686 2/11/1857 *From:* Lizzie H [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0628

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy, Feb. 11, 1857

My dearest Husband

The letter I wrote last Sunday was not sent to the P.O. 'till yesterday, and I presume it is there now, and you will receive this and that letter at the same time. We have had no Cars between here and New York since last Friday. The river was so high then that it was over some of the rail-road bridges. I think brother Rowland must have told you about the great 'flood' so I will not go back farther than night before last when the water still made the Arsenal grounds froze over hard enough to bear a man, and the weather has been getting colder ever since. Now it is fine skating all over the lower part of the grounds. The river is very high now, and stopped running when covered with floating ice. Last night it froze hard together and people walk across. But it presents a very rough appearance. Mr Lansing has moved in with Mr Shunk and Mrs Thornton has moved into Major Symington's quarters. We asked her to come up and stay with us, but she said her forces were so great that she had rather not. I sent her a hot cooked dinner yesterday before she came up this side the Canal. I presume it will be two weeks before their quarters will be in good order again.

Mother has gone in to see Mrs Lansing. Guy is playing, and brother Rowland gone to Albany, the first time this week. Nora is visiting Mrs Lee in her room, just came in to play with Guy, as I wrote she was there. I am writing in my chamber and I am very well.

Yesterday I had the parlor carpet, and the one on Mrs Lee's room taken up. So much towards packing. I hope to have more done before Saturday. Nora, Guy and Annie are having a good play. I have to leave off writing to look at Guy and hear him laugh. He does enjoy a play. Annie will hide and when he goes to find her will creep after him and he will run and laugh so hearty. I do love to hear him. He does understand so much, and tries to say most everything. He heard me say 'hammer' and he immediately repeated 'haming', and now when he sees it he picks it up and brings it to me and says ham-y, ham-y. He looks out the window a great deal since there is so much passing on the 'Canal', and he calls every man he sees 'Uncle'. I fear you will want to see him too much if I tell you much about him, so I will not write more till he goes to sleep and then I will not write so much about him.

Evening.

I hope to finish my letter this evening, darling Otis, so it may go to New York to-morrow. The Cars from N.Y. arrived this evening. I don't like the delays, or irregularity of trains for I do want the letters you write me to come straight through. I have felt all day that I would give a great deal if I could know how you are at this present time. I dreamed of you last night - thought I was in New York city and saw a great many men starting for Florida. One attempted to desert and was to be shot, and much more. I was a little tired and was thinking of you before I went to sleep and I presume that is why I dreamed as I did. I do hope you are well, my Otis, and not lonely, but enjoy the company of Lieut. Mack.

I see the greater part of the Officers with you are from the North. I don't know as they are any more agreeable to you. You may have to leave them and go somewhere else. I hope you will remain at Tampa, but are you not likely to move about and go to some other part of the State. I wish it did not take twelve days for a letter to reach me. I think I will get a letter before Saturday. It will be two years that day since we were married. I do a little wish it was to be four years. Brother Rowland began about a month ago to tell me that I would certainly get a letter from you on that day. It will be mail-day with you. I hope you will receive one or more letters on that day.

Two weeks from this evening, I hope will be the last evening I will pass here at present. I think now I shall have just time to get ready and not have to hurry at the last, as is most generally the way with people moving. It will be much easier and pleasanter to have a family in the house when we are getting ready, for we can be comfortable 'till the hour we start.

You will receive this letter about the 25th of the month. I am sorry to go further from you, but I will be with

friends and relatives, and that will be better than to remain here alone. I fear I will miss you, dearest Otis, more and more. I will try not to. I shall occupy a great deal of my time in sewing after I get settled in Maine. I am not going to do too much myself. I shall hire a great many pieces made. I know you had rather I would, so I can have more time to spend taking good care of little Guy while I am able. He is getting to be such a great boy that he will soon take care of himself. I have no fears about myself, and feel that everything will go well with us all here, and if you continue well and return to us safely, then we will be very, very happy. I wish to do some shopping before I go to Lewiston and if I cannot go to Troy before we are ready to leave here, we shall "stay over" in Boston one day, for me to make purchases, and brother Rowland would go to see Dellie.

Guy went to sleep before I commenced to write this evening, and now it is little past nine o'clock and I will soon be sleeping with him. Mother sends her love to you. She is very well now. I hope you may not have so much to do that you will get very tired, or, worn out. I fear you will sometimes have too much to do, or have the care of. Do, my darling, take care of yourself and keep well if you can. Now Good night and think of me ever as your affec'ate and loving little Wife.

Lizzie H.

687 2/14/1857 *From:* Mrs O. O. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0629

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y. Feb 14 /57

My dearest Husband,

It is too late tonight to think of finishing this letter, but I wish to write some as this is the anniversary (second) of our wedding. Yes, two years of our wedded life have passed away; they have indeed been happy years. True I in looking back can see many wrong doings and was I to live them over again, would try to live better and more for your happiness, darling, for I fear I have sometimes been too selfish. I will not though mourn over the past, but in the future, during the many years I hope we are to pass together. I must prove myself more worthy your dearest affection, and live I trust a better life.

I received to-night another letter from you. It was dated Feb 1st, and written after receiving my letter, which I wrote in answer to the one you wrote and mailed at Palatka. It does seem queer to receive a letter in answer to one I wrote so long ago that I almost forget what I wrote. Some things you write recall what was in that letter. I have asked many questions in my letters that you have not yet received, but you have already answered them or rather written about the same things without knowing that I had asked to know. It is very pleasant to have it happen so, for when you do see what I asked and you have written about, you will say, "she already knows and will not have to wait for my next letter to tell her".

The way you speak of doing about mailing letters to Lewiston after the 14th inst, (which is to-day) is very good. I will be likely to receive all your letters in good time. I hope we may be safely in Maine when you get this. I would like very much to see Lieut Wheelock, while I am in Boston. If we make any stop, I shall try to do so. I mailed a letter to you last Thursday, and I almost forgot to tell you that I received one from you the same morning, but too late to tell you so.

Guy is sleeping sweetly in my bed. To-night is the first night that I did not put him to bed. It being Saturday night I wished to finish a piece of work to have washed Monday and Mother came up stairs with him, and I remained in the parlor till I finished it, at half past eight. He cannot go up or down stairs alone yet. I sometimes let him creep up ahead of me but he generally gets tired before he reaches the top of the stair-case. The clock has struck for half past nine and is now about 15 minutes of ten, so hoping you are still very well I will write good night, and finish this to-morrow.

Sunday evening. 15 minutes past eight o'clock

My darling Otis. I will now finish my letter to you. I generally wait 'till after little Guy goes to sleep before I write for then I can give my whole mind to my writing, and not think I may have to get up to see to him often. He always will continue to play 'till he is so sleepy he can scarcely walk, then he will run to me and lay his head in my lap with his thumb in his mouth, and looks as if he could not wait to be undressed. He is asleep always in less than five minutes after he is put into bed.

I went to Church this morning to hear Rev. Mr Gregory. This is the first time I have been since you went away. It was too cold or stormy before, Mother was sick, and the storm and flood has kept me in since. There is yet water in the cellars of Mr Lansing, and Mrs Thornton's quarters. The ground is covered with thick ice, but has been cut off the walks between the bridge and gate, and offices. I had not been out since the 'flood' till to-day. Large pieces of ice are lying about the streets of West Troy, and the lumber is a confused mass every where. I see that men watch the river a great deal. They expect it to break up very soon. The weather is mild and a strong south wind has been blowing some days.

I think I shall be very busy all this week. I must go to Troy shopping one day, and visiting one day. Mr Lee will go to Troy with me and we intend to go by the way of the Bridge in an Omnibus, and when we visit to hire a carriage from the stable outside.

I miss you and 'fancy' both when I want to ride. I am very glad that there are some ladies at Fort Brooke, and

that you have pleasant rides on horseback. I love dearly to have you say 'such a day passed pleasantly. Do be as happy and cheerful, my darling Otis, as you can every day, and make the time, pass rapidly away, that we are to be separated. It seems so very much like spring here now, that I fear by going to Maine will make a long Winter for me. We shall probably have much more snow fall there and the Spring is some later there.

I shall watch for your next letter, which you say is to contain a check. I am not in want of money to use and shall make deposits for the present.

Brother Rowland has been to Albany Saturdays also of late, but will remain at home next Saturday to assist me. He has given up going to New York. He will go to the Freight depot when or with my Piano, and see if it can go directly to Lewiston. I know the Rail Roads do not connect at Boston and I wish it to start before we do for that reason and brother Rowland could see to it while we are there. I think now that we shall stay one day in Boston. Brother Rowland wishes to see Dellie and Aunt Martha Jane. I would rather stay in Boston at the American House, and let all who wish to see us come there. I do not feel as if I could go anywhere, and take Guy too.

I am very well now, and so is Mother and all the rest on the Post. I send you "Lizzie Waite's" card. It is too late for you to think it is I who is married to Mr Garcelon. I can think of no news to write and will not fill another sheet of paper as it is bed time for me.

Brother Rowland said as we returned from Church, now I would have some thing to write to you. I had had nothing for three week he knew. I don't believe you think so. I think you better appreciate my frequent letters, because I might not write as often. I hope I may not lose my promotion to "Mrs Lieut" when I go to Maine. I am getting sleepy (for it is almost ten o'clock), and should be very dull if I should attempt to write therefore I will close this letter and pray God to watch over you and return you to your family and little wife who loves you so dearly.

Ever your
Lizzie

Gen Wool is expected home soon.

[Written in a different hand]
Recd Fort Brooke Fla
dated Feb 14 1857
Mrs O. O. Howard

688 2/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0630

Tampa
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Tampa
Fort Brooke Fla
February 15th 1857

My dearest wife,

It is now half past 12, on Sunday. I did intend to go to Church, but just before the time a requisition was brought in for me to fill & issue on and when that was done another still was produced which I have just done with. You perceive some people have to work on Sunday.

It is very strange that you had not got my letters up to the 28th of January. I received two letters from you & one from Charles by Wednesday's mail. The mail due last night failed as it does generally every other time. I was happy to learn that you & Guy were so well and hope Mother has got over her dissipation at Mrs Thornton's before this time. You seemed full of anxiety when you wrote the letter before the last. I do not wonder at it, but I hope the roads are cleared out before this time.

Major J.B. Scott who left his wife at Baltimore, received letters from her at the same time I got yours. She wrote that she had just received six letters from him all at once. Mine must have accompanied his; two days later on the 1st or second of February I expect you got an equal number. Friday night I wrote a letter of two sheets full to Charlie & last night I wrote one to Mother. This is the last letter I shall direct to Troy, and it is very doubtful whether you get this before you leave. You may in eleven days, if the mails should happen to connect.

I have spoken about the money in previous letters. I would like to know the name of the Cashier and President of the Bank. We hav'nt heard whether or not the Army bill has passed the Senate. We understood from an Officer who came from the North & arrived last Wednesday, that it would meet with considerable objection there on account of the General Officers, who are thought to receive pay enough already & those officers who draw a commutation for fuel & Quarters.

I almost envy you your little comfort. Next time I will take you with me as a venture. We might have made ourselves very comfortable here and the weather is not bad when you can get a cool breeze every day. We are now having a charming day. The birds are singing merrily in the trees, the sun is warm & the breeze is cool. It is really a summer's day in the middle of February. I have never been in better health in my life than since I have been here. I have a first rate appetite. The only danger is of eating too much.

You hope I will be home in five months. I don't expect I shall unless I get a leave of absence, but now there is a prospect of a summer Campaign. They must have an Ordnance Office here during a Campaign. I don't want to excite hope to disappoint them. If my darling can do without me, I shall not get a leave till I am ordered North for it costs a good deal of money to get from here to Maine. But I have no more idea how long I shall stay than I had when I left you. As soon as the Winter breaks up the mails will be more regular. It will take twelve or fourteen days for a letter to get to Lewiston or Leeds, without reckoning for loss of time by the way. Name the month in which you would like to see me most. Keep up good courage, my darling, tout sera bien.

Lieut Torbert of the 5th Infantry came up from Fort Myers yesterday. He was taken sick in the Big Cypress Swamp, where he was in command of a Company. He had the Bilious Fever and had to be brought in, in a baggage cart, over new roads. He reached Fort Myers in two days traveling sixty miles. He says he would rather have been left in the swamp to die, than take such a ride, lying in a cart very sick & jolting over palmetto roots & stumps. He had a relapse at Fort Myers & has come up here to recruit. We have invited him to stop with us. He graduated the next year after me; was a member of Prof Sproul's Bible Class. I hardly knew him yesterday, he had changed so much. We shall have plenty of sickness by & by among those poor fellows in the Ever Glades & Swamps, particularly if General Harney continues his operations with the summer. Won't the Surgeon's have duty enough.

I shall assist to muster out two Companies of Volunteers this week. I will have enough to do to inspect their

arms &c & make out Receipts in accordance with their condition.

Mr Torbert brings us a piece of bad news from Fort Myers. Lieut Terrill whom you saw at Watervliet not long ago, has not been heard from for several days. He started to coast along Lake Okee-cho-bee with a small party of men in a small boat. His destination was Fort McRae on the Eastern shore of the Lake; he left from the Western. It is supposed his boat has been upset or that he & his party have been killed by the Indians. I saw him at Fort Myers when I was there. I met him in Gen'l Harney's Quarters. Terrill was truly a fine man & a good Christian. I hope I shall see his face again in life & health.

Some volunteers came across an Indian encamping ground near Estokpaga Lake [Lake Istokpoga]. It appeared to have been a small party. They were all gone, but left behind several things that indicated they had left in haste on the approach of the volunteers. Some signs of them have been seen in the Big Cypress, but no Indians have been encountered at last accounts. General Harney has recently left Fort Myers with an escort in small boats. He is following the coast & visiting the Keys round by Key West.

I am glad to hear that you have made Guy some morning dresses, high in the neck, and that you wash his face before he makes his appearance down stairs if I understand you aright. He will have to be careful & not take cold on the journey, and after he gets to Maine. I hope you will have good luck in settling up all your affairs. I shall look for all the particulars & also all about the journey. Guy will get to be quite a traveler very young. Tell him father thinks of him a great deal and is very happy to hear such good accounts of him. His mama must love him so well as not to love him too much. This paradox will apply better by & by.

If at Watervliet give my love & good bye to all. I should like to write a good deal to Rowland. I shall do so when I get time after he gets to Maine. I am rather hoping you will settle at Leeds. I have every confidence in your courage & pray Heaven will give you fortitude to bear every trial.

From your most affectionate husband,
Otis

689 2/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0631

Fort Brook Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brook Fla
February 18. 1857

My dearest Wife,

I have been hard at work yesterday and today. We mustered out one company of volunteers & mustered in two. I had to receive and inspect all the arms received & receipted for them and issue arms & accoutrements to the two new companies, all of which is sooner said than done, with my <> consists of one sergeant & one man. Colonel Craig has directed an experienced Armorer to come here from Baton Rouge, but he has not yet made his appearance. He desires me to obtain such other men as I need from the Line of the Army by detail.

In about a week you will start for Maine. I shall be somewhat anxious till I get an answer to this letter which I shall direct to Leeds. Everything goes on here as usual excepting the little disturbances kicked up by the volunteers, whom I consider worse behaved than the Indians, for the latter are seldom seen or heard from.

When you are reading this letter I shall imagine you at father's full of the excitement of your journey; little Guy knocking about much to the amusement of both his grandmothers. I know my mother never will allow that he is a paragon of excellence, for that is not her way, but if he behaves well she will love him ever, ever so much. Eunice Francis must see him and say if he looks & acts as his father did. My fancy pictures you all after your arrival. The big winter fires, Rowland filling the room with his person & his voice; Mother laughing with tears in her eyes; Father sitting with spectacles on forehead and asking questions that have occurred before, that could not be solved; & Grandmother W putting in a word or two about how Guy conducted himself &c. I wouldn't object to drop in upon you just then.

It seems to me, my darling, you will have a small volume of trash to read when you get so many letters at the same time. I may have written the same thing several times, but as you are my wife and not my critic you can skim along & call it all new & fresh like the hearts of the writer & the reader.

Our summer weather still continues. I have been forced to put on my thin coat. Rather unseasonable you should think? True it is the middle of February. Supposing I should go up the Kennebec next June, wouldnt I put a cloak & muffler on and talk to all the passengers about the cold weather they are having? "Why Sir, you must be from the South?" Yes, I am just returning from serving the United Sates in Florida. "You are a Southern man I presume?" No, Sir, I was once a white man & came from this very state. "Have you seen any slaves?" A few of them. "Tell us what you think of the Peculiar Institution?" A wayfarer like me must be non-committal. I have met travelers & known the conversation to take this turn many times, but I don't precisely see what I am driving at. If I am ascending the Kennebec I expect to be pretty light-hearted. It seems now very much like West Point, for a Band is playing on the plain, and though I could not name a single piece of music I have been hearing, still it is very <sweet>.

Rowland would enjoy it. I have at last bought me a bed stead, gave eight dollars for it. I have made two or three trials to make the parts fit each other, and after two or three exchanges have succeeded. The Posts reach higher than I can reach. A frame is on the top and a musketoe bar is superposed, whose white drapery hides the meager establishment below.

I am writing in my office, which Mr Torbert had the assurance to call a Garret. My desk consists of three arm chests - one on edge across two others on the floor with a board in front of the upper one - thus [a small figure showing the desk]. I am sitting on the little box in front of all, but I don't want to obscure your view. I am alone, the sergeant having gone out to shoot at a target.

I can scarcely refrain from stopping to listen to that delightful music, though I believe it makes me think of Sweet Home. It is very like it. Sweet Home is a bad tune to play to any man in Florida. I am expecting letters by tonight's mail. It is growing on towards the time for the arrival of the stage. You must ask for anything that I

have omitted to tell you. I havent seen Mrs Pages baby yet. I mean her last as so far she has four. I am like Guy's Grandmother Waite. I like to talk to little boys & might play with them if it was not for keeping up the dignity of the Department.

Give my love to Aunt Sarah, Uncle Hicks & their families, to Uncle Ensign, Aunt Martha, Laura, John, Hellen & family at Lewiston & to all our family at Leeds. I am very well, thank you. You may have all the love there is left. And as you have the distribution I expect you & Guy will reserve a good share.

Do you think I shall be held responsible for all the Indians killed with the ammuniton I issue? They seem thus far to have been wonderfully preserved.

With the warmest love for my little family I am your Most Affectionate Husband
Otis

690 2/18/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0632

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y. Feb, 18, 1857

My dearest Husband

I commence my letter as usual, after tea, but my dear little Guy is not asleep as he generally is when I write. He is very much engaged playing with his blocks; there are three that he likes particularly, his 'biddy, biddy', his 'kitty', and his 'a-jack.' Whenever he sees either of these he shows them to me, or calls them by name. He wears now plain pink frocks and white socks. The last shoes you bought him being the last pair he has. I must go to Troy to make some purchases before I go away, and the same time call on Mrs Gen Wool.

Brother Rowland did not come home to-night 'till very late so we took tea before he came. I have now just come up stairs again - went down to see to his supper, and to learn why he was so late. He came up in the cars to Troy, and then walked home by the bridge. The ice on the river broke again last Monday, and has floated down as far as Castleton where it has formed a solid dam. The river is high enough to cause the water to rise over the road between the Canal bridge and the Hospital.

Guy went to sleep just before I went down to see brother Rowland. He has not been to Albany very early in the morning lately. On Troy side the time has been changed from 15 minutes before eight, to 15 minutes past seven, and he cannot often wake early enough, or care to go so far round by the bridge. Therefore goes down on this side at nine o'clock. He has got to be there early tomorrow, and will walk to Troy by way of the bridge. I put his breakfast on the table when I was down stairs - just before I came up this last time. It consists of cold coffee, tongue, bread &c. I will have him a hot supper when he comes home at night.

He called again to an Mr Parker to see if the things were likely to be sold before I went away. He said he had sold the sofa, got twenty dollars, and would sell all and come up and settle with me a few days before I went away.

I received this morning another dear kind letter from you, my dearest Otis. I am very happy to learn you continue in good health. Please not work too hard in your garden if you make one. This letter contained the two checks - one of one-hundred and fifty dollars, and the other of eight-six dollars and eighty three cents. I went to have Mr Lansing cash them this morning but he was going away with his horses and they were at the door waiting for him to come from the office, and I did not see him and hinder him. He came home to-night and I shall go in to-morrow morning immediately after breakfast, and get him to cash them. If I can get to Troy to-morrow I will not have him cash but one (of \$86.83) for I can deposit the check as well as cash and I wish to deposit \$200.00 of this you sent me. Then I shall have a great deal too much on hand. Mrs Lee owes me a little over \$50.00 and Mr Parkes will bring somewhere about fifty dollars. I would deposit more but I have a great many things to buy and I cannot make an estimate of them before hand and it will cost considerable to travel to Maine.

Do you know that the Army bill has passed? We are all very much rejoiced here. Mrs Lee says she will have \$281.00 and Mr Lee will pay me before I leave, if the 'Order' is published so he can draw his. In the 'Maine Legislature' all that was done to remove Judge Davis last winter has been (I will call it) blotted out, and he is to be restored. I have been helping Mr Lee pack. Yesterday we packed all the crockery in one box, and to-day two of the stuffed-chairs, Guy's feather bed, mattress, and some books in another box; to-morrow intend to pack the remaining two chairs and books, pillows, &c in another box of the same size. I shall have nearly finished by Saturday, when I write my next letter.

I was some tired before tea, but now I am not in the least. I assure you there is no fear of my doing too much. The weather is so bad, and the ground is so wet that I cannot yet have my parlor carpet cleaned, but presume it will be well done time enough to put up that carpet & "all the rest" will go with the great chair. I have been thinking I would take this money you sent me to-day and what is deposited in the Bank here to Maine with me but now I do not think I shall, but shall leave altogether \$410.00 and interest, in the "State Bank of Troy".

I have written this letter very hastily and have only written a little news, and business. I have not at all answered your letter, but will do that in my next for I do not expect another letter this week, although it would be very welcome, next to your own dear self. All have retired before me.

I could write another whole sheet, but it is getting late. Do not get lonely, darling, for if you do I think I ought to be lonely too. I shall keep well and cheerful, and when we are together again, we will be happy, happy. How much I could write if my pen would keep time with my thoughts, and how very much I could tell you were you here to-night. But the best I can tell you is that little Guy has six teeth, four above, and two below, will soon have two more. He and I are perfectly well & Mother also.

Now, Good night, my best Otis, be cheerful, and time will slip away faster than you are aware, and you will soon see us all - Guy and your little wife

Lizzie Howard

I don't think there is much prospect of Maj Mordecai's changing with Maj. Bell to come here.

[Written in a different hand]
Recd Fort Brooke Fla
dated Feb 18 1857
Mrs OO Howard

691 2/19/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0633

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y.

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y. Feb 19 1857

My dearest Husband

I mailed a letter to you this morning, and have nothing very particular to tell you so soon, but as I have nothing else to do, and do not wish to be idle, I will write you a few lines. I am in the midst of packing as I told you in my last letter. I have not done much today - partly packed a box with the two remaining stuffed chairs. I spent nearly the whole day looking about the house selecting things to take with me, and gave Mrs Lee the prices of a list of articles she wishes to purchase.

The weather is getting very cold since noon; will have my carpets cleaned to-morrow if the ground is frozen and I know it must be.

Brother Rowland will go to Albany very early to-morrow morning, and that he says will be the last time that he shall go so early. His breakfast is ready. The Cars do not run on this side at all, on account of the high water. It is over the rail-track in some places. The last time they attempted to run, they ran off the track while in the water, and the passengers made their way out the best they could. The water continues in the arsenal grounds, and has been rising very slowly all day. It is about as deep now as it was the first spring you were here, when the temporary bridge was put across. There is temporary bridge there now, and the children (Nora, George, McGraths boy) were in a boat this afternoon sailing all about between the offices and hospital, or rather at the end of the hospital building. Horses go in and out at the lower gate near the shops.

Mr. and Mrs. Lansing are yet near neighbors and Mrs. Thornton is at the Major's quarters. They all wished to be remembered to you when I wrote. They all laughed very much at Guy this evening while downstairs. He commenced by bowing to the little boy on the wall (his shadow). He finally got to doing it more for a joke than other wise, and would bow so very low that his head would nearly touch the floor, not his knees for they went down also. I was directing a letter for mother this afternoon to Uncle Jones and spoke to Mother, who was in her room, and asked "Shall I direct it to Auburn?" Guy was playing on the floor, and immediately repeated Au - a - bin. He calls for his "ham - ma" often, and goes about driving in nails, or drawing tacks out the carpet. I must make this letter a sort of journal, write some every day 'til Monday, then mail it. Good night, darling, now.

Friday evening. When I finished writing last evening, I looked out the window and the ground was white with snow, but it was all gone before noon to-day. The weather is not as cold as last evening, and we are now having rain and sleet together. It just lightened and quite a heavy clap of thunder followed. I was quite surprised to see it, at this season of the year. The river has risen a very little since yesterday evening. I did not have my carpets cleaned. The ground was not dry enough.

Enough about the weather, as I fear your answer will be, "I am very much obliged for that calendar of the weather you sent me. I would now like a letter, a Daniel Webster (I think it was) one wrote on receiving a letter.

I have not done much to-day. I cleaned my silver set of castors, put up a bottle of ketchup to carry to Mother Gilmore, and gave Mrs Lee the remaining full bottle. There are so very few things, such as groceries left, that I shall leave them and take no account of them. I want to go to Troy to-morrow very much. Brother Rowland will stay at home and help me. I "thought of what things to buy." Guy had a very short sleep during the day and went to sleep this evening almost as soon as he touched the bed. He grows very fast, and is quite fat, but he is Guy for all that and you could not help recognizing him were you to see him, and I have no doubt but he would recognize you. He still says you went out the door and are out the window. I shall take your little writing desk with me, and our letters. Not either of the boxes would hold them all, so I have made a square package of them, and shall put it in my trunk. We used to talk about destroying them. I would not have them destroyed now, unless it was to bring you home. In the letter I mailed last Thursday morning, I acknowledged the receipt of two checks from you, whole amount \$236.83. I shall not want any more money to use for some time, but if you choose to send money to me every month, I will try and find some place to deposit it on interest. I shall add

two hundred of this to the two hundred and ten already on Interest at the "State bank of Troy" and leave it here.

I shall to-morrow some expect to receive another letter from you. I am very happy to have you mail me a letter every mail, and I would be more happy if you could get two of mine every week. I have written twice each week so far. I think twelve days a long time for a letter to be on its way, and when I get to Maine they will be fourteen days reaching me.

But my dearest Otis, if you continue in good health I ought and will be most thankful for that. I think of you nearly all the time, but I do not, as I have seen ladies think about their husbands, think you are certainly not well and happy, and constantly fearing something is wrong with you. I do most certainly hope you are well, and as happy as you can be alone, but I do not think I ought to worry all the time about you. It would not be well for me to do so now, even if I did not know it was my duty to be cheerful, I would now try to be for besides my own sake. No little wife loves her husband more, or thinks of him more affectionately than your Lizzie, but I know you also wish me to do my duty in other things. I shall not, my Otis, care what 'people say' as the people say. I shall make myself comfortable and take good care of myself and little Guy, and be as happy as possible. If anything is not pleasant, I shall try to make it pleasant.

I shall go to Leeds very soon after I get to Lewiston, and (let me count the days) yes, I think I will be there when you receive this letter. I guess you will get it Saturday, March 7. They will all be glad to see us and I hope you will be well at that time. We would like to have you there too, but the time is coming, the "good time coming" we will visit there together. This will be quite a long letter. I will go to sleep now with little Guy, but I hope he wont kick any harder than usual. Good night.

[Written in another hand]
Recd Ft Brooke Fla
dated Feb 19 / 57
Mrs O. O. Howard

692 2/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0634

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke Fla
Feb. 22nd 1857

My dearest Wife,

It is getting rather late in the day, but I must write you a few lines before the mail closes. I have had a great deal to do to day. General Harney came back to this Post last Thursday & has been trying to get away ever since. The Steamer came up the bay during high water, but cant get water high enough to get out again. It is the same Steamer I went to Fort Myers in or rather to Punta Rassa, on my way to Fort Myers. Last night the General ordered me to deliver some Green's carbines & some cartridges for the same this morning at a half hour after sun rise.

I have written as many as six public letters to day & had to run about a good deal as you may imagine. The only thing that makes me mention it is because it is Sunday & I don't like to be obliged to work. I can write to my wife & little boy & "all that sort of thing" as my friend Magitton says, but I don't like to write business letters & put up arms on Sunday. What would you do, apply for a Court or tell your wife of your troubles?

By the way your husband has been assigned to duty on a General Court Martial to convene at this Post on Thursday the 26th the day you leave for Maine. Everything goes on here about the same. I have got some money from the Colonel of Ordnance & am fitting up an office in the North East Corner of my yard. I am to have it ceiled all round & have a piazza on two sides according to the fashion of Tampa. After I get it done, I will abdicate my garret, will have a new desk & an arm chair.

I meant to have written you a letter on the Anniversary of our Marriage, but I didn't, & I don't believe I mentioned it in the letter I wrote you the next day after. I received an invitation to go to a Ball the night before St. Valentine's day, but did not go. I thought of our wedding then & resolved to write you the next day, but I don't believe I thought of it at all during the day. Though I am writing this on the 22nd of February & you are now at Watervliet, when you get this you will be in Maine. I believe I will direct this to Leeds & keep doing so till I get a letter from you telling me not to do so, for I think you will decide to go there first.

The stage came in yesterday evening & did nt bring any mail, but as nearly every other mail fails we don't think much about it. After I mailed my last on Wednesday evening I received yours of the 5th & yours & Rowland's of the 2nd inst. I was glad to find that you had got letters from this place & that your anxiety was relieved in a measure. That was a good idea of Rowland's not letting you have all your letters at once. I almost wish somebody would deliver mine in succession, but I generally curb my impatience & read them in regular order according to date.

Mr Day came back when the General came & Maj Morris has gone to Fore Dade to muster in some volunteers. Dr Head has been ordered away & has gone to Cape Sable. Mrs Morris looks sad, says her husband must go to For McRae across the Okee-cho-bee lake as soon as he returns from Fort Dade. He will leave her here. So that she experiences very little comfort from having joined her husband; only she will be here & can hear from him oftener than if at the North.

You ask me if I will have to move about any. I don't think I shall move from Tampa for the present. I have too much to do, receiving & issuing arms &c, from & to the Volunteers. General Harney's movements seem now to portend a Summer Campaign.

I had a long letter from Charlie Mulliken at the same time I got yours. He says he would be happy to have a visit from Mrs Howard. Brown says the same in a note in which he tells me how much he sympathizes with me. It is getting late. I want to hear all about the journey, how is my darling wife & my little boy & his Grandmothers both, & his Uncle Rowland. It is very warm here now. The trees are leaved & summer is upon us.

Give my love to all. I must close here. I was called away by an order & could write more or better this time.

May God bless you my darling & your sweet boy. It is so dark I cant see a line.

Affectionately yours
Otis

693 2/22/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0635

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy N.Y. Feb 22, 1857

My dearest Husband

I will add another sheet to the one I have already written and tell you how much I accomplished yesterday (and did not over fatigue myself). I will not tell you now but before I finish. It is now ten o'clock Sunday morning. I do not go to church to-day, and as little Guy has gone to sleep so early I will not wait for the evening before I write. He stood in the front door and on the steps last Tuesday morning quite a long time and took a little cold in his right eye, and is now sleeping with an alum curd on that eye. I put one on last evening while he was sleeping and it did a great deal of good, and this one will nearly take out all the cold if not quite. He is & has been perfectly well otherwise.

I received this morning two letters from you, dated Feb 8 and Feb 11. The last one only ten days on the way. All the others have been twelve days or more. I have one more letter to receive, from you before I leave, and I shall write you one more from this place, and if I can I shall write from Boston.

Brother Rowland received a letter from Aunt Martha Jane, dated Feb 17, saying that Mr S. had gone West, and that she received since he left home news of his fathers death. He was to be gone three or four weeks. They had received letters from Freddie at Jamaica and was to sail for Bremen Feb 1st. Mr and Mrs Sargent have gone to Nassau. Ada Strickland is at Somerville. We shall stop over one day at Boston, and if convenient go to see them at Somerville. We shall get to Lewiston if nothing happens to prevent on Saturday in the afternoon. I shall write to you the following day. I do not much dread the journey, but shall be very glad when we have accomplished it.

I went to Troy yesterday afternoon at half past <>, had an early dinner, & crossed the river in a little boat. Brother Rowland went with me. The river is yet very high. There is a little water over the wall at this end of the Hospital and when I got into the little boat I went about two yards from the steps of the ferry house on this side to get in. There was very little ice in the river and we crossed in safety. I first went to Gregory's, purchased laces &c to the amount of \$10.44. Then to the Bank and deposited \$200.00 and took out Mother's money (\$102.68) from there to 'Quackenbush' (my packages and bill from there will come to-morrow, will be about \$15.00). Then bought Guy a pair brown boots, me a pair of fancy slippers, Guy some stockings and a prayer Catholic & prayer book for Katie, and one for Annie, and then down River St, nearly as far as 'Ferry St' to "Wyatts" for some yarn I could not find elsewhere. We took an Omnibus from there, then just six o'clock, for home by the way of the bridge, and arrived at the Arsenal at ten minutes before seven o'clock. Not very tired but some muddy. I did want to call on Mrs Wool, but I really did not have time. I may go over again this week. I have a few more purchases that I would like to make but did not have time yesterday. My Piano, and the little green box McGregor gave you containing the legs and stool, was sent over just before we started, and brother Rowland left me a while at Quackenbush to go to see about its going through Boston with out our seeing to it.

I think there will be no trouble about your letters, dearest. Up to Feb 11 have all been received. They are not in the least monstrous. You write every thing I want to know, every letter is full of interest, and would be ever welcome. Write what you would. I am glad you are in good health, and do hope you may continue so. I hope you are to remain at Tampa all the time you are in Florida. I feel better about you, than if you were constantly changing. I am pleased to hear such good news about Mrs Maj Page. Her little girl I know is a little <> sure, but having one older perhaps she does not think much about it. Tell me if they both continue well when you write an answer to this. Brother Rowland thinks he will remain in Lewiston with us over Sunday, and go to Leeds Monday afternoon, but I shall tell him I think he ought to go directly to Mother. He will go to Bath that week and when he returns to Leeds I shall go with him, if I do not go with him Monday. I fear when I first go to Leeds I shall feel that you ought to be there with us. It may be a little sad for Mother to see Guy and myself and not you, but I can give her news of you up to the eleventh if I do not get the last letter that is to come here, and good news will compensate in a measure for your absence. I shall take all the letters I have received from you since you left, with me to Leeds for Mother to read. She will enjoy them very much.

I love to write to you on Sundays, and on Wednesdays for then I fancy you are writing at the same time, and it is pleasant to think so. It does not seem to me that I have written all I wished to in this letter, or what I would in answer to so many dear letters from you, dearest. I think a great many I would whisper to you, my best Otis, but if you wish to know them now, you can imagine us living in the south side of these quarters, just before we went to Augusta, and remember some of our conversations then. I was happy then and we will be again.

I am finishing this in the evening. Guy is by my side on the floor playing with a pencil and old Cadet register. Had to have a pencil to write because I am writing. Is now reaching for something under the bureau, a spool to put on the pencil. Gone into Mother's room to get some more playthings. I can't keep up with him, when he is busy at play he will say over every thing he knows. Au-burn is a new word and come quite often. I asked him what I shall tell father, and he came to look at my letter, wants to go to sleep now so I must say good night and undress him. Every morning, he makes noise and then looks to see if I am awake and if I am not he soon wakes me and when I ask him if he is mama baby, he gives me the answer 'um', and I take him up in my lap sometimes and ask him questions. He understands them all but will not say Papa or father but I talk to him about you that he may remember you when you come home.

I have no more room to write and if I have not expressed much affection know that there is enough in my heart, and that I do love my Otis.

Affectionately your little wife.
Lizzie Howard

I don't think either of the Lizzie Waites wish to return to their name they have lost.

[written in another hand]
Recd Ft. Brooke Fla
dated Feb 22 / 57
Mrs O O Howard

694 2/23/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0636

Albany

Source: Bowdoin

Albany Feb 23d 1857

My dear Brother

I havn't much in particular to do this morning altho' the Lord knows enough in general. Yesterday was Washington's birth day & today is celebrated because yesterday was Sunday. Albany is in gala suit . I.E. there is a great display of "milingtary", flags, music & whiskey. The mud being of all depths from one to six inches. I should think it would be as much like "fun" as chasing Indians in the Florida swamps. Lizzie received yours of the 9th & 12th yesterday morning & I mailed one of your little wife's letters this morning. Lizzie always likes to have the news to tell if there is any so I don't write as much as I should otherwise.

The freshet has at last gone down & the Northern Rail Road has at last got started. I came down by that at 9 o'clock this morning. I came over the road the last time the cars ran 10 days ago & we went 50 rds thro water three feet deep. Both Conductor & passengers looked mighty pale. A stop or an "off the track" would have been in ten feet water.

A letter from Mother yesterday morning / very short says she is well & has received letters from you.

My Advertiser this morning states that the "Supreme Court Bill" in Maine, which reinstates Judge Davis & expunges the Barnes resolutions of last winter& passed the House by a vote of 106 to 22. Senate unanimously! I would like to see some of those friends of yours at Augusta who were so positive that I must be wrong in predicting just such a result, not only the conservative feeling of the people, but their sense of Justice was outraged. I should have liked to have made a speech on that subject myself. Paine's, Smith's & Choates arguments would have made first rate "ponies" & social labor.

I am getting better reconciled with the world. Things are all balanced - Politics, Religion, Reform, Conservatism - work for themselves & for each other remedies for the evils they engender. The raskality of the politicians, the cancer hypocrisy of the Religionist, the fanaticism of the Reformer, & the bogysm of the Conservative, will run to the end of the rope & then bring up Reaction, Retributive Justice will step in & correct the wrongs & the villainies that seems to be the Divine system of government. To be sure we learn something of the kind in Butler but we never believe it, never have faith in it till our own eyes behold its workings.

Ella write me: "I am almost afraid to tell you of the little flattering hope I entertain. I feel now as if I had a right to pray & I expect to be answered. I feel the sufficiency of Christ. I have long prayed but never as now." How much will that "hope" add, Otis, to the riches I will possess in a faithful & virtuous wife. I already feel the influence of her simplicity & singleness of purpose. Perhaps I may be able before long to participate in her faith. She was about answering your letter for which she was very grateful.

There passes a "band of music" with "pop goes the weazel". How many of those men know anything or care anything today for the substantial blessings which Washington conferred on his Country. I am of the opinion that the noblest legacy of all that he left us, was the simple unostentacious virtue of his character. Isn't it beautiful to see at one of the most conspicuous points of all History the Epitome of manly, I had almost said Godly, virtue. Surely there was something Divine in that long-suffering & forbearance. Who can help being reminded of Him, who tho' reviled, reviled not again.

I had the very questionable success last Thursday of gaining a cause in our "Moot Court" agst my own convictions of the Right. The more I studied, the more I was convinced that the weight of law & authority was agst me. I carried the case by admitting the general plausibility of the "points" of the opposite Counsel & starting one of my own, for which both the Judge & the Class were unprepared. I thought the Argument specious but it succeeded & here have begun that temptation which must always exist in the profession of law, viz, "to make the worse appear the better reason." A man must be ever on his guard if he would keep in sight the firm basis & strong barriers of Truth. I know, "there is not need" but the tools are at hand - who, how many would refuse to use them, to arrive at an end, to carry a point, to gratify the will, to subserve a purpose.

I have two ΨΥ [Psi Upsilon] friends here from N.Y. City by the name of Opdyke. We have been good friends & they are real good fellows. Brothers of 18 & 20 years of age. They have taken an interest in me as a promising amateur in the law. They have had six months more study than I. I told one of them the other day of my doubts as to my fitness for "Law". His brother came to me this morning & said he had heard that I thought some of abandoning the profession. He said earnestly - "Do not do it". "I wish you would go & talk with Judge Harris" (one of our professors). "There is no doubt of your success." I can't feel so. I don't think I have a good business capacity. I have been talking the matter over with Charles & Ella & they would both be glad to see me a minister. I have often thought this winter, what a nice thing it would be for me if you were out of Army & could go into partnership with me. The checks & balances of our characters and abilities, our mutual confidence & good will, and the unity of our objects would, it seems to me, be excellent guarantees of our Success. Such advice as that of Opdyke where it seems dictated by no fear or favor & no design to flatter makes me in love with the law again for a short time. To be sure, he has only heard me at our examinations & Moot Courts & cannot know all the drawbacks.

Mother writes me that Father thinks he will be able to bear my expenses at Harvard if I think it best to go there. Would you? I mean next fall. I shall study in Lewiston <>. Lizzie goes to Leeds to stay & if she does I may. I want to see some practice now so as to fix the principles I have been learning this winter. We have been over the subjects pretty fully - Real Estate, Contracts & Partnerships, Pleadings & Practice under the "N.Y. Code". This last is the rule of practice substituted in this State instead of the old customs of Common Law, which prevail in N.E. Penn & most of the Atlantic States, California, Wis, Iowa, Ohio. Ken & some other states have "codes" very similar to this. New states will be likely to adopt "codes". They abridge & simplify the "practice". It is so uncertain where I shall practice that I hardly know which would be more advantageous to me to learn. Com Law is tonight at Cambridge.

Jimmy Thorn & I have become quite intimate. He wanted I should promise to write him, this morning when I go away but I fear I cant increase my correspondents without neglecting some I already have. Write to me at Leeds & they will forward it wherever I am. I expect to spend next Sunday in Auburn to go home Monday & to Bath Wednesday. I shall make inquiries in Boston about law studies, when we go on.

Yr. aff. Bro.
Rowland

I forwarded Lizzies piano and took a recpt at the Troy Depot. Lizzie bore the crossing in the skiff & the shopping bravely.

If any one you fall in with should happen to wish any law business done in Albany - there's "our curse." I would like to help them any way I can.

Mrs Waite withdrew her money - \$100.00 & Lizzie deposited sufficient of your last remittance to swell the amt in Bank to over \$400.00 I shall be owing her for borrowed money when I get home, about \$45.00, which I will pay or give Guy my note.

I have got a new suit of clothes. I wouldn't "go a courting" looking shably would you? I paid \$37.00. I would give \$5.00 to have a coat suit any time.

I exchanged your <check [torn edge]> for a "certificate of deposit" which will bear interest till the money is drawn. It can be drawn any time by Lizzies endorsing & getting it cashed.

697 2/25/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0638

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.
February 25th 1857

My dearest Wife,

Mail day has come again, some letters will come from you to-night & it is a pity I could not get them in time to answer them by the return mail. But it is our luck to have a post master who is smart with his tongue but exceeding slow in other motions. He wont take anything out of the letter box after seven this evening & it is rarely the case that the incoming mail is open before eight or nine depending somewhat on the size of it.

You will start tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. I wish you could have such delightful weather as this to make the journey in. I wonder how Guy will like the cars now; will he laugh and play with travelers? Think he will be looking for father? I am afraid he will forget him. No doubt his darling Mamma will remind him of father, way off in Florida, but when father comes home, he will say, 'who is it Mamma'? But then you know we can soon get acquainted again.

I hope you will get my letter containing the checks before you start. But you will write me all about these things. I wrote you last Saturday that General Harney was here. He did not get out of the Bay till Tuesday morning. Last night Capt F.N. Clarke, 4th Artillery, came in from a scout of five days out of Manatee twenty miles below Tampa. He had found some signs of Indians on a Mangrove Island near Manatee & wanted men to assist in catching them. A volunteer company under Capt Lesley of this place was just being mustered in, consisting of fifty men. The order came to me just at sunset, to furnish them with arms, ammuniton & accoutrements immediately. And I did so, but I tell you I was pretty tired when it was over. One company & a part of another were sent off last night to head the Indians off by land & a little steamboat took Capt. Clarke with his detachment & Capt Lesley's Company of Volunteers to make for the island by water. I hope they will be fortunate enough to bring in a party of Indians. There is no hope of closing the war unless some can be caught. If a good large party of women & children & old men can be found & taken, the others will come in & treat. You know a great part of the Seminoles have removed to the Western Country & the principal object of this Campaign is to make the rest go too.

Monday night there were two rival parties in Tampa & I had an invitation to both. As I did not go to the one on the 13th of February & as there is considerable jealousy of the Garrison in Tampa on account of fancied coldness &c towards the inhabitants, all of us who could went to the said party or Ball. One was denominated the Old men's ball & the other the Young men's ball. As in duty bound out of respect to Grey hairs I went to the Old men's first at Mr Post's hotel, where I found a very pleasant little part, plenty of young ladies, & some not so young, dressed, Goodness! just as ladies usually dress, some in pink, some in white, some in taste & I suppose some in bad style. We had suppers & refreshments after nearly every set of Cotillions as long as I staid. I danced with Miss Hooker, who showed her whole neck & lovely, bony, broad shoulders &c, with Miss Strafford from the country, with Miss McCay, Mrs McCay, Miss McBee, Mrs Clark, the wife of the Army Sutler at Cape Sable, Fla, who married her husband at Oswego, went to Boston & thence with the 4th Artillery to Florida, the daughter of a Sergeant, a very modest & pretty woman of the Northern stamp - with Mrs Thomas, the wife of Bob Thomas, who was a Cadet with me two years, entered the army, served in Fla., loved a pretty girl, resigned after marrying her. She has two children, one is a month old only - Warm climate - southern Country - Mrs Gorgas - Now? Large families at the North too sometimes? Oh! Yes, warm hearts in any climate. Well, I danced with Mrs Kennedy also. In the mean time, I visited the other ball & danced with Miss Bell & Miss Lucinda somebody I don't remember whom. Tampa is a new place, but quite old fashioned. Nobody boasts of much wealth & nobody aspires to any thing higher than respectability.

I have given you an account of my proceedings, and I dare say you think I have been rather gay for a married man, far away from his wife, particularly when I tell you I didn't get home till after three. Well you see, I don't have anybody to consult with on propriety & have to be guided by myself entirely. I want to get on well with the people here for I am dependent on them in a measure for my comforts & it is gratifying to such people as I must have to find that officers are not above them in feeling & will engage with them in their innocent amusements.

But my darling wife, I don't love my little family any the less for all that. And I don't believe we would be any the happier by isolating ourselves while away from each other. And though I have written all this as if in self-defense, still I believe you will be glad I went. I'll tell you what I think from my observations of the ladies here. Tampa is a first rate place for you to wear out your old clothes.

If you could have seen Captain F.N. Clark when he came in yesterday, you would have laughed. He had on soldiers pants & jacket with straps sewed on & soldiers wide bottomed shoes. I went into Major Page's Office & saw him sitting there, but thought it was some soldier & didn't speak to him till I heard his voice. On these scouts they do not take off their clothes but build a fire, wrap their blankets around them & lie down. Upwards of two thousand men will do that same thing this very night.

I didn't begin to think I could be given so much work out here, but this mustering out & in, companies, receiving all they have got & issuing new, keeps me moving as father says. A Volunteer Captain said to me tonight (a few minutes ago) when I closed an issue to him - "You young gentlemen from West Point learn one good lesson & that is, to do things up on the spot." Yes, we have to do so, or confusion is easily created. I told him I must leave, for I had just time enough to finish a letter to my wife before the mail closed. He said is it possible that you are married. He thought I was a boy, wouldn't take me to be more than twenty one. Good, your husband is growing younger, I will be eighteen in three years.

I hope Mother will have welcomed you to Leeds by the time you open this. My love to all. Kiss Guy & tell him papa loves him.

Your affectionate husband
Otis