
700 3/1/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0642

Ordnance Depot
Tampa, Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Tampa, Fort Brooke Fla
March 1st 1857

My dearest wife,

I received two letters from you last night, one mailed on the 10th with one from Rowland and the other on the 12th ult. If anything could compensate for home & its enjoyments, it would be these dear, kind letters, that are so truthful & affectionate as to make a man who possesses such treasures as I do, both proud & happy. What is wealth or distinction compared with a faithful & loving wife, a bright eyed & sunny hearted boy, warm hearted & high minded brothers, a mother who almost worships you because you are her son and friends who never desert or forget you. Are not these my blessings? And should I not be ever deeply grateful to the Giver of all things, that He remembers not my offenses against me. God is a God of love. Let us love Him and one another. Among the first things she teaches her little boy, let the young mother teach him to lisp "Our Father". Oh! How much I want him to be truthful. Never deceive him, darling, in the smallest thing and he will never deceive you.

You say you will not write so much about him, because I will want to see him too much. Never fear that. I love to have you write about Guy, for the little picture you & he present is very beautiful.

Mrs Lesley, the wife of Dr Lesley who died here of the consumption a short time ago, left for New Orleans yesterday. She, poor woman, has been waiting for a chance ever since her bereavement. I have noticed her often, bowed with grief & the tears falling fast. Yesterday I went and spoke to her in her room to bid her good bye. I saw her afterwards on the wharf, with her servant & her little boy. A frivolous young man was talking to her & I noticed he was, though unwittingly, only opening her wounds afresh; so I went up & spoke to her, took the little child who is two months older than Guy, and talked with her about him. She called him Howard & I learned that his name was Volney Howard Lesley. He couldn't talk any, but noticed everything - was a fat & heavy boy with a good forehead & bright black eyes. I told her I had a boy of the same age, and his mother wrote me he was beginning to be quite a talker. Her eyes brightened up & the color came into her face, & she seemed happy again. Les Enfants, ils sont tout et tout!

Lieut Torbert left for New Orleans on the same boat. He improved very rapidly after his arrival at Tampa. Lieut Day has come back. He never expects to get well, but he is very cheerful & very kind to every body in need. I have learned to love him as a brother. Mr Mack & I get on finely, never have any fallings out; we both have enough to do but our departments are distinct.

I have got my new office done, a new table made where I am now writing. It is a neat little room 15 by 15 feet square, with two windows & a Porch or piazza on the south & west. I can always get a cool breeze & take some pleasure now in doing business here. My Ordnance Sergeant John Flynn is delighted with the new arrangement.

Your letters were written during & just after the storm at Troy. I am sorry for the loss of property occasioned by it. But you are now in Maine. I felt grieved on account of what I said about Mrs Boggs & Augusta Georgia for you misunderstood me. I thought she would prefer to be with her husband when she could as well as not. Baton Rouge being a place equally healthy & pleasant at this season. Then I remembered how Mr Boggs' sisters used to worry her & thought she would be happier with him than there at the time of her confinement. I know you couldn't bear being without your husband that first time, but now you have higher duties. You couldn't well come to me. It wouldn't be so well for you or Guy & I will try to get on alone, but I don't know a single objection to your going to Leeds. Mother wants you to go & I prefer that you & Guy both should be there, for you will certainly be subjected to less annoyance & have somebody to write me letters if you are ill. Heaven protect you then my darling wife.

I think you are at Leeds already. You must have got my letters urging it & learned that I should direct yours to

you there. If so when you are reading this, give my love to my mother & yours. I am very, very anxious to hear all about that journey. I hope you got my letter with the checks, though you don't appear to have done so before the 12th of February. I expect my last letter directed to Watervliet would hardly reach you before you left. I am glad you took your piano to Maine.

The pay Bill has now become increased. Tell Mother Waite her heart may be at rest now for if her Grandson's father has his health, there will be no occasion for any more family disputes like some of those that began to poison our cup of happiness. God grant that the mammon of unrighteousness, may never sear our affections or distract our hearts from each other. Poverty is of no manner of consequence as compared with want of principle. Oh! Dear what a poor miserable existence it is to have wealth & no integrity. Your mother must not be offended at me. I want her to love me more than money & her daughter more than either.

Money separated Gen Harney from his wife. She gives him so much & he never goes near her. He asks often & she refuses him. Oh! My sweet wife you cant comprehend the horror I feel of a home ruined & desolate for the sake of a few paltry dollars. In this you & I agree and we can ward it off. Let your own property be kept separate from mine. Go on with me & we can save enough soon to be independent - do good if we want to educate our little ones & give God thanks.

Give my love to one & all. Tell Guy to say papa & kiss him for me. I hope he will continue to be good & love his other Grandmother too. I haven't half answered your kind letters but have written straight on, but I am your most affectionate & loving husband.

Otis

I am in good health & spirits. This is a Sunday letter number.

701 3/3/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0643

Auburn, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn, Me March 3, 1857

My dearest Husband

I must now write you as long a letter as I can. I mailed a letter to you from Boston yesterday morning on our way to the Depot, or rather I handed it to "Oli" and he was at the Depot when we left was going to the P.O. from there. We stayed with Mrs Hazard [Otis' first cousin Olive B (Woodman)] Sunday and Sunday night, and they took us to the Depot in their carriage Monday morning. The Cars left at half past seven. Dellie was with us Saturday and Sunday and came with us in the Cars as far as 'Andover'. Guy went to sleep as Dellie got out, had a long sleep, and his milk warmed on the stove afterwards with some ginger cakes was happy and pleasant 'till we were very near Portland. Then was uneasy until we got out at the St Lawrence Depot. Was very happy running about the half hour we were waiting.

Uncle Edward was there to meet us, wished us to stay a while at their house, but I thought better to get to the end of our journey. Guy went to sleep before we reached Yarmouth, and waked just before we arrived and Guy is so much attached to him. I hope Guy will not forget his dear father. I remind him of you often. I shall subscribe for the New York Times, the weekly. I think I would learn more Army news from that paper than any other.

I have very much to write to you, but to-night I cannot seem to think. I may be some tired, but I feel perfectly well. When I think of my little aches and pains I feel sometimes that I wanted you to know too. Mrs Thornton thought I could not be enceinte. I do not yet show it in my form, and when I tell anyone, they say they never should have known it. Were you to see me any day now you would find me dressed in a flounced black silk skirt, and black cloth basque, a very becoming dress and hides a "multitude of sins".

I am quite happy darling and my greatest wish is that you may continue happy and in good health. I do not think the journey fatigued me at all. I feel very well. Mother is very well. I shall go to Leeds next week, and Mother and Guy. I shall go with brother Rowland when he comes home from Bath. He will go there this week sometime.

I may not have time in the morning to write more, so I will close this to-night. I wish to hear from you very much darling. Your last letter was written on the eleventh, I mean the one I received. There was not any snow at Troy, and I do not find much here. Heavy teams go on wheels but sleighs run very well a short distance. There has been no freshet here. Guy and I sleep together and Mother sleeps with Rosa. I think of you a great deal, and little Guy gets a great many kisses and they don't all belong to him.

Now I must again write a good night to you. From your little wife.
Lizzie

702 3/4/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0644

Ordnance Depot Fort
Brooke, Tampa, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.
March 4th 1857

My dearest Wife,

My duties have kept me a going till after five o'clock when I take a pen to write you a few lines, just to say that I am very well & waiting impatiently to hear the same from you all. I shall get a letter from you tonight I expect, but it will be from Watervliet, from which place I shall get letters probably till the 9th or 10th.

Last Monday Lieut Dana sent in a report from Fort Meade about forty miles off that he had discovered a trail of some Indians & that he wanted help as he had but seven men. Two companies of Volunteers were immediately sent to his assistance, but we have not heard the result yet. We are hoping he will bring in a few, just to let us see how an Indian looks, whether they really are red men or not. You see I could'nt volunteer to go on that scout as a court martial was in session of which I was a member. We have tried three men & commenced on the trial of the fourth, but Col Monroe the president of the Court being sick to day we adjourned till tomorrow.

I think there is little doubt but we shall have a summer campaign. Everything goes on here about the same from day to day. I trust you now are quite settled at Leeds, or certainly will be by the time this reaches you. How is that little youth Guy? Give my best love to all - my mother & thine, Rowland & father, the friends who say where is Otis & what is he doing - to them say he is doing well & has time to think of old & familiar faces.

We have had quite a cold time for the past two days but it is getting warm again. When the wind is north it is always a little colder & the people call it a Norther. I have not yet got my armorer from Baton Rouge & don't believe Boggs has got there yet. I would'nt wonder if he stopped a little on his way. Perhaps he is sick or a part of him, say his better half, may be so. I hope nothing serious. Last night Mr Mack & I took quite a long ride but I have'nt had time to day & I don't think he has. General Harney has carried off all my Green's Carbines so that I cannot practice any more with them, but Capt Whiteley has sent me a new kind of arm, a colts Rifle. It is about as long as my cadets musket but a revolver, or a shooter.

Major Morris has been sent to Fort McRae & leaves Mrs Morris here. Major & Mrs Morris say I look almost precisely like their son William and hence they have taken quite a fancy to me, & I don't feel very much complimented for the other officers who know the said William Morris say he is rather a sad fellow. I don't mean sad in its proper sense but in its young America sense. Mrs M & the Major dropped in to see Mr Mack & myself on Sunday evening, caught him quite in dishabille, but you know I am always up an dressed.

I do long to hear from you now, my darling Lizzie. I want to know where you have decided to go & hope it is at Leeds. I do miss you a good deal, but you know I don't like to own that anything can give me the blues, so I keep my heart up, but I tell I should'nt cry to be ordered north, though this is a fine warm climate, though the trees are all leaved out, the potatoes six inches high &c.

Kiss Guy several times & tell him he has forgotten his father & tell him I shall be jealous of Uncle unless he will say father too. Remember me affectionately to Laura & uncle Ensign when you see them, & your friends at Lewiston. Again may God bless & protect you my darling wife, and help you to bring up that little boy Guy so that he will not be a sad fellow, but a truthful, pure-minded, upright little man.

There's no more time
Your most loving husband
Otis

703 3/7/1857

From: Lizzie H.[Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0645

Auburn. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn. Me. Mar 7. 1857
Saturday Evening

My dearest Husband,

I must now begin you another letter. My dear little Guy has gone to sleep. We occupy a sleeping-room that opens out of Aunt Sarah's kitchen, and is always warm. That is why I prefer it. Mother sleeps up stairs with Rosa over my room. I must give you a little plan of the house enclosed in this letter. If you are half as glad to see it as I was the plan you sent me of your quarters. I will be over payed the trouble of sketching it. We have boarded with Aunt Sarah so far, without making any arrangements for the future. I am waiting till I go to Leeds, and see what Mother G says about living with her. I really had rather stay at Leeds than anywhere else while you are away, but I do not want it to be hard for her to take care of us. I think I shall try to get Mrs Hinkley to stay with her a while at the time we shall need help the most.

I formed a very different opinion from what Ada and Mrs Strickland said of them. I should judge Ada was pleased rather than otherwise.

I have received two letters from you since I came here. The first one Mr Lee remailed from Watervliet and the other was sent down from Leeds, written on the 18th of Feb. I am so glad none of your letters have been lost. I feel that I have received all you have written. They are a great comfort to me, dearest, and if you continue in good health, we will try to be as happy as can be, wont we, dearest Otis. I never was better, or had such a good appetite as I have now. Guy is fast getting over his cold, and Mother continues in good health.

The trial of George Knight of Pownal, for the murder of his wife is going on here, and consequently great excitement prevails, even ladies go to listen, but I think they are out of their place to do it. Every one thinks him guilty of the crime.

I have written rapidly to-night and covered this sheet before nine o'clock. I must add another to it before I mail it Monday forenoon.

Now good night my darling. I pray you are well.

Sunday Evening

My dearest Otis

Your last letter received dated Feb 18 was the first one you directed to Maine, and you sent it to Leeds, thinking it may be, that I would go directly there. I had so much baggage I thought best to leave what I did not need for present use, and not fill mother's house with it. I brought all the cloths you left and shall give brother Charlie your brown winter coat. The remainder is not of much account. I cannot tell how much my expenses were for the last month yet, or how much it cost us to come to Maine. I gave brother Rowland thirty five dollars a few days before we left home to pay some bills, and then fifteen when we were at Springfield, and some more in Boston. He will settle with me when I see him. I have kept my book straight so far, and I balance my account at the end of every month. I have lost no money as yet.

Mr Lee gave me his note for what he is owing me for furniture. It is \$50.00 and he can soon pay me all.

John and Hellen came up here this afternoon. He wanted to see Guy and had more leisure to day than he has during the week. Frank and Adams came up this evening, and Prentiss, all wished to be remember to you. How much my darling Otis I do think of you. I do hope you will make yourself as comfortable as possible while you are there. I do believe, however so much. I would like to see you that I rather you would not come home on a leave. I shall probably be confined about the middle or last of June. I hope I may be at Leeds then. I want to tell you a little secret. Guy kicks his little sister, and she kicks at Guy. Do you think she will love him? If you

are not here you will love it just as much wont you? I know that when we are housekeeping again I will always be very happy. I wont be naughty any. Guy is asleep, and quite well. Everyone that sees him flatters him very much. He had a nice play with Uncle Hicks this afternoon. I presume he reminds him of the little boy they lost, for he once called him 'Willie' in speaking to him.

Now I must write good night, and if I get another letter in the morning I will tell you.

From your little Wife,
Lizzie H.

The mail arrives at nine o'clock A.M. and goes out at noon.

704 3/8/1857 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0646

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, March 8th 1857

Otis, my dear Son,

It is now on the third month since you changed your place of abode and this is the first time I have attempted to write you a letter. The great distance between us has given me such a degree of tenderness on the subject, that the thought of writing to you was even painful for a long time, and now I am not free from it, but such talk as this will not give you any great pleasure or be of any sort of proffit, to you.

Lizzie will write the particulars of her journey better than I can. They stopped over the sabbath at Summerville and Cambridge and R.B.H arrived at home Tuesday evening and spent the night here. His father was gone to Augusta, so he concluded to go to Bath the next day. He saw his father in the cars on his way to Auburn. Rowland proceeded to Bath, and your father went to see Lizzie, Guy and Mrs Waite at Auburn. Guy he said was Somewhat out of tune, with a cold he had taken in his changes. I would like to know whether it passed off without making him entirely sick. I shall see them or hear from them, before many days. Rowland said he would write, and let me know when he should return. If Guy is not sick I shall expect Lizzie with him when he returns. Your father says Guy looks better than he did, last fall and is quite active - ran across the room very smart, and seemed astonished to hear the name of grandfather but said uncle plainly.

Rowland was the first one of my sons whom I had seen since the first part of December. I was very happy to receive him, and my house seemed more like home than it had for the winter, but my health is good and I have been active, doing all in my power to make those around me happy, and taking every opportunity to write to my absent family. Our winter has been unusually severe. When the Thermometer has been below zero, day after day, I would think with pleasing sensation Otis is free from this. We have our share of the blessings of life, but some of our deep drifting snow storms are gloomy aspects for the men who have the shoveling to do.

Your letters have all reached us I think, one from Palatka, the next a short one written two days after your return from Fort Myers, and one the twenty third of January, and another written the 14th of Feb all which were gratefully received. There have two come to Lizzie. The first one I remailed to Auburn to her the other came last night. I opened and read, and shall not send it to her, if she comes in a few days. Rowland lives at the other house apparently comfortably, a warm stove, in the room where Betsey lived. His cattle to take care of his wood to prepare for his fire, and help break roads sometimes a little company, and then again going abroad, some neighbor dropping in to talk about the size and price of oxen, steers, and &c. I suppose he has his troubles as well as the rest of us.

Dellie has gone out Saturdays from house to house selling stationary. He seems to enjoy it. A student offered him the chance and he accepted it, and now his father has sent him money to put in to make a whole sale purchase with a number of others. Rowland thinks very differently about it from what he did, since I talked with him about him. Dellie thinks it does not interfere with his studies, and seems to be a pastime for him on Saturdays. Rowland wrote for him to come to him at Summerville and slept with him and talked with him on the subject. Dellie has been entirely open and frank in all his movements. I have never mentioned it in this place. He goes out a few miles in the cars into the neighbouring villages and sells. Since he has had no particular ill luck I am loosing my anxiety about him. He thinks he is learning to get his living, and when I think of your fathers age, and the prospect before us I know it is quite an attainment to know how to get an honest living. I hope he will not swerve from the strictest integrity. Do write to him, Otis. How much he would enjoy a letter from you. He says when he gets letters from home, and from his brothers, he feels encouraged and his studies go easier with him. Charles I have not seen since last fall, but R.B.H. will see him, and tell me how he is, when he returns. I have filled my sheet in a chat about our folks, just as we should if we met alone together.

Do write often to me. I fear the hot weather for you.

From your affectionate mother
Eliza Gilmore

I intended to have written some about the neighbors but have no room. Mrs Brewster was buried last Tuesday.
E.G.

705 3/8/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0647

Fort Brooke, Tampa,
Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Tampa, Fla.
March 8, 1857

My dearest Wife

It is now Sunday morning and has been storming hard all night and continues to rain & blow now. The room is so dark that I can scarcely get a glimpse of the lines and you must not mind it if I do depart from them. I have just finished and closed a letter to Rowland and reread the first one of yours in order of date that I got last Wednesday. I took from the office that night five letters - three from you, one of the 17th, a second of the 19th, & the third of the 23d ult. The fourth was from Rowland & the fifth from Ella. All were first rate letters. You must not mind Rowland's teasing you about having nothing to write for I can assure him I am more than satisfied.

I was as happy as could be Wednesday evening. You wrote just as ever wish you to, just what was in your heart, about our little darling & everything. There was not a line that was not full of interest. I would like to get your letters sooner, but it is a pleasure to get more than one at a time. I can thus follow along with you for several days. Yours mailed on the 17th was commenced on the 14th of February.

I don't want any better wife than you have been to me. Perhaps at sometimes you have not been so happy as you might and I am conscious that I have often been at fault for that. But I think we have begun our marriage career admirably, and I pray that we may continue as we have begun in mutual love & confidence while we live. You have had to suffer for our sakes, but as you have found there is a recompense. You will find strength to bear everything in fortitude, patience & love. And Heaven gives a blessing even in the midst of additional care & pain.

Your journey is over by this time and you are either at Lewiston or Leeds. I am waiting the due course of the mails to learn particulars. If you started when you proposed it is already two days since. The mail failed last night, but if you wrote from Boston I shall get the letter by next Wednesday. You will find that your "promotion to Mrs Lieutenant" has been dropped by Order of the Chief of the Ordnance Dept. in Florida. You forget that you are entitled to Mrs Captain in Maine.

I have just read over your last letter, filling two sheets. I don't know what I would whisper to you if you were here. I do not ask for a better than that, my darling wife. There is no use in your imagining me sick, for you know I am never so, only when I can have a little wife to sympathize with & comfort me. I hope Guy has not added to his cold. Kiss him & tell him he must say papa. I have got some little shells that Mr Day (Lt 2d Artillery) sends him. He got them on his trip to Key West. He intends to give him a large & elegant one, but I cannot send it. I will keep it & take it in my trunk, when I proceed Northward.

You ask about Mrs Page. She got about too soon & her baby had the measles. She & the little one are now quite well. I have'nt been in there since the evening before her confinement. Almost every body in Tampa has had the measles, but I have not had them unless so lightly that I did not know it. Mrs Leonard the young wife of the Paymaster inquires for Mrs Howard. As she lost her only little boy here, she thinks Tampa a bad place and says tell Mrs Howard not to come here & bring her little boy. Mrs L is only twenty two and her husband must be as much as forty five.

Maj Morris was ordered to Fort McRae, and after he had started an order came for him to be stationed here & to inspect the different companies of Volunteers. Mrs Morris is delighted, though the Major has not yet returned. We met on the Court Martial Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. We tried five prisoners, all soldiers, and then adjourned sine die.

Capt Clarke's expedition failed, so also do Lieut. Dana's. No Indians could be found. You speak of the Officers here, the most of them from the North. We all consider ourselves from the North, while in Florida. I don't think I could tell who was from the North or not, without looking in the register. We get on very amiably. My best friends are Lieut Mack & Day. You would have to search a long while before you could find better men than

either. Day has had the pneumonia & now has the consumption. But he is fresh looking & cheerful. He is always doing somebody a kind turn. He likes to have me tell him about my wife & Guy. Mrs Mack writes that Mr Howard must be a good fellow, and desires her husband to give me her regards. So Mr Mack must have been telling her some unauthorized tales. We generally read the Bible together. I read to him at night & he to me in the morning. We are both kept pretty busy in the daytime. He does not go out as much as I do. I visit the people in the Garrison and somewhat outside.

I spent a very pleasant evening at Mr Kennedy's last week. Mr K is a very small man with one leg, but good company. He has one little boy & one little girl, about five & seven respectively.

I shall send you some money every time I draw my pay, perhaps more than fifty dollars at a time. I don't want to invest anything here so I will send all that I do not use to you. I have not drawn for February. I wanted to hear the news of the increase of pay officially before I drew. My debts are all paid & I have now due me from the Government about three hundred and sixty dollars, and here after "entre nous", my pay will be one hundred & twenty dollars per month all told.

There is still no Army news of importance here. General Harney is at Fort Myers. He didn't go across Lake Okee-cho-bee as he proposed when he left here. I think he will give up a summer campaign if this one continues so very unsuccessful, but nobody can tell what he is going to do a day before hand, not even himself. It will depend a great deal on fortune. Now no enemies are to be found.

I expect to remain here all the time but am not perfectly certain. I would rather be here, than at any other place on this side, on account of the mails. Write me how you find mother, how she is looking & what she says. If she can get time I want a letter from her. I have already been looking for one. Tell me how father is. I like to have you write all about yourself & Guy. I wont write you any more at this time. I got a paper and circular from Rowland giving an account of the storm & of his school.

Remember my heart is full of love for you. Affectionately your husband
Otis

706 3/9/1857

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0648

Bath

Source: Bowdoin

Bath Mch. 9th 1857

Dear Brother

I am going to write you a long letter by & by, but this wont be one. Lizzie will have told you before this that we performed our journey without <leb> or hindrance & that I got the whole convoy safely into port at Lewiston at last. We reached Auburn Monday at 3 o'clock. I took tea at Mr Jones' & staid all night with Uncle & John & went up home the next day. I found Mother well & alone (?) with an old woman called "Hittie" for her companion. She has engaged a good girl to come about this time & I think Lizzie will be quite contented there.

I am going to stop for Lizzie when I go up Wednesday or Thursday. I have not seen Charles yet but think of going up to-day to Brunswick. I only spent one night at home & then came a "courting". I have been here since Wednesday & have been enjoying myself as I suppose only a lover can. Ella has, within the last month "entertained a hope" as I told you. It has had the effect of removing her still farther from my poor desert, but making her still more worthy of my constant & abiding affection & confidence. We have been speculating a little on the time of our Union, but with us it still more indefinite than it was with you when you went to West Point. We are at the mercy of fortune.

Mother says she will write you soon. She is looking nicely & was overjoyed to see me. She has been lonesome this winter. Everybody is full of inquiries for you. I got many compliments for my "noble boy" on our journey.

I have settled nothing as yet about my studies. I am going to see some of the Lawyers at Lewiston when I go home. If Lizzie stays with Mother I shall feel at ease about her & possibly may go to some other place than L to study.

John H says he is "very anxious to have me there". He wants to be reelected to his office & would like my influence. That is just the best argument to induce me not to stay at L but I have settled nothing yet.

I have had no "talk" with Father. If he only had the means as he has not, but ought to have. I don't know but that I should go back to Albany. I can get boarded there for 3 ½ per week & pay nothing for the use of an office & Library & have superior advantages every way in study & practice. The times are very hard here & you know our money is in those R.R. bonds & not available. If you think Mrs Waite wouldn't be "reflecting" on it, I would like to let my debt to you (which accumulated fast on the journey) remain till I earn some money. I think I shall tell Lizzie so when we have our "settlement."

My stay in N.Y. has been of great advantage to me. I only wish that I had attended the law School in the fall also. The Cambridge Term begins in September. I believe it is more expensive there than at Albany.

Ella's health is not so good as I could wish. With all her ruddy cheeks, I believe she has less strength & power of endurance than Lizzie. We have been laughing about our "log house" in the "West". Mr & Mrs Patten went to Boston Friday & will be at home today. So we have been "housekeepers". Lizzie P is still at her Physician's in Roxbury & improves in the most encouraging manner.

I believe I want to see Guy even on this short absence almost as much as you do. He is lovely. Dellie stayed over night in Boston with me & will be at home in about three weeks. He is well & I should judge doing well. I don't know whether he had better stay at a "preparatory School" or not. I doubt the propriety of his going College. What think you?

I am writing this with little "Horace", three years old, talking all the time & I expect it will be unintelligible. Elijah Kellog preached three excellent sermons to us yesterday. He always seems so "kindly affectionate"! Do you find those who sympathize with you in your desire to become a pious Christian man?

Ella sends "her best love & would write a line or two if she wasn't so busy this washing morning."

Your Bro
Rowland

707 3/10/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

To: My dearest Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0649

Auburn, Me.

Ft Brooke

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn, Me. March 10, 1857

My dearest Otis

It is now Tuesday evening, and I will begin another letter to you, so I can have it ready to go out to-morrow at noon. I am always glad when those days come round that I am to write to my darling Otis. Some of my friends think I write very often, but I write no oftener than is a pleasure to me; and I know you are glad to hear of myself and Guy; and everything taking place that concerns and interests us.

Col Gilmore was down to-day, and took the trouble to come up here to see how Guy was, for the day he was here before, Guy seemed to feel his cold the most. I do hope I may stay at Leeds for the next six months (if you are away so long). I don't wish to stay here, for there is no sick room in the whole house, and no room that can well be taken for one. If I cannot stay at Mother G's I have made up my mind to come back to Lewiston and board at the DeWitt house. I think that would be the only place I would be comfortable.

You must not think dearest, that because I write so decided about it, that I wish to complain, or am at all down hearted. I write you every thought, wish and change. I think you can well judge of my wishes and my feelings from my many letters I have sent you. I think this will make the fourteenth, not counting the little notes I have enclosed in brother Rowland's letters.

Yesterday I took care of dear little Guy, and did not do much else; to day I have been sewing for Mother. Guy is getting to act quite old, begins to climb upon his stool, has learned some new words, can say 'egg', 'box', calls 'Eba' for 'Eva', and money and Minnie, are both 'minnie', and bird is 'birden'. I have a high chair for him and he sits at table by me. I feed him from my plate with his little fork, and he drinks nicely out of his silver cup. He behaves very well, does not ask for every thing, but is contented with what I give him.

I do not have as much time as usual this evening to write, for Guy did not go to sleep till nearly eight o'clock. He is so good to go to bed alone. I put him into bed, and fixed him nicely, and immediately sat down to my writing. I went and looked at him in a few minutes, and he was sleeping as quietly as a kitten. The clock is striking nine, and as the rest have gone and going to bed, I will not sit up alone but finish this to-morrow.

Wednesday morning. This is a very pleasant morning. The sun is shining brightly, and the ground is covered with clean snow that fell last Monday afternoon. The air is quite sharp and cold. I some expect brother Rowland from Bath to-day. I want to go to Leeds some warmer day for fear Guy will take cold, and I must go shopping once more before I go to Leeds, so I hope he wont come to-day. That is, with the intention of going to Leeds this afternoon.

Laura is not here, went to Leeds to make a visit and intended to go from there to Livermore and Wayne, but went home instead with Everett Bridgham, and that was six weeks ago. Aunt Martha fears very much that she is married, but does not know of any chance for her. They will go back to Leeds in about two weeks.

I did not think to ask Col Gilmore if Mother had any help. There is a little girl here I think some of taking with me. She has been working for Uncle Hicks. He has gone into the same business again. He has bought the upper part of Uncle Jones' house.

I have re-read your last two letters. I find them full of interest to me, even on the third reading of them. You must not be anxious and think too much about my circumstances. I presume I shall get along finely. I shall if I can stay at Leeds, and not make too much trouble. The cars have come, and I have seen nothing of brother Rowland. I wish I might get another letter from you, when I send this to the P.O. I might think my letters would not be very interesting to you, but I am your little wife and know you are glad to hear from me if I do write carelessly, and omit to tell you every thing interesting and of importance.

I am to pass the day up stairs. Mother and Guy have already gone. This is the last sheet of paper I have so I

cannot write much more, but you must think of me as an affectionate wife, who thinks of you a great deal, and who has much love for you in her heart.

Guy is very well and so is Mother. I have a little cold, not enough to trouble me any. I have a new morning dress of plain blue. I shall have that on, or my black silk and basque whenever you think of me.

Now good bye my dearest, keep well, and be happy and so will your own,
Lizzie

[Written in another hand, possibly Otis'.]

Recd Ft Brooke
dated Mar 10
Mrs OO Howard

708 3/11/1857 *From:* H.W. [Harry W.
Closson]

To: O.O. [Howard]

OOH-0650

Fort Dadas Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Dallas Fla
March 11th 1857

Dear O.O.

I received your letter addressed me under the pleasant delusion that I was still at Baton Rouge. I am almost half inclined to doubt that I was ever there - it seems now like faint memories of a sweet dream when my thoughts stray back to that delightful spot. I have almost despaired of ever being allowed by contact with the refined pleasure of Society to fashion my tastes into shapes becoming a Gentleman.

After floundering all day through the bottom-less pits of slime with which this country abounds, I find Sutter's Whiskey by no means unpalatable - vulgar though the confession be - a ravenous appetite is appeased by the hardest of Hard Bread and the fattest of Fat Pork - vulgar though the confession be. I am obliged to cover my nakedness - or attempt to do so with non-descript garments no beggar would wear - tattered, faded, dirty, remnants of past dandyism. Face, hands, all are dyed with a dingy black that even tinges my paternity with the brownest of doubt, my daily tramps have flattened out my feet into dimensions that even crowd No. 9 soldiers shoes.

I am not allowed a single thought beyond bridge building and hammock clearing. In my prayers my tongue wanders from "Deliver us from evil" to 'deliver us from the Seminoles' - between the commandments and the mosquitoes I am kept in a state of mental anathema. Dishes of mule steak and Horse hash are continually steaming before me. I go furtively stealing through the thickets as though I was an escaped member of Congress with a Corruption Committee after me with one of Old Jack's bloodhounds for its Chairman. My hand is continually straying from my scalp to my revolver to see if both are 'thar'.

Now that our pay is increased I am certain of being "garrotted" in the mud and water gruel of these swamps. How in the name of Beau Brummel in the face of all this am I to be a Gentleman. Mankind are not only gregarious to Carlyle-ize word they are also assimilations. Confine a man in a mad world and he must become a maniac. Confine him in Florida and he will become a cross between an alligator, a pack mule & a rattle snake with a touch of the sand fly & mosquito to impart airiness to the monstrous mixture. I feel I am now as ugly as the first, as meek and as patently obstinate as the second. I have the venom of the third and the exquisite importunity of the last. I am as unfit for agreeable companionship as all of them.

In the rocks of Texas I thought I should ossify. In the swamps of this country, my blood must turn to water & I shall finally die of softening of the brain.

Now, O.O. Dear, write me and suggest some method of holding on to the capacities I once possessed of adorning a Drawing room. Tell me how I can most speedily de-Hottentotize myself. Now that our pay is raised I think of getting married, tho' man is prone to a downward tendency, woman is also prone to an upward one, and even under the disadvantage of life in Florida I think betwixt myself & my wife we might manage to keep on a level.

No news except Lee S.D. [Possibly Stephen D. Lee] of our Class is here on a scout. He leaves to-morrow - sends his regards. My father was very much pleased with his visit to yourself. Remember me to your wife & brother.

Yrs.
H.W. [Harry W. Closson]

709 3/11/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0651

Ordnance Depot
Tampa, Ft. Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Tampa, Ft. Brooke, Fla.
March 11, 1857

My dearest Wife,

The mail stage by driving all night got in early this morning. I went to the Quarter Master's office & was told there was no letter, so I went to my quarters quite disappointed. But when I got there I found a letter on my table. Mr Mack had taken it from the Fort Brooke Mail at the Post Office. I was glad enough to get it. It was written by you and Rowland just before you left Watervliet.

You did indeed take an early start. I should'n't have thought Guy would have got his eyes open at half past six. I now want to get a letter from you after the journey is over. The fatigue of packing & fixing off for a start must have been considerable and I am disposed to credit fully what Rowland says, "Lizzie has more of a Genius for doing things herself than for getting work out of other people." But I hope the hard work produced no worse consequences than fatigue, and that the whole journey was pleasant. Did you cover up Guy's face in the coach?

You remember the Rockaway at Augusta? It is the worst part of a journey to get ready & get started. I must not be anticipating, to me you are just on the eve of departure, whereas to you the journey is over and you are at Lewiston or Leeds.

I suspect you will go to Leeds for your letters. I had resolved in my mind that you would settle upon Leeds finally and I am in hopes you have done so. I shall feel better about you and Guy to have you there. I like to have you in a place I am familiar with.

The U.S. Steamer Gray Cloud came in, bringing Lieut Kearney formerly of my class. He was sent away from West Point for something or other & has obtained an appointment into the 10th Regt. of Infantry. He is the son of the late General Kearney & a mild, reckless, fine looking young man. He has been spitting blood, but it don't help him any to mind his ways. I went to Maj Pages with him last night & saw Mrs Page the first time since her illness. She was looking well indeed, said her baby was hearty & unusually fat. There is always something unusual about a little incomer - & why should'n't there be.

I went on board the Gray Cloud at the Dock this morning and saw Mrs W. W. Burns & a beautiful little Girl about two years old, that she called Pet, name is Mary. You remember I wrote you how kind Lieut W.W. Burns was to me at Fort Myers. His wife is about your age & almost as good looking. Wont he be happy when the Gray Cloud gets to Fort Myers. He don't know she is aboard.

I couldn't help thinking how happy I would have been to have found you & Guy there. I should have said ho! ho! how came you here.

We got news from Fort Myers this morning. A battle had been fought. Capt Stevenson, who is in command of two companies at present I think, was changing his rendezvous from Fort Keays to Bowleys Town a little farther south east; both these places are in the vicinity of the Big Cyprus. Lieut Freeman of the 5th Infantry was in charge of one company or a part of one & had moved on in advance. He came upon an open space where some potatoes had been planted. Here he encamped near by & with seven men went to digging some potatoes. Before they were aware of it about twenty Indians came upon them & fired. They fired in return & ran back to their command carrying away their wounded. Lieut Freeman's arm was broken. He now intrenched himself & sent out small parties to decoy the Indians from the thickets. The Indians fired upon the camp several times but didn't come out for an open battle.

The next day Lt Archer joined Freeman with a detachment of mounted men. They found the Indians again & routed them - don't know how many were killed. There were four white men (soldiers) killed & three or four

wounded. Lt Freeman besides having his arm broken by a ball, had his nose grazed & some part of his clothes hit. The Indians seen in these skirmishes had red shirts, either red flannel or cotton cloth painted, and they numbered about one hundred warriors. They seem to be more numerous than we have estimated them of late.

Four drummer boys have been carried away by them, it is supposed. The boys were out in a boat near Fort Keays & disappeared. Probably the Indians have got them. In the engagement Sergeant Taylor of Lt Freemans command was wounded, & while lying on the ground an Indian came, it is thought to scalp him, whereupon the sergeant shot him with a pistol through the mouth. Lieut Archer shot a negroe who was with the Indians, as he was descending a tree.

There were a few Indians killed but it is not known how many. This was a regular Indian skirmish. They skulk about till they find a small force, take deliberate aim fire & then run. It is thus they have whipped the white men for thirty years. This news will or rather has stirred up General Harney to the fullest. Now the Big Cypress will be scoured.

I will direct this letter to Leeds. If you want them directed elsewhere I shall know soon.

My love to my Mother & yours. Tell Rowland I have written to Mr Jackson by this mail. I would write to Mother if I didn't think you were there. Kiss our darling boy especially for papa. Mr Day has given me a beautiful shell for him, too big for a letter. Remember me affectionately to all as I am remembered by them. I endorse your simple & earnest prayers for my speedy return to my little wife. I remain as ever.

Your affectionate husband
Otis

I sent some little shells in the last letter - did they get broken. Hav'nt got a line from Mother since I have been in Florida. Tell her it is'nt very far off. I have got a letter for Dellie ready for the mail. If you wrote from Boston I will get the letter Saturday.

711 3/13/1857 *From:* Mrs OO Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0652

Auburn, Me

Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn. Me. Mar. 13. 1857

My dearest Husband

This is not my regular day for writing, but sometimes I feel as if I did not wish to do anything else, however much work I may have, and that is my feeling to-night. I am thinking a great deal about you to night, my darling. I hope you are in good health. I will trust you are and often think about your wife and little Guy far away. We are both quite well.

I have been down street this afternoon; made some purchases that I wished to before going to Leeds. I do not much think that we shall return here at present. I do hope I shall not for I now feel that I cannot stay at any other place but with your Mother while you are away. Do you think you will take us along next time you are ordered away. Well I hope you will, for this living separated I do not much approve of.

I am looking every time the cars get in for brother Rowland, who has not as yet returned from Bath. We shall go to Leeds as soon as he does come. I know Mother must be very anxious to see Guy.

I met John Harrison down street this afternoon and he told me that Laura had got back to Leeds, and will come to Lewiston to-morrow with Uncle Ensign. I received my last letter from you one week ago to-day. I presume I have one or more at Leeds, for you directed the last one there, and I fancy you will continue to direct them all there. I think you had better. I told you in my last, that that was the fourteenth letter I had written you. I have written more than that. I have down on my list twenty one letters (this will be the twenty second) that were mailed to you from Watervliet. Five of them were letters that brother Rowland and I wrote together, and Guy's letter I have not got down, and one other brother Rowland wrote you that I did not know of at the time, and perhaps more. I do love so much to write to you. I can tell you every thing without reserve, and you are I think interested in all I write. I am in all you write to me. What a comfort it is to write and receive letters. I wish dear little Guy could write how much he would tell 'Father'. I fear he will forget you, now we are in a strange place, and he has nothing to remind him of you only what I can say to him. Dear little boy, he has gone to bed and is soundly sleeping, and it is time I was thinking about going to sleep. It is now little past nine o'clock with us, but I presume you are not thinking of sleep yet. I wonder what you are doing, reading, writing or visiting. Wherever you are or whatever you are doing, I hope you are well and happy.

Sunday evening. 6 o'clock. I will now finish my letter to you dearest, and tell you what I have been doing since wrote the above. Friday was a very warm day. I expected brother Rowland in the train that got in at nine o'clock in the morning, but he did not come.

I took Guy out to the door it was so very pleasant, and about noon Uncle Morse, who lives one mile before the North Turner Bridge on the river road came in, dined with us, and took Aunt Hicks and myself down street in his sleigh. We walked home about four o'clock, and brother Rowland did not come in the three o'clock train.

Yesterday morning, I certainly thought brother Rowland would come, because we could go to Leeds in the afternoon if he did, but he did not. I had just dressed myself and little Guy after dinner, when John Harrison (and a gentleman who had been buying a small piece of land from Uncle) came in & came to have the deed signed.

Mother took Guy up stairs after that, and I sat down to work alone in the sitting room. Aunt was busy in the kitchen, and the children all gone. The Cars came in as I was sitting alone, but I did not look for brother Rowland, because it was too late to go to Leeds. Very soon I saw someone pass the window, and went to the door, to meet brother Rowland. I was indeed very glad to see him. We soon went up stairs, and Guy was delighted to see "Uncle." I never before saw him look so pleasant and happy. He stayed an hour or longer then went down to John's, having promised to go to Church with me in the morning.

This morning he came about nine and we made a call on Frank and Adams before church then went to church

with them; did not hear their minister preach, so we concluded to take dinner with them and go again in the afternoon to hear Mr Drummond. After church we called to see Hellen. Laura did not come with Uncle Ensign but is getting the house ready for Aunt Martha at Leeds. I rode home, and brother Rowland went back there to stay to-night.

I am writing in my room and little Guy is sleeping on the bed. He had his first nap so early that he could not keep awake 'till time for him to go to sleep for the night. I left my writing when Guy waked, and Uncle and Aunt Hicks came down stairs. He and Guy have had a fine play. Now they have come home and when I got ready to write he came with his pencil to help me write. You can see where he has written. He has his own paper and pencil and is writing "a-a" Annie used to read 'a, b, c' out of my book or piece of paper to him, and he has learned 'a' and reads it every time he gets a paper or book.

I received last evening a letter from Mr Lee, enclosing a check for the amount he was owing me. I shall acknowledge it very soon.

We intend to go to Leeds to-morrow. I know Mother will be glad to see us and Guy is very well; he bit his lip a little to-day by falling on some of his play things so I shall be quite busy to-morrow selecting things to take with me to Leeds, and shall leave the rest so Mother can come for them, or send. Brother Rowland is coming up here in the morning, and will cash my checks for me. Mr. Lansing was so kind as to take all our bills and gave me a check on the treasury but by mistake gave it in the name of R. B. Howard so I have been waiting for him to come and endorse it over to me. I shall have them both cashed.

Uncle Edward Waite has purchased me two more shares of Bank stock. The money came from interest on the Rail Road shares. I have spent for Guy and myself \$15.00 since I have been here, and I have left in my purse 165.00 dollars besides. Brother Rowland is owing me considerable. He borrowed \$12.00 before we left Watervliet and \$10.00 out of the money I gave him to pay bills, and his expenses coming to Maine were paid out of my money.

It is but fifteen minutes past eight and all have gone to bed but me. Mother has gone to bed with Guy. She sleeps with us sometimes. My cold is getting better. I am quite well generally, was not as well yesterday as to-day. I did get so tired walking about town with Aunt Hicks the day before.

I feel sure that I have letters at Leeds or I would be anxious to hear from you. I forget to write to you about your money deposited in the State bank of Troy. When I deposited the last two hundred dollars they gave me a "Certificate of deposit" on Interest - amount of \$413.00 and when I find a better place to deposit them there, I will merely have to give the certificate as I would a note and interest and not trouble to send back and forth to them, as I would have had to do had I kept the book. Any bank will take this. It certifies that I have deposited in the State bank of Troy \$413.00 with interest at 5 ½ percent.

Guy will be one year and one quarter old tomorrow. A great many think him older because he understands so well, so well everything said to him, and can himself speak so many words. I hope he may be well all this coming summer. I fear sometimes that when I do not have the care of him, they will give him something that does not agree with him. I trust I will not have a long sickness. You must do your best, to keep well, so you can write good news every time to me, but should you be sick, dearest, do not keep it from me, someone would write for you.

Brother Rowland said he read the death of Prof Bailey at West Point since we came to Maine. I have heard you speak of him often.

I will close my letter to-night and have brother R mail it for me in the Morning. I think of you often my Otis and love you more and more every day. When we are together again we will appreciate our happiness. I expect Mother G has a good girl by this time. I presume we shall stay there through the summer now. I will write a good night to you and pray Heaven to watch over us both from day to day, and give us strength to bear all trouble and be with us in the hour of sickness.

Faithfully yours,
Lizzie

[written in another hand, possibly Otis']
Mrs OO Howard
dated Auburn Mar 13/57
Recd Fort Brooke Fla

712 3/15/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0653

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla
March 15, 1857

My dearest wife,

I was very happy in receiving two letters from you last night, one mailed at Boston and the other at Lewiston or rather Auburn. The latter came through quicker than any previous letter. It reached me in ten days after it was mailed. I was particularly glad to get these letters giving me an account of your journey & safe arrival. I think from your letter that Guy stood the journey remarkably well & behaved like a good boy. You didn't say whether you had made up your mind to stop at Leeds or Lewiston but wanted me to direct your letters to the latter place. I thought you would resolve that Leeds was the best place and have directed all your letters there. I will direct this there also as you will probably be at Leeds on a visit if you do not stay.

I suppose Rowland did bring your letters down to you when on his way to Bath. I shall enclose a check for \$100.00. What I send you had better be put in some Bank than let to any of our relatives. I want it where I can have the ready money by the asking. I shall send you \$100. more at the end of this month & if nothing happens to prevent, \$100. at the end of next. I think we are doing pretty well now in money matters. I want you always to reserve what you think you shall need. I don't think I am at all avaricious, but I am anxious to be independent. I want to give the practical denial to those especial friends who have worried you & me on account of our extravagance. I have drawn every thing up to the close of February. We received notice of the pay Bill officially last night. You will notice that I have got the Check payable to my Order on its face but on the back I have endorsed it over to your Order. You would have to identify yourself at a Bank if you draw it but you can endorse it over (as I have done) to any body you chose and sign it. I want you to acknowledge the receipt of any check as soon as it comes to hand. In case one should be lost, the payment can be stopped & another obtained.

I think I have said quite enough about monetary matters for Sunday.

I went to church this morning & heard a very good discourse to the Sunday school children. It made me think several times I was a father. He enjoined upon them (the children) very earnestly, <has> to obedience to parents, truth under all circumstances, and honesty in all dealings. His text was in the 8th Chap and fifty first verse of John. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death."

I walked back from church with Mrs Morris. Major Morris returned to this post from Fort Myers & corroborated the Indian news I wrote in my last letter. Only it is doubtful whether any Indians were killed. They yelled so that they frightened the recruits. The Indians don't mean to leave Florida. They intend to fight it out & sell themselves as dearly as possible. A delegation from the West conducted by a classmate of mine Lieut O'Connor is on the way to Florida, to try and induce their brother Seminoles to emigrate, but I don't believe they will succeed.

As Major Morris has come back permanently, Lieut Hazzard wrote me that himself & wife would be obliged to move. And as Mr Mack & myself had the only quarters fit to live in, they would be taken. Mrs Hazzard had great objection to taking our quarters. Major McKinstry took us to see some quarters occupied by a member of the Band. His wife was a pretty little woman and begged hard not to be moved out.

I would'nt disturb her so I have moved into my Office. It is rather a small place but very comfortable. I am now all alone, far away from every body else. A Sentinel walks post in my yard. So you see I am safe, but I shall miss much, very much. It is a great deal better room than the one I have been occupying. Don't you wish you could keep me company. The little <band> woman offered to take care of my room for me, but I declined the offer. I board at Mr Dukes as I have all the time. When I get lonesome I can go and see Day at the Hotel or Mack. The latter will have one of Hazzard's rooms for the present. You cant think what a cozy little place this is. My bed in one corner with its high posts and covered with a white musketoe bar. My home-made wardrobe & trunk in another corner at the foot of the bed & my little table against the wall between them. Our Desks are

on the south-side. The door opens towards the west into the Ordnance Yard. One window opens to the south between the desks & the other towards the East & outside the grounds upon an open & uninhabited tract. The Porch on the South & West gives a pleasant place for smokers to sit.

I got a letter from Mr Lee last night. He said he had sent your last letter directed to Watervliet on to Lewiston I shall direct this to Leeds at a venture. I am expecting a line from Mother by every mail.

I followed you through your journey - should like to kiss little Guy & his dear mama. It is getting near Mail time. Tell me of every body you have seen and all they have to say. I do think about you, wish you & I & Guy were the only gentle folks on the "south side" now.

My love to all.

From your affectionate husband
Otis

713 3/17/1857 *From:* [Lizzie Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0654

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Me. March 17 1857

My dearest Husband

We came to Leeds yesterday and I found here three of your dear, kind letters waiting for my perusal, the last one was written on the first day of March, and arrived here on Saturday the fourteenth. I presume it will not always be convenient to mail letters to you every Monday and Thursday, but I shall endeavor to be as regular in sending and writing them as I can. You say that 'the mail fails every other time': do you mean fails to bring you letters, or it brings no mail?

I am very glad to hear of your good health and do hope it will continue good. I know you have a great deal to do , and you must take care of yourself and not get sick for you can not have your little wife to take care of you there.

Guy did not take more cold coming to Leeds as I feared he would. I am quite well, my cold nearly gone, and our Mothers health is good. I told Mother G this was the first day since I left Watervliet that I felt at home and could sit down to rest. Guy takes care of himself where there are no children, but at Auburn. Mother and I both had to watch him constantly. He has gone to sleep now and I am writing in the same room - the north room. It is warm and comfortable. I can here work, play, sleep rest, or anything I please. I shall stay here and from what Mother G. Said to-day when I was talking with here, I judge she will like to have us with her.

I do not think there is the least prospect of your being relieved before fall, if you can come then. I do not think you had better apply for a leave. You might not be here when I most would like to have you, and you could not be with me a long time. All things considered I feel it is much better for me to be here than in Florida this summer. Your frequent letters so full of kindness and affection, give me strength and comfort.

Mother has gone to bed with Guy, but I must write a little longer as it is yet early. I am glad you wrote me about the party, and I am very glad you went. I shall isolate myself from society now because I am obliged to, but I certainly do not want you to. You need not be growing young any more, especially while I am growing so old.

I met Mr. Francis Lothrop at the Depot the day we came. His family is at Saco, Me. and he is intending to go west. Arza's widow called to-day and Louisa and her youngest daughter, Evaline were here when we came, are with Cynthia to-night. She goes home to-morrow. Rowland Alger was here this afternoon, says Guy is a great boy. Jonnie does not walk yet but can stand by a chair.

I fear Guy will forget his dear father. I showed him your picture yesterday and he tried willingly to say "pa-pa." He does not yet get it quite plain. It seems to be a hard word for him to speak. When you had a fire was it not an open fire place? Such a fire is very cheerful and I like it in this room. I do not know when I shall mail this but do not think it will be to-morrow. So I can write then and will not write more to-night.

Wednesday morning. Now, my dearest, comes your letter to finish. I have written to Mr. Lee, Uncle Edward Waite, and cousin Prentiss. I spoke about taking the New York Times, and he being in the P.O. was to write for it, for me, but now I am to remain here, I want it sent to Leeds.

Afternoon. Col Gilmore is going to the P.O. this afternoon, so I must write fast or I will send you a short letter. Brother Rowland is in my room writing at the same table. He told me of his visit at Bath, and I think it was very pleasant, good sleighing there and they went to Brunswick with a horse and sleigh.

Dellie will be home the last of next week, and I am glad, for he is to bring me some paper, pens and envelopes. I cannot be out of writing materials. I wonder what you would rather I would write to you . I don't seem to be answering your good letters, but am writing straight on after mere mentioning that I had received them. Guy has had his nap and Grandmother is now giving him his dinner. I shall go down to see Cynthia when the horse is harnessed. Perhaps you may think the walk would do me good. Granted but it is very muddy and wet. I

could not soil my new clean dress. I shall not take Guy because his left eye does not seem quite well, when he gets a little cold by being in the wind. His eye will seem weak. I do not think he will necessarily have weak eyes. We have the worst winds in the spring - they are generally very damp. I want him well all the time, and you because I would not know of it immediately.

Laura is at home. I want to see her. I suppose she is all ready for Aunt Martha to come home. I don't know what Aunt Martha would do to have her get married. She was very anxious to have her come home. John brought home a girl while I was there last Sunday, so Hellen will not be left alone. I have not made my sheet yet. Uncle Hicks had some nice times with Guy while we were at their house. I know he is a boy to be proud of, and I shall say it. He tries hard to say papa. He reads 'p a p a' letters sometimes. Brother Rowland, Guy and myself rode home from the Depot on one sleigh and Col Gilmore and Mother in the other with Oscar's horse. Did not go with the red horse because he knew I was afraid of that one. I do appreciate every little kindness.

Florence came up this morning to see Guy. I have not seen any the rest. I think of so much I want to tell you when I am about to finish a letter that I know not what best to write. This is the fourteenth day since the stage left Tampa March 5 and I some expect to get another dear letter. I wrote you about the trial of George Knight. He has been found guilty since I wrote, is in the jail waiting his sentence. Brother Rowland is writing a letter to Mr Lee to go with mine. There will be letters enough go from this one house to-day to fill a mail bag. Mother G mailed a letter to you while we were at Auburn. Grand-pa and grandmother both think Guy a very nice boy. Grand-pa brings him an apple from the cellar. Guy is watching him chop wood from the window now.

I went out to see if they had any thing in particular to say to you. Only love from all, and most from your Lizzie.

714 3/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0655

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
March 18 1857

My dearest wife,

I am now quite settled in my little bachelor-stall, have been building an out house which is just completed. This morning I have assisted the men to remove some Guns & Carriages from the yard, had to take hold myself to show the men the way to handle heavy Guns & have consequently blistered my hands. I am going to have the yard ploughed up & sowed to oats & seeded down, to make a green plat of ground in front of my delightful quarters. I bought a piece of cotton cloth containing twenty six yards at ten cts. per yd. & have put it up on the south side of the Porch as an awning. I have also purchased a new mahogany colored desk for the office. Everything looks cheerful enough for a lady to look in upon me. Don't you wish you could? You can see I am a very busy body & keep things in motion. A man constantly employed is not homesick.

I left off writing to go to dinner and on my return, found at the quartermasters' Office, four public letters from Fort Myers and at dinner received one from Fort Clinch. These have delayed me somewhat & will more by & by. While the Sergeant is endorsing them & making out some papers, I have given him instructions for, I will hasten on & tell you that we are all right on this particular quarter. No news of importance from Fort Myers. I sent you a check for 100 dolls in my last letter. I have just been interrupted again by a sergeant of Volunteers, bringing a requisition for ammuniton, so my darling Lizzie you must'nt mind if I don't keep up the connection.

We are having beautiful & growing weather. It is warm but there is a nice cool breeze. I have been obliged to day to put on my thin coat and find it very comfortable. Don't you wish you could lay aside your thick dress and put on a thin white or pink? Come out to Tampa & you can do so.

I have been reading the Pickwick papers lately. They are quite a source of amusement. I shall be sorry when I have finished the second volume. I think it did cost a great deal to transport you piano & am glad you found so good a place to put it & so good a use for it. You might sell it with the promise of having it again if you should wish to buy it back, when we shall have retired from public to private life & can (as Mrs Mack said in a letter to her husband) live like folks. He told me she said why don't you resign & come home to live like folks. You see Mr Mack will not do it, as neither himself or his wife are worth anything, besides the army pay.

Little Guy Howard - I can't for the life of me imagine how he looks there at Lewiston or Auburn. I don't know anything about the new house that Aunt Sarah lives in. Cant see him at play or asleep. How is his cold and how does he like the place? Has'nt Laura been to see you & told you that Hellen's baby is much the fattest &c? But the idea of calling Guy a baby. You know he lost that blessed soubriquet at or before he was six month's old. Lieut Mack says he will be six years old before I see him again, but he does'nt know more than I do about that.

The mail stage has'nt got in yet and I am glad of it, for when it is late it is more likely to bring me a good parcel. Bless me, I meant to have written mother a letter by this mail and also to have answered Mr Lee's kind letter, but, I procrastinated and have to write this in a hurry. Rowland said he squared up with Mr Parke & receipted for thirty seven dolls & something. Is that all you were fortunate enough to get from him?

But never mind now that the pay is increased and we are out of debt, we will soon add to our little stock.

I wrote you once something about Lieut Perkins having been put in arrest &c. It was all false - a Cracker story. The Volunteers are called Crackers and as a general thing they are a very corrupt set of men. They drink, gamble & swear and do all manner of discreditable things and are not withal very good soldiers. I have been bothered with them a good deal, but I have'nt got right short with any but once.

Give my love to Mother & the rest. I am glad Prentiss has got so good a birth. Is it on the Auburn side. Tell Guy, father wants to see him, but Uncle Sam prevents.

God bless you, my darling Lizzie.
Otis

715 3/19/1857 *From:* Simon Murphy

To: [OO Howard]

OOH-0656

Augusta Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta Maine March 19th 1857

My Dear Sir

I was very sorry when I heard you were ordered so far away from your family. May God grant that you will return safe to your family. The Capt and his family are well. Every person that was acquainted with you have missed you very much. And so did the Boys. John, he cryed for missing to see you to bid you good by. I expect if my son James is in that part of the Country youd be kind enough to let me know something about him. He wrote to me last November. He said I need not answer his letter untill he wrote again that he would be leaving in ten days and coming to terms and have not heard from him since. I would not take this liberty were not being acquainted with your kindness towards me and many others.

John Murphy stands day guard and has but very little use of his arm.

I heard from you through Mr Mulligan.

I remain your obedient serv!

Simon Murphy

716 3/21/1857 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dearest Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0657

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Tampa Fla
March 21st 1857

My dearest Mother

I received your very kind letter this evening with two from Lizzie at Auburn & one from Rowland at Bath. It seemed quite natural to receive a letter from you again with father's superscription.

You need'nt think of the distance at all. It is true it takes a little longer for a letter to get here, than it did when I was at West Point or Watervliet. But eleven days is'nt long. Two thousand miles is nothing compared with one thousand when you first knew my father. My duties here are not irksome. I am the only representative of my Department in Florida, and have to receive orders from nobody but General Harney & very few from him. I have now an Ordnance Sergeant for my Clerk, an Armorer who has just arrived from New Orleans & three other enlisted men.

Lizzie said she should take her letters for you to read, which she has probably done before this. By these you can form some idea of my duties and every day employment. I have considerable responsibility, but this must always attach to any desirable position. I have recently fitted up my Office for a house to live in. I have made gates & paths & a garden, in which I work a little for exercise. I wanted to improve the grounds belonging to the Depot, so I have had all rubbish removed, had them ploughed & a part laid out in beds. I have had corn, potatoes, pumpkins, mellons of different kinds, onions, salsify, cabbages &c &c planted. So you perceive I retain a part of my earliest employments. Last year I planted in Augusta & this year in Tampa. I wonder where I shall plant or be planted next year. I have'nt been lonely or down hearted since I have been here and why should I be? God gives me all sorts of blessings and when I still have such kind & warm hearted friends to write me affectionate letters how can I feel at all low spirited. Then I find friends everywhere. Everybody seems to like me. I do not lack for attention if I want it. I strive to follow the golden rule, "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you." It softens hard heads and never estranges any.

But I ought not to enlarge upon meritorious conduct, for in the sight of my Heavenly Father I am to test myself. Not a day passes but I am conscious of doing wrong. Policy - a frank demeanor, and a disposition to do an occasional kindness, will beget favor with men, but let the wise man not rest satisfied with this. To be liked, may be a good sign of a cheerful temperament or of amiability, but the true Christian who does his duty faithfully is not apt to be popular. May God purge me from my besotting sins - viz. self-righteousness, vanity, and ambition.

Lizzie and Guy must have been to see you before this time. She fears to bring you trouble, but I know that all the trouble she will bring you will be a pleasure. I should have written you oftener of late, but I thought she would be at Leeds and make my letters, a sort of common property. I have written a great many letters since I have been in Florida. I have written to Lizzie, Rowland, Charlie, Dellie, Ella, Perry Lee, Frank Sargent, Mr Jackson at Albany, Lts Closson, Lee & Boggs, Capt Whiteley & yourself & others. Then my official letters count up near one hundred some long & some short. But it is no trouble to write and I will promise to write you often. As soon as I have time I will give you an intelligible sketch of my little spot of ground within the fence, consisting of a building that looks as if it was on stilts, where we keep arms & accoutrements - a smaller one for ammunition, called the magazine, in the fore ground & my humble abode & office, in the back ground. I think Col Craig, the Colonel of Ordnance, is well satisfied with my proceedings, for he has granted me everything I have asked for, and called my attention to no inadvertence since I have been here. I mean to be prompt in obeying Orders & careful in my expenditures, and should do so whether I got credit for so doing or not. My Quarterly returns will have to be made out between this and the end of the month.

My health has been very good thus far. I do miss my wife & little boy very much - nothing can replace them; but if we live and are well this separation will have an end & the probability is that we will not be separated again for many years.

There is much more I would like to write but it is getting late. Lieut Solomons, who was three years with me at West Point, came in tonight in the stage. I spent the evening with him & did not begin my letter till nearly ten. It is now after Eleven. So good night. The same Father that takes care of you all will take care of me (1st pg.)

Give my love to all my old friends. It will be April when this is in your hands. We heard tonight that another Indian woman & child were taken. Poor Mrs Brewster. She has done her duty well. Many are the warnings I have heard from her lips, Octavia, Martha & Henry are past the stage of youth. Little Salmon Clark must be quite a boy.

My love to Father, make his task easy & pray for your son far away.

Very affectionately your eldest.
O.O. Howard

717 3/22/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0658

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Me. March 22, 1857

My dearest Husband

It is now Sunday afternoon and I will commence my letter to you. Mother G, Rowland and myself have been to Church all day, saw Laura, Aunt Martha and Uncle Ensign who came home from Lewiston yesterday. Laura has been at their house one week and had every-thing in good order to receive them. Saw also Aunt Aurelia. Thomas has sold the farm and is to move to China. Aunt's portion from the sale of the farm is \$400.00. I do not know where she is going to live.

I mailed my last letter to you on Wednesday, and when Rosco returned he brought me a letter from you and I also received another Saturday, the last one mailed Mar 8th and came in thirteen days. Those little shells came safely. Guy was much pleased with them, and played with them some time. You must thank Mr Day for Guy. I am very glad you have two such good friends with you as I know Lieut Mack and Day are. I would be happy to become acquainted with both. Please give them my kind regards.

You spoke a little encouraging in your last letter about coming home, that is, that Gen Harney might not continue this campaign through the summer. We should be happy to see you no matter how soon. I tell you what, you better not come home till you want to take us back with you, because I should not let you go alone again, never. Not that I can not be contented here, I can be and comfortable too, but I am not going to live alone. I don't believe in such nonsense.

I never came here when the whole house was in such good order and everything so very comfortable as it now is. Mother's 'old woman', as she called Kitty Lambert, went away the day before we came, and she with my mother's help had done all the work. Her girl she is expecting this week.

Guy has not got quite over his cold. His eyes are both weak yet, but are better. He finds a great many new things to learn since we came here. He calls Fanny (the lamb) as he would a dog. He usually leaves the table before the rest of us and passes the time by walking about followed by the cat and kitten. He likes them as well as Mrs Lee would, sees the 'biddy-biddy' out the window. I shall not take him out while his eyes are not strong. The sun shines so brightly on the snow that it is very trying to my eyes. The sleighing now is what is always is here in the spring. snow thin in places and then deep soft drifts, but there is not as much snow as there is generally at this month. Laura will be down to see us this week. Uncle Ensign was at Mr Stricklands last week; they have sold their house preparatory to going west. She with the children is coming to Maine this week, and Henry will come down to go home with her at the end of two weeks. I think I have never written you that Mrs Sargent will be confined next June, at Nassau. I should like to hear from Mrs Boggs.

I continue very well, me darling, and last week cut out a great deal of work to do. Shall begin my sewing next week. I shall be very much engaged for the next twelve weeks. I went down to see Cynthia as I told you. I do not think Jonnie has grown as fast as Guy. It may be because he cannot walk. He looks as he did, but his head is in better shape. Roland Alger has been doing well ever since I was here last August. Oscar Turner has been in one evening since we came and I have seen none of the rest.

I want to go to Lewiston soon, down and back the same day, in order to finish my shopping, and bring up my bed and a few things I shall need by and bye. Betsey has written for Rosco to come to Lewiston. He will probably go soon. Esther likes at Easton. I think Mrs Ames is doing a great deal for her.

I having been giving Guy some bread and milk, and then Mother undressed him and he went to sleep almost as soon as he touched the bed. How little trouble he has ever been compared with most children. I hope the rest will be as little trouble.

How much I shall miss you during my sickness. Who will take me up so kindly and so carefully as you did at Augusta? And did so many little things so cheerfully, and watched me and baby with so much interest. God

grant that all may be well, and you will come home in health to love us afterward.

I shall add more to this to morrow, and I will not write more to night, but go to sleep early, and dream of you perhaps. I do sometimes have very pleasant dreams of you.

I cannot send you a very long letter this time as Brother Rowland will go to the P.O. this morning. Little Guy's eyes are very much better this morning and all the rest are quite well.

<Florence> has sent word that she is coming up to see Guy this afternoon and tomorrow Mr and Mrs Foss are coming to pass the day with us. I presume Rowland will bring Laura home with him this afternoon.

Guy is with me and has come to have me go and find the kitty. He cannot say kitty, but lets me know what he wants by mewling like her 'new-new.' He takes up some new work nearly every day. He is now leaning against me with his thumb in his mouth waiting very patiently for me to go with him. I tell him as soon as I finish father's letter, and as it is nearly time for Rowland to go I will not try to write more.

With much love, from your affectionate wife
Lizzie A. Howard

718 3/22/1857 *From:* Charles H. Howard *To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0659

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Mar 22, 1857

My dear brother

I was very glad to get your long letter in about a fortnight from the time it was written. I intended to have written long before this but have not had a fitting opportunity. I sing at the Baptist & one evening of the week is spent at the Choir meeting. Our Class prayer meeting takes another evening. The Societies meet another & some times the Ψ meets another, besides the lectures &c that we have down town. Dr. Peabody of Portsmouth lectured last week & Prof Everett I believe is to lecture next Thursday.

Rowland has been here & spent about one week here & at Bath - much the greater time at Bath. He brought Ella up in a sleigh one afternoon & I took tea with them at Mrs Sanford's, where Cornelia Patten lives.

We had no services today at the Baptist so I went & heard Bishop Burgess at the Episcopal in the forenoon. He does not preach sermons particularly interesting to me - partly perhaps on account of the delivery. This afternoon I went to the Baptist house & heard a Sabbath school class. Stayed about an hour & a half - returned to College, went to Young & Mitchell's room, where there is a seraphim & with several of my classmates spent nearly an hour in singing. We expect to commence tonight to sing in the Chapel. Frank Sewell of Bath plays on the organ.

The junior parts came out last week. My room-mate did not get one as most all expected he would.

My term will close in about three weeks. I am hurrying on to the Junior year. That will soon be gone & the Senior will seem the shortest of all. I wonder what I shall do then. I wonder what I am fitted for. I am inclined to think I am fitted for nothing in particular & nothing in general. There has been some religious interest in College of late & was in town a few weeks ago which I believe I wrote you about. One Senior has been converted. A great number of my class are pious. I have got a noble class. It is united & for the most part I think united for the right. We are all on good terms. I have not an enemy in it & in fact we are more like brothers than otherwise. My class is not like the others.

There is considerable drinking in College, <not> mostly in the Senior Class though there are some who are accustomed to get drunk of every class. The town-house was burned the other night. It was a splendid sight when burning at about 2 o'clock in the morning. It was set on fire by some one - very likely students.

I have to study pretty much all of the time now. We are reading Electra in Greek, Horace in Latin, the Satires & Epistles, Napoleon's life in French, are studying the last part of the Trigonometry in Mathematics. Trigonometry is the best Mathematics I have seen yet - probably because it is easy.

I was glad you wrote me about your journey out there & particularly about your situation - the people about you, your daily duties &c. I wish I could live in such a climate then I should not be so likely to have the consumption.

It is quite a pleasant day today but we have had rainy weather of late which has made the walking very wet. I have India Rubber boots. It has now frozen up & some snow fell last night - a small quantity. We shall not have much more sleighing.

Dellie wrote me not long ago. He has some hesitation about pursuing the course which the rest of us have done. Father seems to be hardly able to meet the expense & Dellie is not much set upon going to College. He wants to be a lawyer. Have you written to him lately? I believe he is going to peddle paper during his vacation.

We had here last night a prayer meeting quite interesting. The two Profs Smyth were present & spoke. It was in the Senior Rec. Room. Prof Egbert Smyth read letters from Amherst & Yale saying that they were having a revival in religion in those places. I wish there might be one here. The meeting of the Circle this morning was well attended. The religious element of the College is large enough but it is not fervid & active as it should be.

We professed Christians are not always a lever. As lever the whole lump of those we are associated with. Oh I wish Rowland was a true follower of Christ but I am afraid he is no nearer to it than he has been for years.

Do you read much now Otis & what do you find to read? I do not get time to read. I wrote a Theme on William Penn yesterday, but I read his life this winter so only looked over some reviews lately. Am to write on the Duty of Sympathy next. Then shall read only what Prof Upham says about this.

The prayer bell has begun to ring. I do not think I have written so good a letter as I might if I had taken more time & pains but I may do better next time. I hope you will write me as often as you can.

I remain here 3 weeks - then at home two. I will close. Your Affectionate Brother
Charles H. Howard

(To: Lieut O. O. Howard)

719 3/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0660

Ordnance Depot Fort
Brooke
Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke
Fla. March 22, 1857

My dearest wife,

I received two beautiful letters from you last night, one containing your sketch. I have asked you in one of my letters for a sketch of the new house &c, and I was right glad that you anticipated me.

Lieut Solomon who was three years with me at the Point & in Mr Shunk's class arrived last night by the Palatka stage. I spent the evening with him and wrote to mother after ten, and I went to church this morning. It being a quarterly meeting, we did not get away till nearly dinner time, and Mr Solomon came in to see me in my office this afternoon and has just this moment left.

So now it is after five, and my darling wife must pardon a hurried letter. I am very glad of your determination to go to Leeds. I think you & little boy will be better off up there. Guy must be too sanguine about that new relation. Un Garcon n'est impossible "Par nobile fratrum", used to mean a noble pair of Brothers. His father will never complain if Guy's little mother comes off victorious. You don't know what a beautiful little picture you present, when you say, "I have a high chair for him and he sits at the table by me. I feed him from my plate with his little fork, and he drinks nicely from his silver cup. He behaves very well, does not ask for everything &c, but is contented with what I give him." Such pictures are very interesting & pleasant to me. You know I like to have you write in that way and you must not sense if I do not especially answer those portions. I will write about what occurs here and what I am about, for I know you want to know these things the most.

Since I wrote I have had the Ordnance yard ploughed and made a path across it. I have laid it out into Beds in part and planted all sorts of Garden seeds and vegetables. Lt Day who sent Guy those little shells & made him a present of a large one which is here in my new desk, has just come in but, he says write on, I will only rest me. It is a beautiful specimen and Guy will be delighted with it when he gets it.

From your last letter I should say you could'nt help being at Leeds by this time. A good deal can be done in ten days. My Armorer came day before yesterday. Now my compliment is full. One of my men DeWolfe has proved himself rather worthless and I am gong to send him back to his company at Manatee & have another. I hope I will be more fortunate in my next trial. This man loiters about sometimes, leaves his work without permission and nearly all the time has a convenient pain in his stomach. He is better off with his company and I don't want to punish any man for misconduct when I can help it.

Major McKinstry of the Quartermaster's department is to be ordered to Fort Leavenworth and his place here supplied by Capt VanVliet, who has recently been stationed in New York City. I told Mrs McKinstry of the news this morning. She had not heard of it. She looked a little sad at the prospect of such a journey, then she brightened up & asked if it was not quite a place? She said if there were schools she could have her boys with her. I did'nt know she had any boys, except little Guy ,who is now about two years old. Mrs Page & family are quite well, but the young lady, her sister, Miss Duvall is quite ill with the pneumonia. But Major Page, who came up to see me yesterday said he considered her out of danger as not dangerously ill.

You don't think Hellen need be so very sorry for you! That's right, Lizzie. We are learning how to make the most of circumstances & eke happiness out of any thing. I agree with you about going home & coming back. I shall not get a leave unless it be a long one and you could return with me. As the Frenchman said, "we shall see what we shall see."

Another Indian woman and child has been taken and one of the Indians negroes killed. The Indians hold slaves as well as their more civilized compatriots. We have got no important news from Fort Myers yet. Three companies of the 3d Regt of Artillery, that were detained by General Harney, will leave the country for the north in a few days.

I like my present quarters very much. I am glad Mother W is well. She must be delighted to get among old friends. I don't know anything to hinder you from living with mother. She wants you to come & you want to go. It only takes two to make a bargain. Your happiness is near my heart always my own Lizzie. Those colds must be well guarded against.

Your affectionate & faithful husband
Otis

720 3/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Brother [OO Howard]

OOH-0661

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds March 25th 1857

Dear Brother

I received yours of the sixth Saturday night. In "manner" & matter it was worthy of your own head & heart than which, in my estimation, there are few better in this bad world. I was glad to see that you were in so good spirits & looked forward so cheerfully & hopefully.

Ella seems to think if we were married, she shouldn't care so much to have me go back to Albany or even to Florida. She don't know does she, the duties & obligations, the new & binding force of conjugal love. The Husband & wife & above all the child & parents might in the course of nature to be together, to separate them is unnatural & hard to bear, but it is an excellent provision in our spiritual constitution, that a sense of duty & the power of will can resist the dictates of our affections & we are enabled to do what is for the "best" in spite of the yearnings of our hearts & our happiness is not thus made entirely dependent on the gratification of our desires. God rewards a sacrifice of this kind with cheerfulness & contentment, but this is not what I took my pen for.

The note "entre nous" took me completely by surprise & I hesitated some time in my own mind whether I ought to take advantage of your generosity. But my "need" was a strong argument & your own present "independence" another. I will take your gift in the spirit you have offered it, Otis, & may God bless & prosper you for it. I am in hopes if He spares my life to be in a few years myself "independent". If I am, you will be repaid, if I am not, I hope neither yourself nor your children will be poorer for this "deed of charity". As you suggest it would be better perhaps on some accounts to say nothing of this at present for obvious reasons.

Father is now very hard pressed for money. He has absolutely no resources except the R.R. Co. & they have paid him but little for the last year & a poor prospect for the year to come. If they would pay him interest, he might meet his engagements, or at least keep his creditors quiet. To secure debts to Roland (1200), A. L. Foss (1000), Lavernia (1400) I Richmond (300) Mrs Lathrop (500) & some others he has mortgaged his Real Estate for something more than it is worth. Mother has the Day Farm, a Mortgage at Gardiner (500) & individual notes to the amt of \$700.00. My note is 350 & Charles has 1000 in Fathers hands for which neither of us have or can have security. (Fathers private note is given to individuals for perhaps \$1200. Roland has a bill of sale of his stocks etc to the amt of (700). Father has R.R. securities to the amt of nearly \$20,000 - viz: Bonds 13,000, mortgage of Engine to Mother (\$7,000) to secure Co. notes running to her. The first of April \$700 interest will be due on the bonds. If the Co. pay - well - if not, there is but little chance to collect & the "boys" will have a hard chance for money. Chas White & Mr Alvin Lane (300 & 200) are anxious for their money by May & interest is constantly accruing on Fathers other liabilities. So you see a great call pretty soon and a small prospect of an answer. I think it best for the present that Charles & I should get all from Father we can towards bearing our expenses. I think we have a greater moral right than many of his Cars. So I shall not disturb your "present" yet for some time if Father can furnish me money.

I think it probably that I shall go to Lewiston & remain till September & then return to Albany or go to Cambridge as it best. My board will be as much at L nearly as at Albany, but I can study as well here as there till the Law School commences & I hate to go so far from Ella until it is necessary.

I have not settled with Lizzie yet. Capt Patten had an attack of "bleeding at the lungs" Sat night last. Mrs P is with her sick daughter in Roxbury & Ella was very much frightened. He has been well this winter but has had such an attack once before. Winter before last, I think. I am always frightened at such a thing, partly on account our own Fathers sickness & death which made such an impression on me when I was small. Capt P was down street Monday however & I do hope it is not serious. He is closing up his business on the wharf - money is "hard". A ship in which he owned an eighth has just been lost & although he don't say anything I think his business troubles him some. His family are very dependent on him & his loss would be the very worst of calamities, but I hope for the best.

Lizzie received yours of the 12th giving an account of the "Engagement" last evening. She mailed a letter for

you Monday morning & probably will send another tomorrow. Guy seems to enjoy his new quarters nicely. I might write many things about him & Lizzie, but they come best from her pen, & her life will now be so monotonous that she will need all the incidents to supply her with subjects for her letters. He is healthy, pleasant & roguish. He will suck his thumb, except when I speak to him, when he feels hungry, sleepy, wet or cross. The calf, horse, sheep, colt, all afford him infinite variety & amusement. The snow hurts his eyes or I would take him out more. As soon as it is gone he ought to go out of doors. What you said in one of your letters about his being "truthful" was good & right to the point. I would rather be harsh to my child, rather have him rough, impolite & saucy, than that he should be a canard & conceal.

Almost all of Capt. Pattens family are often not well behaved (the children I mean) but there is perfect confidence & truth - no concealment in the family at all. I believe I prefer a drunkard to a liar, don't you?

I am glad you wrote to "Jack". If I go to Albany I shall feel much more at home in that office than elsewhere & he will be glad to have "the latest news from the Army from a friend of his, an officer" to tell some of his friends. We expect Dellie in a week. Charles vacation does not come till about May. I found him well when I was at Brunswick. Prof Packard spoke in the very highest terms of his character - "From the very first, your brother has taken a high & manly stand & we respect him very much". I saw Prof P in the cars. I attended one of Prof Cleave's lectures & heard the old jokes. It was the lecture on "light". He inquired for you & grew eloquent over "that cold night" when his "Register Ther." went lower than ever before.

We expect Aunt Martha Jane here this week. They will go to Richmond, Ind. some time in May. Henry has the R.R. Co's notes to the amt of \$6000, Father indorsed. Uncle Ensign says he (Uncle H) is a little "crazy" about it. Father has indorsed about \$10,000 including this, but his property is beyond the reach of attachment - nile supra.

Do you want to know who have little babies. Well, Addison Martin, Jud Lane, D. Francis, Arch Knapp, S. Merrill, Phebe Manwell, A.L. Foss, John Turner, H. Mitchell (the Bean farm) Mrs Lane (M.J. Lathrop) & others too numerous to mention. Amanda is badly pitted by the small pox. Mrs Turner is quite sick. She has a bad cough. Roland's "Johnny" is not pretty, but he seems bright & promising. Guy looks like a giant beside him.

Your present place & duties are matters of great interest to Leeds people judging by the no. of questions I have to answer & the explanations I have to make. Tom Bridgham thinks he will make his fortune by leaving Leeds. I hope so. Aunt Aurelia has now \$600 as interest & can support herself comfortably by her needle. Lloyd will go to the poor farm where Mary Ann & Will now are. I went up & got Laura last night & she is now here. She is well & seems as happy as ever. Uncle Ensign & Aunt Martha have got into their house again as usual. John's family are well. He has the fattest baby ("J.C. Fremont") I ever saw.

Your ideas about my profession are in the main correct. The reasons which seemed to me tho' to unfit me for the "law" I thought were not equally an objection to the "ministry". I still think so. But your other views in regard to the purpose & object of preaching coincide with my own exactly. I am better fitted by nature for a pulpit orator than any other but that in itself is not sufficient to induce me to take such a step. What makes me in love with Theology as a profession is the immense field which it opens both for the intellect & the heart - the reflex influence of such a profession must be great & the "doing good" must guarantee a happy life. I thought proper to canvass the whole question - let me decide as I would. I shall stick to the "law" now except some radical change takes place in my views.

This will do for one letter & I will write some more before long
Your aff bro
Rowland

I will write as soon as I receive the "entre nous".

Mother & Laura send their love to Otis.

721 3/25/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0662

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot,
Tampa
Fort Brooke Fla

Ordnance Depot, Tampa
Fort Brooke Fla
March 25th 1857

My dearest wife,

Wednesday & Mail Day! I am already speculating on the probability of getting some letters tonight. Let us see. I can have two from you if the second one makes as quick a trip as your first letter from Auburn did, but I wont be over-exacting. I will not expect but one from you & one from Rowland or Charlie or somebody else.

Lieut Solomon left us on Monday & my man DeWolfe for Manatee. Monday, Tuesday & today I have busied myself in my Garden when my duties proper have not demanded my attention. On Monday I received 225 boxes of ammuniton of different kinds and yesterday we turned over some to be sent to Fort Myers.

I find my little room a very comfortable place to live in. I generally spend a part of the evening with Mr Mack to keep him from being lonesome and then make my way over here through the sand, strike a light and read till bed time, then I take my Bible and read two chapters aloud, ask the blessing of God to rest upon us, and then tuck in my musketo bar all round excepting a place big enough to let me in, extinguish my light and crawl into my nest and go to sleep. The next thing I hear is a rap at the door. "Lieutenant, it is most seven o'clock." It is Peter Kane. I get up and give him the key of the store room, then drench my head and face in cold water.

I keep my wash stand on the porch & my water pail suspended from a strap & hook out there also. It is hung as high as my head. The water is thus protected from the sun during the whole day & keeps clean and cool. My clothes are hung up just at the foot of the bed & protected by a screen. My wardrobe made of a packing box stands in the corner & is covered by a screen of cotton cloth to keep the dust & flies off my linen &c. Right over my desk I have a long box open towards me with twenty pigeon holes, marked Return of detachment, Monthly Return of Hired men, Monthly Receipts & Expenditures &c, &c. One end of this box I left without pigeon holes where my small quantity of books are looking down upon me. On the top of this box I keep wrapping paper, magazines, my Epaulette box &c. When I write I am here at the desk & occupying my arm office chair with its red cushion & when I read I sit in the rocking chair just at the end of the desk. A bachelor could hardly be more comfortably fixed. Lieut Solomon said I had the coolest place on the post.

But I believe you would be homesick in this cozy little corner. There would hardly be room enough for decent sized hoops & I couldnt spare you space enough for you to hang your dresses. You would go without your breakfast, because you had to walk so far for it in the sand & today without your dinner because the sun is so hot. But you would have to work very smartly to keep the flies off of Guy, if it isnt an impossible conception to suppose him here. I have to hold the little broom in my left hand & whip the flies with energy every few minutes.

We have dug a well since yesterday noon just in front of my office & a little to the right. We had to sink it only six feet & found water in plenty. The curb extends from the bottom of the well up as high as my breast. The top of it isnt finished yet. It wont be good water to drink, but will do to wash in & water my plants. It has been some time since we have had any rain and the consequence is everything is drying up. Quite a cool breeze has sprung up & the heat is relieved in a great measure.

It is almost two o'clock & I must get ready for dinner. Lieuts Day & Mack, the four clerks of the Quartermaster, Col Monroe and eight or ten more people are constant boarders at Mr Duke's. It is rather a boarding house, than a hotel. He has no Bar or Bar-room. Mr & Mrs Duke are old people, nearly seventy. The children who come to visit them are as old as forty. One Mr Duke's sons is Captain of a steamer, Gray Cloud, now in the United State's Service. Captain Dukes wife & three little children are now here. I will finish after dinner.

Mr Mack brought me your letter (mailed Monday, March 16, 1857) at the dinner table. The stage came in early. This good letter of eight pages was only nine days on the way & not quite that. The conveyances are improving.

You were going to Leeds the next day after you wrote. You seemed a little down-hearted my darling. I gathered it from the general tone of your letter & not from any part in particular. I do think of you & little boy a good deal. I have'nt much else to do when I am alone.

I am very happy indeed to receive such a letter as the last, giving me an account of everything that is transpiring. I shall be very anxious till all is over. Do be very careful. You will remember premature cold baths, getting about too soon and such things, but you must not be too anxious about Guy, for the good of you both at that time. I shall continue to write that you may see my scrawl when I may not have much to communicate. I know whom you would like to lean on & talk to at this time, but God knows what is for our good. We must trust in him and fear nothing. Courage, my darling wife, a little body may be strong in heart.

Does Mother W go with you to Leeds? You have not told me, but I inferred it from your saying she would go back for your things. I think you are doing well in the financial line. I will inspect your books officially one of these days.

My love to Mothers & all. I told Rowland to give his note to you or me, without interest. I want to help him. The Government helped me to 24 dolls per month while at West Point, else I would have been hard pressed. "Do unto others as ye would that others should do unto you." I shant do it, but I recognize the rule as a good one & one that produces happiness. Who wants to be rich & miserable. We will be rich & not miserable, trust my word for that. Have I broken a promise to you yet?

God bless you Lizzie. Yr affectionate & faithful husband.
Otis

722 3/25/1857 *From:* OO Howard
2nd Lieut.

To: [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0663

Ord'ce
Comdg Depot

Source: Bowdoin

Enclosed you will find a rough pen sketch of the military Reserve called Fort Brooke. You can perhaps form an idea of the relative position of things. The town of Tampa commences just to the North of the line fence and extends back in a northerly direction something less than half a mile. The Court House is on the extreme North of the town - a very decent- looking two story, wooden building, and Duke's Hotel where I board is abreast of it on the same East & West street & in the Extreme North East of Tampa. The streets are at right angles & there is a store or shop in nearly every corner.

Every trader keeps everything & nobody keeps anything, is a parody that will apply very well here.

[three pages of sketches]

Sketch of Ord'ce Grounds
Not for General exhibition
done in haste & near dark
OO Howard
2nd Lieut. Ord'ce
Comdg Depot

723 3/26/1857 *From:* R. H. Whiteley

To: Lieut. [OO Howard]

OOH-0664

New York Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

New York Arsenal

March 26. 1857

Dear Lieut.

I have been waiting for the printed directions you requested before acknowledging the receipt of your very acceptable private note dated the 4th inst. I received them this morning & herewith enclose you twelve or fifteen copies. I am pleased to hear you are well, have your hands & heart full of business, and as contented as a man well can be separated from his family.

In making requisitions for stores, please be particular to state exactly what you want. The last order from Mack, directed a set of funnels, I did not know whether you wished copper or tin, for powder or fluids, concluded if you desired the former you would have said so and issued the latter. Again on the same order I was directed to send you a lot of boxes for car. boxes & did so. The freight on those large empty boxes must be heavy and would it not be as well to require the stuff for such boxes or to have the material prepared & put together at your Depot?

Excuse these hints.

It is hardly worth the candle to write about increased Army pay, you have felt it in your pocket ere this. Shunk is at Watervliet. Had a letter from him yesterday. He looks for Judd daily & expects Maj. M. early in April. Boggs is at Baton Rouge. We have many rumors of changes afloat. Ralph it is said will take Benton's place in the office. I think this true & a capital selection it will be. Other changes yet in the mist.

Mrs W unites with me in kind regards to you. I hope you hear often from Mrs H & that she bears your absence like a soldier's wife.

Yours Truly
R. H. Whiteley

724 3/26/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0665

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, March 26th 1857

My dear Brother

I received yours of the 15th inst, tonight & the draft enclosed. I wrote you only this morning a pretty long letter & you will not expect much at this time. I am under the greatest obligation, my dear brother for this kindness. You must know how my heart feels & that must suffice for thanks. Lizzie received her letter tonight with a similar enclosure & she will write immediately. She did not write last night as I mentioned in my letter I thought she would.

I have been over to Turner today. I got Mother a girl whom I hope will be contented & stay a long while with her. I have felt badly to see Mother laboring so hard at drudgery at her time of life & with her property & her sons too. I told the girl if she would stay I would see that she was well paid. Father, to be sure, always pays what they ask, but I know a girl would like better stay longer if she could get more here than elsewhere. I would give her enough to make it more rather than Mother should be without again. I shall be quite contented to leave now & shall probably go to Auburn next week to stop. Lizzie & Guy will be just as well off now without or with me.

Friday morn 27th

It is a beautiful morning & the wind & snow drifts are frozen & Lizzie & I are going to Lewiston. She thinks of depositing her money in the L.S. Bank. It will be a good place & I can go with her today & then the interest will commence the 1st of April.

Jimmy Thorn has written me a letter & sent me three newspapers since I have been at home. I am glad to hear from Troy & Albany. After spending so much time there I should think Mr & Mrs Lee would write.

A letter from Ella last night says her Father does not take much notice of his attack but is about his business as usual. Uncle Ensign is busy Rail Roding as usual and with as little prospect of reward. John's office pays him now about 2.00 per day & he wishes to keep it. In order to this he must renominated by the Republicans this fall. His family are well. His little boy is bigger than Guy. His name is J C Fremont. Guy says Papa quite distinct this morning. He wants to wear my hat most of the time. He is now standing at the window watching & commenting (mentally) on the motions of Dellies cosset lamb. Dellie is very well, received your letter just before he left Andover, has brought home lots of his stock in trade & is going out "selling" next Monday. He makes good wages & will write you all about it himself. Mother & Roscoe are going to Wayne today across the pond - "shopping".

Politics are very quiet here. The Republicans exhibit an immense preponderance in all the local elections. Examine the "points" recently decided by the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case & tell me what you think of them. They will constitute a new plank in the Rep. platform. Fred Douglas is about making speeches on this "decision", which pronounces him not a citizen of the U.S. Geary's resignation of the Governorship is a new proof that there was & is something in the Kansas Humbug. He even became a Free State man. I would like to see Mr Lansing

Father cuts wood! Most of the time. Roland seems happier than I have ever seen him before. He is still "odd" but seems kind. Mother feels badly about Fathers business but not so bad as two years ago. So she tells me.

I've no more time to write, so Good Bye.

Your Bro.
Rowland

725 3/26/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0666

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. Mar. 26.1857.

My dearest Husband,

I have received two letters from you this week, and I was very happy to hear again so soon. The one I got to-day was written on the 15th of the present month. I did not write to you yesterday which was my day for writing. I was not sick but I did not feel able to write a letter, but would have enclosed a note in the one brother Rowland mailed, but I did not know he was writing in season to do so. Now it is about eight o'clock in the evening and I wish to write this and have it ready for to-morrow morning's mail.

I wish most to tell you that your last letter contained a check of \$100.00 and reached my in safety. I had previous to this in purse one hundred and eighty five dollars and eighty cents. Now I have on hand \$285.80. I have been talking with Col Gilmore about some place to deposit money for you, and he thinks the Savings Bank at Lewiston a good place. I may go to Lewiston to-morrow with brother Rowland and I will find out the best place I can.

I have no doubt but that I shall stay here till your return. I forget what I have said about it in my previous letters. Am very glad you have directed all letters to Leeds.

You wrote about the battle that had been fought between the Indians and the companies under Capt Stevenson & Lieut Freeman. I saw the same in the Portland Advertiser the same day I got your letter (Tuesday). I am relieved of much anxiety knowing that you do not have to be exposed in the field as the Officers in the Artillery and Infantry are, my dearest Otis, but I am not entirely selfish. I think of those, but not knowing them as I do my darling Otis, I do not think of them as I would of you, were you in the place of one of them. I presume they have kind and dear friends to think of them and are anxious when they hear unpleasant news and as happy as my self when good news come.

I would indeed like to step into your Office and see how cozy you are living "all alone by yourself." I don't think I would like to spend the coming summer with you in such snug quarters. I fear we would have to have a bed in every corner. As long as you remain at Ft Brooke or Tampa I shall feel that you are at a place that is a little homelike. You spoke of a great number being sick with the measles. I hope you will not catch them.

How much you will miss Lieut Mack, but you must remedy that by visiting more than usual. Go and see Mrs Page and kiss the dear little girl baby. I don't think Guy will ever have a little sister.

Mother's girl, Rosina Gibson, came to-day. I think you saw her at John Harrison's last summer. Guy has taken quite a fancy to her. She seems very pleasant and natural. I shall have Mrs Hinkley, or Mrs Manuel, to stay with me next summer.

Dellie came home in the Cars this afternoon, looking very well, and brought a letter your wrote him this month. You have probably received a letter from him, and another from Mother G long before this time. She has been in my room for the last 15 minutes talking with my mother, and she left Col Gilmore alone in dining-room reading. He just opened the door and asked in his funny way, if we had women in here to spare. I think it is about sleepy time.

I will enclose a list of the articles Mrs Lee purchased of me. Mrs Strickland and the children are at Uncle Ensign's. They will come down here when Mr Strickland comes next week.

Laura spent the day here last Wednesday. I am very glad the girl has come, now our Mothers will not have to work so hard. I ought to make one more resolution, that is not to send you an ill written letter, but somehow I do send them often. You know the heart that is in them and will not as long as I love you, darling, so dearly put this down against me.

Now, good night. The wind is blowing and the blinds rattle. I think it will be quite cold to-morrow, the weather has been quite warm and the snow has melted very fast.

Remember me as your most affectionate little wife
Lizzie.

I shall go to Lewiston this morning and will mail this on the way. Rowland and I shall come home this afternoon. The cars give me three hours to be there and that is long enough to do all my business.

Yours
Lizzie

727 3/29/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0668

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Me. March 29. 1857

My dearest Husband

I am happy when writing day comes. It is now about noon Sunday, and little Guy is having his good sweet nap on my bed in the "north room" you know so well. I am writing by the table under the glass. (This table and glass are those that belonged to Grandmother Otis.) The book-case you made is standing on top the bureau full of books. My trunk behind the door that leads into the front entry; wood box, wash stand and Guy's chair between the bed-room door and fire place, and in the fire place a cheerful fire. I bought at Lewiston a rocking-chair, like the one I had at Augusta from Mrs Murphy. I paid \$3.25 and took it home in the passenger train with us, and week-days I sit in it and bring it just near enough this table to reach my work box &c off the table. On the whole I am very well, and my quarters preferable to yours at present. I would like a visit from you now and then, but as that cannot be, I look forward to the time we hope to have a home together.

Cynthia and Jonnie are here, came some time before I commenced writing. I stayed with them till Guy went to sleep, and then I told her that I always wrote when he was sleeping and I must do so now. Tomorrow Mr and Mrs Strickland and the girls will be here. I do not know how long they will be here, probably a few days. After their visit is made here they are going to Hallowell. He wants three thousand dollars of the money he let the Rail Road company have to take with him out 'West' but I presume he will have to go without it.

I deposited two hundred and fifty dollars in the Savings bank which is connected with the 'Lewiston bank' at Lewiston. Interest commences the first of every month after a deposit is made - pays five per-cent. I shall continue to add to this whenever you send me money. I shall not have occasion to spend much money the next three months.

Afternoon. I did not write all the time Guy was asleep this morning; he turned over and I went to cover him over and fix him comfortable, then sat down in my rocking-chair to take a short rest, and I got to thinking and sat there till he waked. It was then just two o'clock and dinner was ready. I put on Guy's shoes and went out. We both ate a hearty dinner. Cynthia went home just before when Roland called on his way from Mr Bates. He came with her and then called for her.

It is almost night now. Guy has been up stairs (in the boys chamber) with "Uncle" having a fine time. He has had a few of those hickory-nuts you gathered to play with this week, and the other day Mother cracked some for him. He liked the fun of seeing them broken and yesterday when he got his 'hammer' and block to play with he seemed all at once to think what Mother did, and jumped up and came to me and looked on the table and called for "nut" "nut" as plain as I could speak it, and I did not know that he had ever heard them called by name. I showed him your daguerrotype, the large one you brought home to Mother G the first time you came from Watervliet in January, and told him that was 'papa'. He looked at it some time. I think he had some recollection of you, and ever since he likes to see it, and will say 'papa' whenever I take him up to talk with him.

Mrs Col Lothrop called here yesterday. She was spending the day with old Mrs Turner who is not at all well. Mary Jane (who did she marry, I cannot think) has a child four months old. Mr and Mrs Foss spent the day here last Tuesday brought their youngest, a little girl eight months old. Guy liked the looks of her very well, but liked better her "buttons" on the back of her dress. She is a very interesting child. Guy seems to feel very much at home here, loves to look out the window, and see the cows, horses, hens, sheep and with the cat in the house he has enough to amuse himself with. Roscoe will go Lewiston this week. Col Gilmore is to have a boy by the name of <Larabie> to work for him this summer. I have not as yet seen Mrs Hinckley, but presume I shall have seen her before this reaches you. I don't see why I need be sick a long time this summer. I don't think I will. I will think of you and gain every day. It will be warm weather, and we will not be likely to suffer from exposure, and I wont bathe in 'cold water.'

With good wishes to you for health and happiness I remain your little wife,
Lizzie A. Howard

I must write more to you, my darling Otis, for I think I have not written much on the first sheet, but what shall I tell you. I could sit down closely by you and tell you so many little stories (not wrong stories either) and you would listen so attentively that the hours would pass unheeded were we near enough to do so, but when I come to write everything - I don't like to - and it takes a long time to write and then I cannot tell it all.

I know you think of us very often, my Otis and would like to see us and be with us all the time if I could be well to be so, but as it is, we will make each day pass as pleasantly as we can, and then time will seem the shorter that we will be separated. I am now writing in the evening. Mr Berry saw Guy at tea time, thought him a smart boy. I'll bet he is. He is asleep now, and Mother has gone to bed, but I do not think it is nine o'clock yet. I must go down to see Mrs Turner tomorrow. Lucia has been in to see me, and Florence has made Guy a number of visits. I have not seen the rest of the family.

The snow here is nearly all gone, but the roads are very bad, mud and drifts alternately, but the sun this pleasant weather will soon settle the ground.

Dr Loring went by in his gig, the first wheels that have been used here. Murphy sent Mother Gilmore some crocuses and tulip bulbs. They are in boxes and growing nicely, sent them to Hollowell some time ago. I can hear her going to bed, and now it is bed time for me. I wont say I would like to see you but, I love you more every day, and when the Indians are all out of Florida I will be very glad.

Morning.

I have an opportunity to send this to the P.O. this morning and am glad to do so. We are all very well this pleasant morning. I hope you are.

From your affectionate wife
Lizzie Howard

726 3/29/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0667

Ordnance Depot, Fort
Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot, Fort Brooke Fla
March 29 1857
(Sunday afternoon)

My dearest wife,

I did not get a letter from you yesterday, and I could not reasonably expect one, for your letter by the mail next preceding came through in less than eight days; mailed on the 16th and received on the morning of the 25th. The day you mailed it you were to go to Leeds and would thus be further off. A letter could not get through in eight days unless it made every connection and left the Leeds Depot in just the right time. Our letters do not go by water except between Savannah & Palatka.

I have been engaged this week in making out my Monthly & Quarterly papers. I have finished the Monthly & part of the Quarterly already.

We have had no rain since I planted my Garden, but my tomato plants are in a good condition & the corn is coming up. I work a little in my Garden every day just for the exercise. My grounds are looking very well. Colonel Monroe was here day before yesterday and I saw him smile as he noticed my improvements. I am going to have the office & fence whitewashed - cant afford to have it painted.

Mrs Hazzard had a sister arrive to day by a schooner from New Orleans. Col Waite & wife accompanied her. I was introduced to him but did not ask him if he was any connection of mine. He is Lieut. Colonel of the 5th Infantry. He is from New York & is probably a relation as he spells his name with an "e".

Your last letter was equal to two. I appreciate these letters, my darling Lizzie, but is'nt it too hard work for you? I hope you will be comfortable at Leeds & as contented as may be. I have come to a more decided resolution to have you with me hereafter of late. I can understand your wants and do so many things for you that nobody else can, and I presume you would not be affected more by a change of climate than I am.

I went to Church this morning & heard the presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He gave us an excellent sermon, urging the necessity of Christians joining the Church. I walked home with Mrs Morris & stopped there to dinner. Mr & Mrs Hazzard will move into their house tomorrow. So you see I was precipitate as usual. I might have lived with Mr Mack till this time, but I am glad I have not got to move now, glad that I am so comfortably fixed already.

The Sergeant has moved his desk into the store house, so I am independent in my extensive establishment. My window on the East opens into a large field, that is now fenced in & sown to oats &c.

I spoke of going to Church. We have services in the morning for the white people, in the afternoon for the blacks and in the evening again for the Whites. I have seen Negroes at Church in the evening and presume the Evening services are for both black & white. Slavery here is in a very mild form. You would not know the negroes were slaves unless you were told. White men work with the negroes particularly at any trade. I hired a man to make repairs & he brought two negroes with him, and worked with them all the time.

Mr Duke has a little mulatto boy to wait on the table, by the name of Bachus. He is very bright & smart and I don't know but he is free. He took the measles and was sick a long time. I missed him, for he took a fancy to me & would bring me anything I wanted at the table. His fancy for me began from the time I made him wash his face. He came to my quarters of an errand with a dirty face. I took him into my room, poured some water into my wash-basin and told him to go ahead. He looked like a new boy & I have not seen him have a dirty face since. He is about ten years old. Mr Duke used to send him for bread. He would pay for it & pocket the change. It was some time before he found it out & when he did Bachus took a good whipping.

I am getting quite used to negroes. They always treat me with much respect, very often take off their hats when

they meet me. The Quartermaster hires a good many as teamsters and for policing, working in the Gardens, etc.

How do you find every thing at Leeds? Mother glad to see you? How is father & Mother? Looking about the same? Soon the farming will commence. I expect Guy will go into the fields pretty soon, though I don't suppose he will help Grandpa much this summer. Yes as you say, I expect he will forget father, but he will soon again learn to love him. Is your mother with you? Don't let her get discontented with Leeds. When she does she must go to Lewiston & Turner & make visits & then come back.

Miss Duvall has got well again, and every body is well in the Garrison. Lieut Day don't expect to get well, but he is able to take a ride every day. I often have a talk with him. It is a sad thing to know that you have got the consumption & cant get well. Major Page is in the same condition but he does all his duties. There have been many Invalides here of the same description to pass the winter but the most of them have gone now.

Have you heard from Augusta since you have been in Maine? I have written Charles Mulliken twice since I have been here but mostly on business. We have had no Indian news of late. Genl Harney is expected here very soon. I am slightly homesick occasionally.

Give my love to all. Your loving husband is very anxious for you & trusts that he will continue to hear good tidings.

Mr Thomas, who was formally 1st Lieut in the 2nd Artillery came to see me this morning before Church & hindered me from writing then. I shall expect a letter by the next mail. I expect Laura was right glad to see you & Little Guy. Kiss him for father. I wish I had his Dauguereotype, but himself would be better. Cant you send him by mail? May God bless you & take care of you.

Very affectionately your husband
Otis