

Thursday Afternoon. I have been so busy  
to day that I have not thought to finish  
my letter to my dearest Eliza. till Boss  
comes to know if I have any letters to send.  
By the way if Mrs. Throckland I learn that  
Mr. Gargent has so much recovered that  
he ~~some~~ expects to get back to New York  
in May. I am very glad for him. I will send  
this time a short letter but you must fill  
it out with love and best affection.

Robert Cooper 1857  
1857  
Mrs. A. J. Howard

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Leeds Centre, Me. April 1. 1857.

My dearest husband,

I received this afternoon a letter from you, and it was remitted from Auburn. You will soon know that I wish them sent to Leeds. You wrote it on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March; fourteen days since. If I could not write to you, and receive dear kind letters, I know not what would make this separation endurable. I am thinking of you constantly while I work, and when my dear little Guy comes to 'mama' to make known his little wants I take him up and always give him one kiss for dear 'pa-pa,' (he speaks it very plain now,) and I think how dear he is, and wish we were all together so he would not forget you, or think you were no dearer than all 'Uncles' as he calls every gentleman. I cannot think he will outgrow all recollection of you, now he understands so well everything I tell him. He went to the Collier Arm and called for an 'upper' (apple)



which pleased his grandmother bilmore. He likes  
apples very well and eats one or more every day.  
Grandpa takes great pleasure in showing Guy the  
eggs when he comes from the barn. He will say  
'egg' and run about to find his china egg.

He gave Guy a cent out the door one day and since  
then every time he sees Grandpa there he says  
"money". I might tell of enough to fill ten sheets  
all about Guy, but I want be quite so foolish.

I presume it would please you more than a  
great many things I do write. When I was  
reading your letter to-day someone asked if  
you wrote any news. I said no you didn't  
seem to write anything interesting this time  
or much. Brother Rowland began to tease me  
immediately said I better tell you not to  
write twice a week if he had nothing interesting  
to say. I didn't care for his teasing for he knew  
I meant when I said so, that the letter was  
full of interest to myself but no general news  
of great importance. Mr & Mrs I. and children  
are now here came last Monday. We are  
having a very pleasant visit from them

Mrs I. said when we were at their house, that  
there had been a great change in Henry.

Uncle Ensign's health is very poor. Mr I. and  
Rowland were up there this afternoon and came  
home by the way of the Post Office. Went in  
a wagon. I think my sides are nearly all  
passed for this spring. I fear to get into a  
high carriage while the roads are in such  
a bad condition. Yesterday morning was  
very pleasant. Rowland carrying Guy. Mrs I.  
myself went down to see Mrs Turner. She  
was much pleased to see Guy, and he much  
pleased to see the dog. She is quite feeble  
but does not look worse than when well.  
Mrs Berry still carries the marks of her sickness  
last summer but it will pass away in  
time. I must go to see Mrs Turner often, and carry  
her some little nicety. I know how sick people  
appreciate attention. I will open a can of pine  
apple and send her some. Mrs I. thinks my  
hatchup very nice. I have written fast this  
evening and nearly covered this sheet in a short  
time. Now I will leave it till to-morrow.



perhaps you will be afraid to open this -  
But you should be "made a fool of" Day  
was in here this morning with Mr Mack -  
and told a story ~~about~~ a lady whose husband  
was in California. The Gentleman or man as  
the case might be, received a letter <sup>from his wife</sup> a sentence of  
which read like this "We often hear it said, that  
absence conquers love, I don't believe it, for the longer  
you are away, the better I like you." The poorest  
man, and it published. Of course his wife meant  
that time & distance would not diminish her  
love for her husband. Now if you find any sentence  
of such double & doubtful meaning as the above  
quoted you must remember, it is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

I bought some cloth a few days ago & this morning  
I asked a woman to make me four pillow  
cases. I have had Magilton's all the time & they  
have got so many holes in them that they  
show the ticking below & a feather occasionally scratches.  
I am in somewhat of a quandary - Magilton's cases  
had a nice lattice work border & how can I get one on the  
new ones? & if I do it, won't have the associations  
connected with the old (for I suppose nobody would be unwise  
enough to make such pillow cases except for the honeymoon)  
My best love to them at home. I trust you are all  
well & happy - No Indian news & not likely to  
be any. My darling wife, I want to see you  
very much. a thousand kisses - & ever so much love  
Tell Mrs paper don't want to be forgotten <sup>your own husband</sup> from Otis

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
April 1<sup>st</sup> 1854.

My dearest wife,

I didn't get a letter Saturday and now  
Wednesday has come round. Tonight I will get a letter  
if there is a mail, but it is time for the mail to sail -  
and I expect about sunset Mr Mack will meet me  
and say the stage is in but, no mail! I hope not  
however, for it is not always pleasant to wait  
till next time. Colonel & Mrs Waite are still here  
waiting for a chance to go to Fort Myers. He says  
his family settled in Connecticut. Originally there  
came from England four brothers, the places where  
three of them settled is known but the fourth has  
not been fixed anywhere. One brother settled in  
Connecticut & two I think in Massachusetts. Now  
the family has increased beyond all bounds &  
we couldn't determine whether you belonged to  
the lost brother or to one of the others. Colonel  
Waite is quite an old man, a perfect gentleman -  
and pleasing in his manners. His wife looks a  
little thin & care-worn but is sprightly & talkative.  
Now, with this data your mother can talk the matter  
over with the friends & relations & perhaps settle the  
question whether Colonel Charles A. Waite & myself are



relations at no. 3. Lt. Breck of the next class after me  
now of the first Artillery has been spending the  
winter at Tey West for his health. He came here  
last night by a steamer & is on his way to join  
his company at Charleston S.C. He says he did  
have a bad cough & thought his lungs were  
affected, but ~~has~~ now completely recovered.  
Lieut Day talks of leaving here tomorrow for Nashville  
on his way to his home in Tennessee. I shall be  
sorry to have him go for he has been one of my  
reliable companions. We have spent a good many  
hours together since I have been here & I know  
I shall miss him. I wish indeed he could get well;  
for he is one of the best of men, a true hearted  
gentleman. I spent the evening at Mr. Hazzard's  
yesterday, & found his sister quite a lovely young  
woman. Mr. H's little family arrangements remind  
me of mine, when we first went to house keeping  
at Watervliet. They talk about the same things and  
troubled about servants, ~~concern~~ earnestly about  
their management &c. Major Morris has returned  
from inspecting Volunteers at Forts Mifflin &  
Casper. He invited me to live with him &  
keep house for him while he was away after  
his wife leaves for the North as she intends to do  
before long. He wants me to sleep down there  
& thus protect Mrs M. while he is out inspecting.

also. I don't like to say no, and I would as lief as  
not, not go. I am quite comfortable here, I have  
my room all to myself & nobody to disturb  
me when I choose to be alone, I can read or write  
or smoke or think to suit my convenience & nobody  
to constrain me or say boo. You know, my darling,  
I would readily forego all those bachelor enjoyments  
if I could go home, but when down here & you  
are not with me I rather like to live alone.

My dear little Guy - I expect to hear from him to-  
night. How he has behaved himself at Leeds &  
how he has been. Whether he loves Grandmother Geo or  
not. It must seem queer to me to find a little boy  
in jacket & trousers, after I have been thinking of a  
little dumpling in short dresses all the time, who looks  
precisely like the Guy I left at Watervliet. I fear you  
think too much & may be wish too much for  
your health. I want you too, if possible, to be  
ever so fresh & rosy & healthy, when I come back.  
Perhaps you will demand the likes of me. Oh! I  
will be tall ~~legs~~ thin, 6 feet & exceedingly portly.  
You perceive, this climate must have agreed with  
me, for I haven't been sick a day since I have been  
here. We are needing rain more & more every  
day. I have not seen a drop since I planted my  
Garden & yet my corn is up & some of the other seeds.  
You will notice this is the first day of April &



Apr 4/57  
 (Saturday night) I received six private letters, from  
 Lizzie two, from Capt Whitney New York one, from Charlie  
 one, from Little Blossom at Fort Dallas Florida one,  
 & from Simon Murphy at Augusta Arsenal one.  
 And besides I received seven public letters. All  
 came by to night's Mail. Lizzie seems more comfortable  
 & contented with you than she has been before, since  
 she left Troy. I hope you will be very happy  
 together, I shall feel more cheerful & bear my  
 separation better. When I know my little wife is  
 in so good hands. I shall try & answer her letters  
 tomorrow. Guy seems to run about as if at home.  
 and has more playfellows than he did at Troy. viz:  
 Cat & Kitten, a Lamb & Grandfather & Grandmother.  
 Don't you all kill him with kindness, but teach  
 him to be kind & good. I can't help thinking about  
 his eyes. Delle had first sore eyes when he was little -  
 I know Lizzie will be careful with him, but I hope  
 he will strengthen his eyes without getting near-sighted.  
 But we must do the best we can & trust the rest with  
 Kind Providence. The musketoes begin to thicken round  
 my head and I must get inside of my musketo-  
 bar, for protection. I went fishing with Major  
 Morris today, but didn't have a bite. I exercise  
 in my garden for pleasure & for strength. I don't  
 think I ever enjoyed better health than now.  
 Remember me kindly to the neighbors, when they  
 enquire. You can't well call my place vacant  
 when I have sent you a daughter & a Grandson.  
 I have no Indian news of importance. A large scout is  
 to commence on the 10th Inst. Good-bless you all.  
 Your affectionate son C. C. Woodard

When "the mail fails," no mail comes from any place beyond  
 Palatka. It is occasioned by the failure of the Government steamers to  
 reach Palatka  
 in season.

Ordnance Depot  
 Fort Brooke Fla.  
 Apr 3<sup>d</sup> 1857.

My dear Mother.

I will write you a few lines this  
 morning, as tomorrow is mail day and I do not  
 always have as much time to spare as I anticipated  
 a day beforehand. I received a letter from Delle  
 a week ago, but have not answered it yet, for  
 Rowland wrote me that his vacation occurred  
 very soon. I wrote him a short time since but  
 he had not received my letter, when he wrote  
 his. The mail failed last Wednesday as I feared,  
 so I haven't heard from any of you since Lizzie  
 left Lewiston for Seelys. I expect she is with  
 you now and I hope will remain & be as  
 happy as can be till I join her there. Captain  
 Marcy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry paid me a visit last  
 night. He said I seemed very comfortably situated.  
 He wished he could be guaranteed as good a little  
 cottage as my Office while in Florida. He is on his  
 way to join his company in the Big Cypress Swamp;  
 after having been detached on a General Court  
 Martial in Texas. Several Officers of the same regiment  
 were on this Court & have recently passed through  
 Tampa. Cols. Chapman & Waite & Capt. Sibley. He



have not heard any very stirring news from the troops in the field of late. These Officers who are on the way to their companies are experienced men and will probably put a little life into their troops.

I spend a good deal of my leisure time in improving my grounds & garden. I have had my Office whitewashed and part of the fence. Everything means a different aspect, from what it did when I came.

The most interesting time with us here is mail day. When no letters come we wait for the next time. I wish you would write when you can and tell me how you & little Guy get along and if it makes you too much work to have my little family with you. I don't believe I will be kept here more than six or seven months. This Campaign will result just like every other in a comparative failure & General Harney will be removed. Then I expect I will be sent elsewhere, as soon as there is nothing else to do here. The only way is to wait patiently & do my duty faithfully. My health has been excellent. The climate agrees with me. I am never troubled with Dyspepsia or head aches, but am hearty & relish all kinds of food. You can tell Lizzie I have quit chewing - and if she was here perhaps would quit smoking - but I can smoke when I am lonely & she can play with Little Boy. Being so completely my own master down here I fear will render me entirely disinclined

to domestic discipline, however wholesome. I went to two parties in one night, but I did not go before and have not been since. I wanted to show the people, who are a little suspicious of our high feelings, that I could associate with them. I did, thereby, cultivate a friendly feeling in the town, for I made then more acquaintances than I have since. I was introduced to a resident Colonel, like father, a doctor, a lawyer, an Editor & to nearly all the ladies in town. I stopped writing to go to dinner. Mr Duke the proprietor of the Hotel where I board is a hardy old man, who drinks a goodly quantity of whiskey every day. He has a round head & a keen eye & is slightly stubborn in his ways & in his knowledge, but is withal & in his own way a kind man. He declares all officers of the army are gentlemen. He likes me because I pay promptly & don't grumble at the food. His wife is a good deal like Aunt Lydia Fanny. She looks about as old and has ways like her. Both Mr & Mrs Duke take a good deal of pains to set a fine table, so boundaries say. They have everything - Venison, wild-turkey, ducks, chickens, eggs. Beef, pork sweet potatoes & what I like especially Syrup or as I am fond of calling it molasses to eat on cakes, bread &c. It is too dark to see -



to Mrs Daniel Williams, I presume you are a  
 little surprised. but I wrote asking her if she  
 would see Mrs Clark for me, and learn if she  
 would come out here and take care of me  
 this summer during the months of June and July.  
 I did not know Mrs Clark's whole, or other  
 and preferred to writing to Mrs Williams, than any  
 else there. I have not yet received an answer  
 I should prefer her to nurse me than Mrs. [unclear]  
 who is so old I should dislike calling on her  
 to do so many things. I must confess I get a little  
 anxious, when I allow myself to think of my [unclear]  
 ing illness in detail, but my courage is good  
 now, and I shall endeavor to continue brave  
 till all is over. Don't you fear, don't  
 give yourself any easiness. I am satisfied, in the  
 end all will be well. Now I write good night  
 to you my dear Mrs. [unclear] may write more in the  
 morning. But that will depend upon the time I mail  
 this. I may go up to Mrs. Lathrop's with Ben and  
 the women. It is not very good travelling. the snow  
 is nearly all gone, and the frost just beginning to  
 come out the ground. From your faithful little wife,  
 Lizzie Howard

Mrs. J. Williams  
 55 1/2 St.  
 New York

I presume he will  
 come to see us if  
 he is going to Florida.  
 With much love I  
 remain your wife  
 Lizzie Howard

I presume he will  
 come to see us if  
 he is going to Florida.  
 With much love I  
 remain your wife  
 Lizzie Howard

Seeds Center, N.H. Apr. 5, 1887.

I received two letters from you  
 last week, as well as the week before. I hope it  
 will be so you can continue to write to me  
 as often, all the time you are absent from us.  
 I now tell them I am going to Tampa this fall.  
 all the authority I have for saying so is that you  
 will not come home on a leave unless you get  
 a long one and could take us back with you.  
 and this is just no authority at all, although  
 you may be in Florida long enough to ask for  
 a leave, and if the prospect then should be that you  
 would be detained there a year longer. I should  
 wish much to return with you. Do not think  
 I have made up my mind that all this will  
 take place. for I have not made up my mind  
 to anything, but to be contented to stay here  
 this summer, later than that time I think  
 of. I seem to get your letters here just as soon as I  
 did at Valparaiso. My Nelson one of it is over twelve



days on the way, and I have received a few the  
centh day after date. Warren Lockrop was expected  
home last week. he came last evening. He had  
at last received his commission<sup>dated Mar 3.</sup> and expects  
to go to Florida as his Regiment is stationed  
there the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery. I want to send you something  
by him. What can I? What do you need? We do not  
know whether he has received his orders yet or not. I  
shall see him as soon as possible. I wrote the  
above this afternoon as I could find time while  
Guy was playing. Now it is evening he is sleeping  
and I can finish this and have it ready to mail  
to-morrow morning. I long to write to you, my  
darling Otis. I sometimes feel when I sit down  
to write, that I wont write an interesting letter  
and then I think you of course like to hear anything  
about myself and Guy and I know you will be  
happy to get the letter if it does not seem very  
interesting to myself. I have as yet mailed two letters  
to you every week; how I wish you could get  
them as regularly as I do your dear letters.  
You have told me of your new quarters enough  
but I cannot locate it. In looking at the

sketch you sent me of Fort Brooke. I see enclosed  
a piece of ground that you have named "Ordinance  
ground"; it contains a Magazine. Store house. work  
shop. and guard box in the south west corner; as  
you say a Sentinel walks post in your yard I  
imagine you near there. You must explain to  
me so I can add so important a building to  
the drawing. Mrs Stickland left here for Boston  
last Friday morning. Mrs F. and children are  
yet here. She is anxious for me to go to Malabar  
with her and children. Brother Rowland is to ac-  
company them. I would like much to go, for  
the sake of going to Augusta. Yesterday we  
almost concluded to go Monday, but since  
then Lizzie has come down with the mumps  
and I dont know when she will be able to go.  
I wrote a note to Mr. Mulliken Saturday, saying,  
I might be at her house next week. Guy and  
I will probably ~~will~~ catch the mumps of Lizzie.  
Carrie had them one week before they left home.  
I do hope you have not had the measles, and  
will not either while away from such a good  
nurse as I am. Last week I wrote a letter



in your letter & of course remember her very kindly. When told you the good news about Mrs Sargent. They didn't tell me when I was there.

now that the pay is increased, in order to de-Hottentotize himself. He says "remember me to your wife & brother." I have got my mouth sodded on the sides & am having it filled up on the interior with pretty little shells, wouldn't Guy have fun playing with them? I don't believe Garrison takes the changes of fortune as coolly as I do. He is in joke & yet more than half in earnest. His mother & sister would form all sorts of horrible ideas about his personal appearance & think there hardships unendurable - but the truth is, he don't have to work any harder than I do. and his exercise makes him eat & sleep in good style - but Garrison is a "funny" boy & likes to enlarge. As soon as Major Leonard comes home from paying the troops I shall send you another check for 100 dollars. You paper acknowledged the receipt of the last sent March 15<sup>th</sup> 1857. I have not got the letter acknowledging it yet. Simon Murphy writes to inquire after his boy James - I don't think he is in Florida now. John Murphy was a stiff arm according to Simon - Colonel Menrol came in to see me this morning and said as soon as he came in, "I won't visit you if you don't have a spit-box - in fun of course - I am glad to see my darling little wife appreciate husband so much - I will be home one of these days to love you & yours, if you don't think I can do so properly so far off. I expect you will think of Remembrance very often during the next twelve weeks". I don't like to have quite so much work cut out. Don't make your back ache. Who said you were growing old? You must have got up the notion yourself. I am going to ask Howland. Give my love to all hands, all you can spare. You will all be farming when this gets to Leeds. Guy must learn to build stone wall - Tell Laura I wrote her name

There is no corresponding Ladies. Mrs. W. is so proud that all her children are boys. What she means says "my children" but "my boys" and I wouldn't wonder if my mother was proud of the same thing. and I know that yours is that her children are all girls - Now I have a bit of philosophy to deliver from these observations - Whether many be the the antecedent with the mother's heart is easily reconciled to boys or girls or a mixture of the two. Good night, my love -  
Admance Sprot  
John Brooke Fla.  
Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> 1857.  
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Last night I received two letters from you mailed on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> ult. and first rate letters they were. You are at Leeds and comparatively happy. Guy, though he has sore eyes, is doing nicely, playing with the cat & kitten and learning something new every day. You have a room to yourself and a fire to dream over. I have no place here for a fire and I don't think you would need one if you were in this office. I am somewhat in a perspiration, for I have been working out the most expeditious method of supplying Forts Capron, Drum, Vinton & Kissimmee with Ordnance stores. I have written to Fort Myers, Fort Capron & Fort Myers and assisted in making out a Requisition this morning. Now you will think this is fine work for Sunday. But we will have to bring it all home to the Indians. I am sure I would like to rest to day & go to Church with you, main ex act impossible. I don't think I have much to do but work comes, nobody knows when. I am sorry to say Day has gone home, he left Friday for New Orleans on his way to Tennessee. He is a



very excellent young man and <sup>a</sup> good companion  
for me. I was sorry to see him go. Mr Hazzard asked  
if I got letters from you yesterday and so did Mrs  
Morris. Your husband seems to stand pretty well  
with the Garrison & with the officers generally. His  
rank isn't high enough to put on airs & swell. &  
I trust it never will be. Young men are apt to be  
a little important when they fancy themselves in  
an important position, but I try not to show it  
if I feel so. The officers of the line generally are  
very different from those who were stationed at  
West Point when I was there. I have found them  
very pleasant gentlemen, almost without exception.  
They are kept in the field & on the frontiers most  
of the time, which makes them perhaps a little  
peculiar in their ways, but there is a good deal  
of refinement amongst them. I received a letter  
from Little Blosson last night. He is now at  
Fort Dallas on the South Eastern coast of Florida.  
He says, "I have almost despaired of ever being allowed  
by contact with the refined pleasures of society, to  
fashion my tastes into shapes becoming a gentleman.  
After floundering all day through the bottomless pits  
of Sloine, with which this country abounds, I find a  
ravenous appetite is appeased by the hardest of bread  
bread & the fattest of fat pork, vulgar though the confession  
be. I am obliged to cover my nakedness or attempt to do so,

with nondescript 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.

Soldier's Shoes." & Again: "In my prayers my tongue  
wanders from "Deliver us from evil" to "Deliver us from  
the Seminoles". Between the Commandments & the  
Mosquitos I am kept in a state of mental anathema.  
Dishes of Mule Steak & Horse Hash are continually  
<sup>straining</sup> before me. I go furtively stealing through the  
thickets as though I was an escaped member of  
Congress with a corruption committee after me.  
My hand is continually straying from my scabb to  
my revolver to see if both are "there". Again I say  
in the face of all this how am I to be a gentleman?

Man kind are not only Gregarious but Apimidations.  
Confin a man in a mad house & he will become a maniac,  
confin him in Florida and he will become a crop  
between an Alligator - a pack-mule and a rattlesnake  
with a touch of the Sand fly & Mosquito to  
impart airiness to the monstrous mixture. I am  
now as ugly as the first & as much & probably obstinate  
as the second. &c" but I must look out or I will  
give you Blosson's letter instead of my own. He winds  
up with the conclusion that he must get married



in my letter but - and before this - is only to tell "news"  
I also that you can the better understand my  
future conversations & explanations about these  
matters. The N.R. affairs look a little brighter  
just now - the Co. are disposing of a new set of Bonds  
quite favorably for these hard times. If they can  
sell enough, they will buy iron & lay track to  
Farmington this Summer. The track once down Father  
thinks his securities will be good & if so he will  
be "independent" again. On any other hypothesis - I  
seek not to penetrate the veil"! My impression is  
that Father & Mother had better each make a will.  
This would open Mother's mind & secure <sup>to</sup> all, their  
just dues - It will be much easier for them to agree  
than for their heirs. I shall try to have something  
arranged before I leave home again to stay  
away a long time. Lucy is well, bright & roguish.  
She has got to that point where our common human  
nature teaches us all, to do just what we think will  
not be approved of. There never was a child but  
that loved what he considered mischief. Lucy  
is no exception - He knows much more. "Entire news" than  
he gets credit for. His ideas are by no means  
limited by his conversation, which is rather  
circumscribed. If you want a complete account  
of Lucy you must get Mrs. Waite to write you.

At home April 7<sup>th</sup> 1857

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My dear Mr. Thier

Yesterday was a pouring Rain storm  
all last night but the rain fell in torrents as  
it only does in April - This morning it has cleared  
up with a cool north west wind & there is but  
little snow in sight in this vicinity except  
a patch of an old drift near & then by the  
fences - I went to Lewiston & back in the  
rain yesterday to transact some business  
for Uncle Henry & Father - I sent a large  
order of R.R. Bonds. Express & a note for \$3000.00  
to Portland - I got quite wet this evening home  
but as it was a warm day I don't think  
I experience any inconvenience from my  
wetting - Warren met us at the Leeds Depot looking  
over for his "Orbits" which he now expects every  
day. He rode down with me through the mud  
& over the snow-drifts - He said Old Leeds  
never looked so mean to him before - I  
thought it would look quite lame like to you  
even now in its worst aspect - Warren bears his  
new honors very modestly. He expects to join his  
Regiment in Florida & is in haste to be gone  
a fortnight more! He has no wife & children to  
leave behind - In another sense he is unfortunate



He can carry no love with him - Laura has not said  
to me the other day - O I wish I had some cure!  
Sometimes I feel so alone - Hear true their remarks  
of Macau - "The ruler has wife & children has given  
hostages to fortune" - They are golden links of a chain  
which binds him to humanity - Without them he would  
be more free - but that freedom would be apt as  
if often does, to degenerate into license - A wife is  
so essentially a part of our self that she is always  
present in his inner consciousness - Earth has no  
places so distant - but the human soul easily overlaps  
them all, whether  
Mountains, Ocean & plain - gives & receives influences  
almost the same as it would if there were no such  
thing as  
space - How will it be when both time & space are  
annihilated? Will the abolition of things so inferior  
to the Soul terribly affect its high attributes? Will  
human affection be any more among those groper things  
which will end with time? - or will our earthly loves  
take a lower place - but still, a place among our religious  
affections - our moral character - & be perpetuated with  
that thro' Eternity? Will husband, wife, father, daughter  
son, Mother be names of significance in Heaven?  
These questions seem to me now deep abstract & more prac-  
tical than they once did & sometimes they come home to  
me with great force - Some things in the teachings of Christ  
seem to answer them (the two last) in the negative -

On the other hand some analogies & the desire of that  
"blind guide", the human heart would say - yes - I have  
been out splitting logs with Father this morning and  
succeeded pretty well till I lost a great piece  
of them from one of my hands & so I changed my  
employment for a while - Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie  
Strickland were both taken with the "rumps" Sunday,  
& so we have given up going to Wallanell & Augusta  
with them as we proposed - They are not very sick -  
Guy will leave a fat check in a fortnight, probably,  
& your Lizzie about the same time - I only fear that  
Lizzie will get cheated out of her visit to Augusta  
by these circumstances - Mr. E. Jones has returned to  
his family & Mrs. Jones says she "feels better" - Took  
dinner there yesterday - Father is going to meet Uncle  
Henry in Wallanell tomorrow - Uncle John Estate was  
priced at \$3500. a day. The "trust" property is all  
involved in the same lops - but his bondsmen are  
liable to pay - they are Charles Vaughan & Mr. Spaulding  
Aunt M. J. - had \$6000. & Aunt Ann the same and  
in the "trust" - Then Henry has private notes of Uncle's  
to the sum of 4 or 5000. \$ - Mother \$2500. Of course  
the latter will get little or nothing - And the bondsmen  
are the only hope of the former (I mean by "former" our  
Aunts - by "latter" - Henry & Mother) - My reason for writing  
you this as well as what I wrote about - Father's embarrassment



I receive a good long letter of 6 pages from Jimmy every other day. -  
Selling is one "peddling" still - He spent <sup>the</sup> Sabbath in  
Hallamell & wrote us Sunday (yesterday), He proposes  
going to Munsnick & Topsham near - I own my mind  
is a little alarmed by his striking into those  
localities but I suppose it is foolish to feel so -  
He is rather rich of the business here in Maine where  
the labor is harder & the returns less than in Mass -  
We shall expect him home to propose to go to Andover  
by the middle or last of this week - Eleanor  
does not write very often but seems to be as  
well as usual - Ella writes me every other day - She  
was to be "examined" as a candidate for admission  
into the Church Thursday Evening last - I have not  
heard this week yet but I presume she was  
admitted Sunday - At first it was a little  
hard for me to think of it - it seemed like sep-  
aration - but I said, "go on & never mind me" - God  
keep me from standing in any path of duty - God  
will always have to be her chief dependence - I am a  
poor weak miserable creature - who are sensible of  
my own strength to walk alone - Where could I better  
commit her release I love best on Earth - than into the  
arms of her Savior - Aunt Martha Jane has had a letter  
from Cousin Wm. Olin recently - It was a good letter breathing  
"a cheerful, hopeful thankful spirit" - He says he feels  
in better heart & hope than ever before - Aunt Ellen



her generously assisted him with money & he seems  
 anxious that his brothers should not grow up, <sup>as</sup> he  
 has done, in ignorance & improvidence - He speaks  
 of his father affectionately & I know would be glad  
 to hear from you - He is at - "Austin", "Texas", Roscoe  
 Gilman & I tapped 13 trees & have made quite  
 a lot of Sap Syrup - It is nice & very desirable to  
 a little - should you? Mother was very glad to receive  
 her letter from you & will answer it - as soon as  
 her multiplied cares will permit - She sends her  
 best love - Also Anna & your cousins "Lizzie" & "Corrie"  
 They are fine little girls & both lovable if not  
 lovely - They play much with your hopeful Son, Guy  
 Father has hired - George Langley for the season &  
 he is now engaged on the novel pile - Uncle George  
 has been quite sick for the last ten days but  
 he now seems better & I hope he will be "one"  
 the last of the week - He has a bad cough - I  
 spent Friday with him & we discussed among  
 other things Judge Lane's decision in the Scott  
 Scott case - I can now see no time when there will  
 not be a necessity for a Republican Party - The  
 policy indicated by that decision must be  
 reversed & that will be the work of many years -  
 It must do for this Country to make these  
 unexcusable advances against - national liberty -



Wednesday afternoon. I have written a note to Mrs. Mulliken saying I was not going to August. I came to the conclusion that home was the best place for me. I hope she will come to see me. Della came home this morning. She has been gone all his vacation peddling stationery. He is to think very different from the rest of you. <sup>I think much of them many making</sup> <sup>Waver</sup> Lathrop has not received orders yet. He may be home a long time. I think I shall go to Tampa in company with him. Would you not be glad to see us? I guess so, if every thing was arranged for our comfort. It is much better you are alone and you can be more comfortable than if you had us to care for. Guy has had his slush and is now playing on the floor in my room. Guy is a little. Everything he goes into the parlor he has to see papa. (The Daguerriotype you had taken before we were married and brought home to your mother.) I have not felt as lovely as I did last evening for a long time. I asked Guy if he was going to copy the paper. He gave it without getting up. Mrs. I. is much better of the mumps and is quite well, expects to go to Gloucester Saturday. Col. Gilman went this morning to meet Mr. Strickland tomorrow. Mrs. Turner is getting better. I don't feel that this is an interesting letter or that

Leeds. Mon. April 7, 1857.  
My dearest husband.

I received another dear letter from you this afternoon - dated Mon. 26<sup>th</sup>, and as I have finished all the work I wanted to do today, and Guy is now asleep, I will write to you till my sleepy time. In my last letter to you I asked for a sketch of your new quarters, and when I opened your letter today I was glad to find that you had not waited three or four weeks before I would see them, as you had anticipated my wishes and enclosed a sketch to me. Your quarters look snug and cozy, but I really don't see where you would put us if we were to make you a visit, and troublesome visitors you would find us. I would of course bring two trunks, and Guy would like to take 'papa' papers that look so pretty up high. I don't see any place or room for my work-table or looking chair and on the whole I think we would quarrel and I would be put in the 'six feet bill' as that is the nearest like the cooler you used to threaten me with. I should think Let. Mack would have to visit you often



rather than you him, to keep him from being  
lonesome. You seen the most alone away off in  
that corner ~~all~~ far from all the other Officers.  
(I guess you will take us along next time. don't you?)  
Mr Shunk sent me a long message by Mr Lee, but as it  
is in Brother Bowland's letter, I will let him tell  
you of it; it is very like him. Bowland says he don't  
believe I write you much that is going on here about  
us; that if I don't his letters - some of them - will be  
perfectly blind, as he has merely hinted at many things  
thinking I have probably told you all about them.  
I presume he is half right, for you say. I did not tell  
you whether Mother was at Leeds with me. You  
must know she is, for your helpless little wife (some  
doubt about the little) can scarcely take care of herself  
much less take care of Guy. Mother has got him to  
sleep when he is to have his nap during the day, for  
some time, and I have not undressed him for three  
nights passed. I assure you it is a great sacrifice to  
give up the care of him to anyone else. But as long  
as he is well, and spared to be such a great comfort  
as he is, I must not complain I am a little bit  
naughty to night and have dropped a tear on my letter

I don't do so often, and won't any more. I could not  
help just a little, darling. Now you must not be  
sad, for I have all nicely brightened up and would give  
you a good kiss if I could; as it is I will give it to  
Guy, as I do all 'papa' kisses. He has changed his  
'shamma' to 'Mum', and likes so well to go out doors  
that I shall be very glad when it is day and warm  
enough for him to go out every day. Yesterday commenced  
a dismal rain storm, but I have no doubt it will  
hasten to make good travelling. George goes to the  
P.O. on horseback. (Roscoe went home and George  
Longley takes his place.) Very little snow to be  
seen, as I look over the hills from my window.  
I have received an answer to my letter to Mr. McKim.  
Miss Clarke will stay with me this summer, I am  
really very glad, for she will know just what  
to do for me. I feel better settled since I have got  
her engaged, and I know you will be glad to have  
her with me. I have given up going to Augusta, and  
shall write to Mrs. McKim saying so. I shall urge  
her to come to Leeds later in the summer. I must  
go to sleep now, dearest, but first ask our Father in  
Heaven to bless us, and keep us from harm. Yours  
Lizzie



Did you would like to know him I send your  
Requests. He seemed pleased. He said one  
day that Mrs Hume wrote him that I must  
be a first rate man, whence I inferred that  
he had given good accounts of me.

I wish now that you had come on with  
me. There is one objection, almost every body  
has had the measles & many have died. It  
ended in the pneumonia. But all cases have  
now disappeared. At one time I thought I  
was going to have the disease (i.e. the measles)  
but I could not make out to be sick. I have  
had I think fewer pains & aches since I have  
been here than ever before in the same length  
of time. All that I had at all was a little  
of the old Rheumatism, during the cold & damp  
weather the last part of January & first of  
February, but not enough to trouble me any  
nor so much as I have often had at the north.

A lawyer, by the name of Hart, who has recently  
come here from New York. I find a very fine  
gentleman, upwards of forty years of age & I have  
become quite intimate with him. He lends me  
books to read. Tell my darling I have scribbled  
over my sheet, & been thinking of Guy often, what  
shall I say to him? Has Uncle John got home?  
Kiss Guy for me & give my love to all.

Hoping you are in the best of health & spirits.  
I remain your faithful & loving husband &c

Check 100.<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub> dollars

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Oldman's Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.

Apr 8. 1857

My dearest wife,

Here it is ten minutes after five P.M.  
and I have not written you a word. I set apart this  
afternoon for writing, and, lo! the Sergeant brings  
me a set of papers to examine, and then I have to  
go with one of my men to the Paymaster to  
witness his payment, and before I am half aware  
of it the afternoon has slipped away, but I have  
an hour and that now a days is time enough  
to complete a courtship and marriage. Major  
Morris left here Monday for Manatee to inspect  
volunteers and I came, by his invitation, slept in  
his house to protect Mrs Morris. Right before  
last she did not give me clothes enough, but  
last night she asked me if I was comfortable,  
I told her yes, only I was a little lull towards  
morning. She was very sorry and and gave  
me an extra overcoat, so that I was quite  
as comfortable as I am here, though I rather  
prefer spending the night in my own house.

To night, she has invited me to tea. You can't  
think what a fine looking place I am getting here.  
I have got the fence, this office & the magazine white-  
washed. A little ways off everything looks as if it was

I have not received yet the acknowledgment of the last  
check for 100. dollars, & such



painted, it is so clean and white. My diagonal  
path. Saddled on each side & raised above the common  
level. I have found with large Oyster shells, & then covered  
with a layer of broken ones & afterwards covered  
with small & beautiful shells. From being  
the filthiest & worst looking place on the road  
it has grown to be the neatest & prettiest. I  
have one or two little trees planted and they  
are doing well. My quarterly papers are not  
off yet, but I have till the twentieth to get  
them ready & this is only the eighth. We  
will have them ready in season. The  
Sergeant says he never had to make  
out so many papers before, but he  
sticks to his work well. I drew my  
pay for March yesterday and have  
enclosed you a check for \$100. in this letter.  
You must follow the same rule as  
before, take what you want and send  
the balance to be invested for me or to be  
deposited in a Savings Bank. I think I have  
rather more than averaged my fifty dollars per  
month thus far. I am economical in my  
expenditures and can send you a pretty good sum.  
I mean to invest some money in some paper with  
lines that I can see for it is impossible to follow  
them on this sheet and this is the best I have.  
I am expecting a letter from you tonight, but

I was so very fortunate Saturday I ought not  
to feel very certain of getting a letter. A short  
time since an Indian camp of women & children  
was surprised in the Big Cypress, but all  
escaped & hid themselves like partridges, none  
were taken. It has been very warm today, but  
occasionally we get a good puff of wind to  
relieve the temperature. There is a Circuit Court  
now in session at the Court House in Tampa  
and we have the Judge & several lawyers at  
the Duke's. I hope to hear that you are all  
well in the letter about coming. I am thinking  
a good deal about you all at home. I have no  
doubt my name is mentioned often & I am  
somewhat missed. I know it is hardest for you,  
but you have some comforts that I do not. Oh!  
how I would like to be with you for the next three  
months, but perhaps I would lose you & you would  
try and then I would run out of doors as I have  
done, I mean if I had now been called to leave you.  
Now if I should come back everything will be  
different, we have both found how hard it is  
to be away from each other and could not help  
striving in all things great & small for each  
others good. God knows what is good for us  
and perhaps this separation is. Home comforts  
are highly valued. I told Mr Mack that you



previous letter that Uncle Ensign was sick. We  
heard today that he was better by Dr. Loring. whom  
we saw going past our house this afternoon.  
Mother will go to Turner on a visit when the wind-  
ing is good enough to ride there, and I have been  
thinking to myself that I would ask Laura to  
come and stay with me, while she was gone, and  
I would let her sew for me, then I would make  
her a little present afterwards. I laid down to-  
day after dinner, and had a short nap; this is the  
first day I have felt the necessity of doing so.  
I am quite well as a general thing, but do not  
as able to stand or walk about as I did before the  
birth of Guy. I was not ever strong then as you know.  
about Martha Jane says, I shall find every child I have  
that I shall feel less strong during the months.  
But you hope I may not have great experience for the  
sake of finding out if such is truly the case? I do  
nothing but sew, help take care of Guy, and help take care  
of the room. Mother gets up first always and kindles the  
fire (has everything ready over night) Guy and I get up at the  
same time and Mother dresses him while I am dressing, then  
we all go to breakfast. Guy sits at the corner from Mother  
& left hand, I on the side next to him, and my Mother

next to me. We have nothing to do about the washing and ironing. Sometimes  
my Mother crams  
when Prosa is  
getting dinner  
He is an excellent  
quilt and I do hope  
will be willing to  
stay here as long  
as I am here at  
East. I don't believe  
Mother could possibly  
find any better  
disposition, or more  
willing to do every-  
thing. This has been  
the case so far.  
and I have no  
doubt will con-  
tinue to do the  
same. Mr. Guy takes  
her very much.  
"called her" "Ottie"  
which pleases  
her. - <sup>224</sup> <sup>10.11</sup> <sup>10.11</sup>  
How many-  
chop wood, and  
he will straighten  
himself. he will be  
not to me. We have nothing to do about the washing and ironing. Sometimes  
my Mother crams  
when Prosa is  
getting dinner  
He is an excellent  
quilt and I do hope  
will be willing to  
stay here as long  
as I am here at  
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her very much.  
"called her" "Ottie"  
which pleases  
her. - <sup>224</sup> <sup>10.11</sup> <sup>10.11</sup>  
How many-  
chop wood, and  
he will straighten  
himself. he will be



is for our future good - will prove to be so in a  
number of ways. and I don't want you, my dearest  
to think I am not now contented here, or  
wish immediately to go to you. You know I do  
not think of it for a moment. Col. Gilmore  
came home from Hallowell this afternoon. Called  
at Mrs. Bathrop's to see Warren; he does not  
think you will have a summer campaign;  
of course it is only his opinion. he has not  
as yet received orders: possibly he may have a  
long furlough. I have not seen him. The traveling  
is very bad - mud feet deep. I would not <sup>be tempted to</sup> get into  
a carriage to ride just now merely for pleasure or  
to visit. Mrs. Strickland, the girls and brother Perkins  
went to Hallowell today in the Car. by the way of  
Yarmouth. She felt as if she must go. she had been  
here so much longer than she intended. It rained  
some when they started and has continued to rain  
steadily all day. The house seems very quiet to  
have so many leave at the same time. I have  
again resumed my sewing post in the retired  
north room, which I have been relieved from  
during their stay here. Time wears away my dear,

It is already near the middle of April. two months <sup>time</sup> <sup>now</sup> <sup>con-</sup>  
later the middle of June will come, and then <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>year</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> of July <sup>Summer</sup> will be all over before we are hardly  
aware of it. I don't begin to think of the time later  
than Summer. But hope there will be the "good time  
coming" I did not know what to do this evening  
as I did not feel like working I concluded to  
squat a little with my pen, and when I come to  
write my next letter on Sunday if I think it  
worth sending I shall enclose what I have  
been writing this evening. Now my fire has  
burnt low, mother and Guy both in bed, and  
I will leave my writing, trusting you are well  
and comfortable to night, and go to sleep  
Saturday evening. I will send this to you, dearest  
Ellis, for I think you like to read whatever I may  
write. I have accomplished a great deal of my  
sewing this week, and feel that I am getting it  
all done in good season. Thursday Morning I  
took some work and went down and sat with  
Mrs. Turner two hours. She seemed much pleased  
to have me do so. she sits up the greater part  
of the day. I think I mentioned to you in a



do not know what will be done. Ida Blackland  
is to be married on their way to Illinois. Mr Skiles  
will meet them in Buffalo. When they were here, their  
intention was to make no stay after my left Maine  
before going West, with the exception of one week  
in Boston. He is already interested in trade there  
in company with Mr Skiles and another gentleman.  
I sincerely hope they will prosper and that he is a good  
man as she says he is. I have now mine of  
"Banco Bank Stock" the interest is now due semi-  
~~annual~~ interest and will amount to \$36.00. I  
have it sent to me (General Edmunds wife send it to me)  
I shall keep it till I have more interest from my  
property and then add it together for another deposit.  
if you are willing I should not use it. But take  
for my present use from the money you send me  
Eug is having his second nap today: he got tired playing  
about and could not but awake. So I am finishing  
my letter in the afternoon about five o'clock. Mother  
G. and my mother have been to see Mrs Turner. She  
says she is much better. Brother and I Roland and Jennie  
were spending the day at her father's. Deane  
returns to his school this week Tuesday and Charles

I really look inviting to take a walk; but it is  
 too wet for me or Guy. Mother carried him out before  
 breakfast, and let him walk a few steps on the dry  
 stones towards the barn. He does enjoy going out  
 very much, and when it is warmer weather and the  
 ground dry, I intend to have him out a great deal.  
 I heard a robin singing this morning for the first time.  
 It begins to seem like Spring. Some of Mother's plants  
 are springing up and look glad to unfold themselves.  
 She has some cactus in a box that have blossomed  
 already. I remember those were the first flowers  
 from our garden at Augusta. Kate brought them  
 in to me after I had moved down stairs, and  
 was getting better of the fever. I frequently think of  
 something that took place when we were at Augusta  
 that I had not thought of since then - little incidents  
 that my present circumstances causes me to recall.  
 I love to dwell on those days for they were happy.



ones to go both. I wrote to Mrs. Mulliken in my first  
note that I was quite happy at the idea of seeing her.  
and in my second that I was provoked at with myself  
for telling her I was coming to see her, as I had now  
given up all thought of going. I was greatly disappointed  
for I wished to see her so much. but was not at  
all particular about her seeing me, because I knew  
she would laugh at me and tell me I had forgotten  
the resolution made at Augusta. but I would not  
laugh with her, for I didn't think it so funny. I told  
her this was the last time I would be able to go to  
Augusta before Fall and I urged her to visit me here  
some time this summer. I reckon she will have a good  
laugh and tell Charlie. I shall expect a letter from her  
soon. It does not rise me to write to you, dearest,  
for I write a little and rest when I don't feel well  
enough to write steadily, and I do not try to have  
my letters look neatly, that would be the most  
troublesome to write slowly and carefully. I wish to  
write as often as I have, and as much as I can  
every letter, and taking my own way about it I do  
pretty well: do I not? You spoke of seeing Col. Waite.  
As he is from New York I think we are from the same

family and I have heard Grandmother say the family  
of "Waite" in New York were relatives. I shall ask  
her when I see her to give me the genealogy of our family.  
I hope she will be able to visit here this summer. I  
wonder when we will have any tomatoes. Wouldn't it  
like some from your vines. I forget how early we  
can buy them. but presume as early as they can get  
here from the South. Col. Gilmore just passed my  
window to take some ~~some~~ same parsnips out the ground  
for winter: they are very nice just commenced to use  
them. He shows in his conversation and ~~talk~~  
of himself that he is growing old, and he says as  
himself that he can't do business as he could. I  
heard him talking with Mr. Chickland. Henry wanted  
to be trustee for his wife, and have Henry Wingate and  
Col. Gilmore his bondsmen; but the Judge told Mr. S.  
it seemed entirely against the spirit of the will  
to do so, and afterwards told Col. G. that he should  
not want him to petition for Mr. S. to be trustee.  
Mrs. S. wished every thing with regard to her property  
settled, before she left the State, but she left  
here in the morning and did not see Col. Gilmore  
she came in the afternoon, as she ought, so we





the same time. I will get my quarterly papers ready by next Wednesday. We have till the 20th inst. to prepare them, but I don't like to be behind hand in these things. My Sergeant is not a fast man, but he does his work neatly and is generally quite accurate. I have an invitation to room & dress at the house of Major Morris when his wife goes to the north as she will do in a short time. I think I shall sleep up here though for I don't hate half the mosquitoes here that I find down at the Major's quarters already. Mrs Morris is a woman, about your height. She does not look so old as your mother, but she has a daughter, with two or three grandchildren in New York. She is expecting another & of course is obliged to go to her daughter Estelle, whom she calls Pup. Major Morris has a bald head looks as old as father. His wife calls him Willie. She used to call him Birdie. Gen Twiggs heard of it. Says, "Pook! Birdie! Bold Eagle!" These are regimental stories. They talk about each other & fight in regiments as the same kind of human beings do elsewhere. Kiss little Guy for me, & say love "papa" to him. Give my love to all & take good care of Lizzie for me - It looks a little like rain I wish we could have a little to lay this sand down for the wind has kept the air full of it all day & it makes the eyes smart. The ground is very dry. Believe me your own loving husband *Chas*

Quarantine Depot  
Fort Brooke, Fla. 49  
April 12th 1857.

My dearest wife,

It is Sunday afternoon. Mr Mack came in with me to have an after dinner smoke & chat, and has just gone home to write to his wife. I invited him to write here, and he said he hadn't the proper references. I have just read over the two letters I received last Wednesday. Yesterday's mail came but brought me no letters. I received a Catalogue from Charlie and that was all. One of your dear kind letters enclosed a list of things for Mrs Lee & the other acknowledged the receipt of a draft I sent you. Before I got this letter on Wednesday evening I sent you another draft or check of \$100.00 I think we are doing pretty well to get seven hundred & sixty dollars ahead already don't you. I should like to test Guy's idea of 'papa' very much. I think he would know me now, but I don't think he will remember me, when I get away from Florida, unless some unexpected good fortune would turn up to help me out. Your room must be very cheerful as you describe it. I seem to have left my mark there. That look case is a fair sample of your husband's work, rough & homely



in the extreme, but useful I hope. There are more specimens of the same incompleteness on the wall in frames. I will have left my mark here also. I don't believe General Harney would recognize the place now. He will look up here and say, what new buildings are those surrounded by that handsome white fence? Whose garden is that, who made that long path & that well and uprised that old building in the corner? You sit in the rocking chair and rest and think! I have got one, too - a cane seat & high back, with arms, round uprights & oval top. This:  on the table at the left there is something of this kind  and what think it is? Why don't you suppose I keep a pipe for St. Mark & Colonel Murray! I would be inhospitable if I didn't. Mrs. Lee seems to have taken a good many things of you. I don't know that you ever told me how the auction succeeded, either how much you sold or how much you realized from it. I called at Major Morris' house yesterday evening, after the mail came in. The Major & his wife both asked if I had heard from you & that boy. I told them no. The major asked about him, Guy; supposed he must be smart. I told him his mother thought him something more than ordinary. Then I told what he said about the 'nats' with his hammer and blocks. Major asks how, old, I told him after reflection. "He must be smart" if he can talk

at that Dage says the Major. Thus you see little Guy's reputation has already extended to the southern limit, nobody knows how long before it may extend to the ~~Western~~ limit. I can leave Guy's little sister with Mama & take him along next time. When the good tidings come, darling, I want Howland to write them to me first. I hope with you with all my heart, you won't be sick long and I know you will have good care, for everybody about you is a good friend. Yes what you say about the officers in the Swamps & Everglades is true. The most of them have wives, who are watching the mails with all anxiety. I pity the wives more than I do the officers, for their hardships are physical & don't amount to much. I wouldn't mind them. All these things seem of much more importance and harder to bear from the paper accounts than they are in reality. I could make myself comparatively comfortable with a company or detachment of men almost anywhere. They generally have good food & clothing and have lost fewer in number by actual death in battle than this little town has lost by the measles. It is bad enough & no very desirable duty - but the hardship, privation & danger are highly exaggerated, even in the rumors & accounts that I rehearse. The Indians are now a good deal disturbed - a scout is now in full operation, by all the troops in Florida &



Mother's, his brother Francis walked up from Green  
and was here to dinner also. They have both gone  
along a foot. Last night it snowed and the  
ground was white all the morning, but the sun  
this afternoon has made it disappear fast since  
then. Guy has behaved charmingly all day. He is  
a dear little boy. Writes to papa nearly every time  
Mama does, with his pencil and paper in the floor.  
I will mail this if it is not a full letter all card  
and to you.

And believe me very affectionately from  
Your little wife  
Lizzie Howare.

Rev. J. H. Brooks  
Rev.  
Clergy Apr 15  
1857  
Mrs. J. H. Howare

Seeds. etc. April, 15, 1857.

My dearest husband,

It is Wednesday evening now, and I  
will begin a letter to you hoping to finish it tomorrow.  
We did not send to the P.O. this afternoon and I am  
very glad for I would have had no letter ready to  
mail. I did not feel quite well enough last  
evening to write, and all day I have been busy mak-  
ing Guy's first drawers. He will be Mother's little man  
as soon as he begins to wear them.

I sent a letter to the P.O. Monday afternoon by  
Dellie. He went on horse back up to Uncle Ensign's  
he was in the woods quite well, and Samsa was  
on the "big hill" taking a walk. Do you not re-  
member the first time I went up there - when I ate  
so many strawberries! I had some box-bug plums  
the other day, and want some spruce gum.

Yesterday it rained all day very hard, but Col. G.  
went to Lewiston on business, and Charlie came home  
in the same afternoon train with him; the night  
before he stayed with Bowland at Bath. He is



looking very well but rather thin. I gave him to-  
day your black figured vest, and brown coat;  
they were just a fit and he was in need of them.  
he has just made me a call in my room and made  
me a present of "Longfellow's poems" in two volumes.  
a very pretty present and I shall enjoy reading them  
very much this summer. I have never read only  
"Evangelists" and "Hiawatha". I have been to see Mr. Sumner  
this afternoon and Cynthia. Charlie went with me.  
I carried her a few figs. (Col Gilmore brought me a  
box from Uncle Hicks yesterday.) and opened my can of  
pine-apple Monday and sent her some by Florence.  
She looked much better to-day, and was doing a  
little. I don't go down the hill so often as I would, for  
it tires me too much to come back again. I take  
good care of myself, dearest Otis, and presume I shall  
be very well and healthy when you return to us,  
but don't tell me Guy will be wearing jacket and  
trousers when you return. I can't let you stay away  
so very long as that it would be. I should take my  
"six children" and go to Florida. Why does Mrs. Maria  
come North? Does she not dare to stay there during the  
hot weather? I know you will miss Lieut. Day very

much if he leaves Tampa. I feel interested in all  
your friends there and like to hear of them, and  
the changes that take place. I will leave my  
visiting now for Mother S. has come in and Col B. too.  
Guy is asleep, and I must tell you how he went to sleep.  
I laid down after tea, and Mother put him on the bed  
with me; he soon got down and told her he wanted  
his milk. She went out with him he drank it  
and soon wanted to lie down with me again, he  
talked with me about everything he could think  
of and fell asleep when I was talking to him;  
then Mother undressed him and he went to bed and  
did not wake. He is sleeping as sweetly as can be.

Thursday afternoon. I have not time to write much  
more to my letter for Charlie is nearly ready to  
go to the P.O. I was going to write while Little Guy  
was asleep, but Warren Lathrop came in just then  
and as I had not seen him, I wished to spend  
some time with him. We talked about the Army  
and about going to Florida &c. he has not got  
a signed order; then came dinner and I have  
no more time to write to my dearest Otis. He  
is going to ride with Charlie to the P.O. from his



Mrs Muller

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Augusta April 15<sup>th</sup> 1867.

My dear Mrs Howard

I am very much disappointed in not seeing you, for I had fully made up my mind to and had promised Mr Goggs, that we would pass the day with her and they over to take tea with me. I have not seen her since. I missed you also, I presume she will be very sorry for she can sympathize with you.

I do not imagine she is more than two or three months, yet every one knows it, for she speaks of it freely. She is so sick that she hardly dares go out. I pity her very much.

People get caught sometimes, in spite of resolutions. They are not to be trusted, perhaps you are no more off than I was for Henry was only 22 months when Jennie



was born. But I don't care for that  
now, I am in hopes I have learned a lesson  
and shall profit by it.

How hard it is for you to be  
separated from your husband now. I am  
glad you are looking forward to meeting  
him in the fall, and instead of going to Tampa  
I hope you will come to Sugarston. I think  
Capt. Gorgas will be very glad to go South  
although they seem to like here. yet it is  
not their home.

I thank you very much  
for your kind invitation to visit you. I  
shall be most happy to do so, and if  
Charley goes to Leeds this summer you will  
certainly see me. The children are well.  
Fannie has eight teeth. talks a little but  
does not go alone. he is a delicate child  
and I have not urged him to walk.

I could make a great deal more of the  
children would keep still. My girl has  
gone to church, consequently I have the whole

care of them. Charley hears occasion-  
ally from your husband. Hoping I may  
hear from you again, and with much love to  
your mother and yourself.

I am yours truly.

J. B. Hallikens



Children with children. General Harney is expected here every day. I think after the present scout is over we can form some idea of what will be done. The General is an impatient & changeable man. If the Indians are taken the war will end. If a few are taken it will serve to spur him on to a summer campaign. If none are taken, he will be discouraged and probably give our operations for the present. These are my prognostications. If the General himself leaves the country I could get a months leave with the privilege of getting it extended. Officers who get away in this manner seldom are allowed to return South till late in the fall. The penny  
vows? There so many ifs & ands that I will not make any decision. I should like to be ordered elsewhere. Then, as soon as possible I should leave you with me. Give my love to all. I hope you are all in the best of health & spirits. Are you as well as when we left Hatteras for Augusta one year ago last November? I see the Sun is getting low. I have just been to see a kitchen that Wallace is building out of doors. Kitchens here are very often disconnected with the dwelling, particularly where a person has Negro servants. May Heaven watch over & protect my darling little wife. Just as I was writing the last word Mr. Newton one of the Jr. Martins;

Clocks brought me late letters from you - All well. When I read the news  
that Warren had got a Commission in the 4<sup>th</sup> Artillery I was indeed glad &  
exclaimed good! good! I am truly glad of it.

The day for writing your has  
come and I wish I had more recent letters to  
answer, but, it being Wednesday, I cannot get  
any till night and must write this today.  
We are having rather monotonous times here now.  
We had a right smart shower Sunday night  
which gave our gardens a little water that they  
needed very much. Monday I made a vain attempt  
to dig my well in the brick-sand, spent the  
evening at Major Leonard's and last evening I went  
with one of the quartermaster's clerks to Mrs Kennedy's.  
Mrs K. has a baby nine months, that is fat & handsome  
with seven teeth. never cries and is so sweet. Well  
Mrs Kennedy is a nice lady & has reason to be proud  
of this boy. Mr K. says the name was fixed: Amelia  
something, when lo! they had to change it to Henry.  
I have not been to see Mrs Page's baby yet, but I  
kissed Mrs Kennedy's. Won't that do as well? The boy  
was asleep & I came near waking him. I expect it  
was because his father don't wear beard.

This morning I have been examining Sergeant  
Hynes's Return & vouchers. I found a good many  
mistakes yesterday & some today. I am afraid  
the 20<sup>th</sup> will be upon us before we get the papers  
off. I have told Major Morris that I will mess with



him after Mrs Morris leaves for the North but I  
had rather live here, that is I will go to his  
house to meals & keep my bed &c where it is.

He said that would be all right if I would  
sleep in his house while he is away. Mr Mack  
has a very poor room, where I lived before I  
came here, and I am in hopes Major Morris  
will offer him his spare room. Mack is a  
very fine man, very even-tempered, always pleasing  
but rather incommunicative before strangers, I  
think sometimes he wishes he had a little boy at home.

While I wish I had mine & mine here. I could then  
drag over Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Sage or Mrs McKimstry.  
You say if I am lonely I must visit more. I think  
I visit altogether too much. I don't read much &  
I fear this sojourn is getting me far behind the  
world in common matters. Just think of my

surprise & well! well! over news that you had forgotten  
ten days before. We are expecting Capt. Van Olst<sup>er</sup>,  
<sup>to Major McKimstry</sup> Successor, by the Fashion (Steamer) on her return from  
New Orleans. She is due already. Major McKimstry will  
start for the North very soon after he is relieved & Mrs  
Major Morris will accompany them. I went in yesterday  
with Lt Hazzard for a lunch. Mrs Hazzard  
turned out a pound cake, her first attempt. It  
was first rate & didn't taste like the cotton wool  
they keep at Confectionery's. It was a good substantial  
cake like yours at Waturlich. I left off writing to go

to my dinner. After I came back I went into a  
store and bought me a pair of every day  
pants. price four dollars. The other day I  
was obliged to buy a pair of shoes. The dry  
weather & sand are death on leather. It  
cracks & breaks and one soon gets gaiting  
between the toes. I am afraid you are too  
economical with yourself to deposit so much  
money. I approve of the savings bank at Lewiston  
as a place of deposit. I didn't know there was one  
there before you wrote. In one of my letters I asked you  
to deposit what you did not use in some Savings  
Bank. Do they pay interest Annually or Semi Annually  
in Lewiston? I remain perfectly well. The climate  
on the whole is delightful. It won't do to get up too  
early in the morning (this would suit you) for  
the dews are heavy & there is a vapor in the atmos-  
phere. I got up one morning early & went & took  
a bath in the salt water, but I didn't feel so well  
for it during the day. I have run up early many  
times besides and have bathed often but not in  
the salt water. Mr Kennedy who is lame, has but one  
leg. says he should think I might come to see him  
often. He cannot go out evenings with his crutches &  
says he is often lonesome. Deformed & lame as he is  
he seems to be very happy with his family.  
Two little boys & a little girl of eight or nine years.  
He calls his wife Ada and they both seem like



Lieut O. O. Howard  
Sarnia, Ont.

from home so much in vacation. — I have  
no claim <sup>now</sup> ~~this term~~ and I am in hopes that  
I can go through this whole term without one, but  
I don't think I can as the commons are pretty  
near full now and if there are many more I  
shall have to take one and I don't know but  
I shall as it is. I shall not sell any paper  
this term, but am going to study all the harder for  
it I shall stand pretty well up in my class this  
term I guess as most of the best scholars have  
not come back. Mr. Merrill the young man I  
roomed with last Autumn term has come back  
here. Charles boarded at their house last winter  
while he taught school in ~~Alamouth~~ — A young  
man by the name of Bert roomed with him,  
he went to school to Charles last winter. Ned  
said he liked Charles very much as a teacher  
much better than any other he ever went to.  
I wish I could have as good a churn of good  
as Merrill was. — Write me all about your business  
there and all about the Indians, I'd like to know  
I have not yet learned all about it as I did not  
have chance to do much in such things while I  
was at home — Gay has been exposed.

to catch the Mumps but I guess he won't have them hard  
as little children hardly and do mother says. Mrs. Turner is  
quite sick but  
she's much  
better than the  
other when I went  
home. I am little  
home rich tonight  
for the first time  
in long but I  
am in hopes that  
it will not last  
long. My room  
is empty and I  
have not any  
more now  
as I am going  
with out  
I can get up  
a little as it  
is fast day today  
I can't get into  
any of the stores  
and I must go  
with out. I think  
this evening. You may think this is a



the right man to write good letters. I have not yet looked at  
one of my lessons. I am going to study this term hard  
home. Guy is smart and active. He is the principal  
man in the house. George Longley who works for  
us made him a cart a few days ago. And he has  
any quantity of playthings to play with all the  
time. He will suck his thumb when he is hungry.  
Warren Lathrop feels finely since he received  
his commission. Mary Lane, the that was Mary  
Jane Lathrop has got a fine baby mother says, also  
Warren Mitchell's wife who lives with his father.  
Thomas Bridgman has sold his farm to Rollin  
Jennings who is engaged to Harriet Frost.  
Uncle Henry Strickland <sup>was</sup> ~~has been~~ at our  
house some time with his family. but they have  
gone to Newellville from whence they expect to  
go to Summerville & Burton and then to  
Richmond Ill. where he talks of going into  
farming business quite extensively. Father's  
prospects in the Rail Road look a great deal  
more promising than they did some time ago.  
Uncle Henry got \$327.00 dollars for him as  
interest money and I got \$37.00 for him yesterday  
in Portland for interest on the bonds which looks  
pretty well. He is going to pay the debt he

so that I can spend among the best in the class.  
I am going to write you letters often this term if you will  
~~from~~ our Benjamin Richmond as  
soon as possible. They have graded  
the Rail Road all the way to Farmington  
Ct. a distance of 20 miles and have  
bought the iron to lay the track with  
and it is nearly all paid for. They are  
going to commence laying the tracks  
by the first of May and expect to lay 14  
miles per week so that they will have it done  
in a short time. They expect to have the cars  
going to Farmington Hill by the first of  
August and then it will pay well as  
they will not have to buy any more  
running materials. — — — — — Portland is  
now down to Bath. Ella has been sick some  
time though not very sick, but so unwell that  
Portland is quite worried about her which is  
a necessary consequence. — — Charles is going  
to study some this vacation, he says, though  
I guess he will find it rather hard work,  
as I believe you did. I was away from  
home one week and three days last vacation  
selling Stationery. I made about \$2.00 per  
day while I was out I don't like to be away

200 miles off but I am not in  
any letter to write to a brother

Annexed to the letter from your mother as the father



urged him to walk. if Charlie goes to Leeds this summer you will certainly see me". I hope to see her here. Guy had six teeth when we came here and is now cutting the seventh; it is longer getting through the gum than <sup>any</sup> of the others, but he does not seem to notice it, or play the less. I hope we shall this time escape the snumps. I see no sign of them. Charlie says there were but few at church today. Since he did not see John and Helen are at Amherst College. Three bridges over Dead River were destroyed by the ice week before last; the Cent-Load bridge only <sup>17</sup><sup>18</sup><sup>19</sup> four inches. I am trying to think how I shall tell you about the Cent-Load running through ice. I do not know the whole story, but will tell you what I hear Col Gilmore say; the Directors have made arrangements to have the coupons paid. (what that is is more than I know) and he has received two hundred and fifty dollars about that, at two different times within three weeks. This is all I heard, and I did not like to ask more, fearing they might think I was too much interested. This will go to the P.O. in the morning so I must finish and close it to night and help Mother get ready in the morning. I will send papers

Good Son of Mother  
the - started before  
17 18 19  
and Col Gilmore

by the same mail, containing news of Mother. Please tell me about it and also  
Ben-Harris's order  
to Harv. Will  
you be likely to  
leave Harv. any  
the sooner by the  
change? any  
proof of your  
being ordered to  
Harvard? Guy is  
awfully sleeping, and  
I guess all have  
gone to bed long  
ago. I can hear Col G.  
knowing Mother  
has left with  
Rosa in the  
little red wagon  
this week. Guy  
and I do not leave  
room for 13 in  
our bed. But  
Bless God. Any  
the day at Harv.  
and in good time say  
you return to your  
little wife. Siggie H.

have gone to church from here today. This is the last Sabbath that Mrs. Snyder is engaged here. But the traveling is not good yet. the heavy rain we have had lately, have left the roads in a very dangerous condition; they will not be good till they have been mended, and I don't think I would feel safe to ride before they are. The past week has seemed very short to me. I generally have work to employ my attention and do not have to think of the time only. I do not work too much, but I have so few interruptions here, that I can accomplish a great deal in a short time. I continue very well, and am as happy as I can be separated from you. Sometimes I want to tell my aches and little troubles to somebody, but have to keep them all to myself and when I get to wishing too earnestly for what cannot be granted, I go to playing with little Guy and forget everything else



while giving him so much pleasure. Grandpa gave him  
four round blocks. he saved off the legs of the wash-  
bench and Guy thinks they are as pretty as can be.  
he will stand them up and put a stand on each,  
then ask "Nanny" to look at them. he was not  
long in getting acquainted with Uncle Charlie. Proulx  
has been gone over a week. went to Bath then to  
Hallowell. she is probably looking for a good place  
to read Lam. etc. I know he will not stay at  
Leviston and I would not advise him to.

Easing. I wrote this about eleven o'clock this  
morning and have let it remain all day without  
waiting more till now. I have not felt like  
writing this afternoon. I was quite lazy and restless.  
now I feel very well and will like to finish  
this. perhaps you are now thinking of and writing  
to me. I received my two welcome letters from  
you this week, and happy am I always to get  
them. I generally let Guy see them a little while  
before I open them, and at the same time tell him  
it is papa's letter, then "let Mamma read papa's  
letter" I open it and take the letter and give him  
the envelope, I didn't know Casson was in

Florida till I received your last letter. I presume you  
have no hope of seeing him. I won't care if you don't.  
When you wish to see anybody you must come see  
me. I fancy we would be the most pleased to see you  
of any one. My Mother expects to go to Portland to-  
morrow, will be gone maybe all the week. intends  
to have some Rail Road shares transferred to me.  
she proposed it herself, and I shall be glad to have  
it done so. her health has been remarkably good  
since Miss May's sickness just before we left Waterville.  
I should like to hear from Mrs Lee - do know if her  
back hurts as it did before I came away. I received  
a very pleasant letter from Mrs Mulliken last week.  
she says she is very much disappointed in not seeing  
me for she had made it in mind to, and had promis-  
ed Mrs Briggs that we would pass one day with her,  
and they were to take tea at Mrs Ellis. Mrs B. is in  
family way - only two or three months, yet she speaks  
of it freely - is quite sick nearly all the time. I was  
thinking Henry was older when Jennie was born. But  
he was only 22 months. she says the children are  
well. Jennie has eight teeth, talks a little, but does  
not go alone. he is a delicate child and I have not



retreat in your sketch of Fort Brooke. I have made another of the yard and enclosed to you. You have probably received this before now. It is the building in the North East corner of the yard.

You may have made a visit to Augusta before this or have got a reply from Mrs Williams. You say in the end all will be well. I think so too my Darling, but I am sorry to be away from you during this trial. You still give excellent accounts of Guy. He calls all gentlemen "Uncles" and says "papa" quite plainly. Mrs Page discoursed upon the proper conduct towards children before him. Little Frank's eyes & ears were wide open. It made me think of you and Guy. I hope and trust you have all quit talking about Guy before him. I know it is a hard thing to do, especially for mother, but as she says, make ready for a rainy day. We want him to be an excellent boy, but he need not know that we think him the best boy in the world. I am glad to hear you go to see Mrs Turner & carry her things. She is one of my old friends, and she will appreciate such little kindnesses. I shall be glad to see Warren. Glad he has got a commission. I should like to present him in full uniform to "Old Hum" Jones. I have knocked some ink over this sheet, but I have no time to copy. Give my love to all the family. You may see me before many months. May God bless my little family & all the inhabitants of my old home. We are soon to have a shower. I hear it thunder. My corn, potatoes & tomatoes are flourishing, but a

little rain won't hurt them. Warren must hurry if he wishes to get the new administration and going to get the precious and by negotiation, while money goes to Jones to keep in check the Black Republican so say the Whigs. My dear wife, I am for Mr. Sumner. Mrs. Sumner goes with them. My affectionate regards to all & especially to little Frank. I am, my Darling, your husband's devoted friend, J. D. Depue  
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I have again returned and I have stated myself at my desk in my little sanctum to have a chat with you. It may not be possible to write "interesting" letters twice each week, but writing often is no detriment to a correspondence. It is in fact its chief beauty, between near and dear friends such as husband & wife, father & son, brother & brother. You get familiar with the position & employment of the writer from day to day. You get at his innermost thoughts & feelings if he has any. You find out all that interests him. There is less studied manner about his writing than when he shows his happiest and brightest moods, when he deceives you by assuming that all is sunshine & thus shuts out your heart from the proper sympathy which is the well spring of attraction & interest in this interchange of letters. We love everything that is new & entertaining because it is new, but this is not all. A letter from my darling wife that contains only news is not satisfactory, but let the words run as they may, if the warm heart appears to dictate, the reciprocal love & sympathy awakened gives more than an ordinary zest & interest to the recipient. It may not be easy to portray the whole cause & effect of these loved messengers philosophically, but heart answers to heart, and a feeling of quick happiness succeeds the receipt of each letter. When there is no startling news to distract



our equanimity. I fancy you skimming over this  
lengthy disquisition in search of what is new &  
unusual. But you look for even bad news with  
the same instinctive quickness, as I have seen you  
seek for a bug in the bedstead, but it don't follow  
that you are not pleased with a disappointment in  
the one case as in the other. You are glad when you  
are through & find that there is no bad item of  
intelligence. As I meant to say good news is always  
welcome. So may be what I will now tell you may  
be. General Harney is ordered to Fort Leavenworth, and  
the papers predict a cessation of active operations against  
the Indians in this quarter. As soon as such operations  
are completely over your humble servant expects the  
necessity of his services in the Department of Florida  
will cease, and the probability is in favor of his being  
ordered elsewhere: but who answers, Where! But don't  
expect me till after l'événement, for if my hypothesis  
prove true & my position tenable or untenable, there is  
much to be done here first. Volunteers to be mustered  
out, arms &c. to be taken care of, returns to be made  
out for turning over &c. &c. I shall then become a candidate  
for Leavenworth, California, Salt Lake, St. Louis, Washington  
Ottiburg &c. Then my going to Leavenworth will depend on  
the wording of the order that relieves me. I fortify myself  
thus by considering all the contingencies against any  
possible disappointment. Let us be prepared for  
anything, enjoy good fortune with moderation & bear the

ill with a good grace. I did want a change at Matamoras  
though not just then, nor just that. I weary with monotony  
and dislike ineffectual & the retrograde and so do you. We  
have had change and experience even in this short  
time, and if we live we will have more of it, but we  
are every day getting better prepared for it. Captain  
Van Fleet came here from New York by the way of  
New Orleans. He brought his wife & a little boy between  
three & four years old. Mrs Van Fleet is quite  
handsome and so is her boy, but he has the  
whooping cough quite badly. Elle est enciente aussi -  
quelle saine anni (Wist ce pas) pour notre Génération!  
Mrs. Hazard too looks forward hopefully. I went in  
the other day to see Mrs. Pagers girl baby & gave it a  
kiss for myself & one for you. Mrs. Page said send  
a kiss to Mrs. Howard, Kate. Now Kate being a baby  
and fortified by your commission I blushing kissed  
the young girl. I still can't think girl babies are  
any better, handsomer or sweeter than their  
counterparts; But you perceive I prejudge as I never  
have had any of that sort of my own, and in  
my early days was not even blessed with a  
sister. You know I like to regard my little wife as the  
only girl, & the all & in all, of the family. I didn't get any  
letters last night and I had no right to expect one  
from you as I got one in nine days by the last mail.  
They (the two last) were dated April 3<sup>d</sup> & Apr. 6 respectively.  
In that of the 8<sup>th</sup> you said you could not locate my



have both ready for you. Rowland has been in here to  
 inquire after you, and we have been talking over the  
 affairs of Government - Gen. Wadsworth's order to Kansas -  
 the probability of their not deeming it necessary to keep  
 an Advance Officer in Florida if the troops should  
 be withdrawn and there is to no active service there  
 during the Summer. I give myself no uneasiness  
 only would like to know when I am to go with  
 my own husband, and where. I fancy if I was in  
 Mrs. Morris' place I should not go North.  
 I am quite well to night. Dearest, I am writing  
 this very rapidly as it is not late, but I will be gone  
 hours and go to sleep with little Guy. Tomorrow  
 I can send this to the P.O. this morning by Rowland,  
 who goes to attend the funeral of Mr. that was, Martha  
 Jane Rowland. Cynthia has come in and I will go to  
 speak with her before I finish. She wished to leave home  
 here while she went to the funeral, but I told her I thought  
 Guy and I both had got the snuffs. We will be all  
 well by the time this reaches you. Mother will be back  
 tomorrow afternoon. Hoping this will find you  
 perfectly well and happy. I remain your affectionate  
 Wife, Lizzy Howard.

Frederick, Md. April 21. 1857.

My dearest Husband,  
 Col. Gilmore was not intending  
 to send to the Post Office this afternoon as he was there  
 this morning on business (railroad business) but  
 when Rowland came down to tea he said he  
 wanted to see the "Advertiser" and I told him I  
 rather thought I had one letter there, consequently  
 he put on his hat and overcoat went out to the  
 barn got the horses and started; then after six  
 o'clock. At half past seven Guy wanted his milk  
 and I got it ready - undressed him - he drank it  
 and I put him into bed, he was ready to go to sleep.  
 I then gathered up his play things - looked out the  
 window and saw Rowland returning. I knew he  
 would not come directly into the house, so I folded  
 away my work (which I shall not tell you was a  
 tiny piece - so pretty) put another stick of wood on the  
 fire. (I had lighted my light.) then went out, asked  
 if I had a letter. Rowland said, Yes, one. I said  
 that was enough, as soon as I saw it was from



Tampa, and in your hand-writing. I hastened back to read it, as I did not like to leave Guy alone although he was asleep. It is a kind, very affectionate, welcome letter. The check enclosed I shall deposit with the other at Lewiston reserving none this time for my own use, as I shall not need more than I had on hand for the next two months. I took my letter out to read to the rest of the family, but Rowland and Charlie were both in their chamber. Col. G. was much engaged at his safe, and Mother G. engaged reading a letter from Dollie, who returned to his school one week since. I mentioned the check, the improvement you had made in your grounds, Indian women and children hiding themselves, and said I must go to writing, for it was then quarter past eight. Now I am in the north room. Guy sleeping in the bed, and not a large fire in the hearth because it is not very cold. Mother went to Portland yesterday (Monday) morning - may be home by Thursday. I am eating box-wood plums while writing, Flora brought me nearly a quart this morning, gathered them in "our pasture" she said. I do love them as well

as I once loved Ellen M. Parry's apple pies. Rowland came home yesterday by way of Wintthrop from Augusta. Saw 'Charlie', as Mrs. Mulliken says, on the street. I have not heard him say much about his visit. he is not quite well. I presume wants rest. He was at Topsham with Ella Thursday. She is now quite well. Her little brother sent Guy ~~and~~ so many 'pea-nuts'. what Mrs. Lee calls ground-nuts. came to Hallowell Saturday, and thinks of reaping this summer in S. Winchfield, Africa. Who, by the way, has just purchased himself a saddle-horse but does not now dare to ride him. I told them about his riding "Halleck." Do you not remember one day you were at Hallowell or have back? Charlie asked Llama to come down here this week, but she could not, because Uncle Ensign was to be from home. She is making Charlie a pair of shirts, and is to make some for Rowland. The morning you left home I found a pair of stockings, and two shirts that I intended you should have taken. Have you enough, and are they good yet? Both shirts and stockings? Mother G. has given me a nice lot of yarn, and when I think you may come home, I will



saw mill. Several dwelling houses & much land  
and three sons & a pretty daughter. When  
I went in last night there was a young gentleman  
there who evidently came on a preliminary court-  
visit. He brightened up considerably when I  
entered and said he was glad I came in  
for he never could talk with ladies. But  
I could not see why he should have any  
difficulty in talking with one alone. Soon  
Mrs McKay came in (a lady of English extraction)  
& afterwards her son George. The evening was  
passed very sociably & I retired to my quarters  
in quite a cheerful trim, to wait for Wednesday  
(mail day) give papa's love to Guy & tell him  
papa talks of coming to see him soon. I didn't  
think of it, but Warren might have brought him  
along. My bed is big enough. He could play  
in the dirt all day with the shells. I would give  
him a cat & a dog - I reckon I should have  
to bring him his dinner. How would stay  
with him while I was gone! Oh! I would build  
a tent, have a boy to look for Guy & me & look  
after him while I was busy. But I suspect Warren  
has come off without him. My love to all.  
I hope you are all in the best of health  
& spirits.

Very affectionately  
Your husband  
Otis

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Ordnance Depot

Fort Brooke Fla.

Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> 1857.

My dearest wife,

The prospect brightens. Major  
McKinstry's order is countermanded and in the place  
the word Department is erased & the word Peninsula  
inserted, which indicates the breaking up of the  
Department of Florida. White flags are beginning  
to be sent out to solicit a consultation. General  
Harney will be here in a few days on his way  
to Kansas. Colonel Loomis the next in command  
had gone on a leave of absence & had reached  
Key West. The Steamer Fashion has gone after him  
to bring him back to take the command. Mrs Van  
Vleet feels badly to take another journey with her  
boy sick with the whooping cough, to Seavernworth.  
Mrs McKinstry feels sadly disappointed, not to  
be able to go north to join her two boys.  
Now you may ask how I digger good out of  
these things. If the Department of Florida is  
broken up & merged in the Department of the East.  
The Head Quarters will be Troy New York. Active  
operations will cease, and the necessity for an  
Ordnance Officer here will be obviated, but  
we will wait for the result of all these changes



I have now so much property here, and the volunteers have so much in their hands that I don't think I can settle up & get away very soon, but I do anticipate that I will not be here many months longer at the ~~latest~~ utmost. General Scott is now in command in reality & will have everything in his own way. General Jefferson Davis was the actual commander in chief until the fourth of March. I don't think either the new administration or General Scott care much for the prosecution of this war. They believe Floridians make more ado than there is any need of. But we cannot count upon any policy till it begins to develop itself. The new administration may desire to concentrate as many troops as possible in the vicinity of Kansas. Major Morris is ordered to repair a road between here and Fort Capron, and he is to leave Captain Clark with his company of Artillery to assist him. The Steamer Gray Cloud, which arrived from Fort Myers this morning will proceed to Manatee for this company, and all the officers propose to go down on an excursion. I shall go at any rate unless something happens to prevent. We leave at eight o'clock tomorrow morning. I think Mrs Morris will start for the North in company with Captain Van Nibb & perhaps Mrs McKinstry will go too. I should not wonder if Warren made his appearance tonight & I am

strongly expecting letters from you as I don't get any by Saturday's mail. At any rate you will write when I may expect to see Warren with my presents. which will be most acceptable, if it is no more than a piece of cake. I suspect you have begun farming at Leeds, putting up fences & ploughing. Guy must drive the team. You know he can ride the horse to furrow when you get ready to plant corn & potatoes.

I have been moving my blacksmith Shop & kitchen (one building) from the place where I put it up. Col. Menard said he wished I would, for he didn't think it in a good place. Now I am estimating for an extension of the Magazine, for they present one will not hold all the ammunition I have on hand. I had to fit up a strong box of large size and make it as tight as possible & put the over-plus of a large quantity just received from New Orleans therein. But it will be in a "pretty box" when the rainy season comes on. I am afraid I am making myself too useful in this direction to get away easily, but never mind there are worse places to live in than Tampa.

Have you got all that work done that you cut only a month & more ago? Do you sew much in the North room while you are thinking?

Last night I called into Mr McVay's in town. Mr McVay is one of the men of Tampa, he has a store here & another at Fort Myers, owns a Steamer,



to Christ only - His virtues, his life, his sufferings  
 & endurance - His doctimes & death - all are  
 perfect - Read what he says - May before, & after &  
 while you read, for help from above to understand  
 & apply the truth - Hear him say "Come & learn of  
 me" - O his yoke is easy & his burden is light - It  
 is sin & temptation that is heavy even to the redeemed  
 soul - If you hold on to one single reason why  
 you should not be a Christian - you must be -  
 May God forgive me that I was <sup>hindrance</sup> in your  
 way while we were at Hox - I knew it all the time  
 but Satan <sup>& my own proud wicked heart</sup> kept me so - I shall not write in  
 this letter on any general subject - for as you  
 perceive it has one purpose - to let you know  
 I hope God has accepted me <sup>as I am</sup> & I  
 am to beseech you fervently to do far better  
 than I in my weakness have done - O the  
 world seems joyous & eternal & beautiful to me  
 the only bad thing is sin - I will write you  
 again soon & tell you "the news" - I cannot speak  
 of these things so often as I ought, nor as I mean  
 to - but I have talked & prayed with Charles & Ellen  
 & Ella & I told Mrs Turner this morning how I  
 felt - the tears of joy came in her eyes - O the  
 brotherhood & sisterhood of Christians - to Mr.  
 Wain & Lizzie I have said nothing - I believe  
 that the Spirit has spoken with Lizzie - & O how  
 I hope she will come to her Savior - But her delay

My dear Mother  
 In a number of days the desire  
 to write you has been very strong within  
 me - & to write you but it has not seemed  
 convenient - till now - this letter will much  
 if it be about myself - I feel in my heart,  
 my dear Mother, that I love my Savior - He  
 would not give me up tho' I was sunk in such  
 a depth of sin & pollution - but continued call-  
 ing after me - I will not use words of general  
 meaning that may be interpreted various ways  
 but I will tell you a few simple things - I am  
 happier than ever before in my life - I love to  
 read the Bible - I love to pray - I feel kindly  
 & more charitably towards all men - Christians  
 seem like brothers - the words of Christ, Paul  
 James & Peter all apply to me - When I ask  
 myself on going to bed - If you should die  
 where would you be found? I can find no  
 fear in my heart - Jesus is in my thoughts  
 most of the time - My heart is full of involuntary  
 prayer - God may do with me at my best  
 glorify Him - Sweet peace thy promises afford  
 My heart overflows with gratitude to Christ - Verily,

at the same time I have been thinking of Charles & I have  
 been at work in the garden - We are to work till 4 o'clock - Mother has given a list of  
 flowering  
 plants -  
 but as  
 usual  
 in the  
 country  
 the best  
 feel rather  
 impinged  
 upon  
 going to bed at  
 home - I would  
 leave a total  
 pretty good  
 garden - I have  
 a letter from  
 Mrs. last  
 night - the day  
 of nothing  
 about coming  
 home - but  
 he has not  
 heard the news  
 which we saw  
 in the paper  
 of her being  
 removed -  
 still hope we  
 shall see him  
 this summer -  
 fear not till

I got up at five this morning & Charles & I have  
 been at work in the garden - We are to work till 4 o'clock - Mother has given a list of  
 flowering  
 plants -  
 but as  
 usual  
 in the  
 country  
 the best  
 feel rather  
 impinged  
 upon  
 going to bed at  
 home - I would  
 leave a total  
 pretty good  
 garden - I have  
 a letter from  
 Mrs. last  
 night - the day  
 of nothing  
 about coming  
 home - but  
 he has not  
 heard the news  
 which we saw  
 in the paper  
 of her being  
 removed -  
 still hope we  
 shall see him  
 this summer -  
 fear not till



He is the way the truth & the light - O my cup  
runneth over - If I could see you I know I  
could tell you how simple & sweet all this is  
just how to find that "peace in believing  
joy in the Holy Ghost" - Stop right there off  
where you are - Don't try to feel or say or do another  
good thing - Bring all your rich treasures to the  
feet of the Savior - Lay to them - Here, I give it  
up - Love me, or I am lost - Don't wait for feeling -  
Don't wait for conviction of sin - Don't wait for  
a single emotion or thought that you have  
thought necessary - Nothing is necessary, but  
simple trust. O God, I know thou canst. O  
Father, thou hast promised - thy power is infinite  
& thy mercy too - Jesus is ready and willing -  
Remember the thief on the cross - the woman  
bitten in the adulteress - Christ is not less com-  
passionate than while he lived on the Earth -  
If you want Religion, O God, you can have it -  
If you don't - God have mercy upon you - I  
can only pray - You have no skepticism - Your  
Education furnishes your mind with an answer  
to every honest doubt - O I do hope & pray  
that ere this - Christ has accepted you -  
O you, like me, have so often "been almost  
persuaded to be a Christian" - Forgive me

if I seem too zealous But how I do long to see you  
truly "happy" - It isn't like any other happiness - It is rather  
a constant peace & contentment - It is the first thing  
in the morning & the last at night - It arises  
involuntarily in the mind during the ordinary  
business of the day - It is like some sweet memory  
or some joyful anticipation - but it is better than  
either - I would like to have you tell me the  
whole process - how I was translated from Nature's  
darkness into this marvelous light - There was  
nothing great, nothing powerful - I had for some  
time been diligent in my prayers - but I was as  
riched as at any time in my life - there was the  
same pride, ambition, vanity, self-conceit - double-  
mindedness & lust - And the first thought was, "hadn't  
I better hope"? "No," replied Conscience - "you are not  
lost - You have no right to -" But Jesus has promised  
He is worthy - Ought I not to have faith, never doubting  
that "He is & that He is a remembrance of them that  
diligently seek him"? Then it came in little by little -  
Until if I am not changed - Everything else in  
existence is - The same sins tempt me now - but  
Christ is my helper - "Has He not raised help  
on one side is mightier & able to save"? O, my  
dear Brother - Come to Jesus & taste & see if he isn't  
good - Look not to any Christian you ever knew - Look



pay this month, I don't think, for our paymaster will  
have to go to New Orleans to receive his Bonets, &  
says he cannot pay any till he gets back. I called  
at Major Leonard's yesterday evening. I must  
write to Buggs & congratulate him on his good  
fortune. This is the first time I have got a  
word of the news. Is Buggs with his wife or she  
with him. Did they say? I am surprised  
that Warren hasn't been to see you. I won't  
speak to him if he doesn't go & see you before  
he leaves for Florida. There isn't now the least  
danger of a summer Campaign and I expect to  
hear that we shall begin to close up business  
by the last of May. However, I am not going to  
speculate any more, but wait for results & orders  
to settle all questions. How Nellie grown much?  
I shall write Rowland & Mother before long.  
but not to day. I hope that Rail Road will do well  
by itself this summer, for I should like to see father  
clear of every embarrassment as age is drawing  
gradually upon him. I presume you did not go  
out today, but may be writing to me. You must  
lay over your own letters, that isn't the right way.  
May Heaven bless you, Darling. Guy has not signed  
much in this letter. I hope he continues to be a  
good boy & joy to his mother. Love to Grandmother -  
Grandpa & Uncle & all. And remember that you  
won't have to wait long before you will see your  
own husband.

It is a good idea of yours to pay Laura some money with you while  
your mother goes to  
Yunnan - May I am  
will soon pass  
away & I suspect  
you wish they  
had already.  
I am going to help  
with - Major  
Morris as soon  
as Mrs M. leaves -  
I expect she will  
go in the fashion  
with - Genl. Harney  
to New Orleans -  
I shall still live  
alone, while the  
Major is away on  
duty. Major Morris  
is about as old as  
father &  
looks some  
like him -  
only he wears  
black girth  
whiskers &  
father don't  
wear them.  
other - I shall  
see him.  
A sweet kiss to Guy for  
paper

My dearest Wife,  
I received a nice long letter from you last  
evening consisting of two sheets well filled. You seemed pretty  
contented & happy though I fancy, by the way your mind  
reverts to those days of hopes & fears and comforts, before our little  
Guy was born, that you sort of long for your husband's  
presence and support and if I could, consistent with my  
duty, I would soon appear by your side. Your courage  
seems good and I am sorry your strength is not as  
good as it was when you were able to take a journey  
from Troy to Lueds & thence to Augusta, and after all that  
work every day putting down carpets & fixing up the  
quarters. You are a good wife and deserve everything at  
my hands. Mrs Mulliken knows that such resolutions are  
easily broken and they are sometimes too easily made.  
We must bear as lightly & cheerfully as possible the burdens  
that Nature and Providence deem it right to impose, and  
as I have often said and firmly believe, a rich blessing will  
in time grow out of what seems most unfavorable for any such  
trial. As an instance, my being sent to Augusta at such a time -  
We had kind friends, a good physician and you had every  
care & attention you desired. Then again, I go to Florida, to get  
experience, become known in the Army at large, to make valuable

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
April 26' 1857



acquaintance & friendships and gain the confidence of my Colonel & other old & influential officers, by doing an important duty faithfully. You too gain experience, find a pleasure in self-denial even, leave got away from Waterville & many annoyances, will have the proud pleasure of presenting your husband with children in the good old native State. You have something ever before you to hope for - and say to yourself, then I shall be very happy. Whatever other people may think or say, we can bear separation & learn many a useful lesson of the heart therefrom. On Thursday I went to Manatee in the Gray Cloud (Steamer in U. S. Service). Our party consisted of Major McKinstry, Capt. Van Vleet, Mr. Haggard wife & wife's sister Miss Elder, Mr. Clements (Chief Dr. Master's Clerk) & Miss DeVall. I went into Kennedy & Darling's Store just before I left & Mr. T. asked me if I would take charge of his wife and children consisting of Tom, Jenny & baby Henry. He said I had a young wife & little boy way up in Maine, who would like to have somebody take care of them; he was sick & lame & couldn't go, &c.

I told him certainly, I would take a fatherly care of them with the greatest pleasure. We left about nine, had a pleasant ride down the bay, arrived at the mouth of the Manatee river by noon. We had the Regimental Band of the 4th Artillery along, we went up the Manatee the band playing. We anchored opposite the little town & went ashore in boats. The ladies staid on board. Captain Clarke got his company ready as quickly as possible & embarked them. He & St. Solomon accompanied

the portion leaving and St. Follet remained behind with a small detachment. We got ready to start about sunset. The water was very low, it being ebb tide, and I had to wade out to the boat, some ten or twelve rods. I didn't take off my shoes & got my feet pretty wet, but the Steamer Captain's brother on board gave me some dry socks & shoes, so that I did not take cold. We started immediately after the company was on board and reached our wharf about one o'clock that night, but I had gone to sleep and didn't wake till daylight, at six I accompanied Mrs. Kennedy & family to their home in town & then came to my room & slept till nearly eight. Mrs. Morris said I looked much better after my trip to Manatee. It is a miserable little town. all the country is covered with the saw palmetto. and nothing is growing. The houses are a great way apart & not more than eight or ten of them. I would as lief live in Botany Bay.

After the company of Clarke got up here, Colonel Munroe found that he had been ordered to build a bridge or rather a Wharf at Manatee - so Solomon & twenty men were detached to accompany Major Morris to the Tipicunnee & Capt. Clarke went back this morning to Manatee with the rest of the command. General Kearney has not arrived yet from Fort Myers, so I have not commenced building a magazine. I shall not be able to draw my month's



I presume the weather will be as pleasant as we  
could wish. I don't intend to work much there, but  
stay out of doors as much as I want to with Guy.  
My work ~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> is all finished now. I do not feel much  
behind hand now and it is a very comfortable feeling  
not to have work hanging over you. I am now writing  
in the evening. Guy is very busy playing, got Grandma  
to help him. But he is fast getting sleepy; he says or  
tries to say everything he hears the rest say. Mother  
and Bessie went to walk before dinner and I got him  
to sleep; he had to tell me everything he knew  
before going to sleep after I took him up. I did  
so much more for him while Mother was away that  
he thinks it very nice, and continues to ask "Mum"  
to wait on him. He never has got impatient with  
his playthings till this week, and this may be because  
he has not been as well as usual. I do not think he  
will have a bad disposition when I tell him <sup>more</sup> I cannot  
let him have that; he is satisfied, or if he is doing  
something I rather he would not. I have as yet only  
had to say, "No, no, naughty to do so," sometimes I  
have to repeat it and shake my head but that is enough.  
He is a good little boy, and I guess I am a good little wife  
Lizzie Howard

Leeds, Ok. April 26. 1887.

My dearest husband.

I mentioned in my last letter  
that I thought I had the "mumps" ever since  
that day I have suffered intensely with them -  
had them on both sides of my face - my face is  
considerably swollen now, but is passing away.  
Guy had them on one side (the right) he had them  
quite light - children usually do, and seems to  
have now gotten over them. I think it is too bad  
for me to have any extra aches and pains, for  
I think I have quite enough to bear every day.  
Mother came home Thursday as I expected, and I  
was glad. Because Guy wanted to be taken care of, and  
no one else seems to know how, or has time to  
take care of him as well. She had a very pleasant  
visit - stayed at Uncle Edward's the most of the  
time. Lizzie and her husband are there yet. He wants  
a small boat that he can go master. She dined  
one day at Aunt Bonny's. Cousin Lillie has got  
the "chafey" does not think she can get cured, but



is as ever in good spirits. We had never heard of the death of <sup>928</sup>our brother Augustus, which occurred last fall soon after our return to Waterville.

Brother did some chopping for me and mine, and had thirty one shares of the "Atlantic and St Lawrence" Rail Road shares transferred to me while at Portland. They stopped at Beniston on her way home, brought me some oysters and smelts (little fish about as large as sardines). It will be very convenient if I want anything this summer to eat that cannot be got here to send to Uncle Shicko, and he will get things for me with pleasure. The check you sent me last I shall have deposited this week - before the first of next month, that it may begin to draw interest at that time. I think we are fast getting rich and independent. Uncle Edward sent me \$36.00 - interest on bank stock, but I intend to keep it till July, then add it with more interest to make another deposit. I have received the two Bitters I received from you last week. I frequently give ten each more than a second reading, if I do get them often they are more the less appreciated. Laura came down here last Friday and stayed till Saturday noon. I expect

she caught the mumps of me, as she does not know of ever having them. Helen and the two youngest children came up with John last Saturday week, and went home when Mother went to Portland last Monday. Now "Ali" is at his Grandfather's to stay some time. I did not see any of them. I have not been to ride yet. My visiting ends in going to see Cythia or Mrs. Turner. I sent the latter a dozen of my little fishes <sup>I saw her ride past today. I guess it was the first time she had been out to ride since she was sick.</sup> I thought it <sup>she does speak</sup> needed to, but I feel that I am as well off without, for I would be fearful and anxious all the time I would be in the carriage. You know it would not be like riding with you to drive, or like our easy carriage. If the weather is very pleasant one day before Charlie goes away I would take Guy and have a ride. Guy is out whenever it is pleasant and warm enough. He will be able to walk as far as Mr. Turner where we both get entirely over the mumps - so that there will be no danger of our getting cold. Cal Gilmore had some wheat <sup>of</sup> yesterday the first farming he had done this spring. Rowland and Charlie worked in the flower garden the same day. We have had no very spring-like days yet, but very soon



Monday Morning, April 29.

My dearest Husband.

I will add a few lines more to the letter I wrote yesterday. Guy and I are quite well this morning, and presume the mumps will trouble us no more. Rowland goes to Lewiston to-day and I shall send my check to deposit by him.

I will not make a drawing of my rocking chair, bed, and workbox for fear you would laugh at I did at your drawing. I did not know what could induce Mrs Morris to leave for the North, till I received your last letter.

Whether I will mail a letter to Mrs Lee this morning. I should presume that Mrs Rogers would be at Wolf Range by this time. I should like to hear from her, but I do not feel able to open a correspondence with anyone at present.

Charlie has gone with the horse to get Roland's wagon so I must close my letter and shape it ready by the time they wish to go to the Depot. All send love to you and believe me ever your own trusting and affectionate Wife. Lizzie A. Howard.



Recd at Portland  
Me - dated Mar 26  
1857

Mrs O'Sullivan



house-keeping. Mrs. L. father has moved there, I  
do not know how recently. We are all quite well  
here now, except Guy has a slight cold. I do not  
think that his eye is naturally weak, it is only when  
he has a bad cold and at the same time looks out the  
window when the sun shines brightly. He is now  
having his nap, he was out in the dining-room  
with Mother and came in and he wanted Ma to  
take him out up to my chair and call him  
called "man". I don't know as I ought to  
him or lift him as I do sometimes, but I can  
help it if I don't feel quite well, he is a  
treasure and "ma" loves him so much.  
I don't think I am quite as well as when I was  
Naturalist for Augusta, but I remember  
as well before we started as I was after we had  
made the journey, and I hope in one or two weeks  
I may feel strong. My food hurts me, and I ache more.  
Cal Salmore has commenced his farming, today he is ploughing.  
Lyttia was here the other day looking rather sober for she was  
missing Jennie. Lucia called to see how I was yesterday.  
I had not seen her since I had the mumps. She and  
Betsey Bates were in the evening I was the house, and I

Recd. M. Myers M.D.  
Adelphi, N.Y. 28.1859  
1859  
Mrs. C. C. C. C.

did not go and to see them. My time I am often busy I cannot tell looking at  
him and thinking how  
much I like an old  
man, I do love  
I do believe I had  
rather have those children  
than more at all.  
I took it an old  
paper this afternoon  
and saw that other  
named child was  
passed to the May  
Governance the  
servant of 23  
Mount Mrs. M.  
I did not mention  
them when she  
wrote me.  
Wednesday 28.1859.  
It is very seldom that the Mail  
fails to bring me a letter every Tuesday. I received  
one this afternoon written on the fifteenth of the  
present month. You mentioned Garrison's promotion  
you probably learned it from my letters. I expect  
to find, in every letter I open from you after this,  
something relating to Gen. Henry's orders to  
leave Florida and proceed to Kansas, but as yet  
you have said nothing about it. You know of his  
having received orders I presume by this time, and  
if he does leave the country you could get a  
leave you tell me. I don't know whether I wish  
you to or not. I want to see you and would like  
to have you here after the middle of June, but I  
should desire above all and everything else to  
return with you, wherever you would go to Tampa  
even, and I don't know as you could remain  
north late enough in the season to have it

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prudent for us all to make a change of climate. and then the ~~specy~~ troubles there might be nearly ended and we would have the journey for nothing. May be it would please us better to have you get a leave when you will be ordered elsewhere.

I think there are many ifs and andi-~~pro~~ on the subject and the more I try to tell what I would like best, the less I ~~am~~ <sup>continually</sup> decided. I can be contented here and will <sup>continually</sup> make up my mind to be as long as you remain away situated as you now are. I thought I would just say a little in answer to your "Due penny-bows"; but you my darling Otis, must do just as you most wish, and I shall think it is right.

I did not write much last evening as I left to reckon up Mother's expenses and what she paid out for me while at Portland. It was half past nine before we were aware of it and then we went to bed immediately. She purchased for me goods to the amount of \$8.16. I have left in my purse one five dollar bill. But that is more than I shall wish to spend for a long time. so do not think it too little to have on hand. Rowland deposited the check

you sent of \$100.00 in the letter written April 8. He explained to me yesterday when he returned that the persons check was given on the Treasury at Washington and that it cost them (the savings bank) 1/4 percent, to get it cashed - what they called exchange.

I will get Rowland to explain to you if he has time. I presume you thought of it before you sent the last one as this one was right-payable at the Office in Boston. Rowland and Charlie got up very early this morning and have gone to catch some smelts.

Mr. Wacker Meyer was here yesterday and told them if they would come down he would go with them; the brook is three miles below his house. It is now closed a lock and they have not yet returned.

Charlie returns to Rensselaer this week Friday and Rowland goes to Wallsville the same time or the first of next week. I shall miss him very much and so will Guy; he thinks Charlie one of his best friends. Rowland said he saw a letter for Warren L. at the P.O. yesterday and thought it might have been from you; he is yet at home waiting orders.

Francis Lathrop and family are at Sac. he has recently purchased him a house there and are at



Leeds Me  
April 29<sup>th</sup>/57

Dear Otis-

I have just received your note of the 15<sup>th</sup>. I was happy to hear from you. Thank you sincerely for your kind congratulations - hope I shall soon see you. I have been here since April 14<sup>th</sup>, daily expecting orders, but have received none yet. I am in readiness for a start at any moment, & should not much regret to leave, as I am anxious to enter my new field of service, become acquainted with my Co. officers &c.

I have no news to communicate - of course you receive all through your family. Our friends are all well - Saw your wife & child last week. You may well be proud of your boy, he speaks well for the abilities of his father.

If not too much trouble will you please inform me what kind of underclothing is worn in that country - cotton or woolen - Can I get a Colts revolver there - what is the prospect of summer campaign &c. &c. I leave in a few



moments for Lewiston,

In haste

Truly Yours

W. L. Lathrop

To

Lieut. O. C. Howard

Ordnance Corps

Tampa Bay

Florida



Leeds, Wk. April. 29, 1857.

My dearest Husband,

We did not get any mail this afternoon, and no letters were sent, and as I don't wish to work I will add more to the letter I had thought finished: but what shall I say to my dearest Otis: I don't think of any thing of importance. Sometimes when I commence to write and have no interesting news to tell that I will say to myself I guess I better not write two letters a week I can't make them interesting, and don't wish to only say, "I am well, Guy is well, and hope you are well." in a letter to go as far. I come to the conclusion though that I must write as often as I have for it gives me a great deal of pleasure to write to you, and I know you will permit me to write just a little foolishly if I want to do so, I fancy you are pretty good to let me have my own way when I am with you. I wonder if I shall be naughty when I am with you after this separation. I guess I shall have as much as I can do



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to keep all my children out of mischief, and  
my house in good order. and want have  
any idle time quarrel. Isn't that the only  
I quarrel and scold when I am not employed?  
It would be hard to tell when. I wonder what I  
would say if you were here to night. I should be  
tired, sick all over, or some other ache or pain  
to complain of. Mother and Bossa have been to  
see Mrs Turner, carried her some fish (suckers),  
they will have a nice breakfast, and we will also.  
Bosland and Charlie got home about one o'clock  
with their fish. (smelts and suckers). Warner Lofthrop  
said when he was here he would not wish to  
be at a better place than Tampa. plenty of hunting  
and fishing there. I want your next letter very  
much. You will answer my questions about  
your shirts and stockings; if you should come  
home you must have some ready for you. I shall  
be out of sewing before a great while and want  
some work on hand. Boy is sleeping as sweetly as  
need be. I put him to bed while Mother was gone.  
I must go to sleep too in order to be up in season  
for breakfast, à la Mrs Lee, going to have something I like.  
Come off to sleep like Lurmi & H. Howard



July instead of May, he would not be likely to be  
sent here until November. He had better not be  
in haste about leaving, for if he does find a worse  
place in Florida than Suva, I am mistaken. Suva  
must have been a paradise compared with  
the greater part of this country. Monday afternoon  
I wrote the foregoing this morning, it is now nearly five  
O'clock and the mail has not arrived yet. I guess you  
won't get an answer to the letter I am to receive tonight  
till Saturday, for it takes our lazy post master about  
two hours to open the mail and by that time I  
must have this in. My servant woman calls her  
Eliza. She insists on my telling what I want for  
breakfast, dinner & supper, and that you know is  
a hard case. I had some very good soup & beef steak  
for dinner. We have plenty of vegetables from the  
first garden, potatoes, beans, squash &c. It is  
so hot & sultry I do hope it will rain. My garden  
needs the rain very much. I shall have lots of  
mellons by & by, don't you wish you could have  
some? I believe you don't like the musk, as much  
as I do. I used to be the principal eater of them.  
I think, at Matouli. Neither C. C. Lee or Jackson  
have answered my letters yet. I don't like to write quite so  
well when it is so warm, do you? Kiss Guy for papa. Perhaps  
I shall find a way to send him his shell. I wonder if he  
will have any idea who sent it. What can he be doing now?  
Give my love to all. Tell Charlie he must write.  
Your affectionate husband ——— O. O. Howard

I recd. yours of 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> inst.  
This evening I had the party of 5<sup>th</sup>  
I got a letter from Berlin re Ordinance Dept. 55  
important news by through the Mail Fort Brooke Fla  
My dearest wife, April 29<sup>th</sup> 1857

The month of April 1857 is on the wane.  
only one day after this. It is to day excessively warm &  
sultry. I shall expect a letter from you tonight and hope  
it will come in, in season for me to acknowledge its  
receipt. General Harney came in the Fashion early  
Monday morning from Key West, accompanied by  
Colonel Townes. He turned over the Command to  
the latter and left in the afternoon of the same day  
for New Orleans. Capt. Abbott of the Topographical Engineers,  
Major Leonard & wife of the pay department and Mrs  
Major Morris left with him. Also Capt. Van Duse, wife & child.  
The Fashion was anchored out in the bay. The small  
Government Steamer Ranger happening to be here  
the officers to depart & those to remain with the  
band went on board the latter. After putting the  
General on board the Fashion, the Ranger went round  
& round the Steamer, the band playing & guns  
firing from both sides. We cheered right heartily. General  
Harney seemed much pleased with the compliments  
paid him, and we had a very pleasant impromptu  
excursion. Major Morris left the same afternoon for  
the Kissimmee and I stepped into his shoes.  
I found the house in good order. Floors carpeted



bedroom nicely fixed up, plenty of cutlery & table furnishing, and a good servant woman. So I am now living quite alone in the western house of that row of four on your sketch, near the shore of the Bay. I shall take care of the Major's things till his return in about three weeks. It is all very nice and there is now room enough for you, provided that Guy would sleep in the office & take charge there. This morning we heard that Captain Johnson of the Florida Mounted Volunteers had killed three Indians & taken five more in the vicinity of Jato-poga Lake, which is some thirty miles to the north of Lake Oklawaha. Capt. Sparkman has discovered about a dozen still farther to the north, but we haven't yet learned what has been his success.

We are expecting by tonight's mail something more definite with regard to operations here. Colonel Loomis is very old, in his dotage really, and totally unfit to have the direction of an active campaign. He is, however, a very good man & pleasant gentleman.

I shall commence building a magazine as soon as I can get the lumber together. I shall have to wait till the Paymaster comes back before I transmit any more money.

I may however take a different method, if he is not here by the close of May. Now verrous. Mrs Morris has gone to her daughter in New York. The one she calls Estelle. She married a physician, Dr Cormigan, (I believe that's the name). She took down your address & very likely means to write you a letter, telling you secrets about your husband, your mother,

give full credit to all she says till you have asked her. I don't mean she would willfully misrepresent, but you know ladies are full of queer prejudices & eccentric notions. If, for instance she should tell you I was a very nice young man, ever so good, &c. You must account for it all by my misfortune to resemble her dear son Will, who is reputed to be a hard case, but by his mother considered a piece of perfection. Look out how you bring up Guy. Boys & girls in the Army are generally spoiled. I expect their mothers love them too much. After I get my magazine under head way & after Major Morris gets back I expect to visit Fort Myers & Salom, Key West, & Fort Dallas. During my absence you may not get letters quite so often. I shall not, however, be gone more than two weeks & can mail a letter at Key West, which will go direct by a Mail Steamer to New York. Does time move slowly with you, darling, you know there is no use in crying. I expect now to see you in the Fall, how early or how late. I cannot tell. I am in hopes to do so by means of an Elder. This is as pleasant a place as need be (if we cannot get away) for us to spend next winter. I could meet you at Key West and stay there till we got a chance to come up. It seems perhaps a hard journey for you, but it would not be much after you got to New York. Now verrous, as I said before. I find it folly to begin too soon to make arrangements. I don't think Warren will be supposed to remain long at home, unless it is by accident. If I was



pencil in my hand & stopped often to think  
& examine myself. to read my Bible & to pray.  
Perhaps my course would be a good one  
for you - I could not help, smiling at your fear  
that I would "prop" <sup>(Prove that that)</sup> feather. Don't you know me  
better than that. Things look better now - ~~He~~  
has got off those Strickland notes - \$6000. & some  
others - He has got \$600. interest - & is paying  
his "house debt" - If he can get his dues of the  
Rail Road is "good" - His income must be \$1500  
a year and with that he could soon pay his  
debts - live comfortably & help us all ~~just~~ as we  
need or Mother desires - His death however  
would put matters in the most ~~unhappy~~ <sup>unhappy</sup> state -  
I do wish he would make his will - but I  
hardly dare mention it - to him - Warner has no  
"orders" yet - Coleman goes to Brunswick to-  
morrow - He will spend Friday night in Bath  
same as I used to in Portland you know - I am  
going to send a very pretty locket to Ellen by him -  
I have decided to go to Hallowell and remain  
till about Commencement time with Strickfield -  
I shall board with Laura Ann - at her request -  
He (J.) seemed quite desirous to have me come  
and I can get along cheap there & be near Mother -  
I purpose to return to Albany, when Sam Schore  
commences the first of Sep. & remain two terms

Leeds Apr. 30<sup>th</sup> 1857

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My dear Brother

This is one of those old fashioned April  
mornings that you well remember - the surface of the  
ground being stiffened a little with the frost - the wind  
blowing fresh & bracing from the North West - & the sun  
at last - compelling the frost & wind to give way to  
the power of his rays - Lizzie & my new round table  
when we took our breakfast at 6 1/2 O'clock - But  
I was down just now & found them enjoying their  
breakfast together nicely - Charles & I got up at  
half past three yesterday morning and went a  
fishing - away down to Sabatis Pond on our old road  
to Brunswick - We got five or six quarts of smelts  
and as many suckers as we chose - This is the  
"first run" of the latter and they are very nice - We  
caught them with our hands under the rocks & logs -  
It was fun - Mother cooked them nicely & we all  
remarked how much you would have enjoyed  
our breakfast with us this morning - Lizzie wrote  
you about my going to Lewiston - I had to pay  
out on that first deposit - including my draft  
& Lizzies - \$3.56 - They were drawn on Washington -  
& when they were sent to N.B. or W. - the Assistants  
there would not accept them - So the



Lewiston Bank had to pay "exchange on Warhington" amounting to a little less than one per cent - I doubt like your last - on Boston is cash, as now one he also on N.Y. - in which cities this Bank does business - On 8/4/74, 10 - I paid \$3.56 -

I found John & his family nicely - John says he wants I should tell you that if you could find time among the other calls on your pen to write him he would be glad to hear from you. I think John knows what it is to be a Christian - He has been kept back from religious duties & from joining the Church by a fancied or real opposition on the part of his wife - I had religious conversation with both - I tried to be in the fear of God - faithful to John - I told him to set about it with a bold & resolute heart & all would be well - O my Mother, if we do our duty, no unhappiness can result - All we have to do is to set about that with "full purpose of heart", "looking unto Jesus" and God will take care of us. Wife, children - all will be happier & in less time holier - "He that loveth Father or Mother more than me is not worthy of me" - O let us have faith - let us believe - let us rely fully & firmly on the promises - let us take hold of his word - O let us "come

to Jesus" - I have been reading the life of Capt. Vickers of the English Army, who was killed in the trenches before Sebastopol - He was a Christian Soldier - the book was given me by a pious friend (Frank Eilman) and you can conceive in any other state of mind what a help it was to me - I have ordered a copy which I purpose sending to you - Read it attentively & prayerfully, my dear Mother - with your Bible by your side & a part of the time before your eyes - Examine yourself by it - & I believe God will bless its instruction to your heart as He did to mine - There are some circumstances in which you can more fully sympathize than I - You know something of a Soldier's temptations & there will be remembered also his power to do good when it seems strange to you. O his, how Vicars could do so much - think - "Christ was his Helper" - that will explain it - and it is to him that we must flee - The book has been one of deep interest to me - It has cost me tears but often they were tears of joy. I have marked my copy a good deal - you know I have another dear friend who is trying to run the Christian race & it is for her & her help & for her sympathy that I have marked it - I read with