
755 5/2/1857

From: Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0696

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Monday. May 2, 1857

My dearest Husband

I fancy you do not have as many rainy days as we do. If you did you would not say your garden needed more rain. I should judge it could rain one week to look out of doors now. Rowland has been working all the morning in Mothers flower garden, and is making it look quite well. She has the ground on each side the path half way to the gate. Col Gilmore at first thought he would not have room for his ruta-bagas if she took so much. I presume Murphy's garden is in fine order by this time.

I remember one year ago last Friday (May Day) you and Rowland went a haying and Mallech ate some of my May flowers. I went to the door when you got home and had on my spring morning dress for the first time. You said, "halloo, that's pretty", and looked as if you would give me a kiss had you not been on horseback. I went to ride last Thursday - up to see Laura, but I shall not go again. I cannot ride. I have not felt as well since. I did not take Guy, and now I am very glad I did not. I shall be glad when the next six weeks have passed if I cannot feel better than I have for the last few days. One good thing I don't feel that I must sew all the time, but only enough to keep from being idle.

Charlie went away last Friday, was to stay that night at Bath. He carried a bag of apples (over half a peck) to Horry Patten from Guy. You remember I told you that he sent Guy some peanuts by Rowland. Rowland will go to Hallowell day after to-morrow, then I shall feel quite alone, and how much Guy will miss him. I expect Grandmother Waite will visit us here soon. Mother has written for Aunt Emily to bring her over. I wonder what she will have to say to Guy. He is now having his nap and I believe he will sleep all the afternoon. It is now quarter past two, and he has been asleep since half past eleven. I laid down with him then and he went to sleep; then I had a short sleep till dinner was ready. I shall try to have our sofa that is with Grand mother now brought here for me to have this summer. I should find it so very comfortable, when it will be too warm to lie down on a bed.

I will not write more this time, or I will not have room for Rowland's note he wished to enclose. Guy has waked and has gone out with Grand-ma to eat his dinner. We have as yet had a fire in our room every day, but it is so warm now that we do not have to keep the bed-room door closed all the time.

Yours ever
Lizzie

756 5/3/1857

From: Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0697

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May 3. 1857.

My dearest Husband

Sunday evening has arrived and I am just beginning the letter I shall wish to mail to you to-morrow. I wanted to write when Guy was having his nap, but I did not feel nearly as well as I now do, and should have written a gloomy or sad letter. Therefore I let my writing materials remain untouched till now. I received two letters from you this week, dearest, the last one written April 19th and came in eleven days. What would I do without these dear letters. "It may not be easy to portray the whole effect of these love messengers, but a feeling of quiet happiness does succeed the receipt of each letter", and will continue to render to me much happiness as long as you have good health. That is as good news you could write next to saying you were coming to Maine previous to going to some pleasant station where we all would be happy together. You have mentioned Gen Harney's orders, but I don't imagine he will leave Florida for the present, and if he does I know you will have to stay a while longer. No, I shall not begin to look for you home 'till after l'evenement, then the sooner the better, and if I have a sickness I shall get well as fast as possible, that I may be ready for any change that may afterwards take place.

How happy we will be when we are again "comfortably fixed." (I suppose the Major would not allow me to use this phrase). I cannot help looking into the future hopefully, dearest Otis, although we have trials approaching that we must pass through, and know not how or what will be the end, but I hope and trust that all will be well, and that many, very many days of perfect happiness we shall yet pass together.

I believe I have not written much about Guy in my last letters to you, consequently, I will make it all up in this letter. He went to sleep before I commenced this letter. He has grown so smart of late - can call the biddies and scratch like them with his fingers, can 'bah' like Fanny, 'mew' like the kittie, 'ugh' like the very little pigs, 'u-jack' the cows and horse, and tell a great many things he sees Georgie ('dor-die' as he says) do from the window. He will be a regular country boy if he stays here all summer. He has changed his "mum" as he called me a short time, and now calls me as if my name was Mary, "Mamy". Grand-ma is called "ma-ma" and of course I can <not> be the same. He knows too much for that. Grand-pa is called "bum-pa" and you are "pa-pe" and he has to see "pa-pe" often, and writes a great many letters to him. Whenever he gets a piece of paper he comes to me saying 'pa-pe' 'pa-pe'. I will give him a pencil, and say, he wants to write a letter to 'pa-pa'. He will work a short time, then come to have me help him. I will take them and mark, and the same time say, as if I was writing it, "Pa-pa, do come home see Guy, he is mother's little man". He had a nice play out of doors to-day, and went down to Roland's with "Uncle". Did not walk all the way, and when he came home I was at the front door, so Rowland came in the garden, and he had much to tell me. The ground was quite dry and he did enjoy running about the garden walks. I intend to make him a cap bonnet to shade his eyes from the sun, when he is out - a hat would not protect them at all.

The clock has struck nine, and all but myself have gone to bed, except Rowland. I can hear him up stairs. He said he wished to inclose a note in this. Mother G tells me that Ella has made an open profession of religion and was to be received into the church to-day. I am very glad for her, and I hope the day is not far distant when we may with sincerity follow her good example. We have never conversed freely together upon this subject, but I feel differently now, and shall for the future rather desire it. I have for some time thought deeply on the subject, and hope I may not long remain in darkness. If I seek the light properly, I trust I shall obtain it, and be happy.

I must say good night now, my dearest Otis, and write more to-morrow if I can find time. May God watch over and protect us both through this night and I would pray that he may teach me to understand his word, and lead me in the path of the righteous.

Believe me as ever your loving little Wife,
Lizzie A Howard

[Added by another hand, possibly Otis]
Recd Fort Brooke Fla
dated May 3d &4
Mrs OO Howard

757 5/3/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0698

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla
May 3d 1857

My dearest Wife

I received last night two letters from you of the 19th & 21 or 22nd ult., dear affectionate letters they are too. I presume we shall remember the campaign of /57 for many years. Whatever may happen to us or our family these interchanges of feeling & sentiment will remain to us to mark an epoch that has not been without its points of interest & happiness.

An officer of the second Infantry came here by the stage last night, sent from Washington on special duty in the Topographical Corps. He says that operations are to be suspended here very soon. I cannot get away possibly till the volunteers are mustered out. But I expect to be with you early in the Fall. There is no doubt now but Genl Harney is intended for an expedition to the Salt Lake City against the Mormons. I presume you will have seen as much by the papers before this reaches you. I don't know where I shall be sent, but most probably to St. Louis next.

Lieut. Pelange of the 4th Artillery has just got a leave to visit his friends at Philadelphia. He has been stopping with me for a few days past. He was in Mr Boggs' class at West Point, and is a very good friend of mine. A man, Peter Kain, of my command, having served out the term of his enlistment has been discharged and will accompany Mr Pelange. He will proceed to New Burg his home. Kain will take Mr Day's present as far as New York and send it to you by express. You can be looking out for the shell. I wanted to send something and this is all I have.

I am still keeping house. Major Morris sent in a cow & calf, and now I have as much milk as I want.

I told you in my last of the capture of five Indians & of the killing of them. Since then a woman & child has been brought in here taken by Captain Sparkman's command. He was on Friday still in pursuit of quite a number more. No order to cease operations has yet reached us but we are expecting one by every mail. Colonel Loomis is still here. The Indian woman and child (about two yrs old) were a great curiosity. She looked quite smart & accepted presents willingly. She couldn't talk English, but by means of an interpreter considerable information was obtained, if she told the truth. She had a low forehead, thick black hair, but a keen, black eye. Her boy was a fine stout one. Our policy is to treat the prisoners with marked kindness, give them as much liberty as we can and try to get them to emigrate. I wish for their own sakes they would leave this miserable country, where they never will be let alone.

I hope you are well over the mumps by this time. Did Guy have fat cheeks or try to eat, "apper"? I don't need any stockings or shirts at present. The new ones are still good, but the old begin to split a little. I find that you and Rowland speculate on Army matters in very much the same manner as we do here.

We got that General Order & have been ever since considering the contemplated movements. It is'nt generally thought that Kansas will be the theater of operations this summer. I don't know what made Mrs Morris start north so soon, but presume that there is something beside Mrs Cunningham sub-rosa. Mrs Morris is a great campaigner (though a very little woman). She corresponds continually with L. Thomas, Asst Adjt General to General Scott & thus gets ahead of the rest of us. She always knows two mails ahead the Orders that are forthcoming and if my observation serves me right, she often has a positive influence in such matters. She might have supposed that our new head here, would very soon order Major Morris into the field or to some unfavorable post, and she wants to anticipate such changes.

(Afternoon) I have just been out in town with Pelange to find the stage driver to get a chance for a passage to Palatka. I wish I was in search of one for myself, and wonder how long it will be before I can be doing that thing, as bitterly as every body complains of the route between this & Palatka, I should undertake it very

cheerfully. It is quite a different thing to close a journey of two thousand miles by two hundred of staging, and to begin the journey with the staging & it makes a difference whether you are going towards or away from your friends. However, I could not ask for a pleasanter trip than I had down. The dry weather still continues and it is very warm at mid day, about the same as in the summer at Augusta. We have plenty of breezes. The wind is now blowing hard from the south west and the sky looks a little like rain. Warren must hurry on if he desires to wade in swamps & Everglades & assist in catching the Indians. Captain Marcy left a small detachment south of the Big Cypress in charge of some boats, near Palm Hammock. Some of them entered the Hammock we hear, of whom two were killed & three wounded. They went in for water. We have'nt lost an Officer here since I have been in Florida. Some have been sick, but as soon as they get to a good Post they recuperate very fast.

Torbert came back from his trip to New Orleans looking as stout & healthy as a man well could. I never saw so great a change in so short a time before. I have not commenced my trip yet. I may go in a week or two and I may not. I understand Major Page is to visit the different Posts & inspect condemned stores. He may desire me to accompany him.

Give my love to all, I hope those mumps were not serious. I ought to have written Rowland & mother by this Mail. I shall try & do so by the next. Kiss little Guy & tell him Pa Pa sent him a Shell. God bless you my darling wife.

Yr affectionate husband
Otis

I think Guy has rather got ahead of Johnny Mulliken. I have not heard from Charlie M for a long time. Remember me to Laura when you see her with my love. Where was Martha J Brewster (that was) when she died. Another of my old companions gone to rest. How does Mrs Lothrop like Warren's going to Florida? How does Mother seem reconciled to my being in the land of Eternal summer? Does Guy want to see his papa? Rowland must not mind if he don't get a letter - he must write me if he can.

758 5/5/1857

From: Charles H Mulliken

To: Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0699

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta May 5th 1857

Tuesday 9 am

Dear Howard

Your letter of March 1st /57 came to hand in due course of mail and it was just such a letter as you only are capable of writing. I felt pleased and delighted to learn you had not forgotten your old friend but remembered him and his who are so far away from you now. Oliver, I think of you often and with feelings of pride that my intimacy commenced in my School days and although I have seen you but a very short time as chance throws us together since then the same good feeling exists with increased strength and confidence as men that was in common as boys. May it never be less.

Your good long letter has been read several times and this being the first opportunity conveniently for me to reply I sit myself down this rainy morning to write you a long uninteresting mess of trash. You will pardon me for inflicting upon you by sending this budget of items when I am not otherwise engaged but really my respected friend it is not possible for me to always answer all letters outside from business when they ought to be. You know I do not willfully neglect you but would like to write you once every week and hear from you as often. However when I do write the substance and length must make up all deficiencies.

My family are well, Wife, Henry & Jonny and are just the same as when you was at my house with the exception that the Boys are growing every day and notwithstanding it is less than a year since you saw them they have grown large and tall - quite like boys much to the trouble of their mother whose time and attention being pretty well taken up in supplying their numerous wants. They, Sarah & the children, wish to be kindly remembered to you. Matters and things about Augusta are nearly the same as they were one year ago. Capt Gorgas & family are well and very frequently enquire for you - we think them nice people and enjoy their society very much. The Capt is very quiet and remains at his quarters - close. I came from Boston with him in the cars a few weeks ago - he had been spending a week with Capt Wainwright at Watertown. AD Brown & family are well and he is the same as when you was here - in the Shovel business with Brooks and think they are doing well. He passed the evening at my house a short time since and amused us with his californian adventures - laughing as much as ever. Doct Briggs & family are "in status quo". Miss Lizzie has been in Boston all winter but is now at home looking as pretty as ever. The Doct told me when next I wrote you to say they all remembered you & yours and should be glad to have you back again in the old quarters at the Kennebec Arsenal.

We think among ourselves that it will eventually be a match between Mr Dana & Lizzie. You recollect Mr D who was stopping with Brown last summer and was here last November about two weeks. They are good friends to say the least.

There are no improvements going on in town to any extent and but few alterations. My Brother George has been gone out west some five or six weeks making discoveries &c. I think he will break up here and move to Chicago this next month although he may not go at all but from his letters I judge he intends to go as he has had very flattering offers in a business way and as he wants a change I shall advise him to go by all means. Since he left his wife has had a Daughter much to the surprise of the whole family who were not expecting any thing of the kind for two or three weeks and also that he would be at home long before this might happen but the affair passed of quietly and safely and she is doing well, has not been very sick yet. He probably will be at home sometime this week.

Mr B. A. G. <Full> is to move out west soon as Treasurer of a land Company at a salary of three thousand per year with a large proportion of his time to practice Law. It is a fine situation and he will do well without doubt.

Miss Susan Robinson is engaged to a Mr Goodwin from York Me, a young Lawyer and will be a good match. Judge Rice's family are all very much pleased and they say he is superior to Mell Fuller who you recollect was quite attentive to Susan at one time. He Fuller is <at> Chicago, firm of Dow & Fuller Lawyers and I hear doing finely. Rufus Child is to be married to Margaret Bridge <in> June Rufus is a nice fellow and Margaret a fine young lady, a capatal match. All the enclosed news you are more or less acquainted with the parties

concerned and you will excuse me for writing you such facts (for I think there is no scandal in here) on this account - as I thought you might like to hear - but enough of this.

My business has not been as good the past year as formerly - it is quite dull at Augusta - still I think not more so than in other places through New England. There seems to be a very genuine complaint that all kinds of business is extremely down every where.

I wrote Mr Hart a few days since about our Hay talk and am daily expecting an answer. I feel as though we might do something together for the mutual advantage of us both and shall be disposed to ship him a small cargo of Hay if he will make me satisfactory arrangements about his money viz have some firm in Boston accept a signed Draft for amount of Invoice the Bill of Lading I will send him on or before the vessel sails. I think I can get a small vessel at Bath now that will go possibly to Palatka at any rate to Jacksonville.

Sarah had a note from Mrs Howard that she should be at Augusta on such a day in about a week. She received another letter saying she should not come for three or four months. We should have been pleased to have seen her at my house and shall be at any time when it is convenient for her to come. Very likely Sarah may go to Leeds during the Summer but her time is all occupied at home - she goes but very little any where. But Oliver I have bored you enough this time.

Remember your friend who thinks of you often and command me at any time when I can be of service to you.

Very Truly Yours
Charles H Mulliken

759 5/5/1857

From: Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-0700

Leeds. Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May. 5. 1857.

My dearest Otis

I can add another sheet to this letter as I have not mailed it. I am so provoked to think it has not been mailed that I cannot get over it, when there has been an opportunity to do so every day, but I waited for Rowland and he sent his (I know not to whom) without telling me about the opportunity 'till too late. Now I will not mail it 'till I receive one from you which I presume came to-day or will come to-morrow. This will be the first week that I shall mail but one letter to you. I am writing in the evening, and cannot write much because it is nearly nine o'clock.

Guy had his nap very late today and was awake nearly all the evening, and I don't like to begin to write before he is asleep. If he is not very sleepy he readily sees what is being done in the room, and his attention is on any thing new.

One day this week I got up out of my big rocking chair to comb my hair, and Guy ran and climbed up into it alone and turned himself round and went to rocking as grand as need be. This was the first time he had got into any chair without help, so of course I had to tell him he was very smart. I expect I shall spoil him before he sees his dear papa again. If you were here I should say, "you ought not left us to ourselves", but I don't want to say anything naughty when you are so far away. I shall have to tell you the anecdote, "the longer you are away the better, I love you". I will leave my writing now, retire to rest, praying God to watch over and bless us all forever.

Wednesday Afternoon. I can send this by Col Gilmore if I write but little more, as he will soon go to town-meeting. Rowland brought me your kind letter this morning, in which you say the prospect brightens and you may be home before many months. I shall be glad to see you. I am better to-day and I hope have got over my ride. Guy is asleep but will soon wake to have 'Papa's' kiss.

Warren is yet at home and I don't think will receive orders for some time to come.

Yours Ever
Lizzie

760 5/6/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [OO Howard]

OOH-0701

Fort Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Fla.
May 6th 1857

My dearest wife,

I took a short nap on the floor after dinner, and it being hot and I being lazy, I have commenced my letter here at the house on paper with the lines very far apart, very convenient paper I should think for any body who hadnt got much to write.

I have been thinking about old times today. I have thought of Livermore, where I first saw you as a chubby faced little girl &c. I should like to spend the afternoon & evening with you here, but may be you are looking for the news. I wrote all the news in Rowland's letter this morning, and therein suggested that I might go to Fort Myers with Colonel Loomis tomorrow, but I was thinking I had heard the whistle of the steamer Gray Cloud, from Fort Dallas & Key West & that the Colonel would be able to return in her tomorrow or next day. But she has'nt come yet & Colonel Loomis wont start for Ft Myers till she does come & get ready to start again.

Lt Pelange & my man Kain left for the north by last Sunday stage. Kain took Guy's shell, said he would take care of it and send it by Express from New York.

I presume it is getting to be pleasant in Maine by this time. It is so very warm here that I cant make it seem that you are having anything but summer, but June will soon be upon you, wont it Lizzie? Has Mrs Clark come to Leeds yet? You are having very nice things to eat. Uncle Hicks sends you figs & Florence brings you boxberry plums.

A large mail just came in from Fort Capron & the stupidity of one of the volunteer Captains troubles me a little. I sent him invoices of some stores & blank Receipts which I wanted him to sign. He sends them back to me & says that one of his Lieutenants must sign them. Now Lieutenants of Volunteers are not recognized at the Treasury at Washington, and I have got to write him an explanation & enclose two more blank receipts to him, as he signed these & then scratched his name out. Now you see if I am fortunate enough to get ordered away I will have to delay for such receipts as these & I like to keep my accounts square as I go along. The Volunteers you can get on very well with when you have them close by to explain all matters face to face. We have some very capable men for Captains - Captain Lesley & Captain Sparkman of the Volunteers I like very much. They seem willing & anxious to do their duty & I got on with them officially without any extra words. Captain Moseley was an officer of the regular Army in the Mexican war & is a very capable man but I presume you don't care much about Volunteer Captains.

We are expecting some important news by tonights mail and I will try to keep your letter out of the office till I learn. I spent a very pleasant evening last night at Mr. Hazzard's. He & I have become quite intimate. I think you would like Mrs H very much. She is a very unpretending, modest lady and is according to what I quoted in one of my letters "in a situation", though 'twas Thackery in the Newcomers, & not Dickens that made the remark. I have visited Major Pages lately but didn't see the baby, always asleep.

You said Guy lay down by you & told you all he knew & then he fell asleep. What sort of stories does he tell? I should like to see his trousers. You know I prescribed them some time ago. He would have to wear them here, or the fleas & musketoes would eat him up.

I saw the Sergeant-Majors little girl the other day, with legs beautifully fat & bare and all covered with blotches from this kind of bites. It is cruel to be fashionable in this climate. I wonder what Guy is doing now. Give him a sweet kiss & papa's love.

Now Major Morris is ordered away. I don't know where I shall go to live. I am in hopes Colonel Monroe will take quarters & invite me to mess with him.

My love to our Mothers & brothers & father. Remember me to Mrs Clark when she arrives & may Heaven be with you & protect you & comfort you in every trial.

Your affectionate husband
Otis

761 5/10/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0702

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May 10. 1857

My dearest Husband

I feel as if I could write you a very long letter today. I am quite well, and the day is very pleasant. Guy has been out of doors a great deal the past week and I never saw a little fellow enjoy being out better than he. When "mamy" is able to accompany him and grand-mother, that is some thing very gratifying. He went to see Mrs Turner with Mother and myself last Thursday for the first time to walk, and it was the first time I had been there since I had the mumps. I think that she now is as well as usual, but she is feeble and I don't think could walk as far as here. They get letters from Charles and wife every mail (once in two weeks) and they seem to afford her a great deal of pleasure and comfort - is always ready to speak of them &c. Florence comes up to play with Guy often.

I am making him a sack to wear this summer. Mother got the materials when she went to Portland. I worked a long time for some unknown, then for myself and now Guy's turn has come, and if you will come home I will be most happy to work for your dear self.

I am not thinking of sending anything to you by Warren. In the first place I don't think he will go there, and in the next place, I don't think he would find you there, because you would be home, or on your way home. He was here yesterday with his brother Francis, on business, enquired after you, and what news you wrote me &c. He has written to you.

I left my writing to eat dinner, and am now writing about 5 o'clock P.M. Mother, Guy and myself have been alone all day. Col G, Mother G and Rossa went to church, and there was a baptism which they attended after services, that made them very late home.

This is the most summer-like day we have had. I have two windows open in my room. Mother and Guy are out in the garden. I want you to come home more to see Guy than any body or anything else. It is too bad you do not know each other better; if he was'nt the best boy I ever knew I would trade him off for another about his size and make you think it was Guy. I reckon you never would be any the wiser. Charlie said he has the same large bright eyes (compliment to his mother) but did not look the same otherwise. I suppose you would look for the crooked toes the first thing.

I will again resume my writing. I sometimes write a whole letter at one sitting, but to-day I do not do so. I talked and watched Guy from my window to see him maneuver, and played with him after he came in. He got sleepy about seven o'clock (little earlier than usual), and after he was undressed I laid down with him a short time. He is now fast asleep.

Col G has gone for, or rather followed, Mother down to Capt Turner's. Cynthia was here yesterday and brought Jonnie. I wish I could like the looks of that child, but I really cannot, and I don't like to see him often. Charlie said he was the homeliest child he ever saw. If he could be washed oftener, and dressed in better taste it would make a difference, but I presume if I had to do as much work as Cynthia, I would not have things in as good shape as she. Mother G says there was a very full church to-day. Laura was there, Aunt Martha and Uncle Ensign, none baptized that I knew. Laura said that Rowland stayed in Lewiston with John Harrison the first night after he went away, which was Thursday. Mr Strickland is not his wife's trustee, but someone who lives near them at Somerville. They were in Boston last week, and I don't know how soon they go West.

Rowland is to board with Mrs Wingate at Hallowell. He asked when I expected Mrs Clark to come to Leeds. I answered about the middle of June. He said if I had got to pay her fare he would get a carriage and bring her himself, but I made no answer for I don't know how I could send such a round about way, and have so many delays as that would make, for when I want her I do want her, and shall send for to come at the time I shall most need her help. I prefer that she should be here some time before the 'evenement than not till after but I could not explain to him.

I am very anxious now to receive letters from you, my dearest. I catch at every favorable word about your soon leaving Florida. I know you will make no unnecessary delay after you learn that your services are no longer required at that place. Rowland says he has been thinking you may be sent back to Watervliet. I do hope you wont, for I had rather go somewhere else next time we keep house. I am glad not to have the care of house keeping at Watervliet now. I do think that Mrs Van Vliet must feel very unpleasant to make two long journeys now and so near to-gether. You think little Wives better stay at home than to be traveling about with their husbands. I suppose I am not going to tell what I think on the subject, for fear we would not be of the same opinion.

Yours Ever
Lizzie Howard

762 5/10/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0703

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla
May 10th 1857

My dearest Wife

I am several at Major Morris' house. He has'nt yet come to relieve me from its charge. I can look out upon the bay from the south folding doors, which are open, and can see a steamer, the Ranger, coming up, gradually getting nearer & nearer with a long streaming cloud left behind. I am expecting that Colonel Loomis with my advice & consent will take me down to Fort Myers in that. I think a trip of this kind will quicken my blood and do me a great deal of good, but I don't like to get away from the regular course of the mail. The Steamer Fashion is due from New Orleans & I may delay and go down in her. If I do I shall probably go to Key West, Fort Dallas, Fort Capron &c & visit Fort Myers & then return to Fort Brooke. I am not certain however. You may continue to direct your letters here, they can be retained or forwarded according to circumstances.

I received a nice long letter from you yesterday evening, but the influence of the two fat checks was perceptible in its general tone. You didnt seem reconciled to so many extra aches & pains. And even the amiable little boy, had got a little peevish over his playthings. Your mother had been gone, and take it all in all you did'nt feel so happy as you do sometimes and yet you are my affectionate little wife.

I received a letter from Rowland just after I mailed one to him on Wednesday last. I am very happy to think he has passed the goal of indifference & moral lukewarmness & experienced so happy a change. It must be delightful to really have that "peace of God", and until one gets it and is fully conscious of it, he is not & cannot be a practical Christian. I want to be a christian & want you to be one, my darling, but I am not. I don't give myself up wholly & unreservedly to Christ. I meant to have written him today, but don't think I will have time.

Warren Lothrop wrote me by the last mail and asked some questions, which I must answer immediately. I wonder at his not getting his Orders. The general Order for promotion has been delayed at Washington, on account of having embraced a mistake with reference to one of the Regiments of Cavalry. The Colonel had appointed a first Lieutenant to the Adjutant of the Regiment. This Lieut declined accepting & a second Lieutenant was subsequently appointed adjutant. Now only a certain number of 1st Lts. are allowed and the adjutant is surplus. The appointment of a 2nd Lt leaves too many 1st Lts in the Regiment. This little thing has delayed the promulgation of the general Order some time. So it is said. Now Warren's Order will be likely to be embraced in this.

Warren speaks in flattering terms of Guy, thinks he does honor to his father &c. I tell you, I should like to see him.

This place is getting very monotonous. It is too warm to study or read comfortably in day time and the musketoes bother at night, I have'nt attempted it much. I read a little of Story Commentaries occasionally, read the newspapers when I can get them, though not so attentively as when I could read a paper every day.

I am thinking now of getting Mr Mack to take my place here, to take care of the three puppies, the mare & colt & the numerous flock of hens & chickens. The Major had a little black colt about as large as a young lamb born the other night; nobody was expecting his ingress; we were all considerably surprised to behold the prodigy.

It will be the middle of May before you get this. You mus'nt be getting discouraged now. Bear up a little longer, my darling, and all pain will be over. You may count upon it, we shall see each other in the Fall. I wonder if Capt Gorgas dont want me to relieve him. Where would you like to go most? I think our chance for St Louis about as good as for any place else. Would you like to go there?

Kiss little Guy. Give love to all & believe me
Your affectionate & loving husband
Otis

I sent a paper to Rowland a short time ago, & directed another yesterday. I hope my mother is very well - I should write her personally, but you are all at one place & I have many letters to write after I have closed your letter, & I think you will give my love & tell I am well & the <>. I will now stop to write Warren a few lines. I went to church with Col Loomis this morning. The Colonel is a professing Christian. He & I get on well together.

763 5/11/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-0704

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May. 11. 1857.

Mr. R. G. Jennings

Sir,

I received Saturday your letter directed to my Husband at West Troy, and conclude that you do not know of his change of post. He is now in Florida, and your letter would not reach him in season to be of any service to yourself. Could he have heard from you, I presume he would have granted the favor you asked most readily. Hoping you may be successful in gaining the position you desire.

I am respectfully yours
Mrs O. O. Howard

Dearest,

Enclosed you will find a letter that was remailed to me from West Troy. Mother G says that it was written by Rosco Jennings. I send you a copy of the answer I wrote him. I did not like him to have no answer to his letter and it would be very late before you could have written him, if I had sent to you his letter. I hope I have done as you would desire.

I have not answered the letter I received from Mrs Mulliken. I shall do so about the time you receive this. I have wished to write to her many times, but I don't want to do so too soon fearing I would not be as likely to get a reply. I have wanted her to come to see me, but when I write I shall tell her not to come next month for she might come the day of muster. That would be too funny, don't you think so? I wish I could have made a visit at Augusta when I first came to Maine. I presume I should not have taken Guy, but I would not fear to put him by the side of children older than he is. I wonder if he wont always be the smartest of our children?

Evening.

I have been sewing to-day - finished little Guy's sack, and he looks very pretty with it on. I shall not get him a hat 'till we start for our home, unless we remain here much longer than I now anticipate. A little white bonnet will do. You need not fear my making a girl of him, for he is boy all over, and I expect he will be a wild one. He begins to show the rogue that is in him. He is just beginning to try to make sentences, and you could not help laughing at him sometimes.

Mrs Berry came up here this afternoon to get some flower seeds of mother.

It is colder to-day than yesterday, and I have had a fire in my room all day. Do you remember of purchasing some cloth for me a sack when we lived at Augusta - something like Mrs Boggs red sack? I have it made, and frequently put it on when I am a little cold. I have had it on this afternoon.

I shall get a letter to-morrow - the same time George takes this to the P.O. and I hope the prospect of your leaving Florida soon will be very fair. I will be patient till you do come and think of me ever as

Your own loving and trusting little wife.
Lizzie Howard

764 5/12/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0705

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
12th May 1857
(Tuesday ½ past 12 P.M.)

My dearest Wife,

I have a few minutes before the boat leaves to say that I am about to start for Fort Myers. I shall write you from that place & hope your letters will not be much interrupted. But I don't expect to receive yours so regularly till I get back. I trust Heaven will be with you, & protect you, and you will come out bright & happy from all your trials.

I would rather be going Northward, but you must not expect me too soon. You will see me before winter, if God is willing.

You need not be worried for it is not the like of me that is exposed to any imminent or especial danger, though I in my own mind don't regard am under in much more danger than another. It takes so little to sever the vital chord that we are all of us all the time in danger, but I don't like to see a man on that account on the "qui vivre" of apprehension forever. I think it is cowardly.

But I must not discourse at length for I have just time to eat my dinner before the Ranger will be in readiness.

Kiss my little Guy. I would like to see you. My love to all. Again God bless you.

Your loving husband
O.O. Howard

I expect to be back here in two or three weeks but am not certain.

765 5/13/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0706

Fort Myers, Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Myers, Fla
May 13th 1857

My dearest Wife,

I will write you a few lines to go by tomorrow's mail. My letter will be remailed at Tampa next Wednesday, so that being at Fort Myers will delay my letter considerably. I left with Colonel Loomis & his Adjutant Mr Lewis on the Ranger as I said on Tuesday afternoon. We had delightful weather & a pleasant trip. We reached Punta Rassa (at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee) by six the next morning, stopped an hour to take on some oats & then came up to Fort Myers, where we arrived by ten o'clock.

There are a good many officers of the 5th Infy here now, Col & Mrs Waite, Mr & Mrs Burns, Capts Marcy & Stephenson and some young officers with whom I was acquainted at West Point. This is decidedly a military post & it does one good to meet officers & mess with them after the West Point style & talk over old times, the service & the prospects for the future. We have no certain information yet as to what will be done. It is thought the 5th Infantry will soon be called out of Florida by those who study the signs of the times. My time will not be likely to close, till operations have entirely ceased.

There is a beautiful band here that are now playing on the parade. Last night the soldiers had a dance & invited the officers to attend. We went in to look at them. They had the store house hung with the U.S. Flag & the Colors of their Regiment. By these flags the building was separated into two rooms, in one was a nice table loaded with delicacies & flowers &c and the other had the Band & the dancers. The soldiers had on their frock coats, & the Camp women were dressed in fine style. I noticed six or seven babies besides other small children two or three girls, quite pretty, of good figures & tastily dressed. Each Company has its women & they are left behind while the men go out on a scout. I had no idea there were so many women here.

The floor was rough, but I have seen a less happy effort at dancing in a more luxurious hall & among those of higher pretention. The indian women & children are quite an interesting institution here. There are six or seven women & as many children. Yesterday their dresses were very meager, but today presents of calico & other useful articles were furnished them. One little boy was stark naked & as smart as he well could be - very straight & well formed. All of them have keen black eyes & straight black hair. They have by nature far better looking countenances than I ever saw any Indians have before.

I have been talking with Captain Stephenson this morning about his scouts. A good many skirmishes have taken place that have not been reported, and the hardships to which the men have been exposed have been much greater than I anticipated. The Cypress is so thick that you can seldom see more than ten feet ahead. The Indians, put up rests & cut notches to rest their rifles in & watch a favorable opportunity to fire. The soldiers pick their way along one after another through these thickets, day after day, often without blankets, for their food is as much as they want to carry, & in their shirt sleeves.

I wish I was back at Tampa to get your letters, but I will be there I think very soon. It may be a week first it may be more, for I am going to Key West & round to Fort Dallas when the Fashion goes.

Love to all & especially to yourself & Guy. I hope you are still pretty well. I shall be quite anxious till I have good news. God grant all be well. I long to see you. I think you will have to take the field next time.

Yr affectionate & loving husband
Otis

766 5/13/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0707

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May 13. 1857.

My dearest Husband

I usually begin the letter I mail about the middle of the week Tuesday evening, but as I sent the letter I wrote Monday one day later, I write this later in the week than Tuesday. What is that? Mother G (who is sitting in my room) says, A may basket. She goes to the door in answer to the very short loud rap, and sure enough here is a little box filled with sugar hearts and kisses for 'Guy Howard', but he has gone to sleep and wont know till morning what some little friend has sent him.

I received a letter from you yesterday written April 29th. General Harney left for New Orleans that week on his way to Kansas, and quite a number of the officers and their wives left the same time. You do not say as much about coming away yourself, as in some former letters, and speak of the possibility of our passing next winter there - Tampa. Well, so be it, if you do not receive orders to go elsewhere in the mean-time. I hope by the last of July to be ready and able to take any journey that you may then propose. We shall see what time will bring forth. The sooner I am with you the sooner I shall be happy. You say that you expect to visit Fort Myers, Key West, Fort Dallas &c, after you commence building your magazine, and Major Morris returns. Do you go for pleasure or on business? You did not say.

I imagine this letter will find you still at Tampa and if the trip you anticipate making is only for pleasure, you better not have the pleasure. I fear the Indians might see you, think so? I suppose you fancy you are living in luxury now at Major Morris' quarters. I'll bet I do wish I was there and Guy. I wonder if I would have as many aches and pains as I do here. I guess I would fret sometimes, and threaten to "go home to Portland".

The evenings are very short now - not dark to light the lamps 'till eight o'clock. Now the clock has struck nine, I will go to sleep with Guy. God bless you, dearest, and be with us both during this night.

From your own true wife.

Thursday evening. April 14 [This should have been May 14]

My dearest Husband

I had no opportunity to send this to the P.O. today, and consequently was in no haste to finish it. I will not have much time to write this evening, for since Guy has gone to sleep I have been making a may-basket for George to hang for Jennie. He has now gone with it.

I hope to get another dear good letter, (as all your letters are to me) by the mail to-morrow, but like you I shall send this by George when he goes, and when he returns he will bring the one from you, and I cannot tell you till next time.

Mr Francis Lothrop called to the door yesterday on his way from Lewiston, and said he heard Warren had received orders to go to Florida. You may yet see him there. I imagine he will go by the way of New Orleans, as he said some time since, that he wished to pass one week there.

Mother G and my mother have been to call on Jane B since our tea. It has been a very pleasant day. Guy has been out twice; once with me and once with Grandmother. I sat in the door the last time. I have been pretty well this day, but I do not gain in strength. I know I have your deepest sympathy, and I ask no other, and tell no one else my troubles. What need is there if I can bear them alone. I always desire to write cheerfully to you, but some how a few gloomy sentences will run off my pen sometimes.

Friday.

I intended to write more last evening but Guy waked, and after I got up to see to him I thought I would go to bed,

and not again sit down to writing.

You tell me that Mrs Major Morris took my address. I wonder if she will write me. If she does I hope I will do you credit in the answer.

I cut out of the Portland Advertiser this marriage this <> this piece mentioning the name of Dr Carnochan. You wrote a name so near like it for Mrs Morris' daughter's husband's name, that I did not know but they were one.

Guy has just waked and says he does'nt want any dinner. He does not seem to have a very good apetite any of the time.

Dearest, how badly I have written this letter. I would copy it if I thought I would do better, but I fear I should not, and will not try. I wish I could be able to write all summer. What will I do instead.

Rowland wrote home that he had been to see Mrs Gorgas, had a very pleasant call and is invited to dine with them often this summer. Wrote that Mr Childs and Miss Bridge were to be married and Mr Armitage and Miss Pope, but did not write so I could tell whether Mr Armitage was to marry Miss Pope or not. [Clipping Attached] In Wiscasset 7th inst, Capt. Edwards Scott to Miss Eliza Ann, daughter of Henry Clark, Esq.

Saw Mr Mulliken. They were all well.

Our mothers will go to Lewiston one day next week, in the carriage.

I cannot write more this time, but believe me your affectionate little Wife.
Lizzie

767 5/15/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0708

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell May 15, 1857

My dear Brother

I came down here last Saturday. It will be a week tomorrow. I left Lizzie & Guy & all the rest at home well & I have had two business letters from Father since & they contained no ill news.

I staid at Augusta Friday night. I spent the evening at Dea Turners & had a very pleasant religious conversation with him and his family. He seems to live near to God. I saw C.H. Mulliken in the morning & he mentioned having recently "inflicted on you a long letter". He said his family were well.

I called on Mr Gorgas after Breakfast & never had a pleasanter "call" in my life. He made me feel almost as much "at home" as if you were there again. The Capt. mentioned having recvd a note from you lately. I liked them all - Capt & Mrs G, Willie & the baby. Murphy had many inquiries for the "Lieutenant" as also did "Johnny" M, &c. I didn't see McGregor. The grounds look beautifully with the new fresh grass of that peculiar hue which I suppose they don't have "down south". I walked all about. The Capt keeps things in fine order. He is about commencing some repairs & alterations in the Kitchen or Ell-part of the house. They were very cordial to me & full of that pleasant "Southern hospitality". "We dine at two & we shall always be very happy to see you Mr Howard" - was Mrs G's "good-bye". I may avail myself of it by & by a little. I shall enjoy going there, I know. She told me lots of gossip which I have almost forgotten, but there were - Mr Child & Miss Bridge, Miss Pope & Lieut somebody of the Navy, Rev Mr Armitage & a no. of others to be married soon.

I haven't heard from West Troy this long time. Isn't it time for Mr Lee to congratulate himself as a scion to the Lee & Knipp families?

I sent you the book which I mentioned in a former letter & I hope you have received it ere this. If you are not more deeply interested in it, you differ from me. I attend the "Old South" meeting here and am thinking of uniting with that Church. I have formed an acquaintance with & feel a warm Christian fellowship with Mr Simon Page, Mr L. K Gilman & Dr Richardson. Mr G related that story about you & the testament again when I was introduced to him.

Uncle Ensign has stayed with me two nights this week. He gave me an interesting account of their meeting & baptism last Sunday. There were two baptised & it was performed down at the old place - the Mason brook they always used to be. He says the meeting house was about full & a great deal of interest manifested.

I had a letter from Dellie yesterday & I know you will rejoice with me at the contents. I will make some quotations. But I haven't it in my pocket, as I thought but the sum & substance is - "I tried to seek the Saviour with all my heart & I trust that God for Christs sake has pardoned all my sins." He is in attendance on many public & social meetings for prayer & he seems deliberately to have "chosen the good part which shall never be taken from him". Write to him & encourage him to persevere in the Christian race. Join with Charles & I in earnest prayer that his conversion may be complete & enduring, that he may be assisted by the grace of God.

I have not heard from you since I first wrote you about these things & I am anxious to hear. My prayer is for you always. I had a letter from Charles proposing that we should join the Church together this Summer. Perhaps Dellie may be added to the number & shall not Otis? Surely we all want to be in Heaven & spend Eternity together. Why should we not commune together in holy things on Earth. It is no use talking about creeds - it is the thing that is necessary, complete Christian fellowship - a true home-like brotherly feeling is much promoted by uniting with the Church. I write to you as if you could say with Dellie - that God has accepted you. If He hasn't, I know He will. Have faith, think of Christ willing & ready to forgive even the thief on the cross, even the woman in Adultery. He will not refuse you. I had often a most overpowering desire to talk with Lizzie & especially was it so when I looked at little Guy whom I so much love & when I thought of the trial & danger that she was so soon to pass through. O that she might have the blessed bosom of her saviour on which to lean her head is my constant prayer. The reason I did not talk with her - was that her mother was constantly with her

& it seemed as if it wasn't best in her presence. I would have talked freely with either alone, but I well know from experience how the presence of a third person braces us up to resist conviction & to refuse the performance of duty & to help us make "excuses".

O Otis it seems to me more plain every day that the reason why we don't all have religion is that we love the world & the things of it more than we do God & the things of Eternity. You will ask now whether I do not have still more weighty reasons for becoming a minister than ever before? I do, but I will not enter upon them now. I have made up my mind to give it up, but I wish you to treat it now again as an open question. I have not time now to write fully in regard to it, but you may be sure that it is often in my thoughts & prayers.

I board at Laura Anns. Mr Wingates health is quite poor but it seems to be improving.

Aunt Ellen [Ellen (Grant) Otis, the second wife of Uncle John Otis] is full of cares but she and the little ones are well. She comes down with the horse & carriage & we go to ride quite often. We have got to be quite good friends. She tells me freely about her affairs & I do the same about mine (great consequence these last!). I have been up there to dine today. O those children - compared with them, Guy is a "gentleman & a scholar". They don't know anything of government & act as bad as they know how, especially at table. She says she wants me to come always when I feel like it & stay there as much as I wish & make myself perfectly free with the Library.

It is thought that Uncle's Estate will pay nearly 10 cts on a dollar. I filed Mothers claim today of \$2300. I was up to the old place with Aunt yesterday. You can't think how lonely it seemed there. The yard is neglected, the library & furniture all out of the house, & everything speaks of decay, misfortune & death. How powerfully did the worthlessness of "this worlds goods" come home to me while there. Uncle John died unhappy & poor. Debt stared him in the face year after year. She says she "never heard one of his happy laughs for over a year before he died". How could he laugh? Even his good name, his honor is doubted!

O let us have our "names written in the lambs books of Life". Let us lay up our treasure there too & then we can never "fail". We can leave one good legacy to our Children - the best of all - a life devoted to the Service of God.

I am going down to Bath tomorrow. I haven't been for - lets see - it must be five weeks! Haven't I been a "good boy"? Ella joins with me & her other "brothers" in prayer for Otis.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

768 5/16/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0709

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May. 16. 1857.

My dearest Husband

I have received but one letter from you this week and should be very anxious about you, had we not received a paper directed to Rowland from you mailed May 4th. I presume you did not send a letter to me by that mail. My last letter was mailed April 30th. I trust you are not ill, dearest, and next Tuesday I shall expect a letter. I fear time will pass slowly 'till then. Possibly you may have written by the same mail that brought the paper, and it came to-day. Col Gilmore did not have any one to send. George goes home every Saturday night and they did not finish work in season for him to go to the P.O. before he went home. I hope you get letters to-night from me. I am the only one who has written to you from here recently.

Your mother is quite well but in the midst of house-cleaning, and I was saying to my mother that she would have to take her turn at writing to you next month. Next month will last only thirty days and you cannot think I will regret when they are passed. I do hope you, Guy, and Mother will be well all the time, and for myself, I will hope for but little suffering and a short illness. I never felt the misfortune of my situation so much as I did last night, and the desire for your presence and sympathy. Little Guy was sick all night, very ill and vomited three times, seems to be burning with fever. To-day he has been quite well, very much better than I could have thought, but don't eat much - (tasted of some hominy for his breakfast and part of my apple pie for dinner and drank milk is all he has taken today.) He has gone to sleep now and I do hope and pray he may be well. I think it is partly owing to his teeth. The seventh and eight have been forming a long time, but they do not seem large enough for me to cut the gum.

It is past nine o'clock. I am the last one up and will now retire praying God to have us in His keeping through the night.

Sunday Morning eleven o'clock. You will first wish to hear about Guy. He is pretty well - rested quite well last night. I waked but once with him. He has just gone to sleep - having his nap. Mother and Rossa have gone to walk, but I guess they will soon return because it begins to rain. It has been cloudy all the morning. It will do Mothers flower garden much good. Guy and I sat by the window a long time after tea last evening to see the two Grand mothers and Rossa working over the beds. I think her garden will look better than ever before.

Mother received a letter from Mrs Lee last week was very glad to hear from us. They are now having there quarters repaired. Think some of having the little room far back made into a bath room with warm and cold water. Are having a chicken coop made and have sixteen nice fowls - all laying well, and have a cow.

Lieut Todd is there also his brother - a young man. Lieut Shunk had gone on inspecting duty with Col Huger. I presume he will have that duty as Mr Boggs used to and will remain at Watervliet. Miss Delia Thornton will be home all summer on account of her ill health. She tells how beautiful the Arsenal grounds are now looking. I can almost see them my self as I have been there in the spring. They wished to be remembered to you &c &c.

Mother and Rossa came in with a lot of green stuf. They think there will be a great abundance of strawberries this summer as the fields are now white with their blossoms. Wont I have a nice time eating them. I went into the south garden with Guy one day last week and the strawberry-vines growing in rows looked so pretty to him that he had to exclaim and brush each one with his little hand, and coming in he saw so many chips in the yard he did not want to leave them after he had filled both hands. He has sometimes brought a chip or small stick to put on my fire. We have to have an occasional fire in our room yet.

We got letters from Dellie and Rowland Friday. Rowland writes that the more acquainted he gets with Aunt Ellen the better he likes her, was to pass to-day in Bath. He sent Guy a tin trumpet from Lewiston with which he was very much pleased. I shall set another sheet to this to-morrow if I do not mail it in the morning.

With best love I remain your little Wife

Lizzie A. Howard

[Written in another hand]

Mrs Howard

May 16th / 59

769 5/16/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0710

[Fort Myers]

Source: Bowdoin

16th May /57 [This is a continuation of OOH-0706 written from Fort Myers.]

When I wrote the forgoing yesterday I thought it was Saturday. I lost my reckoning some way. The weather is exceedingly warm, so much so that it is uncomfortably warm with my coat on & I sit in my shirt sleeves.

Fort Myers is a beautiful place at this season. The houses are arranged along the southern bank of the river, with piazzas all around. They are in a line and very near to each other. There are continuous shell walks in front (that is, towards the parade opposite the river) close to the houses & parallel to the fronts & perpendicular walks running from the front doors across a broad front yard to the gate opening on the parade. Then on the edge of the parade ground & parallel to the fronts of the houses runs another shell path. These little shells have been broken into small pieces, and the paths are beautiful, as white as snow.

All along the fence in these yards are Oleander trees from ten to fifteen feet high with broad tops & completely loaded with blossoms as large & very much like the red rose. These large trees, keep in blossom for several weeks, & I don't know but for some months. There is another tree exceedingly beautiful - the sprig & flower I will send you. It is called the Ponciana or Pride of Barbadoes. Some of the trees are covered with a white & some with this red velvety flower. The Palms, Palmettoes, & pine apples have a few representations in the yard.

Now this is a lovely place indeed, but it is rather circumscribed - no inhabitants any where in the vicinity & very far from any settlements. The Caloosahatchie is a mile & a quarter broad at this point. Nature could hardly afford us a more attractive spot or more beautiful surroundings.

But with the flowering trees & luxuriant growth of plants, come the bugs & flies. My room is full now of the largest size horse fly, darting from side to side. Mrs Waite says she has got used to them & don't mind them. I should expect to see you cringing, if you were here for fear of those big flies. The common flies are as thick as need be & the musketoos are beginning to make their appearance. At Cape Sable, the Doctor reports that he killed twenty nine at a blow on his tent wall, that the dogs have fairly pined away & died and the men cant eat or sleep with any comfort. Captain Selden just came from there & says he hasnt been able to put on his boots for a long time - his feet & legs have swollen so from musquito bites. They say the air is completely full of them all the time night & day. I expect the Post will have to be given up just for the musquitoes. They are worse than the Indians.

Do you have any at Leeds? I expect Guy is smart enough to fight them.

I spent the evening yesterday at Mrs Col Waites. She seems a very fine lady indeed. She began to tell some of her experiences in the Army & I told her I believed officers wives the happiest of any women. They did'nt have to stay year after year in the same place, subject to the monotony of City or Country life continuously but could go the world over, see everything & be every where. She says she has now seen enough & would like to remain somewhere for a year or two at least.

My love to our darling. I know who would like a kiss but I will send a flower. Good bye.

Your own affectionate husband

Otis

770 5/17/1857 *From:* R. B. Rice

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0711

Oak Grove, [Georgia]

Source: Bowdoin

Oak Grove May 17th 1857

My Dear Sir

You have perhaps entirely abandoned the idea of ever hearing from me, but be assured that I have not forgotten our conversation on board the Clinch between Sava'h and Brunswick and my promise to write you when I became located. I was disappointed in the object which I had in view on the Palatka and have been sneaking about over the country until the 1st May at which time I came to this place, and expect to remain for the year. I found everything in such confusion that I have not had time to communicate with you sooner. I am now in a position to repeat the invitation which I extended to you when separating and sincerely trust that you can accept and spend a week with me.

You will find me twelve miles above Savannah, on the Georgia side of the River of that name. On the plantation of the late Judge Beroiers.

I will be pleased to hear from you. Write to Savannah Georgia.

Very truly yours
R. B. Rice

To
Lieut O. O. Howard

771 5/19/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0712

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Me. May 19. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I wonder if you will transport all the letters you have received from me since you have been in Florida to another 'post' when you do go. I have written you about forty - quite a pile, don't you think so? Those I have received from you, and hope to continue to receive will remain more precious than gold 'till your return; they have contributed more to my happiness than any one thing else. I am happy at the prospect of seeing you or being with you by Fall. All the rest look for you sooner than I do. Rowland says, "I set him 4th of July". Mother G the middle of the month, &c. Whenever it may be, my heart will be full of gladness.

I hope you will receive this letter the same time you will the one I mailed yesterday, because in that I said I received but one letter last week. I have now got it - mailed the same time the paper was to Rowland. I wonder it was so long on the way.

I have got the shell also; it came in a small box and I told Guy, "papa" sent it to Guy, and he watched all the time it was being opened and got his hammer to help and now he says 'papa' sent it, and I do think he still has some recollection of you. He has had those four little shells you sent in a letter to play with lately and I told him at first, "how pretty they are, 'papa' sent them to Guy", and now whenever he sees them 'tis "pa pa". He is quite a talker now. I might tell so many words that he can say, but I better let you be the more surprised when you can hear for yourself, as I hope and pray you may before a long time passes away.

When I got up yesterday morning I felt better and stronger than I have for a long time. I continue to feel quite well to-day, and do hope I shall not suffer as much as I have weeks passed.

I forgot to tell you in my last letter that Warren had started for Florida. He did not come down to see me after he got his orders, and if I should see him I should tell him that was very unofficer like, so you see you cannot have any presents by him. I think he would go by the way of new Orleans. He left here Thursday of last week.

I will leave now and finish to-morrow.

Wednesday Afternoon, May 20.

Dearest, my letter goes to the Post Office this afternoon and I will finish it before I commence my work. I have just eaten my dinner, and don't think it the best time to write a letter.

You have not as yet been to dinner unless you have recently changed the hour - say since you have had the management of a household, what a trouble it must be to order your own dinner. You must learn to love some things better than others, then you wont find it so hard. We had tripe and cold tongue for our dinner, and Guy waked early enough to eat with us. He is now very busy playing with spools and the box his shell came in. His blocks are scattered about the room and the little wagon "dor-gie" made him is filled with a variety of play-things. He seems very happy in the midst of them.

The water came through the aquaduct this morning, and Guy was very much interested in seeing 'bum-pa' try to mend the pump this forenoon.

Yesterday was a very pleasant day, but now we are having another rain. I think we could call this the rainy season here. I don't think our mothers will go to Lewiston this week. I was going to send for some things, and have them come by the Cars, but Mother G proposed that they should go with <the> carriage, as she had some errands that she would like to do.

Very soon I shall have my room fixed nicely for the coming summer, then I will tell you of it and describe it to you.

Georgie is letting the cattle out to drink, and Guy is looking at them from the window. He sees the "moo", "ajack", "dor-gie", "bah", "bidy". It would amuse you to hear him tell things, and try to explain what he sees. I know I shall get a letter to-night, if George goes for the mail and he will if does not rain too hard. I will or ought to say 'Later' as I let this lay some time unfinished to know if we were to have the mail to-night. George goes soon so good bye this time.

Believe me as ever your own true wife.
Lizzie A. Howard

772 5/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0713

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell May 22d 1857

My dear Brother

I have been thinking much of your situation of late - those mosquitoes & that excessive heat must be very troublesome. I have been hoping to hear that you were relieved. The troubles in Utah now seem to attract the most attention and I didn't know but the troops now in Fla would be concentrated there. Capt Gorgas seemed to think that they would be continued in Fla.

I went down to Bath Saturday as I proposed, and did not return till Wednesday morning. The whole time was a regular 'lovers meeting' and I was as happy as happy could be. Rev Mr Fiske with whom I have become quite intimately acquainted, conversed with me a long time Tuesday on my duty of becoming a minister of the Gospel & I made an appointment to meet him at five o'clock the next morning to renew the subject. We were going to walk but it proved too stormy, but our conversation was just as interesting. I think I have thought deeply & thoroughly on the subject.

Last night I went over & spent a long evening with Henry Emmons who is at the Bangor Seminary pursuing his Theological Studies. He was less confident & suggested many more difficulties & reasons on the other side than Mr Fiske, but I think that his general conclusion, on the statement of my views & feelings, was nearly the same - viz. - that I ought to be a Clergyman.

My motives or rather the one great motive of my life is different now from what it was when I wrote you about this subject before. Time seems less & Eternity more than then. I think God would do more good with me as a Clergyman than as a Lawyer, that I should be better fitted to live, to die, to enjoy Eternity. In short, that for me to continue in the law would be to throw myself into temptation & have it & tempt God. I had rather, yes from the lowest depths of my being I say it. I had rather be a poor minister in a little house, on a meagre Salary, than to be the greatest Lawyer of the Land. As for being an "Orator" for the exercise of the mind, truest, purest noblest kind of eloquence give me the pulpit & especially should I lose that part of a Pastors life which is employed in personal converse & by private means to win Souls to Christ.

I anticipate that your feeling will be that if I am assured that I can serve God better this way than any other, I ought to pursue it. It has not been without a struggle that I have yielded to this admonition of duty. After your letter on the subject & your generous present, I had fully made up my mind to return to Albany in Sep, graduate in April, go west & immediately enter practice. I had no doubt that I should be in a situation to marry by the following Spring. That hope which Ella & I had cherished & which we had warmed into almost certainty, must be cruelly postponed. She feels that deeply. The Seminary course is three years at least. She will then be twenty five & it takes all her Christian fortitude to consent cheerfully to this postponement. I have come to no conclusion as to a Seminary & I have not mentioned the subject to Father or Mother, Charles or Capt Patten, or any who are interested in me.

Laura Ann, Henry & little Josey are all well. I haven't been over to Aunt Ellen's since I returned from Bath but I understand that they are well. I have not heard from you this long time & not directly from home. Stinchfield has a first-rate saddle horse & I enjoy riding him very much. I shall write pretty often.

Your aff Bro
Rowland

773 5/23/1857 *From:* C. H. Howard

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0714

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. May 23, 1857

My dear brother

It is Saturday afternoon and I will commence this early, at half past one o'clock to write you a letter. I should have written before I know, but when I was at home I thought it was not necessary for me to write as you were receiving letters from some of the rest every few days and as I didn't care to spend much time in writing letters when my vacation was only 2 weeks. I can tell you no news from home as I have not heard from them but once since I left & that was by letter from Rowland just before he went to Hallowell. Rowland was down here last Saturday & Sunday & left Bath for Hallowell last Wednesday.

Today is the day for the May Training here & the town made extensive preparation as usual. I shall not train this afternoon I guess. It is a beautiful day. Yesterday was also pleasant but this Spring has been rainy & cold for the most part. The grass has just got started so as to make the fields look beautifully.

There will be about a hundred trainers. We have the Gardner Brass Band for music. But this will suffice for the May Training.

I recited in Surveying to Prof. Smyth this forenoon, in Cicero de Immortalitate this morning. We are yet reading the life of Napoleon in French. We only recite to Prof. Everett four times a week since it comes in the afternoon & we have Friday afternoon to write themes & declaim. I wrote a theme of 5 ½ pages of this paper yesterday. It was quite easy for me to write as the subject was Oliver Goldsmith which you know I wrote on last year. I am to declaim next week. Think I shall declaim the "Dead Christ" of Richter.

Our Elections have just come off in the general Societies. Hill is Pres, Ed. Reed of Bath Orator and Thompson of Brunswick Poet of the Atheneum. My Room-mate Abbott is Pres of Pencinian, <Oculan> Jackson Orator & Henry Savage Poet. Perhaps you are not acquainted with any of these. The excitement this year was not very great because the victorious party was much the stronger.

I am taking lessons in French of a Frenchman now - am to take 24 for which I pay 4 dollars. I recite from 8 to 9 o'clock in the morning. Prayers come at 6. Recitation till 7 then breakfast so I have my time well occupied. It takes me most of the time from 9 to 11 to get the Mathematics. From 1 to 2 P.M. I hear a fellow recite who is to enter the next Freshman Class and it takes all the rest of the afternoon to get my French.

You see about how I am situated & what is going on from day to day. Our Society meetings come Frid. Evenings - Thursday Evenings Class prayer meetings - Monday Eve Secret Society sometimes - Sat Eve Choir meeting. I have the lead of the Baptist Choir so that I have to be present.

During the last week there has been a man here lecturing on Oratory &c & reciting pieces. I went one night to hear him.

I now want to ask you how you are getting along - whether you have got tired of Tampa. I heard from Cary of Freshman Class, that you saw his brother at Tampa this Spring.

I suppose Rowland's letters have reached you written since the Change was wrought in him. I am rejoiced to know he has really found the Savior precious to his soul. I feel confident that it is a thorough conversion. Delle is also rejoicing in the hope of pardoned sin. Probably he has also written you.

Rowland & I enjoyed one another's society very much while we were at home. We prayed with mother the night after Rowland returned from Bath & Hallowell for while he had been absent he got new light & hope.

We have been hoping you would not be late in joining our ranks. Rowland hoped he might be of benefit to you.

Sunday May 24. I did not finish my letter yesterday as I expected to for I went out to see the Training & then

returned & got my Greek lesson for tomorrow. In the evening I went to Choir meeting.

It has been a beautiful day today. We have a minister from Mass. He is what is called an Evangelist - that is, is settled no where but preaches where they are destitute. He is quite a revival preacher but well educated. I liked him much. This forenoon he preached on the text "The love of Christ constraineth us". This afternoon - "Ye must be born again". He is to preach Tuesday & Thursday. He speaks extempore, is a very large man - weighs 275 pounds - has a strong & musical voice. I expect there will be many conversions while he preaches as it has been the case elsewhere. He asks for the prayers of the Church & urges the necessity of their prayers if they would <desire> a blessing.

I had a letter from Ella a day or two ago. She says Rowland has not yet fully decided not to preach the gospel. I have not said much to induce him to be a minister. I have said nothing since his conversion. He would I think do much good as a minister. He at present improves every opportunity of conversing with the unconverted.

I have serious thoughts of uniting with the Congregationalist Church here next Communion, which is the 1st of July. Rowland has spoken of joining the church at Hallowell.

We are now getting pretty well along in the Summer term. The Seniors are talking about leaving & we are looking towards Commencement. The class has a prize declamation but I don't know as I shall be appointed to speak.

I went to prayer meeting this evening down to the Baptist house. They are very cold now at that church but I am in hopes they will get more of the Spirit's influence now that they have a minister & a revival minister too. I am rather sleepy & so think I will close. It is growing late. I heard from you often while at home but since I returned to College have neither heard from you nor from home.

We have Electra of Sophocles tomorrow morn. & I am to get up early & get my lesson.

I pray God that you may be <> to Him and that your very next letter may tell me you are rejoicing in the love of Christ.

Your Affectionate Br.
C. H. Howard

774 5/24/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My own dearest wife
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0715

Source: Bowdoin

Office
Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla,

Office
Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla, 24 May /57

My own dearest wife

I returned to this place from Fort Myers by the Steamer 'Ranger', arriving just as the sun was going down last night. The Mail was already in and I found two precious letters waiting for me. I received one from Rowland and another from yourself while I was at Fort Myers and I sent one to you by the only boat that left. She was a little sail boat and got upset in a gale and the mail was submerged for two days I think the officers said. Mr Hazzard remembered your address & kindly re-enveloped & addressed Leeds Me. I have thanked him & must send him a Postage stamp. Lt Drake was on board the mail boat and was in the water some two hours. I hav'nt seen him since I came back. That letter & this will reach you at the same time.

We have had some heavy winds of late so that the mail due at Fort Myers did not reach there till Wednesday night and we started the next morning. We passed Punta Rassa before noon & entered Charlotte harbor, but as the wind was fresh from the North and we had the luck to get aground at low tide, we didnt make any effort to go on. I went ashore on an Island with a rifle to hunt wild hogs but didnt have the luck to get any. It was just at night. One of the men with me wounded a Racoon, but even he got away. We returned to the boat & I spent the evening very pleasantly playing games with Colonel Loomis & reading 'Margaret', the book which you have, illustrated.

The next morning we were afloat & went on five or six miles, leaving Charlotte harbor by the Boca Grande. The wind began to increase, and the boat which was never made for the sea began to roll & pitch rather ominously, and so we put about & back into the harbor. Saturday (yesterday) we started again & got into Sarasota Bay without accident, though we had quite a wind from the North & some swell. We were now safe from any high wind but were in danger of getting aground, but we drove on slowly against a head wind & tide up past Egmont light house, through Tampa bay and reached our wharf just as the sun was going down.

On Friday I went ashore again with two or three men to hunt on an Island. This island has several palmetto huts on it occupied by the fishermen in the fishing season. We found in them, benches, tubs, barrels & shells. These houses are framed with small poles withed together & covered with palmetto leaves & branches - on the sides as well as on the top & make very pretty summer houses. I walked along the beach for two or three miles, picked up pretty shells & followed the tracks of hogs & coons, tried a shot or so on the Pelicans as they flew over, but of course did'nt hurt them. I penetrated the woods & thickets, saw the cabbage palmetto, a tree from ten to fifteen feet in height. The trunk has the anomalous structure of growing larger as you ascend and on the top is the cabbage. This is said to make excellent food, especially for the Indians. After I had tired myself out breaking my way through the thick underbrush, neither finding deer, hog or coon I returned to the Ranger and spent the rest of the day in reading, smoking & thinking.

By the last mail Colonel Loomis got orders to continue operations, vigorously. There were a good many disappointed & crestfallen ones the night this order arrived. We had hoped that there was something in the News Paper reports & rumors. We had decided that the 5th Infantry were going out & were waiting anxiously for the mail to bring the good news. When the order came, laying down the posts to be occupied & the (almost) unendurable & impossible things to be done I have given it up. It will be pretty late in the fall before I get out, unless something new turns up. "Nous verrons"! Encore.

I got acquainted with Captains Stephenson & Whitall & Selden. I knew Bvt Major Kapell & Capt Marcy before. Four of these have wives & families, and say they have been away from them "all their lives nearly." They say that an officer of the line ought not to get married.

Capt Selden married when I was on furlough in Vermont. He lost her while his boy was only two or three

months old, and I believe he is now drinking himself to death. His child is still living & about four years old. What breaks one man's heart often burdens another's.

It would be so much better if our love for each other & for our children could be subordinate to the love we yield to Christ. It is then comparatively easy to part for a little while for we would know that we are to meet again. But without this love how can we. Lizzie, there is something in this Love. I believe it will be given us if we ask for it doubting nothing. Go to work & get it my darling, & tell me how you did it. Never mind creeds, never mind doctrines. Let us get this Love first if we can & then all the rest will be plain.

I listened to an excellent sermon this morning - on the text, "If a man serve me him will my Father honor". Oh! He says have faith! Exert your mind to believe that Christ will pardon you, all your wrong doings immediately, just as soon as you believe. I have been on the outskirts of Christianity for a long time. I have't got that faith yet, that sense of Peace & Love that a man has or says he has when Christ takes up his dwelling in the heart. God grant it come into my heart & thine & we my darling wife will then be better prepared to bring up the darling little ones He gives us. It is a solemn thing to attempt to pilot an immortal mind - to guide a little heart so as to steer clear of corruption & sin. We cant do it alone. We cant teach a child to keep the commandments that we are breaking before him, to love the Saviour that we do not love. You think of me & I think of you much, very much - it is because we love each other. This is well, natural, right, but we don't think much about that Saviour who is ever near by to watch us & plead with us to give him our love. But why should we give Him our Love, what is there to Love - a vision, a dream, a spirit that we cant see or feel or touch? It is Greek to me still, Lizzie. You musnt wait for me, but open the door. Let Christ come in & sup with you & you with him.

I will take another sheet.

Let us look at ourselves, closely, carefully & alone. Christ loves a pure heart. Is mine pure? Don't I say things against my neighbors? What makes me. Don't I want power, influence & high station. What makes me want them; is it to do honor to my Creator or to myself?. Don't I deceive, don't I warp the truth? Can I give up 8 dolls per month for Conscience's sake, or must I go on & say I own & keep in service a horse, when I do not? Don't I do things that I know to be wrong to please people, have't I perjured myself to myself? Have't I been hypocritical? Have't people thought I was a Christian, & said he does so & so, & cant I? Have't I been ashamed to own that I am interested in Christ? Have I given even a cup of cold water to any man because he belonged to Christ? What have I done for the honor of my Maker? Let us see what good thing have I done. I have given alms. What for? Was it because of my love for my fellow? I think not. To put the best construction on it I can, it was but a generous impulse.

Let us see.

1. I am the Lord thy God &c.
have no other Gods before me &c.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain &c.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, &c.
5. Honour thy Father & thy Mother.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.
10. Thou shalt not covet &c.

Now I cant think of any one of these nine out of the ten commandments that I have not violated, either by actual deed or in my heart. Is my heart pure? Now I know it is not & I cant make it so with all my trying, unless I try in the right way. Christ can make it so - Do I believe that? Do you? What is Christ, where is He? Is he in my heart; is he in yours? Not yet, but he is close by. What fools we are to say that that woman professes to be a Christian & is no better, than you or me.

What means that. If what we say is true all we do really say is, "that woman is not a christian". "Judge not" &c. we may & will do wrong after we love God, but not willingly & wilfully as before. The Question My darling wife is, do we love him & if we don't, is it our privilege? Can we? How can we?

If you are able to write I wish you would open your heart to me & tell me what you think. I am rejoiced at what you wrote for Eternity & God & Christ are often the burden of my thoughts. I love to have you with me - may be, hand in hand & heart in heart, you & I & our children may dwell forever & ever in one of those Heavenly mansions that Christ has prepared for them that love him. Would you; then we must fear God & Love him, as the child fears a good father while he loves him. We must bring up our children in the same fear - plant the

775 5/25/1857 *From:* Lizzie A Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0716

Leeds. Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May 25. 1857

My dearest Husband,

It is now Monday evening, the clock has struck eight. Guy is asleep, and I am seated to write a letter to mail to you to-morrow, when Col Gilmore goes to town-meeting. This will be the third meeting they have had to see about rebuilding the three bridges across dead river that were carried away in the spring by the freshet. We are now having Summer weather in good earnest, and the mosquitoes have made their appearance quite to my annoyance. I presume there are a dozen in the room now, but I took my musquito bar with me, and Guy is nicely protected by it from them, so I can hear their music quite undisturbed. I never knew what it was to suffer from heat before the present month. I am surprised that Mrs Symington has lived through so many summers.

It will be all over before I receive an answer to this letter, my dearest Otis, and God grant that all may be well is my most earnest prayer, and afterwards that you may return to me in safety and in good health. I dreamed recently that you were ill, and in your last letter you did not say anything about being in good health but that you "thought such a trip as you anticipated taking would quicken your blood and do you a great deal of good". I do hope no unfavorable symptoms caused you to write that sentence.

I have thought much of you of late, and eagerly seized every letter addressed to me from you; the two letters you wrote to Rowland recently we remailed to him yesterday. Mother G opened the first one, because you said in my letter by the same mail, that you wrote all the news in his letter. What you wrote in the last we know nothing of.

Col G and Mother G went to church yesterday. Rossa, Mother, Guy and myself kept house. Roland and Cynthia went also - the first time for a long while. I trust when we are again settled that we shall be more regular in attending divine worship than we have been. I will admit that I have always been the one to take the least interest in doing our duty, but may a new course and better, blot out the errors of the past.

Our mothers went to Lewiston last Saturday. We shall be very busy all this week arranging our things and room for summer. My mother's health does not seem quite as good as I would wish, but I hope it is only over fatigue. Of late she has exercised more every day than I think she ought, and now I am going to have her be very careful.

I am better than I have been, all last week I felt better, but now I can take nothing but bread and coffee for my breakfast. If I do attempt any thing more I suffer for it all day. It is one comfort to think it wont always be so. You cannot imagine how happy I shall be if we are ever again living together.

I will leave the next page to fill in the morning. I have written very rapidly and it is a little past nine o'clock. I hear Col G going to bed and he is the last one up excepting myself. I will be asleep as soon as he.

Dearest, I will finish my letter now but may be I shall not fill the sheet, for I do not feel quite as well as usual. I try to keep very quiet. Mrs Turner is passing the day with us. She seems to be enjoying her visit.

I hope to get another letter from you this afternoon. Guy is as happy as need be to-day, been to walk with Grand-mother, or "nam-ma" as he now calls her. He cannot spend time to sleep to-day and will go to the table with us. He is very seldom up at dinner time. I wont write more dearest this time. Mrs Turner is coming into my room to sit till dinner is ready.

Believe me as ever your own true wife.
Lizzie A Howard

[Written in another hand]
Mrs Howard

Tampa - dated
May 25/57

776 5/26/1857 *From:* Otis H [OO Howard] *To:* My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0717 Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla.
May 26th 1857

My dearest wife,

Wednesday afternoon has come & I will write you a few words to report myself still in good health.

On Monday I had some accounts to settle with Major Leonard and while he was writing checks, I paid my respects to the little madam, and teased her about a leave of absence she is expecting her husband to get. I told her she didn't need anything more - she was at a nice home and had her husband with her. On my return to the Garrison I called at Mrs Lancaster's & paid my devoirs to Major Ward, a Gentleman who was on the "Board of Visitors" to West Point in 1853, and with whom I then got quite well acquainted. Judge Lancaster died here just before I came, leaving a wife & two unmarried daughters. The eldest must be over thirty or near thereabouts. The younger Laura is quite good looking and is affianced to Lieut Tom Vincent of the 2nd Artillery, Bogg's classmate. I have not made the acquaintance of these ladies till recently. Maj Ward is a connection. They are highly educated and rather the Bon ton of this place.

Major Morris left here for Fort Capron on Monday & I went back to Mr Duke's hotel to board.

Yesterday we all went on a trip with the Steamer Ranger to Old Tampa Bay. The weather was delightful and the steamer left the wharf at half past nine. There was Mrs Page & her four children, Frank, the six year old boy, full of joy, to whom the pleasure gave such a zest, that he moved about with a perfectly serious face, watching the Band with their instruments, the Howitzer that fired salutes or what ever else he could find that was new. Little Susan with her homely truthful aspect, then <Pasey> the girl faced boy & the baby little Kate that behaved so well that nobody noticed her except Major Page and myself, who crept into a little room, peeped under the Musketo bar & saw three smart ones - asleep Henry Kennedy, Katy Page, & Baby McKay - three little innocent darlings that it did ones heart good to look upon. There was Mrs McKay with six children, Mrs Kennedy with three & Mrs Captain Duke who left hers at home. I played with Tom Kennedy, Frank Page, Jane Kennedy, Tilden McKay & her brother Donald, talked seriously with the ladies & metaphysics with the Gentlemen.

I have spoken to you of Mr Hart the Lawyer from Key West. He has now moved here & brought his wife. She is little like you, looks some older than you did 5 mos. ago, but is quite sprightly & happy with her husband, who is just such a whole souled man as I like. If you ever come to Tampa to join me, you will find in her just such a lady as you will like.

Jim Duke is Captain of the U.S. Steamer Gray Cloud. His wife has three little girls whom she keeps tastily dressed & well-behaved. They look as if they were two, three & four yrs old. Mrs Duke's name was Pool. She has lived in Portland with her father, been to Mr Packard's school & knows a great many people that I know. Mr Mack & she talk about Portland & Portland people, for he was stationed there at the fort for some time & if I understand him aright was almost in love with a young lady there. Well, Maj Ward, Major McKinstry wife & son, Guy, who is the handsomest small boy on this post, the Editor of the newspaper Mr Furman &c &c came there.

We sailed, (if you call it sailing when you move under high pressure) down the Tampa bay, past several points of land & amongst islands covered with green trees, and found ourselves in four hours & a half in "old Tampa Bay". We found but one habitable place & this was deserted - situate on a high bluff. This place was as pretty as any I have seen. Here we found a mound some forty or fifty feet high. The sides of which are completely covered with lime & orange trees. There was one house, where Ian Philippe had lived till he <lost> his wife. Miss Wilson, the school teachers daughter wont have him, because he is a Spaniard & so black & ugly. He wont live down there on a <St> Helena without her. After we had anchored near by this bluff & all gone ashore, & returned and set down to a nice dinner, while the Boat put about & took her homeward way. The ladies kept the Band playing & the children danced & frolicked. When we got near home, we found the channel blocked up

by a schooner. We ran aground, sent the ladies & children ashore. Boats returned & took the gentlemen & the Band playing, at evening, Annie Laurie & other airs so sweet.

I hurried on to Mr Duke's, got my supper & then went to Church. Mr Wells, a Methodist minister, preached just such a sermon as I wanted to hear, an experimental faith - from the text, "I count all things but lust for the excellency of the Knowledge of Christ". There is a revival here now & after his sermon a great deal of excitement was generated. He asked those who meant to or believe they would meet him in Heaven to get up &, then all who desired the prayers of Christian brethren (being sinners) to rise. I got up with the latter. Then commenced shouting & calling of sinners to come forward, many went & kneeled down.

The storm of enthusiasm was increasing & I got up & left the house. I want to be a Christian, but I distrust undue excitement. I love to see men in earnest, but not beyond control. Colonel Loomis, good old man that he is, staid through it all. I waited for him & we walked home together. He talked with me till one o'clock at night, gave me books to read. He has such an earnest Christian faith that it would do your heart good to listen to & converse with him. Such is now the Commander of the Department of Florida. He gave me a book on prayer & a little book of hymns with some tracts.

Everything seems so providential - I was thinking what a moral coward I was, prayed for you & Rowland & Charlie & Mother & all - but coldly. My heart didn't seem to be in it. Then comes Rowlands letter - so unexpected. Then you write me just what I wanted to know that you were willing to converse freely about the most important thing to every man, & then last Sunday, a sermon on the very points that were dark to me, & again last night & the counsel & kind persuasion of Colonel Loomis. If I am not saved wont it be my fault?

Oh, my darling. I wish I could see you, & talk with you, & pray with you tonight. My love to all. Kiss my darling boy. Not time to read over or extend.

Your loving husband
Otis H

\$180.00 enclosed.

777 5/28/1857 *From:* Lizzie A. Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0718

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. May 28. 1857

My dearest Husband,

Guy goes to sleep now earlier than he has been in the habit of doing. He is asleep now and I am beginning my letter to you before the lamps are lighted.

I received Tuesday the short letter you wrote just as you were about to start for Ft Myers. I am very glad, dearest, you were so thoughtful as to write and leave the letter to come to me by the mail that would leave Tampa the day after you left. I desire much to write this letter to-night, but I am so uneasy and anxious about you that I can scarcely collect my thoughts.

I expect you would call me a foolish little wife were you near enough to whisper it, but I am not. I am a good little wife, and if you ever know how patiently I put up with and over look annoyances and petty troubles that arise you will give me all credit. I remember in one of your former letters, you wrote that "I must'nt mind little grievances and annoyances that I might be exposed to during my stay in Maine, but rise above them and be generous to all". I have faithfully bore it in mind, and at all times try to act as I think you would prefer I would.

I don't think we shall ever again be separated under the like circumstances, therefore we must live bravely through this separation, with the feeling ever uppermost that it is to be the last. I continue to look into the future hopefully and am as cheerful as can be considering all my circumstances. I have felt much better generally for the past week and a half, and hope to remain as well the next three weeks.

I shall not be looking for you sooner than you will arrive. I now think that there is as much probability of my passing next winter in Florida, as there is of your coming to us soon. Yesterday's paper says, "From a letter from Gov Broome of Florida to Col Houston, it appears that hostilities against the Seminoles are to be prosecuted with unabated vigor, under the command of Col Loomis: the exigencies of the government require the presence of Gen Harney upon another field, but the policy inaugurated by him is to be carried out. The Gov had an interview with the Secretary of War and Gen Scott, and received assurances from them that the war will be prosecuted with the utmost vigor, and no suspension of hostilities were contemplated. He also expresses the belief that Gen Harney will return to Florida, if necessary, after he shall have "tranquilized" Kansas where he has been ordered. I don't know how much the above is worth; it may be true and it may be untrue. If true the prospect of your immediate return is not very bright.

Dearest, if you do get orders I hope you will mention it to me, and not step into the house perfectly unexpected. Of course, I should be truly happy to know you had really come, but my dearest Otis, I might at the time be too weak to hear suddenly such startling good news, and then all pleasure of the surprise would be changed to feelings of anxiety for me.

I write as if I still think you will be here before two month will have passed, but I do not, and cannot guess at what time you will come to us. I know you may come soon and you may not. You are an Army Officer, and do not yourself propose the changes you make. I have been thinking if you should receive 'Orders' to go to another Post before leaving Florida, (and of course you will) would it not be well to call at that Post on your way here, if it should not be a distant station, or out of your way. I don't think it necessary; the idea came into my head and I mention it.

Col Gilmore says he has finished his planting, and next comes mending fences. I shall learn something about farming this summer and perhaps consent to have you purchase a farm some day, and I become a farmer's wife. You need not send in your resignation on the strength of the above.

I just went for a drink of water through the dining room, and it looks like bedtime out there. Your mother setting back chairs and putting the room in order generally. Col G finished his reading and asleep in his chair. I glanced at the clock - it was ten minutes past nine.

My mother has been asleep some time. She is better than she was the first of the week. I do hope she wont get sick but I fear it, because Rossa is going away to stay a week, and she will see your mother working and will work with her more than she is able to do. No one but myself knows how little will make her sick a bed. When she begins to fail, I shall watch over her and caution her. For it is very important now for her to keep well.

I have well filled this sheet and may add more if I do not mail it in the morning. I hope if you are to come north you will be able to come before the weather here begins to be too cold for you to make the change.

Ever your affectionate little wife
Lizzie A. Howard

Friday Evening

Dearest,

I have been so very busy sewing to-day that I have not taken time to add more to my letter I wrote last evening. I am as well as usual.

Yours ever,
Lizzie

[Written in another hand]
Mrs Howard
May 18th Tampa [Should have been 28th]
1857

778 5/31/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0720

Leeds Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Me. May 31. 1857
Sunday Morning, Eleven o'clock

My dearest Husband,

I received but one letter from you last week, but do not feel so anxious as I should had you not told me you might not be able to mail letters regularly during your excursion to the southern part of the state. I cannot help thinking your health is not as good as we would wish - or as it was when you first went to Florida, still I hope for the best.

I should judge now, from what I see by the papers, that the prospect of your leaving Florida was not very great, and if the hostilities against the Indians do not cease by the time I am able to make the journey, you must, dearest, make up your mind to have us come to you. I cannot stay here away from you so long, and I know we would be as healthy there as here, and get rid of all anxiety and worrying about each other. You wrote in your next to the last letter, that it would be as pleasant to pass next winter in Florida as any where else. I could say a great deal in favor of so doing, but I know you feel the same about it as I do, and we now can only wait patiently till one or the other can go.

I continue as well as usual, but "am much fatter and consequently more uncomfortable", as Mrs Lee writes. Mother has gone to Turner, went to Esq. Martin's to take the stage from there to Uncle Morse's, who lives one mile south of North Turner Bridge. I do not know how or when she will return. She could not decide before going, but probably some time this week. She will see about sending our sofa over here. It would be of much service to me this summer.

Rowland is at home, came Friday afternoon. Guy was so delighted to see him. He will go back Tuesday next. He rode to Leeds with Mr Martin (Martha Martins father) and that is how Mother happened to go to Turner the way she did. Mr Martin was going to visit his brother, and took her as far as there.

I have said nothing about sending for Mrs Clark yet, but I would like her to come to me about the last of next week. I shall be confined between the twelfth and twenty-fourth of the month most likely and I very much desire that she should be here then.

Evening.

I wrote this morning 'till Guy waked and as I have the care of him alone now Mother is away, I left my letter to finish this evening after he went to sleep.

Col G Rossa Guy and myself have been at home all day. Mother G and Rowland went to Church and have not yet returned and it is past seven o'clock. They spoke of staying to prayer-meeting if it was to be there instead of at the City. William has come to take Georgie's place this week. He brought Guy a tumbler full of boxberry plums.

I walked down to Mrs Turner's yesterday afternoon with Guy. I had not been there for a long time. When he waked from his nap just after our dinner, he began to tell about the "Bow-wow". I got his dinner and he ate it. Then I told him we could go see the bow wow and Flora. Rowland and Mother were going to Uncle Ensign's and were getting ready when we went. Rowland had been making a call there and came out just as we went in. I asked him to come for us when he had harnessed the horse. He did so as Mother was not ready. Guy tells about going 'ajack' with "awummy" and 'Uncle'.

It was as far as I would wish to ride at present. I would like Guy to ride some but I am so nervous I would not dare to trust him to go away with any of them. The horse will go so down-hill only when you drive and the carriage tips and shakes so much, that the anxiety I would feel all the time he would be gone would injure me more than the ride would do him good.

I hope Rowland writes you all the Augusta news. I regret very much to hear that there are stories in circulation about Charles M not being kind and loving his own wife as he ought, for we are apt to think there must be something to make such stories out of. I have not written her yet, but shall soon.

Mr Armitage does not marry Miss Pope but someone in his society. She marries into the Marine Corps.

It is just after nine o'clock and I will go to sleep with Guy as soon as I finish this sheet. I wonder how many more letters I will be able to write to you. I shall want to write when I know I cannot, but you will hear from me for I shall make someone write. I shall look for your kind, sympathizing letters and God grant that you may continue in good health to be able to write them.

Now I will write Good Night and if I can I will write more to-morrow. I have exercised more than usual to-day going from room to room with Guy and attending to his little wants that I am some lame and tired. Mother has taught Guy to throw a kiss to 'papa' and he threw one just as I put him in bed to-night. He does it so nicely. I hope he will know you when he does see you. I am still inclined to think so.

Your affectionate little Wife.
Lizzie Howard

779 5/31/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0721

Ord Depot, Fort
Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ord Depot, Fort Brooke, Fla.
May 31st 1857

My dearest wife,

I am well aware that now you would like to have me with you & it may be, even a stronger desire will be in your heart when this letter is opened & read. But I have "good tidings" to communicate to you.

I set about seeking Christ, with the full purpose of heart to continue searching till I found Him. I went about it as I have gone about any business of importance. Colonel Loomis kind good old man has assisted me with books & conversations - but it is through the Methodist protracted meeting that I have been enabled to gain assistance & the assistance I needed. I went there one night & listened to a Sermon. It was an excellent one, on experimental i.e. practical Faith. He invited those to rise who expected to meet him in Heaven. I could'nt do it. He then invited those to rise who wished to be prayed for, with a sudden resolution, I got up. Then quite an exciting time not unusual at these revival meetings began, where the Ministers were trying to get members of the congregation to come forward. I found my breast was getting harder & I resisted the inclination to go forward. I didnt partake of the Excitement, though sitting beside Colonel Loomis I got up & left. I waited for him at Duke's hotel. We walked to the Garrison together & he talked to me so fatherly & kindly that it had an effect to make me love a true Christian more than I had done. We talked together till one o'clock, or after. He gave me a beautiful book on prayer & some tracts. I prayed often & asked Christ to forgive me my sins, that I might be saved through Him - but no; there was a pressure at my heart & throat. I was in search of "that peace that passeth understanding" & I did'nt get it.

I got a letter from you & one from Rowland the next night, went to Mr Hazzard's room, read the letter & began reading the papers, thought I would go again to the Church. I took a back seat, listened to a preacher who told truths, but didnt excite me or attract me in the least; but after sermon he asked sinners to come forward to be prayed for if they wished to obtain Religion. I was standing up with others while a hymn was sung. Some went forward, women all of them, some young men were laughing & making sport. I saw them, & saying to myself, "You are a coward", I went forward, more in pride perhaps than in humility. I trembled like a leaf, but my head was clear & I didnt shed tears like the rest, a boy of twelve or fourteen followed me & he was crying. I knelt down & even now didnt get a blessing, though I tried to have strong faith in Christ's power to save me. I wont follow it all through, but I will tell you that after Church last night, after having made up my mind to join the Church & keep trying, I came in here (as at many times before) at about half past nine. I began reading Hedley Vicar's Diary notes, how much like me, full of pride & vanity to be overcome. I read in the Bible a chapter. I knelt down to pray. I remembered Vicars, saw the Expression: "The Blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin". I had tried for that joy which Vicars & Rowland got; by believing that Christ was able & willing to pardon me, but it would'nt do.

I then bore that text above in mind, & said in my heart Oh! My Saviour, I know thou canst save me!

I made an effort to fully believe my sins washed in the Blood of the Lamb, that my dear Saviour had actually saved me at that moment, ie had pardoned all my transgressions of the laws of God, & all the wickedness of a corrupt heart. The fullness of the glow of happiness came into my heart, the tugging & burning left me. The choking sensation was gone & for once I enjoyed present happiness. Oh! how sweet & delightful it seemed; then I wondered if it would go away. If it did would it come back. I did'nt sleep much, I was too happy. I was saved through the goodness & mercy of Christ. If I don't pray to Him & ask continually for his blessing, folly & vanity may master me again. If Christ veils his face from me, because of any sin, as he may & probably will do at times, I may go back to darkness & go into the next world unhappy.

But my darling little wife I tell you that my mind is as clear as when making out an Ordnance Return & I am not deceived. "The Blood of Christ does cleanse us from sin". This is done when you throw yourself wholly & unreservedly on his Mercy. This is the Change of heart, this is when the hope commences. If I die at just this moment I go to Heaven, for I am happy now through Christ. Now I have'nt thought of a single creed or doctrine,

except this that there is but one way whereby men can be saved, either in Heaven or among men.

Now my Love, if I was going into a pleasant garden I would love to have you on my arm. If I was going on an excursion to any place where the scenery was beautiful, I should want you to enjoy it with me. Now this peculiar joy in my heart - don't you want it - ask Christ for it nothing doubting & you can have it. I want you to go to Heaven with me and if little Guy should have to be taken from us we would want to go & find him in the Saviours bosom, where he would certainly be for of such little innocents is the Kingdom of Heaven. I cant say I shouldn't be happy if you didnt do so, for I am happy without myself being the cause. It is the Holy Spirt that constraineth me. If you are on a bed of sickness when this come, know that your husbands heart is growing more tender & that his love for you has'nt diminished. Oh! that I might see you & help you go to Christ, where you can get true courage & strength. May God in Heaven bless you. Pray for me, darling. You may already be ahead of me & then this expression will find a deep chord of sympathy to touch.

Tell mother all about it & give my love to all. Tell Mother Waite that never mind if uncle Alden did pray & then break off. God has given me power to make resolutions & carry them out. He will help me to lead from this time hence forth a consistent Christian life. And you must come along with me. You have as much right & interest in Christ as I.

Your affectionate & loving husband
Otis

[The following statement was written in the margin of the last page.]
Oh Lizzie darling, this is the kind of property to lay by for a rainy day.