
821 8/1/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0762

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Aug 1 1857

My dear Brother

Yours of the 13 & 19th ults have been received - the latter tonight. I should have answered the former before but I didn't know about that "Leave". You wrote so indefinitely as to the time you would come if it was granted that I almost expected to see you immediately. But as this is silent on the subject, I will write & risk it. Not much will be lost anyway.

I supposed you had recd all of my letters when you wrote first. It now appears that you had not. I don't think it is much more than a brotherly yearning towards you & Lizzie that makes me want you with Charles & I, if you feel that you can't - go with Mother. I have attended the Methodist meetings & loved them dearly but I didn't quite feel one of them as they are here, neither can I conceive of your being so, without a slight pang of regret. I don't think it is their social position that occasions this feeling for if I know my own heart & interpret rightly the work of Grace then performed, I would be anything or nothing, so far as this world is concerning. So that I follow Christ & live up to the light of Conscience.

With many sincere, deep, earnest Christians among our Methodist Brethren here, the prevailing love is superficial. To this conclusion I have reluctantly come. Among them, to be true, you may have greater opportunities of doing good, by exemplifying a deeper and more pervading piety. But, there is a general tone & influence to such a large body that overcomes us individuals, like gravity. If you are, among them, perfectly in fellowship and at home, join them & may God bless you & make you useful. The Church that I belong to hold to free & universal grace. Come every one that thirsteth & drink. That is what I shall preach or else hold my tongue.

In Church Government, Methodism is despotic to a degree, Congregationalism, Republican. You will be satisfied of this on investigation. Leave other things, especially their doctrines of the Holy Spirits influence on the preachers & bearers heart, as developed by William Arthur in the "Tongue of Fire", I love. We cannot depend too much on God & too little on Learning, intellect, morals &c - "Except ye repent and become as little children". It is in the most simple, unreasoning, and childlike faith that we find the highest types of Christian character & feel the meek & purest enjoyment in our hearts. "There is the way, walk ye in it."

I sometimes think that Religion is a pyramid whose base is the Church militants & whose apex is the throne of God & that the nearer churches & individual Christians are to the Summit, the nearer they are to each other. When that great company shall stand "on the Right Hand", they won't be in little knots & cliques but like a herd of timorous sheep - all commingled in one glorious exemption & still more glorious hope, they will, as one, watch the eye of their great Shepherd. Have I His mark upon my forehead will be the question? "To seek out the poor and lowly & work for them" is the work - the great indispensable work of every one of Gods ministers. That is to be my work. "Feed my lambs" is the command of Christ. "This is pure religion & undefiled", says Paul "to visit the widow & the fatherless". This is my work. This is Ella's work. O that you & Lizzie might devote your little <short> lives to the same. "He that is greatest among you let him be your minister." I.e. you remain a laborer, a drudge (if I may so say) in Gods earthly vinyard. Enter the Seminary with me this fall. You will be in the "work" very soon. You don't have to wait to "graduate". I won't speak of the life of domestic enjoyment that you will secure. If you can't do it for Christ, don't do it. Where can all my talents, my gifts, my attainments, & my graces be most available under God for good? Thats the question. Worldly poverty has nothing to do with it - if it had, I would have stayed where I could make money - in the "Law". Gods promises are the same to his humble, faithful Children in the 19th Century as in the 1st. We may live the lives of Peter, James, John, & Paul & we shall be fed & supported by the same bountiful hand.

Trust in God for everything - faith, faith, faith, is the summum bonum - the ne plus ultra - the all I constantly feel that it is only considerations for your worldly prosperity that keep me from singing more strongly the claims of the Gospel. Ought such a motive to obtain? Ought it - with me & you? If worldly considerations almost made you leave your profession to become a lawyer should not Heavenly ones make you quite abandon it for that of

a minister?

[Note 1]

If you were in the vineyard - God forbid that you should "speak like a Methodist minister". Let it be like Paul, Peter, Nutley, Whitefield or Payson - "with the Spirit & the Power". The Spirit is the Power. He is weak who refreshes himself not at the Fountain. If spoken or written, meditated or extempore, what matters? If God has breathed upon it, it has life, if not, it is dead. It is easy to tickle the fancy to please the intellect, to soothe or excite the passions, but who can reach the heart. Who can feel that every blow falls upon the mans nature & destiny!

None but he whose weapons are forged in the Heavenly Armory & whose arm is strong in God. "The highest style of man is the Christian". The highest style of the Christian is the most Spiritual. The highest rank of the Spirit is the salvation of souls. O you can't think how I look down upon Alexander, Bonaparte & Wellington, Clay, Webster & Choate. How much better off is a little humble Christian, living by faith & looking to Heaven, & hoping in Christ, than any of these! I am tired now. I will write more tomorrow. Good night my dear brother & may God bless you, for Christ's sake.

Sabbath Morn, Aug 2.

I have got my S. School lesson with Johnny & there is a little time to write. Sam & Mary are going this morning. If they will all stay in the S. School I shall feel as if I had accomplished something by coming here. Aunt Ellen is Unitarian in her views, but loves a Christian & thinks she is one in her way. I doubt it. She can't help seeing the doubt so our conversations are rather constrained. She says other denominations always seem to think that Unitarians are not Christians and she never feels free to talk with any such disbelievers. Both the girls. Yes all three are Methodists. "George", the man, I have had no religious conversation with. I have heard him swear.

Mr Lee wrote me pretty fully the other day in regard to his religious state. He says he "hopes his life is governed by the precepts of Christ" but if he has ever had a "change of heart" it was so gradual as not to be assignable to any point of time. His little daughter was born the 1st ult. Mrs Lee is well & has "Mother & Jimmy" with her & is happy with them & "the sweetest little baby, the very picture of me" as she says in her letter to me. This will make her more of a woman & I am in hopes this & her Mothers influence will open her eyes to the importance of Religion.

Mrs Tripp is a Baptist & a real Christian, I should judge shouldn't you. I believe I told you that my "Class" are 7 young ladies. One a "professor" when I wrote it. One joined the Church with me. One told me last evening that she thought she would go forward at the next Communion - 1st of Sep. One is under deep conviction and I went over & talked & prayed with her last night. She must, before long, be rejoicing in Hope. She is on the right road and only seems to lack that "immediate faith". May God bless our efforts to bring the rest into the fold of Christ.

O I want to tell you so much but I haven't time. I will when I see you.

Albert Rice of Augusta Son of Judge Rice, & Classmate of mine in College & very mild is I am in hopes one of my children, no not mine, but Gods, but we do hold sweet communion together.

Henry Emmons is in his second year now at Bangor. Just begun it. He is at home & a dear fellow he is too! How I love to kneel by his side in Church meeting Friday night & pour out our souls together in prayer. He will preach some this vacation. His father has left them in rather poor circumstances, but Henry is rich in grace & gifts. He often speaks of Otis. He is different from what you knew him.

I am going down to Bath tomorrow & to Commencement with Ella. I have not been "down River" for few weeks. The children like to have a vacation & I am so happy in thinking of being with my Ella that I can hardly keep sober enough for "dignity". We have kneeled down side by side & enjoyed the sweetest communion with Christ. O that you could look right into her heart as she lets me. I know you would love her.

I am in hopes that my testimony may have some effect on my classmates whom I shall meet. O, I pray that everything I shall say may be blessed of God if in accordance with His Spirit.

1 o'clock

My Sunday School was interesting. There was a tear in one <> eye. O God grant that the mark is in that heart.

William Sprague walked home with me. We sing together in the Choir. I have been begging him to take Christ with him, now that he is going west.

My prayer meeting at London Hill is at five o'clock. May God go with. O this wicked vile heart. Herein is the reason that there are no fruits.

I haven't heard from Lizzie for a fortnight. She was then getting on well.. I have written her. Dellie is at home & will have a good time with Guy. I envy him.

Mon. Morn Write definitely if you can what time you will be likely to be at home. It may make some difference in my own arrangements. But as much as I longed to see you, I thought it would be better to put off your coming until Lizzie was entirely well. She wants to go to Fla this fall & if she could go with you, I think she might but that could not be expected till Oct, but may be your "leave", will extend till then.

It seems Charley fell a little short of the prize but it was the opinion of Ella & Mr Fiske (her, I may say, our minister) that he ought to have had one. So he must have done well.

I hardly expect a reply if you get a "Leave" but I don't know. Our family & Laura Anns are well. I am "Papa" & constitute a Court of Appeals in the childrens troubles. I don't think I should ever get my children into such unruly shape - but I am doing as well as I can to bring them under gradually but I find myself too often <> & impatient. Pray for me dear Brother that my "faith" may be kept living.

Our meeting at London Hill was a very Solemn one. I shall begin soon to look for "fruits." I must visit some of those families. A little instance of thoughtfulness & kindness touched me in a tender point last Evening. Julia & Anna Page, young ladies, daughters of Mr. Semian Page, asked me if I would take a bouquet to Bath today for them. They knew I was going. It pleased me so much for a little thing. I do love & care much for any "attention" & "kindness" shown to my Ella than I do for myself. She is so plain & so retiring & especially since she has been "engaged" she has received but little. I think she is happy with & in me. I want her to go up home with me & get better acquainted with Mother & Lizzie when I get through here in Sept. They must love her & you must too.

Your aff Bro
Rowland

I can't "read over". Will you excuse?

[Possibly written in another hand] Christly, Rowland

[Note 1. The remainder of this letter except for the final sentence was filed with the July 1859 letter [ooh-1003]. The date of July 1859 had been written in pencil, because the opening of the letter to Otis from Rowland was missing. However, the date must be 1857 for the following reasons. It was written when Otis was in Florida and Lizzie was in Leeds. The date Sunday, Aug 2 corresponds to the year 1857. The reference to getting a "leave" also confirms 1857.]

822 8/2/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0764

Ordnance Depot Fort
Brooke Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke Fla. August 2d/57

My darling wife,

I will not write you much this evening, for I am to speak before a large assembly extempore, & I want to prepare myself.

I was greatly disappointed last night in not getting a single line from any of you & I can hardly account for it unless you have come to the conclusion that I am on the way home. I hope indeed that all is well. I am almost afraid to wait for the next mail, though I put my trust in God & he will strengthen my heart.

I am going to hear a presbyterian this afternoon, Rev Mr Brown. He came to see me yesterday. I invited him, being a stranger preacher to walk over with me. He was taken sick with the Chills & fever, and lay on my bed nearly the whole day. I opened the sabbath school this morning by reading & prayer, addressed the children for a little while & then heard my class. We had but a few minutes between the Sabbath school & the Morning service, so I didnt get any opportunity to write.

I am still holding on my way rejoicing in the mercy & Strength of my Redeemer. I do many, many wrong things, but unwillingly for I would not for the world lose the love of Christ. I [He] supports me and prepares me beautifully for the vicissitudes of life & we all know that by it we are forgiven & accepted in Heaven.

I am still hoping to get a leave by and by. I have armed one company [&] tomorrow I will equip another, & there are five others already on the way & perhaps more but I expect August will be far spent before I can have any certainty of getting off. Oh! How much good it would do me to see you & our darling little ones - Grace & Guy. Kiss them for papa. Pray for me in all my labors, that I may never forget God, but walk in his way at all times & in all places. I always pray for you & no doubt you do for me. Last night as I felt sad to think I wouldnt get a word or line, I went to see the minister & went with him to the house of a young widow lady, where we found a brother of hers from some other place. We had a pleasant conversation & as usual I was invited to read & pray with them. I am not puffed up by this for it is Christ that has given me so much of his grace, that brethren & sisters in the Lord recognize me as a fellow-worker.

I am in good health & wish I could learn as much from you. My love to my dear Mother & to all at home, & may God bless & protect you.

Your loving husband
Otis

823 8/2/1857 *From:* Lizzie Howard

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0765

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. Me. Aug. 2. 1857

My dearest Husband

I know you must miss my letters, and I wish I could write more and oftener. When I get ready to write to you I think of so many things that I wish to communicate to you that I am at a loss what to write first. And if I begin to write then in course I forget half before I express one idea. I received two letters from you last Wednesday mailed the 12th and 16th of July, and I got another last Saturday. Now I would like to answer all three at great length, but as I cannot write so much, and mail the letter in any season, I shall be obliged to answer some questions merely and not give all my reasons. I don't like to do so either for you may misunderstand me, if I don't explain.

I love my Saviour and he is particularly near me some days, but I don't feel as you do, to talk with and before so many about the 'love of Christ', and when you speak of the talents God has given you, do not dearest think them greater than they really are. I don't want you to be too fast. You are generally more enthusiastic than I am and come to conclusions sooner, but in a case of so much importance as this we should well consider what we are about to do before we act. I wish you to act there just as you would were you living at any other place, and in any society you have ever known. At church I think you ought to be one of the congregation than otherwise. I am very glad you take part in the Sabbath School. I wish I could do the same, and I would like to attend a female prayer meeting. Do you know that the ladies have one at Tampa?

Rowland asked me if I would like you to become a minister. I told him I feared there would be too many ministers in the family. I hope you do not yet think of it seriously. I don't feel now that I could do my duty as a minister's wife. I can be a good Christian and do all in my power to promote the cause and serve God faithfully and still have you continue in the Army, and "do it for the glory and honor of God and not to please myself".

I shall not be baptized yet. He is just as near and dear to me now, as afterwards, that is only to be known publicly as a Christian. When I have interpreted the Bible to my best ability, then I shall be ready to join with the denomination that is nearest or agrees with my interpretation of it.

I could have waited for you, and am sorry you could not wait for me. I have been looking forward to our joining the Church, and be baptized (for the first time) together, but now half that pleasure is gone. If it is a wrong thought I pray I may get over it. I wish I was with you for I fear I have erroneous ideas and need your advice and counsel. I don't think you will be able to get a leave and if you wish I don't see any objection to my going without you. I could get some one to go with me, as soon as the weather is suitable or rather it is late enough in the season. I should say by the first of October would be late enough.

I could write much about these dear little children, but I will let that be 'till I am stronger. I am quite well though but have to be careful.

Rowland left me a little book "Angels Voice" full of truths. I don't read much. I save my strength to take care of the children, and my eyes to write to you. You don't know how well I get along with them. It is all pleasure to take care of them and no trouble. They are both good children, and the spirit of the Lord is with me always. Baby is my little daughter. I don't know as I shall call her Grace, although it means so much, and speaks to my heart. Guy loves her so much and kisses her often. Does not object to it, when I say "No, I must take little sister."

Ella has not written me yet but Rowland said she intended to do so.

I have become acquainted with Mrs Stinchfield of Calais. I like her much. She attended the convention at Bath, Congregational. I feel the sympathy you speak of existing between Christians. I hope Mrs Lothrop may not be as anxious about Warren as I was about you when I learned you were out to find the Indians. All that time, without knowing why, I prayed "O! Lord be merciful unto me, and send me no greater affliction".

I have written you one letter before this, and mailed one to Aunt Sarah to-day. These are all I have written. She is a good christian and prays earnestly that her husband may see the errors of his ways, so let us help her, and pray for him. We all need to be remembered at the throne of grace. I know you do not forget me and the children, and others,

I must write to Rowland soon. Charlie will be home Saturday and I think some of going to Lewiston next week, but continue to send letters to Leeds. I must make a change in my dress, and must go as soon as I think I can without risk, so I can afterwards go out here. Sad thought, but the "Lords will be done."

I received another letter from you yesterday (Wednesday) mailed 22d. You see I write this letter by a few sentences at a time. Again I will add a few lines with Guy by my side and baby asleep on the bed. I will mail this to-night, but I have not written half I would like to. If I have scolded you too much, and to cause you to feel unpleasant, I shall wish I could look over your shoulder while you read, to kiss away all the unpleasant feeling and tell you not to think me too naughty. I desire to do right, and want you to.

That God may watch over us and direct us in all things is the prayer of your little Wife.

Lizzie Howard

Evening. Dellie has been gone all the week selling stationery, came home tonight, passed the P.O. and brought me another of your most welcome letters, dated July 26th. You seem anxious not to have heard from any of us since July 3d. I think it is too bad to have neglected you so. I wish I had tried to write sooner. Col Gilmore when he heard the letter read said "you ought to have been written to." Every day my desire to be with and work with you grows stronger and stronger. I want to be with you that you may better know me, and these dear children. You know not what two beautiful children we have got.

Mrs. Lee has a daughter, borned the first day of July. Her mother, brother and cousin are with her I hope and presume she will be more of a woman now. Mr. Lee is a good conscientious man and I think not far from his God. He wrote a very good letter to Rowland, which the latter remailed to me.

Saturday afternoon.

Charlie is at home, came yesterday and we are going to visit to the P.O. this afternoon & take the letter. Guy is going with us and baby stay at home. I might have mailed this letter before if I had not been so neglectful. All send love.

Yours as ever
Lizzie

824 8/5/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0769

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
August 5th /57

My darling wife,

I have been obliged this afternoon by company to delay writing till this time five o'clock and I am sorry, for I will have hardly time to finish before dark. I have not heard from you yet but I am expecting great things from the mail tonight. I will tell you somewhat of what I have been about since I wrote you. I went to Church at 4 & heard a good sermon from the parable of the ten virgins. In the evening I felt somewhat depressed in spirits. The Church was crowded full. I read, prayed & took my text. The Spirit of God seemed to be with me & I spoke for upwards of an hour I think, freely & earnestly & trust God blessed the effort, if I looked to men for commendation I would be gratified, but I had to struggle to think that I had not & could not accomplish ought except by the help of my Redeemer. I retired to my room wrote my journal, read a chapter, asked for the continued blessing of God & had a pleasant sleep.

On Monday I went with Br. Lyne to visit the sick. First we went to see Mrs Dr Todd, who has a bad fever, was invited to read & pray. She seemed in better spirits when we left. Went then to the house of Mrs Clark. She is about your age & has a little babe. I was invited in, & though I had not seen her before, I could not help talking to her about you. She has been reduced almost to the verge of the grave by the Chronic Diarrhea. We talked about the Saviour, his love & his mercy. She says she delights in talking about such things. O! You should have seen her, how perfectly resigned, how perfectly happy. I did not know how sweet this love of the dear Redeemer could make anybody at such a time. They say she is now convalescing. She invited me to read & pray.

In the evening I went with the minister to a large encampment of volunteers, two miles distant. Capt Hardee, a Christian, had invited Mr Lyne to preach for them & me to go along. The prospect was rather unfavorable, for many volunteers were drunk, but at Capt H's encampment were gathered quite a large company. After Mr Lyne closed his good discourse, I addressed them as a brother soldier & pointed out to them what they must soon encounter & strove to lead them to the Saviour. Some 15 or 20 Christians showed theirs & took the ministers hand & some 30 or 40 who had not known God came forward with tears streaming down their cheeks many of them, seeking for mercy. Last night, I was asked to speak again at the Church, to fill the place of one, whose appointment had been given out but did not get home. I took this passage, "They shall see his face & his name shall be in their forehead." I felt easier in the pulpit this time & earnestly pointed the way as best I could by God's help to Him & to Heaven. This morning I issued arms & accoutrements to another company of volunteers. I have got eight more to supply. I presume you are anxious to see me home & may have thought I was on the way, but you must not expect it right away, too strongly.

Colonel Loomis goes to Fort Myers tomorrow and I shall probably have to wait for his return before I can press my application for a leave. I would not like to be disappointed altogether, but I am in the hands of Providence. Much has been done by my remaining both for the strengthening me in my Christian faith & character, & that others might come out to the house of God & hear somewhat about a Saviour. All things are ordered by the divine will & let what will come we must cheerfully submit. The sinner resists & will not close with the offers of mercy, but God is God over all. I hope you don't think me presumptuous & too forward, for I desire from the bottom of my heart to be just such a Christian as God would have me be.

Pray for me, darling, that Christ may cleanse me, continually from all lurking & besetting sins. I delight in being conscious of fighting in the Army of my Master & Lord. I know I love my Saviour, though my heart is not big enough & I am not half grateful enough for his blessings. It is a continuance in the service of myself that has narrowed the capacity of my soul; but it will grow if I keep close to my saviour, & resist evil constantly.

How are our darling little ones? Would I could see you now. Kiss them for papa. He will see them some day if Heaven permits.

Colonel Belton has come to take command of the 4th Artillery, to which he has been assigned by promotion. He has the reputation of eminent piety I believe. He is a Catholic, talked with me for two or three hours this morning. He said his prayers in my office today noon. I read my chapter aloud & prayed. Capt Harden was here. Colonel Belton is an old man tottering with age or disease, but he has great knowledge & great erudition. I tried hard to avoid controversy, for I would rather talk about the Redeemer & pure religion. The supreme Authority of the visible church is the burden of Col Belton's talk, as it is to a great extent, of the priests of his persuasion. Though he must believe us heretics. Still, my darling, it don't hinder us from the sweet communion with our Lord. Tell me if you love to have me write about these things. My Love to Mother & all. I have had to hasten, but my heart is with you & I am conscious of greater love for my wife now that I am learning to delight in God, My Master & My Redeemer. May he continue to bless you, my sweet wife & our little children.

Your loving husband
Otis

825 8/8/1857

From: Chas H. Howard

To: Dear brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-0766

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Aug 8th 1857

Dear brother Otis

You see I am at home once more and will take this first opportunity to answer your good letter which I received just before Commencement. I have been in hopes you were coming home but suppose from what Lizzie says that I shall not be throwing a letter away by directing it to Tampa.

You will be glad to hear first that I found your little family & all of our folks in perfect health. I came home last night about 4 ½ o'clock . Lizzie met me in the bed room with a cheerful countenance. Little Guy walked along by his mother & looked a little sober at me at first but seemed to get acquainted very soon when his mother told him it was Uncle Charles. Of course I went right in to the North room to see the little baby. I found her asleep on the bed but she soon opened her bright blue eyes as good naturedly as you could wish. She looks better than Guy used to at her age. She is round favored & must be very beautiful one of these days if she lives & thrives. Lizzie says she is just as pleasant as ever Guy was & never seems to be sick.

Mother is better than usual I think. Father is at work hard every day haying. It seems rather too bad for him to labor so hard now he is so old.

I slept with Rowland Thursday night at Mrs. Frost's in Topsham. He & Ella came up to Brunswick Tuesday & were present during the exercises Commencement day & heard Edward Everett speak Thursday afternoon. The class consisted of 80 - the largest that ever graduated. The speakers did as well as usual. But the Oration of Mr Everett was splendid. It seemed to be the most finished piece of Oratory throughout & was delivered with grace & elegance superior to any thing I ever saw. He occupied about two hours & I sat an hour & a half, waiting for the speaker, yet I never thought of being tired.

I pause for a light.

It is Sat. night, pleasant now but looks like rain. Commencement day was rainy but the other days were pleasant. I attended the concert & enjoyed it much on Tuesday Eve. Perhaps Rowland will tell you about his stay at Brunswick & I had better tell you about home & myself. I was delighted to get that letter from you. I had read some of Rowland's but had not had one of my own since the glorious change. Otis may God bless you & me & all of us with an abundance of grace. Would that the Holy Spirit might take the possession of our hearts & then sin could have no place there.

Lizzie rode up to the Corner's with me about car time this afternoon & called a while at Solomon Lothrop's. Lizzie says she likes Mrs Lothrop & Albina & Willie were delighted to see little Guy who had his whip with him & going up sat between his mother & me as grand as you please. He talks a great deal - his mother always encourages his talking & though he speaks words only & does not attempt to form sentences yet, she understands his meaning. We stayed only a short time at the Corner & when we came back rode up to the door of Mr Foss & saw Caroline & Mrs Lothrop & lots of little ones. One of which wanted the little boy to get out very much & cried when we rode away. They are pretty well there though Mrs L is not perfectly well. They had heard from Warren not long since. Had 5 letters at one time.

We mailed a letter for you today in which I suppose probably Lizzie told you she was going to Lewiston Monday. John H was here tonight. He is very anxious about his office. Davy is trying his best to be Register of deeds for the next 5 years & I shouldn't wonder if he supplanted John. Lizzie will stay a week or so at L. I shall go down with her to help about the Children. She looks handsome as ever & more than that has now a heart right in the sight of God. I wish to be ever near my Savior & will you pray for me to this end?

Your Affec Brother
Chas H. Howard

826 8/9/1857

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0768

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.
August 9th 1857

My dearest wife,

It seems very strange, but I presume you have expected me so strongly of late that you thought it not worthwhile to write, but I thought I told the true state of the case soon after the letter that said, "I thought Colonel Loomis would let me have a leave". I have now looked in vain for a line from home for seven or eight mails. It grieves me a little because you, my darling, were very ill the last letter Rowland wrote me. I don't hear from Mother, Guy, baby or anybody. If this letter gets home do have somebody write a few lines or if you are all well, & can get away from two little ones long enough, say that all is well.

I heard a sermon this morning from Mr Lyne, on this text, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God". Isn't it a glorious & delightful thought that those whom Christ has cleansed shall see him face to face, and wont be ashamed to hold up their heads & take him by the hand, for they are his children. I was requested to close for Mr Lyne, so I made a few remarks & read the hymn & made the last prayer. I wish you could be here or I there with you that we might partake of this great joy together.

When I used to speak for praise you did not think I was of much consequence, but Christ my Saviour is in my heart. He speaks, He urges sinners to flee from "the Wrath of God & the Lamb." He comes to me & helps me. He wants me to speak. I used to love to speak for show, & for the pleasure it afforded me to see upturned, eager listeners, & for the sympathy. Now I cant afford to lose an opportunity to testify to the truth. I love to talk of my Saviour's mercy & love. I love to point to Heaven, and talk about these things, not in a weeping & desponding style but as cheerfully as we ever have talked about our future earthly prospects.

I wish I could hear from you so as to learn if you like to have me write letters all filled up with Religion. You may think I do nothing else but talk & think about this Religion of Jesus Christ. Well in fact, there seems to be the feeling, "God is with you all the time," but it don't hinder me from a clear head in the transaction of business and don't keep me from talking of other things. This is the burden of my thoughts most of the time, when not especially engaged otherwise, for I am but a learner & have now to read & study God's word to find out what my duty is.

Now there are many things you might want me to write upon. I might have given you & Rowland a more faithful history of what has been occupying me everyday since I embraced Religion, but I am afraid of talking so very much about myself & what I have seen & done. I would do all for the honor of Christ & hope my pride may be brought into subjection.

I can hardly imagine you a real "bonafide" Christian, but I thank my Heavenly Father, that he has given you so much grace. I am rejoiced that the new birth came when it did. That you could rejoice even where affliction's hand was upon you. God grant you this true courage from on high always. Whenever any burden is to be borne, any suffering to be endured, "Thy will O! God, & not mine, be done." Our meeting will be delightful, if God spares us till that takes place.

O! The little ones! I took up Mrs Pages little baby this morning, a sweet little thing, just beginning to creep. It reminded me of our little daughter. A little boy at the Hotel two or three months older than Guy, brought him forcibly to mind. I still think I shall go home for you & bring you down. I don't well see how you could manage without me. I shall try for a leave. I will write you so that you can get the news in time, not to be too suddenly surprised, but I don't want you all to stop writing me till I write you that I am surely coming. If I put in an application for a leave it don't make it that I will get it, for it may be as before, that I cannot be spared. I told the Colonel I might be ordered away. He said, he intended to keep me, or "that they had better not do that." I don't like to apply to Washington over his head, but may do so by & by.

I think I shall get through arming the New Regiment this week. I could do it in two days, if the companies were here, but two of them have not yet come. My Quarterly papers for 2nd Quarter ending June 30, go off by this mail. Those we retain & the copies we send to Department head quarters here, are not quite done, & my monthly papers for July are not yet commenced. I now have two clerks, a Master Armorer, & Carpenter (enlisted) and one hired black man. And I assure you, we have had to move pretty rapidly sometimes the past week. One forenoon we armed & equipped some two hundred & fifty men & everything passed through my hands, with a few exceptions. Wasnt I tired though?

Good by my sweet wife & darling babes. God bless you & give you much of his sweet comfort & peace. In his own good time we will join hands & hearts to give Him thanks. My love to Mother & brothers. I wrote to Rowland yesterday. Pray for me, that I be Kept spotless from the World.

Your affectionate & ever loving husband
Otis

I want to go to Church at 4 o'clock. A presbyterian clergiman preaches. The people seemed to have waked up a good deal lately on the subject of religion. A young friend of mine from Jacksonville, Dr West, heard last night that his brother had been suddenly killed by lightning. Oh! How he did cry at Church today. God bless him. Both brothers were Christians.

Kiss the Children & tell Guy about his papa.

Otis

827 8/10/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0767

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Aug 10th 1857

My dear Brother

I was very glad to hear from you so soon again. I found your letter here on my return from Bath Saturday night. You will find some allusion to some of the topics you broach in this, in my long letter now on its way to you. Where can I do the most good under God! Is the question. Is it in the Army, like Vicars among your brother officers & soldiers or is it by preaching the word of God? Can you look forward to a life in your present profession as a life of duty & therefore of satisfaction & contentment. I felt that my home was in the pulpit & that I would always feel homesick in the "Law". Where will God be most glorified? Where will your own graces & gifts be most developed & above all where will the most souls be saved. One soul is just as good as another. Where can you gather the most of these jewels for your Master?

Your classmate Sewall preached for us yesterday. He has just entered his last year at Bangor. We had quite a "talk" about you. He was rejoiced to hear of your "change" & will write you just as soon as he can get time. He is to preach some where near Bangor during his Vacation which continues till Oct. He is engaged to Louisa Benson, Louis' daughter. He spoke of your being there with Maria once. She was here with him yesterday.

I don't want you to be precipitate, Otis. Don't act the Yankee nor the "Southerner" now, but the slow calculating, common sense, Christian Englishman. Be careful that your wisdom keeps pace with your zeal. I am glad you hold meetings & have "talks". They must do good. I do it. Let us do it in much humility, <quietness> prayer & dependence on Christ. For your disposition or mine it seems to me that the Methodist school is the worst for our proper discipline. Each processes of teaching & preparing the mind or heart of man for great labors & achievements are usually slow. How slowly do all the true lessons of life work their way into us. Our hastily formed opinions have little permanence. Our oft repeated experiences always teach unmistakable lessons, reliable, trustworthy. Let us try the Spirit & see if it is of God.

Wednesday 12th

Dellie came down Monday night from Leeds and is to return today. Charles went to Lewiston with Lizzie Monday. Dellie says she seems quite well & very cheerful. She is to stay at L a fortnight. Mrs Clarke has gone. It seems almost as if the care of both children was too much for her, but she can get her sewing done at L while she is there. You have heard from her often since she has been so well, & so you will have later news than mine. I hope Dellie will be at home till Sept. Charles vacation is three weeks. Father is coming down next Monday to court & I am in hopes Mother will come with him. He is at work haying rather too hard for so old a man, I fear. I do not know that our conversion has had any effect on Roland or Father. I hope it has made them "think on these things."

If you do propose to preach, you need a theological training - Greek, Hebrew, composition, &c - you ought to understand. You might preach a few good Sermons without but if we would last we must have resources. Then all baptized in the Spirit of Truth & brought into subjection to the will of God make the successful preacher of the word. What say to <tutoring> up my studies with me this fall? I chose Bangor Seminary, in preference to Andover, New York, Princeton or any other, because it is a better place to make a minister & develop & preserve the man. The studies are easy & if you do not study for the first six months you could easily "make up". You might remain in the Service a year & enter a year in advance. Have you & Lizzie, suppose you are willing enough to live on till you are settled. You would be sure to be so three years from this time! The whole of the two first Classes at Bangor are already engaged. Your talents & Scholarship I am sure would place you in the first rank & above all, a deep piety would elevate you far above any earthly estimate. Would not the field that would open upon you after such a preparation, be the best calculated to chase you out & make the most of you in doing Gods work? How happily might you and your family spend two years living quietly & frugally at a new Bangor. All of you trying to please God & not man.

Mr Simeon Page & Mr Gilman often speak of you. Every body here knows you by memory or reputation. This letter is short but I will write again when I have more time.

Your very affectionate Brother
Rowland

828 8/12/1857 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0770a

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Aug. 12, 1857.

Dear Lizzie

I find a letter here from Otis & will inclose with it this note to tell you about the frames.

I forgot about them when I left you. I want "Dayton" framed so as to correspond with our Fremont.

9 3/4 inches long - 8 inches wide - gilt frame - the gilt 3/4 inch wide.

"Bowd. Coll." is for Dellie & I don't know what kind of frame would look best. Don't believe a gilt one would be so good as wooden. Perhaps a mahogany frame of about the length & breadth of the picture as it is now would be best. Please to use your judgement. It will suit at any rate if framed in something not very costly.

I didn't sell any books to speak of. Stayed at Warren's last night & came home this morning.

Otis wrote an excellent letter to Dellie at the same time, with yours.

He is all engaged in a most glorious cause. You can sympathize & pray with him now. Oh Lizzie I am so glad & will you pray for me - pray that I may be kept very near to Christ with his love to warm & soften my cold & stony heart?

Good Bye dearest Sister - Charles.

P.S. We would like to know whether Otis said anything about a furlough in his letter to you Lizzie. C. H. Howard

829 8/12/1857 *From:* Rosina

To: Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-0770b

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Mrs Howard,

I met with Mrs Berry last night and she said she could do that work you spoke of if you would like to have her as she has got some clothes made in the same way. If you would like to have her make them, will you write a line and tell us where to find them, direct to Mrs Gilmore as I am going away.

Yours in haste
Rosina

831 8/13/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0771

Auburn Me

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn. Me. Aug. 13. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I fancy you received my first letter by yesterday's mail. I know you will be glad to hear from me, and I wish I could write as often as I did formerly, but one long letter each week is as often as I can send to you, dearest. I wrote in my last letter, that I thought of coming to Lewiston. Charlie came down with me (in the cars) with the children, last Monday. I don't know how long I shall stay, but I wish to be at Leeds the last week of Charlies vacation, as I will not see him at all.

Tuesday I went to the Judge to request to have Col Gilmore appointed Adm'or to our estate. I thought best to have him assist me in preference to any one else.

Yesterday I engaged the Hack, took Guy in the afternoon and called to see Hellen and the children. I found Aunt Martha there, on her way home from Thomaston. Her health is very poor and the Physician advised her to go to the sea shore, but she could not be contented to stay there. She is very nervous and change of scenes, to keep her mind occupied, is what she needs. She does not seem to enjoy anything. I am very sorry for her but I do hope she may get better. A Miss Stackpole was there also. I imagine she is a relative. John seems very kind, has a happy, cheerful countenance every time I see him.

I wrote the above this morning and now it is evening and I will add a little more. I received a note from Charlie enclosing one of your welcome letters. He said he received your letter to Dellie by the same mail. I hope you got my letter yesterday so that all feeling of anxiety for me has passed away and you know me quite well. I should like to have seen Dellie's letter to have known more of yourself. Guy can say papa is at "Tampa" and that he lives in the state of 'Maine' and in the Town of Leeds ("Eeds") and is "two" years old. I am not going to tell you how much he knows - much more than "Frankie" when we saw him.

I hope you will be able to get a leave if you think best, but I tell every body I shall go to you this Fall, if you do not. What do you think of such a decision without consulting you more? But you said we should be together this fall, and, if you cant come for me, I don't see how that can be, unless I go to you.

The children are well as good as they can be. I have very little care of them here, left baby two hours and a quarter yesterday, and she was just as good as a "kitten". After calling at Hellens. I went over the bridge and left Guy with Uncle Hicks while Aunt H and I went into some stores to make some purchases for myself. I do not feel quite as well to-day for being out yesterday.

I hear the nine o'clock bell, and it is time for me to prepare for rest. The Lord be with us all. I wont try, dearest, to write much more this morning but will mail this as it is getting late in the week. The love of Christ is dear to me, and He is always near me, to give me strength.

I had the Dr Oaks call to see me this morning, hoping he can remedy another trouble that has come upon me which will cause weakness rather than strengthen the body. He will help me. I have only been on my feet too much. It is just time for Guy to take his nap, baby is asleep.

Now good bye this time may the Lord be near to us both every day is a part of the prayer of your little affectionate wife
Lizzie

832 8/14/1857 *From:* RH Whiteley

To: Dear Lieut [OO Howard]

OOH-0772

New York Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

New York Arsenal

Aug 14 1857

Dear Lieut.

Have you long since come to the conclusion I have forgotten you & your long letter of April 20th, which afforded me so much gratification? Not a bit of it.

Not long after your letter, came an order to supply you with certain stores, & I determined to give you many shakes of my pen under cover with the papers connected therewith. This issue however seems to be terrible to make, twice I have had 100 colt's pistols in outside cases, marked with your address, & ready to be invoiced; when instructions from our Chief have sent them elsewhere, and to-day I have for the third time ordered pistols from the factory for issue to you.

You will hardly remain in Florida long enough to receive them, for I hear, unofficially, that McAllister & yourself have been detailed for duty in the Mathematical Dept at West Point. This I hope may be true for your sake, for I know your heart yearns to join that beloved family once more.

I cannot think the weather is as hot with you as with us at present, tho' you have vastly more of it; the sun is right <down> scorching & a little exercise or exposure bathes one in perspiration. We have very little summer thus far in 1857, none till after July 4th and a weekly rain since has kept us comfortable. If the yellow stranger of last year does not visit us, we will not have a single peg to hang a complaint on.

All inventors of broken back guns have a jubilee at West Point next week, every body is invited, and I suppose the contest will be for rapidity of loading & discharge, accuracy, penetration, & range. There is to be a free fight & a selection from the victors for government use. I have not heard the name of the Board, not a single name rumours however reports that officers of every arm of service will be assembled on it.

Have you received any reports from officers on Colt's N.M. rifle? If you have, I will be glad to get copies, to learn their opinion & how the arms acted under difficulties. Do write me all the particulars you may have on this subject. I scarcely dare write you the few changes among our officers, they are so old, and have doubtless all been made known to you by your good wife. Benton you are aware is Ins of Arty at West Point. I suppose he will have charge, so far as our Dept is concerned, of the small arms experiments. Shunk is with Hayes at W.P. Foundry. McAllister is at Richmond, Va. Sill it is said goes to California, but I must stop on the border of conjecture, for speculation is rife in every direction.

I hope you have your health, if you do not leave Fla, do send for Mrs H, she will enjoy that luscious climate so much; but I hope if this sheet does not find you in the land of flowers, it will reach you in the still, quiet happiness of the family either in Maine or at West Point. Mrs W sends kind regards.

Yours truly,
R.H. Whiteley

833 8/16/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My darling Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0773

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.
August 16th 1857

My darling Wife,

Colonel Loomis has granted me a leave of 30 days, with permission to apply to the War Department, for an extension of two months. I will be ready to start next Thursday morning & may get to you as soon as this letter, but I think not, as I will visit Washington on my way, in order to facilitate the extension.

I will not write much as we soon shall be together. I have been visiting those very low, near their graves lately, trying to cheer them, & had the burial service over a volunteer who died, since I wrote you. This morning I spoke for Br. Lyne from the 12 Chapter 1st & 2nd verses of the Hebrews. I feared I might not do well, for it becomes one to do well in these things, but the Spirit & Grace of God seemed to sustain me. I have promised to speak at the Encampment of Volunteers at 4 o'clock this evening & next Tuesday night at the Church. Since I turned Christian, I seem to have got hold of the hearts of the Christians of Tampa & I am glad.

I don't want to talk much about my leave, but you may be assured I am glad to go; & will, if all is well, soon be on my way to my old home, to my wife & little ones.

It is so warm now here that the perspiration drops off my face while I am writing & my shirt risbands are wet through with the same. So as I shall so soon have the pleasure of talking with you face to face after you get this, if Providence permits, I will not say more now.

My love to all. God is here, & will go with me. May he bless you all. Kiss the boy & girl for yourself now as I am not going to kiss them by proxy much longer.

Very affectionately
Your loving husband
Otis

835 8/17/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Sister [Lizzie
Howard]

OOH-0774

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Aug. 17. 1857

My dear Sister

I seize a moment this morning before "School" to write you about Otis. If you have heard it will do no harm. Capt Gorgas told me Saturday, that he recv'd a letter from Benton a few days ago saying that Otis has been ordered to West Point. So you must see him before long unless he has to wait to be "relieved". I suppose he must be at the Point the 1st of Sept.

I some expect to see Mother today or tomorrow. I hope she will come. I hope you were able to go to meeting yesterday. I know you would enjoy it so much.

Did the shawl arrive safely. I have never heard from it. If you can get time, I wish you would drop a note to dear Ella. She has long been wanting to write you but has felt sort of "afraid". Sisters in Christ, may the day hasten when you will be sisters in deed. All our friends are well here. Capt & Mrs Gorgas & the children had been down to the mouth of the River & were going up in the boat. Mrs G sent her love & congratulations.

Remember me to your friends and always as

Your very affectionate Bro
Rowland

836 8/19/1857

From: H. K. Craig
Col of Ordnance
Ordnance Office
Washington

To: Lt O. O. Howard

Ordn Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.

OOH-0776

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Office
Washington, Aug 19th, 1857

Lt O. O. Howard
Ordn Depot
Fort Brooke, Fla.
Sir:

Herewith you will receive Special Orders No 107 of 1857 assigning you to duty at the Military Academy, and directing you to proceed to that Post and report to the Superintendent.

In compliance with said order you will turn over to such officer as the Comdg Officer of the Department of Florida may designate for that purpose, the funds, Books, papers & Property in your charge, and, having accomplished this, you will proceed as directed in the order above stated.

Respectfully,
your obt Svnt
/s/ H. K. Craig
Col of Ordnance

[Envelope]
Ordnance Dept.
Washington Augt 19 1857
H. K. Craig
Col of Ord'ce

Letter

Transmits spec'l orders no. 107 of 1857
Assigns Lieut O.O. Howard Ord. Dept.
to duty at the Military Academy

Recd Fort Brooke Fla Aug 26 1857

837 8/23/1857 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Husband
[OO Howard]

OOH-0777

Auburn Me

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn. Me. Aug. 23 1857

My dearest Husband,

I am quite well to-day and must write you part of a letter at least. I did not write last week, for Guy and I both were sick. Guy had the diarrhea and I was quite worried about him, but he is better now, and the Dr said it was partly caused by his eye and stomach teeth, that he is cutting. I came very near having a fever as before, but fortunately I escaped. Aunt Sarah took the very best care of me and yesterday I had a short ride in the hack. Now I hope to have no more draw-backs.

Rowland wrote me a short note last week saying you were ordered to West Point. I am very glad to go there, and you will have a great deal of time to study and a great deal of time to yourself, and to be with me and the children. Could you have chosen a pleasanter post?

I shall not return to Leeds till September, when Rowland and Ella will make a visit there. I shall enjoy being with them. Charlie called to see me last Friday and I told him I thought I better not try to go to Leeds again so soon, but I would like to have seen more of him, but as I am not going away so far, it will not matter so much, for he can visit us at West Point. How much pleasure and happiness I am looking forward to.

Monday. I wrote the word Monday yesterday but did not have time to write as I intended for baby called. I really do not have time to write you letters worth sending. I take proper care of the children and rest myself and I don't some days do anything else.

Col G and Dellie called to see us to-day. Dellie goes to Andover next Monday, would like to see you as you pass. I took Guy to a ride this afternoon in the hack, gone one hour and baby was good all that time. Col G said that McAllister also is ordered to West Point. The rest are looking for you home right away, but I shall not look but be so happy when you come.

Uncle and Aunt went out this evening, but have not returned. I hear the nine o'clock bell ringing and must now go to rest. May we ever be guided by the influence of the Holy Spirit in all we have to do.

Wednesday. I have just received another letter from Rowland. How kind he is to write to me so often. I must send him a note for I cannot attempt to write a letter. I am gaining every day, but am not very strong. I go to ride nearly every morning from nine to ten o'clock. Guy is not perfectly well, but I will be thankful if he does not get worse. Katie Gilmore is sewing for me yet. I do not try to do anything towards sewing. Do not be anxious about me, but come soon to

your loving Wife
Lizzie

838 8/24/1857 *From:* Jno S Sewall

To: My dear Classmate [OO
Howard]

OOH-0778

Brooks, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Brooks, Maine
Aug. 24. 1857

My dear Classmate,

I have recently heard such good news of you that I cannot forbear writing to congratulate you. You can now from your own feelings judge how gratifying it is to hear of souls converted, & how peculiarly pleasant it is to hear of friends coming into the Kingdom. My dear Howard, I most heartily congratulate you on having at last "found the pearl of great price" the treasure wh. I have no doubt you have often wished to find all your life.

I had heard the fact a short time before & three wks ago I met your brother Roland in Hallowell & he related to me more fully the circumstances of your present happy situation. I am right glad that you still possess the same bold determined energy you used to have in college (& wh. a military education I imagine has by no means lessened) & tht you have come out fair & square on the Lord's side. I hope & pray tht your labors among the soldiers & blacks may be continued, & be blessed of our great Master. You are in a position wh. opens to you a grand career of usefulness & who knows but tht God has thus given you a vastly higher Commission than you have yet rec'd, or can receive from the War office.

Roland told me you were debating the question whether you should exchange your present employ't for the ministry. I trust God will guide you in the decision. No doubt you w'd be very useful anywhere in the profession, but perhaps God has more & harder work for you to do in the army just, & who told me he remained in the Navy because he tho't there ought to be living working Christians in it, tho' he exceedingly disliked the Service. I doubt not the Army just as much needs Christian officers who shall "witness Christ" among their troops. Perhaps God has just exactly that work for you to do. However, I ought not to influence you one way or the other in your decision, for of course you know your own situation & feelings while I do not. But if you do decide to enter the ministry I can assure you of a hearty welcome from our vacant pulpits & our fasting congregations.

I sh'd be very glad to hear from you. I shall be here some 4 or 5 wks longer. After that time a letter addressed to Winthrop w'd find me. It is now vacation at Bangor Sem. & I am here preaching a few sabbaths under the Me. Miss. Soc. I shall graduate next summer if I live, & hope to be useful in some corner of the Lord's vineyard.

Write me please & tell me abt. yourself, your plans &c & remember me always as your Classmate & friend.

Jno. S. Sewall [John Smith Sewall, Bowdoin 1850]

839 8/25/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Lizzie [Lizzie
Howard]

OOH-0779

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Aug. 25th 1857

My dear Lizzie

Charley wrote me yesterday that you had not yet returned from Auburn & that he would forward my other letter to you. He says you have been sick and are now quite feeble. I am very sorry, dear Sister, to hear it & wish I could help you some way. Did I understand him correctly in saying that Mrs Clark is again with you. I hope so & that you will be able to keep her to take care of the children some time yet.

I was at Augusta this morning & saw Capt Gorgas. He says there can be no mistake about Otis "order". Charles said you had some doubt whether "such good news was true." Otis may not get away from Fla soon enough to come to Maine before the "year" commences at West Point & you may not see him for some time yet, but it will seem as if he were at home, wont it. Just think, only two days for letters & you know all about his situation too!

I can't help thinking what an opportunity he will have as a Christian Instructor of doing good among Cadets. There are not many such 2d Lieutenants! Would to God there were more. I wish I knew whether there was any good place for you & the children there, whether you could keep house &c but I suppose you don't know this yourself yet.

Aunt Ellen is going to Newport to see her two Sisters. She will start tomorrow & be gone two weeks or more. I shall be very closely tied here while she is away, as I will be Father, Mother, & everything else to a very large family & I shall feel quite a responsibility. After she gets home, I am in hopes to come out & see you, whether we hear from Otis or not, but I know we shall before then.

I spent last evening & this morning with "my wife"! Capt Patten his wife & "Horace" in one chaise & Ella & Lizzie in another, are on their way to Farmington & staid at Stanley House last night. I "got wind" of it & went up. They started on, at eight this morning & I returned in time for school. I expect to see Father tomorrow & I am in hopes Mother too.

Isn't it sad about Aunt Martha? It makes me feel dreadfully. Poor Uncle Ensign. What will he do? I'm afraid it will kill him. You don't know what a real kind, good, generous man he is & a loving husband. He would do anything for her comfort always. But his own kindness and self sacrifice in past years must be pleasant reminiscences to him now.

O Lizzie, I do not want to look back upon a life misspent or one in which I have done nothing, accomplished nothing for anybody's happiness, as for the Glory of God.

Charles will go to Brunswick Thursday. He has an arrangement there which I am in hopes is nothing worse than a "flirtation", but it looks decidedly more serious. Between us, I don't like it. I know its "none of my business" but I love Charley & if I know my own heart wish everything for his happiness & usefulness in the world. It don't seem to me that either would be promoted at the present time by an engagement to Miss Nettie Merryman. I was rather "officious" in that affair of Miss Hooper at Yarmouth & I feel delicately about saying anything of this to him. I most ardently hope that this affair will be as ephemeral as that, but I fear not.

He seems determined now & he has some of the "Otis' trait" in his will.

I don't write Lizzie, because, in your present state of health I expect an answer, tho' I should love to hear from you but because I thought it would make more of the moments pass more pleasantly to have a letter from

Your own Brother
Rowland

Ella's most intimate friend a Miss Springer of Topsham, has found a hope in Christ. The "light" first broke in upon her during a ride which they took together last week. Thank our dear Father in Heaven for his Loving kindness & bountiful Mercy. He "would not that any should perish but all learn & live". Remember me dear Sister when you pray.

R

840 8/29/1857 *From:* S P[erry] Lee

To: Dear Cousin [OO
Howard]

OOH-0780

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Aug't 29th 57

Dear Cousin

I arrived this morning from Boston & Leeds and found that the Goodell was totally wrecked last Tuesday night about 30 miles from here. The materials arrived here to day from her. I got a friend of mine a Capt Babage a competent man to take the vessel to Wilmington for me intending to join her there as soon as I had finished up my business here and the first night he lost her owing to a heavy gale & foggy weather. There is no blame atached to him or any one on board. Mr Bacon has \$2500.00 insured on her outward freight which ought to cover his expences. I do not know how much he has insured on your & Kingsly quarter as he is not down to day and so I have not seen him. I am very sorry about the accident as I had chartered for a good voyage which would have left a handsome balance to the vessels credit.

I was in hopes to have seen you at Leeds but you left the day I arrived. I should have writen you before but was expecting to go to Leeds sooner when I should have seen you.

I received your kind letter as you say dear mother has gone to a happy home. She was very happy in the thought and now is enjoying the fruits of a Christian life. It is hard to part with her but I feel that I could not call her back to this world of suffering & sin if I could.

Silas will be here Thursday morning. I left him, Frank & Sarah at Leeds. They are all well. I saw your mother Friday. She said you left Wednesday. I go tomorrow to the wreck to see if every thing is saved and when I return I will visit you and shall know all about the vessels accounts as by that time Mr Bacon can have them made out.

With much love to Lizzie & children I remain your affectionate cousin

S P Lee

841 8/30/1857 *From:* John Flynn

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0781

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla

Ord. Corps
Leeds
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
Aug't, 30 1857

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that no change has taken place here since you left. Yesterday I received a Requisition from Capt A. Doubleday 1 Arty for 8 Muskets altered for Maynard's primer together with a lot of &c for the same which I put up in about one hour after the receipt of the requisition. They were shipped immediately to Fort Myers. On the same day Recd another for 17 Colt's pistols for Col Dimicks Com'd at Fort Dallas required for Boat parties, pioneers, herdsmen &c, as those on hand were not & could not be put in proper order for issue to Regulars I came to the conclusion you would rather have me not issue them unless to volunteer officers. I therefore informed Col D that those on hand were not fit for issue therefore could not fill his requisition at present.

The papers for that property for Fort Myers only arrived here on last Wednesday. I found all correct, signed & returned the receipts. Same day turned it over to the Qr. Mrs Dept for Fort Myers with the necessary papers to Col F. S. Belton & Major McKinstry. There has been another Independent Mtd Co. raised since you left. The Capt O Hart his Co. together with Carter's is yet to be supplied. I have 45 Rifles, now on hand fit for issue. Some Co's of the Reg't that I thought were completed in arms have since drawn some 6 or 8 each, not as yet necessitated to issue muskets in lieu of rifles.

All our hands seem to be getting along well and handsomely. Ruffo is apparently improving in health. Yearne keeps Stile joggling along. Wallace is making the window sash. Frank is very satisfactory. Mr Crane is rapidly improving. All are kept going, no idle time. All the weeds in front and close to the fence all around are cut down, all the pumpkin & melon vines, corn &c I have removed and put sweet potatoe vines in their place. They are coming up handsomely. As soon as the windows are completed the completion of the magazine will go on.

Lieut Lee is A.A. Adj't Gen'l & mustering officer, which enables Maj Page to breathe more freely. I hope this will find you in the Social happiness which you have so long craved and in the enjoyment of good health as Me and my family are, is the blessing which I wish you and your dear family.

With Much Respect
I am Sir
Your obt Servt
John Flynn

Lieut O. O. Howard
Ord. Corps
Leeds
Maine