
1246 5/1/1861

From: J.F.Hammond

To: My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1185

Washington Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Washington Arsenal, 1st May 1861

My Dear Sir

I am stationed at this point. Major Ramsay is in command, and Lts. McLean, 2d Infty, Shunk, Ordnance, and Throckmorton 4th Arty, are on duty here, with one company of Artillery, and the Ordnance men - in all less than 150 men. Symonds with a section of the W.P. light battery is here on guard for the night.

The secession of Virginia gave a shock which almost paralyzed military affairs, at least, in this district. Even until now this point which is more important from the amount of arms here than the Capitol and the white House both together, is left so exposed that, until the recent accession of troops in the troops, it might have been captured at any time by a force of three hundred men. Within three or four days this Dist. Has been formed into the Department of Washington, and Col. Mansfield placed in command, and day before yesterday Mr. Lincoln came down in person to inspect, so that it is believed that there will be a larger force here before long. It is designed to place all the troops in encampments at various points in the neighborhood of the City, before many days. One will probably be near here. The heights commanding this, in the neighborhood of the U.S. Asylum, are entirely unoccupied.

The secession of Va, the resignation of her Army Officers, and the closure of the route by Baltimore threw the inhabitants of Washington into a frightful panic. When we came in with a thousand soldiers, the women about the Depot welcomed the soldiers by conduct which showed that they were almost frantic with joy. If you should ask any one now in the City, how many soldiers there are there, they will tell you 20,000! It is difficult to ascertain any where the true number, but I doubt if there are more than 6,000.

Do tell Carroll that I was at his Fathers night before last, and saw Mr. Carroll, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. <Murser>, and Miss Carrie. Miss Sallie was well, but about, and they were all quite well. Mr. Carroll had just returned from Frederick, Md., and said that there was great probability that Maryland will not secede from the Union.

We are in absolute ignorance of movements south of the Potomac. The newspaper accounts are all fudge. Mr. Stevens was in Richmond, and it is believed that there are some S.C. troops there, but nothing more definite is known.

If any letters have arrived or should arrive - I do not expect that any have - I will be obliged if you will re-envelope them, and forward them to me in Washington City.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Howard, Mrs Wing, Mrs. Carroll, to Carroll, and to my lady, and kiss the children for me.

Yours truly,

J.F.Hammond

P.S. The Rhode Island is certainly not surpassed in any respect by any troops here. Please tell Haight, if it is not too much trouble, to send me another pair of boots, just like the last pair to this place as soon as he can make them.

J.F.H.

1247 5/1/1861

From: S. P. Lee

To: Cousin [OO Howard]

OOH-1186

286 F St north
Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[Washington] May 1st 1861 [A section of the letter was cut out.]

<> Cousin

I arrived here Saturday eve in company with Lieut Robert & Dr Hammond. Could not have got here if I had not been with Mr Robert as I passed under his pass. We had a hard tedious time getting through but I was glad to get here under any circumstances.

I presented my letters to Mr Fuller and Judge Carrol and have seen them often. They are doing all they can for me.

I spent last eve with Mrs Carrol <[Torn page]> with them <> any one <received to Mr <Carrol> yesterday to <> of the Navy, who will do all in his power for me. Mr Fuller presented me to Commodore Smith who seems pleased to do all he can and has advised me what to do.

I had a letter also to Mr Welles Sec of the Navy which I presented to him but have had no audience with him yet but have sent in my application and shall have to wait patiently for what will turn up. Commander <Smith> thinks my services will be required and I had better wait for a while. If I could get letters from the Senators from Maine they would be of great service to me. I have thought of writing to Stinchfield to see if he could get any for me. I know the Washburns very well and think they would send me letters. What do you think of it?

I am Boarding at a private boarding house that Mrs Fuller recommended me to at 7 dollars a week so it is as cheap for me to remain here as it would be in New York, so I shall remain here a week or so and see what turns up. I will write you how I succeed from time to time.

With many thanks my dear cousin for your kindness, I remain yours truly.

S. P. Lee

write me at 286 F St north, care of Mrs Nesbet.
Perry

every thing is quiet here.

1248 5/9/1861

From: J. G. Benton

To: My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1187

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Washington D.C.

May 9/61

My Dear Howard

I have just communicated the substance of your letter to Col. Ripley (he had not time to read it) and he desires me to say that he does not see any impropriety in the course you intend to pursue. I must say that I do not myself. I would be careful to state the objects of my resignation or <> what course I intended to pursue in entering into the volunteer service.

This is the course which McCook has taken, & I hear no blame cast upon him for so doing.

Kindest regards to Mrs Howard, and in a great hurry I remain

Your friend,
J. G. Benton

1249 5/9/1861

From: A. Piper

To: Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1188

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

Washington City

May 9 1861

Dear Howard

Your letter inquiring about my quarters was received last week. I must apologize for not having answered it sooner, but the fact is there is so much confusion in the city that one forgets everything except his meals. I have no objection to your occupying my quarters for the present - provided of course you give them up when I want them. I have very little idea now of returning to the Point, but should I do so I will probably want the same quarters I occupied before. The only furniture I possessed was in the back room second floor. You can use it if you wish; it would be kept in better order by use than by packing up. The Cadets have just arrived - nothing new - yours &c.

A. Piper

1250 5/10/1861 *From:* Charles [H. Howard] *To:* My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1189

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor May 10th 1861

My dear brother

Nothing could have given me more pleasure than did the sight of a letter from you last evening. But you communicated a good deal of startling news. I am becoming accustomed to startling news but it usually comes in the Papers. I like the idea of you offering your services to Gov. Washburn. Every body who knows you has been inquiring what you were going to do. I felt confident you would not be wanting whenever duty might call and now we so much need good & experienced officers for our raw recruits. I saw enough of the military last year to be a good deal shocked at the conduct & appearance of volunteers. There will be a sad lack of discipline.

I was awaked or at least aroused from reverie this morning by the morning gun at the Arsenal grounds - the first of the kind I have heard since at West Point. They have one regiment up there. It is in sight of the Sem. They have selected their own officers I believe. Chas Roberts who was I think in College with you in a lower class is Lieut Col. They are forming another reg. here in fact I think they have companies enough in the vicinity for another. I should think the Kennebec cos would think of you but I suppose there are many men ambitious to take the offices and without some previous intimation from you hardly any one would have thought of your leaving the reg. army. I was pleased to see Maj Anderson was at the head of a Brigade of <Ratk. Particularly pleased this morning also to see that Col Mansfield (whom I knew at W.P. & better from your own account of him than from any acquaintance of mine) was made Bvt. Brig. Gen. Has Maj Mordecai of Watervliet seceded? And where is his son.

I was greatly surprised to hear that John Weir & those other young men, belonged to the 7th Reg. Have they just gone in a company which left N.Y. yesterday, or did they go with the main body of the Reg. some time ago? Wish Johnny would write. I should like to have been with you at this time when the 1st Class were leaving.

How can the 2d class graduate before next July? Benjamin will be a solid man for the times & many of that class will make noble officers - will they not? How much I could wish that the other 37 might become Christians. Have many of the 2d Class seceded? Where is Batill? Is he a Christian - think you? You have never mentioned Lockett. I would like much to know where he is. The report last night that Beauregard was dead created quite a stir. I was glad that you made some mention of Mrs. Grey & Miss Jeannie. How long will they remain at Buttermilk? It seems to me Otis that these times have led men of true piety every where to new consecration, a deeper sense of God's presence & a more complete trust in Him and I hope it has led all Christians to come so near to Christ as to be more thoroughly under the control of his blessed Spirit & thus to redouble their zeal for his cause. Oh that such glorious results might be attained. I expect to preach next Sabbath at West Hamden as I have been urged to do so & I know not as there is any valid objection.

I should like much to be with that 7th Reg. I expressed the same to my room-mate night before last - then I did not know that I had any friends there. In fact I would gladly go to the war in any capacity if it was my duty.

The wish has often been expressed that you were here at the Sem. to drill a company of students. Doct Stephens consented to do so when we were thinking of forming a company but he is a secessionist. We thought it would be a fine thing to extract from him a little service for his country. Gen. S. I think is all right for the Union. I saw Mrs S. down at the City Hall where the ladies were making uniforms &c for the soldiers but a lame hand prevented her from assisting.

Where are Jack & Thos Wilson? I heard a sermon up at the Arsenal in the open air from Mr. Everett last sabbath, pious, eloquent, touching, elevating discourse. "Be <angry> & <> not". He would not say a word to increase their excitement, nor a word to allay their enthusiasm, but would gladly stomp upon their glowing hearts the cross of Christ. I do not give you the exact words. There was a great throng there. Evidently the sermon was written & memorized. When I met him the other day, he says, "now your brother will not come -

war was the condition I believe." I told him it was extremely doubtful for the present. I hoped the war would soon be over. But I do not think it will be. There must be hard fighting & the flow of blood. I trust God will cleanse us as a nation & we will be established finally upon a more solid basis. Most Christian men in these parts feel that God has stretched forth his arm & that a reckoning is come - that the relic of past barbarisms which like an iceberg set loose in the North & floated down into the Torrid Zone has found its freezing way down into the middle of the 19th Century - that this incongruous & unsupportable remnant of another age must be melted away & perish forever.

I don't think we have a lack of wisdom or of true courage & decision in our execution at Washington & we have the best man for the place in the state for our Governor. With the Cloud of fervent, faithful prayers which are going up the right the cause of humanity, of religion, of Christ shall prevail. I will stay at home & pray or go when Providence dictates & there pray & do with the help of my Savior what my hands find to do.

Prof. Russell is here at present giving us elocution lessons. I have often wished you could share these lessons. They would do you great good as well as be very entertaining. He is a white-haired man & may never come again but we hope to have him next year. He nobly recited an extract from one of Webster's speeches on Union the other eve & was heartily cheered, I assure you. He has often heard Daniel Webster. Have you read some of the great sermons which have been called out by these times? I think we are living in an age long to be remembered - how contemptible the man who shrinks from the post of duty now.

I believe I will add more some time today. It is a charming morning. I sent Rowland your previous letter. Have not heard from him very recently. I will close I think so as to mail this tonight <> writes upon flag-embellished paper-war!

Affectionately Yr Br
Charles.

1251 5/12/1861 *From:* A. Ames

To: Mr. [OO] Howard

OOH-1191

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Washington D.C.

May 12th 1861

Mr. Howard:

Dear Sir:

Upon my arrival in New York city I telegraphed and wrote to those who control the regiment under our consideration. I referred them to you.

The day of my arrival I saw Capt. Benton and gave him your letter; also Lieut. Piper who said he would write the same evening. When I told him I would write you the information wanted he made the above statement which stopped any further questions on my part. Being ignorant of the subject matter of course I could not enlighten you. Capt Lee I did not see. He had gone to Boston to join a ship going into immediate service.

Dr. Hammond I saw at the President's reception of army and navy officers. Your message was delivered. I saw him again to-day when he informed me he was soon to start for Tortugas - (excuse spelling).

Last eve I was at the camp of the seventh regiment. I saw Johnny Wier walking past a sentinel.

The city is considered perfectly safe. We have at least not less than thirty thousand troops here. The volunteers are all intelligent looking men. In fact I never saw finer looking men taken in a body than they are.

The Rhode Island regiment pleases every one. Their gentlemanly bearing, for they are all gentleman, the happy adaptation of dress to service, their intelligence, for they are of the first society in the New England states, strike the beholder at once and he feels he is not in the presence of ordinary troops. I gave up my chances in the ordnance and took the artillery. I am sixth from foot of the 2d Lieutenants in the 2d Art. I shall apply for a commission in the fifth Artillery of which Major Anderson is to be or is Col.

At present all of us are attached to volunteer Companies. I have a Co. of the 12th N.Y.S.M. We have entire control of them - commissioned officers and all.

Of our class the first three went into the Eng. Nine in the Topog'l Eng. And two in the ordnance. Nineteen in the artillery. Two in the Eng. are the only Brvts.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Howard.

I am boarding at Mrs. Bryants No. 303 G. St.

Your friend

A. Ames [Adelbert Ames, USMA Class of 1861]

1252 5/13/1861 *From:* S. P. Lee

To: My dear Cousin [OO
Howard]

OOH-1192

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York May 13th 1861

My dear Cousin

I returned from Washington a week ago and have been making a visit to Milford for a few days, was in Boston a few hours and saw Olive [cousin Olive (Woodman) Hazard] . All friends there well.

I found my appointment on my return here as Master Mate in the Navy and of course accepted it. I shall be appointed to one of the steamers on the blockading fleet. Do not yet know which one and shall be Acting Lieut or 2d do. I got acquainted with Cmdrs Paulding and Smith and they will do all they can for my promotion if I desire it and I shall do all I can to do so.

Mr. Carrol was very kind to me and done all he could. He was much pleased to have you call on him for any favors and says he hopes you will always do it as it gives him much pleasure.

I expect to get away this week. Have to report myself to the Navy Yard every morning and shall soon be off.

My dear Cousin, I shall always feel under great obligation to you for your kindness to me, and hope it may be in my power to reciprocate. I would run up & see you but do not feel that my time is my own as I may get orders any moment to join some vessel.

Give my love to Lizzie and the children also. Remember me to Mr Fuller.

It is a good thing that I went to Washington as I got acquainted with the needs of the Navy department and think they feel much interest in me.

No news from Sarah since I saw you with her. I am

Your Affectionate Cousin
S. P. Lee

I am stoping at the Washington Hotell here.

1253 5/13/1861 *From:* Henry N. Rostary

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1193

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Washington D.C. May 13th, 1861

Lieut. O. O. Howard

Respected Sir:

I have presumed to have a check for (\$15.00) fifteen dollars drawn up in your favor by Lt. Symonds.

I hope that you will excuse the liberty that I have taken for there appears to be no other reliable way of sending money to my family. I have an opportunity of attending church every Sunday. I saw Mr. Benjamin there last he also stayed to communion. He is attached to our Co. I have written to my wife about the money and she will call on you. My thanks to yourself and Mrs Howard that myself and family have experienced at your experienced [sic] at your hands.

Your Obedt Servant
Henry <N. Rostary>

1254 5/13/1861 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dear Bro. Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1194

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington May 13, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

We have now been housekeeping two weeks & we both enjoy it very much. It is but half past five in the morning but Ella is up at the wash tub! She has only a little girl of 14, "Mary" & she begins to attend School this week. She has come to live with us for board, clothing at School. She is very smart a great deal of help. Mrs Patten staid a week & fairly started us. Then Mother came up & staid two days. Mother does not seem well at all. She still feels the effect of her last falls sickness. Yesterday we had our S.S. Concert in the P.M. & in the evening Ella & I rode out a mile & a half & we had a little prayer meeting at the house of a sick member of our church.

Farmington just begins to look lovely. The grass is wonderfully green. I have a nice little horse "Charley" whom I know you would like very much. Ella can drive him. I have hired an old waggon for the Summer for \$5.00 & a chance to pasture my horse was included in my rent. We have a nice garden, if I succeed in cultivating it & a good little orchard which in a good year will afford us plenty of apples.

Ellas sister Lizzie is here & will probably stay some time & I suppose we will have a visit from her "intended" by & by.

Three young ladies united with our church by profession last Sab. but our religious interest is very low.

The war excitement is not nearly so great here as in some places in the vicinity, but a number have volunteered.

I have preached a Sermon on the Subject - It seems to me a good plan to send the 1st Class to Washington. The great want of these Volunteers is good drill officers. Every body is anxious to have the war prosecuted with vigor & brought to a speedy termination, but I suppose that Gen Scott feels that these new troops have hardly ability according to their zeal & so keeps them back till they are better prepared.

I do hope you will get your usual leave. One of the pleasantest things connected with our housekeeping has been the thought that you & your family would spend some time with us this Summer. How much we should enjoy studying, attending meetings, & fishing together. We are just as much in the "Country" as they are at Leeds & the children would have a nice play ground in the lane & Orchard.

I heard from Charles thro' a Bangor Student Sat. He is as well as usual. Dellie is still at Yarmouth, but I think will get back to Coll. at the last of the term now commencing.

With a great deal of love from myself & Ella to you all.

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

1255 5/15/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1195

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
May 15th 1861

My dear Mother,

There is some prospect of our coming home this summer as you may have heard. I have been desired to say if I would accept the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment and have received letters from Mr Blaine & Governor Washburn relative thereto. I don't know which will be best for me. I shall expect much hard work & no little annoyance with the volunteers, whereas here I am quiet & untroubled, but if I can do more to advance the right & put down rebellion by changing I am ready to do so. It was with this view that I wrote to Governor Washburn tendering my services. I have felt great doubt & perplexity as to my line of duty in this crisis.

I have just got a letter from Perry Lee stating that he had already received an appointment in the Navy, and that he is in New York awaiting Orders. His appointment is not a high one, but the chances of promotion are good.

I am looking for a collision of troops, every day. I just got a letter from Washington, which speaks of the good looks & good condition of our troops there. The Rhode Island regiment is said to be composed mainly of gentlemen.

Give much love to Uncle E & Laura & to John & family. Remember me to the neighbors. Love to Father. I hope you are well. We are. Jamie has a sore still on the top of his head.. He is a happy & good baby. I do hope you will have the pleasure of making his acquaintance this coming June. I hav'nt heard from Dellie since I wrote him. I had a good letter from Charles a day or two ago. He says he is glad I offered my services to the Governor. I would prefer a three years regiment for I mean to stay in the Army till the war is over if the Lord permits.

Is Warren Lothrop still at home? If so how is his health?

I spoke last Sunday for the Methodist Minister, he being absent. My prayer-meeting is now small since the premature departure of the 1st Class. Everything you can get the time to write me is interesting. I hope you are well & happy in the Lord.

Your aff. Son
Otis

1256 5/15/1861 *From:* J. C. Stevens

To: Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-1196

Bangor

West Point
N York

Source: Bowdoin

[LETTERHEAD] [An image of the U.S. flag with the motto: "STAND BY THE FLAG"]

Bangor May 15 1861

My dear friend -

On my return home last Saturday after ten days absence, I met your brother who informed me that you would like to take the command of the Kennebec Regt. now being raised, and I assured him that it would afford me great pleasure to do all in my power to realize your wishes, and from the last account that I hear now to day from there I have but little doubt that you will receive the votes for that office.

I will say to you in strict confidence that I have reason to suppose that I may be offered the command of the first Brigade - in which event I had you in my mind for Inspector. But perhaps the other position would be more desirable - <you> please not speak of this, as I suppose the Gov has many patriotic friends about him at this time, and as I am no office seeker and I believe never been classed in that category. I have no wish to enter my <scrub> now with politicians for office.

Should you accept the position of Colonel, my third son who resides in Boston, I think would like the place of Qr. Master, and is qualified to discharge the appropriate duty, and I trust is a Christian man.

I shall be pleased to hear from you upon receipt of this.

It is a singular coincidence that about two weeks since on my way to Portland in the cars, I was solicited, while a moment at the Depot in Waterville, to be a candidate for the command of the Kennebec Regt. But having had some previous conversation with the Gov, and others, I did not feel at liberty to accept the honor, and now I have the best reason for saying no and urging your election with all my heart.

With kindest regards to Mrs H & family, and my sincere prayer that God will direct you, and make you more & more efficient in promoting his glory.

I am very truly
J. C. Stevens

Lt. O. O. Howard
West Point
N York

1257 5/16/1861 *From:* M. H. Wright

To: Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1197

Nashville, Tenn

Source: Bowdoin

Nashville, Tenn
May 16, 1861

My Beloved friend -

I almost fear, in these times of espionage & scrutiny, to even write you a sad, sad, parting good-bye, for in severing my connection with the Federal Army, I feel that I am separating from many true & devoted friends.

I fear to write, as stated, lest I should compromise you, one whom I so much love & revere, as holding communication with a traitor, as will no doubt be my title at the North, but the Lord only, can decide that.

In taking the course I have, I have one consolation which affords me great comfort - viz: of having been sincere in my action, & performed what I believed to be my conscientious duty - & having reduced it that, I feel that it is alone between my God & me - as stated in my letter, forwarding my resignation.

Dear Howard, to what are we coming? Are we all to be butchered? Have the people North & south forgotten God, in their madness, & has He made them mad that they might destroy themselves? God forbid, but surely it looks very much that way.

As for the administration, I am convinced that it intends war against the South, & for what? To gratify the ambition of Lincoln's advisers - not for love of the Union - because he could have said that long since. So long as I could hope that Lincoln only intended to sustain the Capital off on all invasion of Federal Rights, I remained in the Army, but when I became convinced that he intended invading the South, I left. I cannot help sustain that Government which in cold blood murders my Brothers, Sisters & Mothers, that it may be sustained. Such a Government is not worthy of preservation - (i.e.) such leaders are not worthy to be sustained.

It is no love for the Union that actuates such a course - tis only for gain of name & power & wealth. The <Power> is the strong bond.

But you must understand me. I do not include the entire North, nor all of L's supporters, in the number which I blame for all our troubles. You know my views. I am strictly conservative in my views - do not sustain the hasty action of some of the Southern states - but have determined to die if need be, in the defense of the soil of Tennessee, & her sister states.

We can muster 150000 fighting men in Tennessee, & volunteers are pouring in daily.

My dear, dear friend - be the end what it may, let us pray for induction for our people - our country - & ask God to stay the hand of blood. Should we never meet again on Earth, may we be united in Heaven.

My best love to Mrs. H & the children.

Sincerely yr. Friend
M. H. Wright

Lt. O.O. Howard

Please write to me, if you can. But if you feel that it is not right I will feel that you are actuated by pure motives.

1258 5/18/1861 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear brother [RB
Howard]

OOH-1198

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
May 18th 1861

My dear brother,

I received your kind letter day before yesterday and was glad to hear from you & sister Ella indeed. You had not heard it seems of my offer of my services to the Governor of Maine and that I had been telegraphed to, asking if I would take the Colonelcy of the Kennebec regiment now being raised, and that I had consented conditionally - provided I could remain till after the examinations & the President would permit. The former condition I did not make absolute & I learn that my resignation will probably be accepted at Washington, so that if I am elected I shall pull up stakes & soon be amongst you. I received a letter from Gen. Stevens of Bangor, today. He says I am or shall be chosen, he has little doubt of it from his advisers.

I am not very anxious to leave here. I am now 1st assistant. We have a house to ourselves, the next one north of the Carroll house - have just got comfortably moved - but I think I can do more good in a military point of view in the volunteers than here, but perhaps not. I would'nt like to stir a step unless I felt that it was God's will that I should do so.

We have a young minister from Auburn Seminary at Mr Gray's. He boards with Mrs Gray. I was at his prayer meeting last night. He seems to have a warm Christian heart. I trust God will bless him in his work. When the first class left it carried away from us eight communicants and has diminished the attendants at the prayer-meeting. However, Thursday evening we had a good one. The members of the 1st class are distributed amongst the volunteer companies to drill them. A good move indeed.

I think secession begins to abate particularly in Virginia. Union fever will start up like magic soon.

We are all well, mean to come & see you if possible. If I stay in the army, I don't expect I can go to Maine. It would not do to have idlers.

I am glad to see your ch. membership is increasing. May God give you a rich harvest. Love from us all. I am very sorry Mother is so poorly in health.

Your affectionate brother
O.O. Howard

1259 5/21/1861 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1199

Yarmouth

Source: Bowdoin

Yarmouth May 21 1861

My dear brother:

Your letter of the 6th inst came to hand this afternoon and I hasten to reply as quickly as possible. I was very glad to hear from you and am sorry your letter did not reach me before. Mother is not quite so prompt in sending letters &c to me which go to Leeds as my impatience seems to desire. Your letter went to Brunswick & Leeds you see ere it reached me.

Mother stated in her letter that you had had some correspondence in regard to the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment, and I see by the Boston Journal of today, which I send by today's mail to you, that Professor Howard of West Point is mentioned among the prominent candidates.

I saw a friend today in the cars from Augusta who seemed to think that Prof. Howard of West point would be the man. He did not know that you were a brother of mine till I told him.

I have not been home for nine weeks so I have only reports from home to tell you. Mother is comparatively quite well. Father appeared as young and well when I was at home as he has for a number of years. You know he is farming with the aid of Thomas Buvier. I have not heard from Rowland or Charles for some time, but I am in hopes to have a letter from each very soon. I have been very negligent of all of my correspondents for a long time so I ought not to complain.

As you see I am still at Yarmouth. I expected to go to Brunswick ere this but have not been able to do so. Went down there last week by permission of the Pres. And I saw the President while there. He said I should go back to College as soon as he could get me there, but couldn't say what action the Faculty would take on the matter. He agreed to lay the matter before the meeting last night and I expect a letter in regard to the matter immediately, by tomorrow morning. I will not mail this to go in the first train so that you may be able to tell where to send the answer to this letter which I hope to have very soon.

I am very anxious to know what you are likely to do in the present "crisis". All eyes seem now to be "turned to ward the Army and the eyes of our family are particularly directed upon you. As you were designing to leave the army next fall, I am in hopes you may be able to get the position of Colonel of the Kennebec Regiment. It is said to be a very fine body of men. You remember that Major Lally's men did good Service in Mexico. Most of those came from the same section of country as these.

The war spirit here in Yarmouth don't run very high, as we have as many <owners> in shipping which they think will be more secure if the war should cease. We have, even two or three secessionists in town, but they don't care much about making much noise.

Mother is much concerned in regard to matters, but I think the fact that you are in the army makes her a little anxious. I haven't yet volunteered. I believe my eyes are so bad that I could not be reconed an able bodied man. I would like to go as a clerk in a regiment or in some such capacity if it was convenient.

My love to Lizzie and the Children. I am in hopes to see you all by the middle of June.

Your very aff bro
R. H. Gilmore

[The following was from OOH-1464.]

Friday morning.

Have not heard word from College. Don't know what to make of it. Please direct your next letter here.

I notice by yesterdays Advertiser and also by the Boston Journal that you are to have the Colonelcy of the 3d (Kennebec) Regiment. If you could let me know when you pass here I should like to see you.

Write soon.
R.H.G.

[ca December, 1861] [This estimate of the date was not written by the author. The Bowdoin number is 480. It belongs to OOH-1199 dated 5/21/1861.]

1260 5/22/1861 *From:* J.F. Hammond

To: My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1200

Havana, Cuba

Source: Bowdoin

Havana, Cuba
22d May 1861

My Dear Sir,

We sailed in the Bunville from New York at 4 P.M. the 17th and arrived here this afternoon about 5:30. Of all the descriptions of this place, none gave me any idea of it. The harbor is in the shape of a much curved cow's horn, the city being on the concave side. The convex side is covered by a system of fortifications commencing at the shore which stands upon the angle at the north side of the mouth of the harbor, and running along the elevated ground which bands the north side of the harbor. Fortifications extend along the concave side of the harbor also, from its mouth. The harbor is three or four miles long, and for some distance from its mouth is not over five hundred yards wide. Ships pass so near the shore that they are hailed from the castle, and made to tell where they are from. I should say that those fortifications cannot be passed by ships, without their consent.

It was a clear afternoon and the sun was behind us as we came in, giving us the best light in which to see every thing. The first impression on me were recollections of descriptions of Venice, and the next was that I was gazing at a panorama. The City is built compactly, the houses all have flat roofs, and are painted in every color. And Palaces, Prisons, Theaters, Churches, Fortifications, Ships and residences of private persons seemed mixed promiscuously together. I saw - pointed out to me - as we passed along, besides the fortifications, all of which are named - the Cathedral in which repose the ashes of Christopher Columbus, the Palace of the Captain General of Cuba; the Tacon Theatre, the Tacon Prison, and the Palace in which <Enthendon> was imprisoned and where he was shot. We have not been ashore. And for fear of the night air - which is soft and balmy on deck - I confine myself to the Cabin. It is said to be perfectly healthy in town. But we hear such various accounts that we saw no risks. The Niagra sailed out for Key West as we sailed in. We hope to get off tomorrow. There is no report here now for either Key West or Tortugas.

I went to see Haight about the boots the morning I left West Point, but he had not opened his shop. I left word for him to send me the boots to Tortugas if he had finished or commenced them, and if he had not commenced them not to make them. I will write to him when I get to Tortugas and tell him how to send them.

Please present my regards to Mrs. Howard, and to Mrs. Wing when you write, and to Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, and to the children, and to every body at West Point.

I hope you have made up your mind to remain quietly at West Point.

Sincerely Yours,
J.F. Hammond

P.S. Please remember me very especially to Miss Jeanie and Mrs. Gray.
J.F.H.

1261 5/23/1861

From: Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1201

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington May 23/61

Dear Brother

Your letter was full of news to me. At first thought I was very much delighted that you proposed to the war with a Me. Regiment & thus make your military knowledge available to our dear Country in this her hour of need. But as I notice in the papers (one of wh. I send you) that there are competitors for the Colonelcy of the Kennebec Regiment, & that it is quite uncertain whether the Gov. will require them & that they have got your kind of "Small Pox" and then have considered how necessary your religious influence is at W.P. & how much your family need you, & that there will probably soon be a chance of promotion in the regular Service, & that you will soon, if not now have hard work enough at the Point & that your health is not very firm. (I have been suffering from a lame back & can sympathize). I have concluded that I will not be disappointed if your Resignation is not accepted. I often long to be in a position where I can render more immediate Service to the Country & its Soldiery.

New Eng. is sending very many conscientious Christian men to this war. The Richmond Yo. Mens Ch. Association have spoken some very Christian & kindly words to their brethren, but they leave out of sight the fact that the South have acted like thieves. Let them restore the stolen property & then we will <treat> for Separation.

I don't see how Lizzie lives thro so many moves. One like to have killed us.

Ella sends much love. So does Sister Lizzie Patten.

Yr aff Bro
Rowland

Tell Guy that we have a little dog, named Gypsy who stays here most of the time, & he would laugh to see such a funny little thing. How is Diamond?

1262 5/23/1861 *From:* T. J. Treadwell

To: My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1203

Frankford Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Frankford Arsenal

May 23rd 1861

My Dear Howard

I am very much obliged to you for your good wishes and am <> to the dorsal bone. Ah! Comes the morrow thereof.

In reference to the Equipment you wish, we have no supply in hand at all just now, though I am daily in expectation of receipts from the constructors. The equipment we order is intended for the services and cost \$35 per set. It is very good indeed, and consists of saddle complete, Bridle (riding & watering), Halter, Lariat, rope & pickel pins. <Has trunk and> <>. My idea is that you would like a more finished set and would not want the lariat rope & pins or watering bridle. Would you require the Shabrack, just drop me a note stating explicitly what you want, and I will order you a set immediately from one of our constructors, or I will send you one of our service sets if you think it will answer. I think some of the last issued to the Military Academy are of the same pattern, and you can look at them and see how you like them.

I am very busy and must ask you to excuse this hastily written note. I have had the whole <Philaon> <Rgts>and surely also the Parade Troops to outfit, and have been alone for the last three weeks.

My regards to all at the Point, who care enough to inquire for me, especially my regard and those of <> Miss French.

In high-<> hasty

Your friend

<T. J. Treadwell> [USMA Class of 1854]

1263 5/25/1861

From: Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1202

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington May 25/61

Dear Brother

I enclose the notes that you will find. I spent two Sabs & the intervening week at Judge Bells in Skowhegan when in the Semr'y & received many kindnesses at the hands of himself & family. He is poor & his Son has been educated by his Grandfather Gen Bachelder of Readfield. I do not know the young man personally as he was in Europe when I was there. His advantages have been excellent. I wish you could have discreet Christian men on yr Staff for associates & advisers.

Just drop a line if no more when it is decided that you will come. In haste,

Yr. Aff. Bro.
Rowland

May you have the Guidance of the Holy Spirit at every step.

1265 5/28/1861 *From:* Eliza G[ilmore]

To: Oliver O. Howard

OOH-1204

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds May 28th 1861 [Tuesday]

My Dear Son, Otis,

Yours of the 15th, was duly received and gave me a hope that you would be with us in June. I looked for further news, last evening but none came. Your name has been before the public (but not as decided as I could wish) as the one who would probably take the command of the Kenebec Regiment in a card in the Kenebec Journal, and another in the Portland Advertiser. One thing is certain, I should be glad to meet you and your family once more at my home, although I know the journey is fatiguing to Lizzie and all the rest of you.

I heard from Rowland, last Monday. His family were well. He is housekeeping. I have been to visit him and stopt three nights. Ella is very anxious to be a good housekeeper. Rowland has taken a good house and Ella has furnished it. I hope they will have their health. Rowland has quite a large garden and I am in hopes the care of it will make him healthy. I have heard from Charles, and Rodelphus the same time I did from you. Write soon and tell us what is your decision about your change of place and what you know about Perry Lee, and if you know anything of Sarah Sargent. I had a letter from Laura at Wingate a few days since, in which she said she heard through Mrs Hazzard that she would sail from Nassau in May, and I am thinking she may be with Perry in New York at this time.

Monday P.M. [June 3]

I dated my letter last evening nothing more, and at another evening am feeling a new stimulus from receiving a package of letters from Rowland containing yours three days later date than mine, and one, from Charles, late May 20th, and one from Mrs Sarah Sargent written May the 11th. She is communicating with Rowland with regard to a house for her own use at Farmington. She says she has another son born the 22nd of March. She has already paid her passage in the Steamer to New York to sail the 10th of June. Poor Sarah. How will she ever get to New York with them all? But the great God, I trust, will help her.

Charles says General Stevens is in earnest to have you come to Maine, but your Mother has but one place to commit all things, and particularly at this time, when our once boasted, and beloved Country, is flying to Arms, and destroying each other, (as far as human eye can see without any just cause.) Oh! What a terrible trial war is, especially a civil war. How much destruction of life and property is destroyed, and to think of our people, of our United States battering down their own improvements, and burning and pillaging their own property. Oh! I will stop, let us pray for help, at the Throne of Grace.

Seems to me there never was a time, when every Christian should unite so fervently as now, and say in our hearts, oh! "God in thy wrath, remember mercy". I have been to see Aunt Howard and Harriet, and called on all the neighbors about there. I enjoyed much, went to Mr Lanes, walked over grounds that your own father cultivated, through the whole I enjoyed a happy frame of mind. No regrets haunted me as I looked about over <> trees he transplanted and other improvements he made. But a train of thought seemed to pervade me, that he enjoyed all his improvements. I stoped at Aunts, one night and one night with Laura, and Ensign's and filled up the time in making calls. Laura is expecting one of her cousins from Philadelphia to come here to live with her. And ask me particularly to write to you on the subject. Said she did not wish you to have any trouble with her, only to write her, that is Laura's cousin, to let her know the time you will be in New York so that she can meet you there and come on in company with you. I do not even know her name only Miss Brewster. I am anxious to hear more from you as to your destination.

My health is much better than for some time past. I have good help. Thomas Bubier and wife are our Help. Your father says he is very well now entirely recovered from the lameness he has had the past winter occasion'd by two falls the first of the winter.

Uncle Barney's widdow Aunt [Mary] Howard in a poor state of health. She does not sit up much, but is dress'd every day and lies down, and gets up herself without help. Warren [Deacon Warren Howard] has sold his farm to Alvin Foss [see Note], and he is already settled there. I took tea there and Alvin and wife took me to Esq. Francis' to call, and from there to Mr Ramsdels, Warren's son-in-law who swap'd farms with John Otis. There I

found Warren living for the present and his family. Alvin said he was in at Hickses a few days since, and that his brother in law Orren Sawtell was there on Saturday. He praised him as a smart man. Alvin is already contemplating building a new home and all other necessary building near the road <>

Wednesday morning has found your father and I in our usual health. I hope the same for you and Lizzie and the little ones. Kiss Guy, Grace, and babe. Love to Susan. You will of course write to tell us of your destination when it is decided what it is. I hope now is a day of rest to Lizzie, to prepare her for her journey. Rowland wrote he had cut his foot with an axe. I hope he will be careful and not get cold in it.

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza G.

Oliver O. Howard

[Note: Alvin Foss (1816-1862) was married to Cornelia Bradford Howard (1820-1904) a daughter of Barnabas Howard and brother-in-law to Deacon Warren Howard (1805-1876).]

1264 5/27/1861 *From:* A. Ames

To: Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1205

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

Washington D.C.

May 27th 1861

Lieut Howard:

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter was duly received. Allow me to congratulate you on your good fortune - a Colonelcy or Assistant Professor - both so good that you appeared to wish to keep both.

In fact I believe if one was presented to you only you would feel happier with less responsibility resting on your own shoulders than you do now. Still it is a question to be decided by yourself for you only know yourself well enough to be a judge.

I was elected Lieut. Col., but had to resign my position. Col. A. McD. McCook arrived here a few days ago. He informed me he made a conditional resignation which they might accept or not; he was to stick by his regiment. I am connected with Capt. Griffin West Point light Artillery battery. Lieut Simms has been made a Capt. in the Commissary department. Besides Capt. G. the officers are (according to rank) Lieuts Piper, Hines, Benjamin and Hasbrouck.

During the excitement consequent upon the occupation of the Sacred Soil of Virginia in this vicinity I had command of a section of our battery at the Georgetown aqueduct bridge for some two days and one night. We were ordered to be ready at any moment but were not called on. The remainder went across long bridge where they were about as useful as I was. We hope we may do better the next time - (if necessary.)

I am getting on well, learning something of regular service. My time is fully occupied or nearly so. I have not had an opportunity to see Johnny Wier as you requested. Benjamin has just been interrupting me. We live here together. I told him of your remarks and knowledge of his doings and whereabouts which much puzzled him. He now sends his kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Howard. He also wishes me to say that one of our battery, Robinson, was out with him the other day and asked particularly about you, expressing much interest in your welfare. Robinson was in your Sunday school. He is now the clerk in the battery.

To-day I was at the arsenal getting a battery wagon, harnesses, saddles, &c &c for our battery.

It is now eleven o'clock P.M. I am officer of the day and must inspect my guard after twelve. Benjamin is getting up a running discussion on the symptoms of being "head (over and) heels" in love. It distracts me much.

I hope I may hear from you. I live at No. 434 6th St.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs. Howard and request her to remember me to Mrs. Wing when she writes her.

Your friend

A. Ames [Adelbert Ames, USMA class of 1861.]

P.S. As for news my time is so much occupied that I look to the New York papers for it. So excuse me for not writing any. A.

1266 5/28/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1206

N. York
5th Ave. Hotel

Source: Bowdoin

N. York
5th Ave. Hotel 28 May 1861

My dearest Lizzie

I have telegraphed but have not yet got an answer, but I see by the Boston papers of yesterday that I am to be appointed by the Governor. Also I met Lieutenant Gilman at the 27th St. Depot waiting for his wife to come by the train. He said Hamlin told him I was to have the Regiment. I think I will go on in the 8 P.M. train. It has a sleeping car attached & I will have a good nights rest. You & the children must have prayers tomorrow morning. They must always pray for papa while he is away. I will write to Treadwell from Augusta.

God bless you.

Affectionately,
Otis

My love to Prof. Church. Tell him I went on.

1267 5/28/1861

From: O.O. Howard
1st Lt. Ordnance
A. Prof. Math's
West Point N.Y.

To: H. Biggs
Lieut & Adjt.
Mill. Acad'y

OOH-1207

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
May 28th 1861

Sir

I have the honor to request a leave of absence of seven days from 8 a.m. tomorrow

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Servt.
O.O. Howard
1st Lt. Ordnance
A. Prof. Math's

To
H. Biggs
Lieut & Adjt.
Mill. Acad'y

[Written in a different hand]

The absence of Lieut Howard at the present time will be inconvenient, but if the interests of the public service require it, I will interpose no objection and provide for the hearing of the lectures in the best way possible.

A.E. Church
Prof. Math

West Point N.Y.
May 28
Application for
Leave of Absence
O O Howard
1st Lt Ord'ce
A. P. <Mallet>

Approved
A.H.B. [Alexander H. Bowman, Superintendent & Commandant]
Col. & Sup. M.A.

1268 5/29/1861

From: J. F. Hammond

To: My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1208

Source: Bowdoin

U.S. Army
Fort Jefferson,
Tortugas,
Florida

Care of the U.S. Consul
Havana,
Cuba

Fort Jefferson, Florida, 29 May, 1861

My Dear Sir,

I sailed from Havana the 20th in the "Non Pariel" - the fastest steamer in these waters. Heavy sea, sick. Breakfasted next day in Key West. All well there. Quite hot. The Wyandot and Crusader were there, and the celebrated schooner Wanderer. Sailed from there in the "Tortugas". The Engineer schooner reached here 28 hours in advance of her. Left her eight miles out swinging in a calm.

This is a remarkable place: hues from the depths of the waters like a queen of the seas. In an octagonal fortification area thirteen acres covers the whole island, which is enveloped by a mesh of reefs. It is an island of crusted shells on a coral reef. There is no silicon here. There is no soil appreciable, yet there are some small trees, a few cocoanuts, grass, and thus vegetation.

At present it is quite healthy, but there is some dysentery, intermittent fever and jaundice. We live very comfortably - Turtle, fish, fresh beef, can meats and vegetables, and milk, ice water, Cystem water only, very excellent and a years supply. We have sun enough, and light breezes, and delightful sea bathing. Since I have been here it has been nearly a dead calm. Yet, the St. Louis sailed out this morning. The weather is clear, and the nights are cool. A strict quarantine is enforced.

I found in Havana one of the prettiest girls that was at West Point last summer. I was delighted to see her. She has left there by this time for the summer, and will probably visit West Point. There are numbers of pretty girls at Key West, and two or three here who can be visited.

We have no news from Pickens except that it is <trust thy might>, and that they would [commence the bombardment [this was crossed out]] open their guns on the vols the next day. I do not believe the latter. They are working hard there, and here.

Lt. Mullin is sitting by me waiting for a dose of medicine. He sends his regards to you.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs. Howard, and Mr. And Mrs. Carroll, and the children, and to every body there. God bless them all, and believe me

Truly Yours,
J.F. Hammond

P.S. In great haste. The mail about to leave. That is, the report about to sail. L.F.H.

Address:
Dr. J. F. Hammond, U.S. Army
Fort Jefferson, Tortugas,
Florida

Care of the U.S. Consul
Havana,
Cuba

1270 5/29/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1211

[Boston]

Source: Bowdoin

On train, Boston & Maine. 25 m after 9 am
29th May [1861] [The year was written by someone else.]

Dearest -

I had a good sleep in sleeping car - arrived in Boston about six - started from Boston 7 ½ after walking to & breakfasting at the Revere House. Met Prof. Egbert Smyth in cars. Am sitting by him. Hope Guy & Grace are happy, & Jamie & Susan entertaining. Don't work too hard. Will be at Augusta about 4 P.M. today. Tell John to ask Mangler to ride the horse up to the house for you to see him once in a while.

God bless you - remember me always in prayer.

Aff. Yr. Husband
Otis

I was elected as you see by enclosed. Saw Maj. <H?> at 5th Avenue Hotel.

[Envelope]
Mrs. Lt. Howard
West Point, N.Y.

1269 5/29/1861 *From:* [James G] Blaine

To: My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1209

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta
29 May 1861

My Dear Howard

You were chosen to the command of Third Regiment yesterday & public opinion is entirely unanimous in favor of having you accept the position.

You will be at once notified of your election officially. The Regiment is enlisted for three years & will be called into service at once. You must hold yourself ready to come at a moments notice.

I understand the Lt Col. (Kelsey) is an admirable Military man - one that will be both efficient & agreeable.

Truly Yours,
in grt haste
Blaine [James G. Blaine, Speaker of the Maine legislature in 1861]

I sent yr telegram yesterday pm.

1272 5/31/1861

From: Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Dear Bro Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1210

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington May 31/61

Dear Bro Otis

We are anxiously awaiting your fate - supposing that yr acceptance of the Colonelcy must depend on the Pres. acceptance of your resignation. I have since learned that Dr. Bell is an Homeopathist & has not succeeded very well as a Physician. I tell you this for what it is worth.

Lizzie Patten caught a fall from our horse & injured her knee Tuesday & is "laid up". We are very anxious about her on acct. of her previous troubles. She has been with us three weeks.

Mother writes me one of her most cheerful letters. I send you the names of your Lt. Col. & Major. I don't know either of them. I do hope you can have some Christian men about you.

Sarah writes that she will be in N.Y. with her four boys by the 15th of June.

I am trying to decide on a house so as to write her the dimensions. Would Lizzie like to come here & keep house as Sarah does if you go South with your Regiment. We should enjoy having her & the children near us very much & this is one of the cheapest places to live in & in easy communication with Leeds, Portland, Lewiston, Bath & the rest of the world. We now pay 8 cts per doz. for eggs, 15 cts per lb for Butter; 33 for potatoes per Bush, 75 cts per barrel for apples. Flour is more & groceries about the same as in Portland. The Society is good & the Schools ditto. Rent \$100 per year, & now a very pretty cottage house & lo - can be bought for \$1500. Objections - a long cold winter, &c.

But good bye. Do drop a line when your decision is made. Love to Sister L & little ones.

Yr aff. Brother
Rowland

P.S. We have had a pleasant little visit from Laura. She is looking for her cousin from Philadelphia this Summer. Uncle Ensign is here often.

1273 5/31/1861 *From:* W. H. Merrick

To: My dear Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1212

Phila

Source: Bowdoin

Phila May 31/61

My dear Otis

I shall probably go on to New York next week and propose spending the night with you provided I can get up to W.P. after having placed Vaughan on the Fall River boat, and provided also a civilian can get inside the sacred enclosure of W.P. during war times. Please write and let me know whether or no I shall be in the way.

V. is not so well as when he came on the cold & wet weather of March having had a very bad effect. During the past few days he has improved somewhat and I think will be able to move during next week. He is anxious to get home as he there has a horse and wagon at his service and here he has not.

Maria and the young ones well. The former not quite so much so as I would like to see her, but still she cannot be called sick.

Allow me to congratulate you on your promotion to a Colonelcy. Do you accept or not.

I am getting to think that the traitors wont stand up and take an honest thrashing.

Yrs very affy
W. H. Merrick