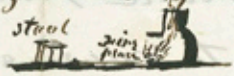
Head Quarters Howard's 482
Brigade Camp Manassas.
[ca- ~~Jan 12~~, 1861]
Jul

My little daughter,

Papa has just finished a letter to Guy and he thinks Gracie will want a letter of her own; so papa swept a place big enough to sit down and began this while uncle Charlie wet the broom and finished sweeping the room. Papa's house has but one room in it, about as large as Aunt Sarah's kitchen. The chimney is built right out of doors on the end of the house. with a very large fire place opening into it from the inside of the house. thus: 

. Papa has a long table, thus:  and Capt. Sewall a desk thus:  out of doors at the corner of the house is a flag:  which shows all the Regiments where your papa is to be found. Papa has three horses now. Uncle Charlie claims one for his.  This is the picture of a horse belonging to the Rebel Government. Mr Miles found him. Papa has given him to Abram to take

care of. Now Gracie darling papa feels tired and it is getting near night, so if you will excuse him he will rest. Papa would like to be with you tonight so that he could talk with you all & get some sweet kisses. and he would like to go to church tomorrow. He would like to see Gracie and Guy at Sunday school. Poor Guy was not very well when Mamma wrote. papa hopes he is well now. Be a good little girl Gracie. love and obey Mamma, behaving & kind to brother Guy and to little Jamie. Much love from papa to cousins Minie & Eva. and to Aunt Sarah. Papa dont forget Orestes; if he is with you tell him so. Good night and God bless my little daughter. Your loving Father.

O. O. Howard

Mrs Carroll
Washington DC
July 2 1861

My dearest
Lizzie

I am sorry
you heard I was ill. Greater
distance magnifies everything so
much. I stand here last night.
Yesterday evening I went to Secretary
Seywards dinner at 7. Mr. Blanco
to Mrs Carroll & stayed the night.
To day I am quite well, only a
little stiff in the joints. We had a
cold, windy night at Camp - last
night. Several times to the Children - love
to Susan - Mr Catherine write you -
Mr Carroll sends kindest regards. Mrs
Carroll much love - & their warmest
embraces to Spring & family - Yours
aff.

Washington D.C. July 4th 1861.

My dearest Siggie.

I thought I would write you a few lines this morning, to let you know how I am &c. I received then, Mr Carter, the package with its acceptable contents. The deed will be useful to me. So the pen wiper which is very pretty. I feel better this morning than I have for a week, am decidedly well. I have gone to Camp for the day & returned to Judge Carroll's in the evening. Mrs Carroll just came to Camp & took me in charge & really I have improved rapidly. I had the Cramps pretty badly with the Cholera morbus & was reduced in strength very fast. We are still at Meridian Hill. But Oh Judge Carroll is so sick with his old attacks that he suffers excruciating pains. I think my coming in has been a comfort to him & I believe I have been able to do him or two important errands, but I can do nothing Siggie to repay the kind attention of

Mrs Carroll to me. I shall try to stay out at Camp tonight. Everything goes better when I am there. I do think of you & Guy & Grace that little unconscious cherub Jamie. I think of you separately & together & pray for you. I seem so broken up in my old habits that I hardly know how to do. As to the Brig. Genl. I am as high as I deserve & feel that I am completely unequal to the position. What could I effect in a higher I don't think there is any danger of presents of taking me from the Regiment.
Give much love to all. Kiss the children & tell them papa catches up little children when he can & kisses them. God bless & keep you darling ever in his love & fear. Tell me about your money how it holds out. I can't get any pay & I hope Bacon has paid over to you all that is due me. In much love

Otis

Dr Pond
Clerkship for
son-in-law

Bangor July 4. 1861.

Dear Sir, I drop you a line in behalf of my son in law, Mr. George Bladgett of Bucksport. He is a pious young man, of good moral & christian character, a graduate of Williamstown College, I think your brother Charles knows him. He has been in commercial business with his brothers at Bucksport; but the distress of the times has broken them up, & he is now out of employment. He would like some situation in the army; — to be an assistant or private secretary to some officer, as your brother Charles is to you. Can you procure any such situation for him, and what would be his compensation? Would you advise him to enter into any such situation? He is well acquainted with Maj. Pierce from Bucksport,

He is a very pleasant young man, active, industrious, & entirely trust-worthy.

Just let me hear from you on the subject.

Kind regards to your brother Charles.

Yours very sincerely,

Enoch Pond.

Alexandria Virginia July 7 1861

My dearest Sissie

We are safely across the Potomac. Yesterday we had Reveille at daylight and loaded our own wagons & waited for transportation till after ten O'clock. when we marched through Washington & took the boat at the foot of Sixth Street for Alexandria. The March was about five miles on the other side. After crossing we marched below Alexandria between two & three miles. This morning soon after sunrise I came in from Camp - breakfasted here & visited Col Heintzelman's Hd. Quarters. I had a dispatch last night from the War department asking me to select three Regiments besides my own & take charge of the Brigade. I am not to be Brig. Gen'l but only acting for the present. but I will have to be detached from my Regiment.

I am writing here for Charles to send me some clothes from Camp & then I shall go over to Washington to make arrangements

I hope I shall have a chance to go to church a part of the day at least. Oh Sissie I should like to be home today where there is

a different aspect of things from what we find here. This City is gloomy indeed - nearly all the houses shut up - beautiful residences deserted, no business transacted except what an Army carries with it. Soldiers at the back are like locusts - forces, & forts are consumed. And private property generally is much infringed upon.

I received the package from Mr Carter & also another from Mr Kirsley - the things are very acceptable darling - you need not care for my clothing - in service we do not mind much what we wear. I had got flannel drawers from the State supply of much the same kind as those you send. How is little Guy this morning - Does he still love his Saviour? Papa would like a little chat with him - papa has a little softening of heart when he thinks of him - Gracie, happy & sprightly little bird how much papa would like a kiss - & Jamie, bless his little heart his mother can tell him about papa. I know God will bless my wife & Children & I trust he will direct me in all my paths. Remember me very affectionately to the Carrolls. I am going over to Mr Carrolls this morning - He was much better the last time I heard from him, but he has suffered dreadfully - How kind they have been to me & how little return I can make - Has Charlie Carroll got his appointment yet? How is Mrs Grable. Nellie & my little God-daughter? I wrote Mrs Grable soon after poor John's death but doubt if she ever received my letter. She has my heartfelt sympathies - I clipped from the paper the other day some of John's last loving words, just before he left for the future field. They made me cry - Mr Fornelis' friends regretted to lose us from their vicinage - My boy has been with my clothes so good boy - I wanted to mention Professor Church & Mrs C. I presume I may expect him tomorrow.

Bear a cheerful heart Sizzie - When you want money don't conceal it from me - though I have none now. Very longingly your own husband

Otis

Hd Qrs 2nd ~~Div~~ 3rd Division
Alexandria July 10th 1861

259

Col. Howard
Comdg 3rd Brigade
Sir

The bearer of this note R. F. Roberts, states that privates of the 4th & 5th Main Regts, have been committing depredations on his property, stealing potatoes &c: the Colonel Commanding wishes you to investigate the matter and put a stop at once to all such proceedings; if the men can be identified, punish them severely —

Very Respectfully &c
Chauncey McKeever
A. Adjt. Genl

P.S. Can you send in your Brigade return this morning?

Waterville July 13th. 1861.

My Dear Mrs Strickland.

We learn from Mrs Addition, who came to see us yesterday, that you are at Leeds. We shall be very happy to see you and hope you will not return without making us a visit. If you could come as early as the middle of next week you would probably find Mrs Addition here, but suit your convenience about the time – only do not disappoint us. Pardon me for enclosing a ticket for you to use from Leeds to Waterville. My office is in the Station and the Conductor will assist you in finding me. In behalf of Elizabeth and the children,

I am very truly Yours
Chas. M. Morse.

P.S. Bring the children also – for Mr Barrell informs me that they were with you –

164

Hd Qrs 3d Brigade
3d Div 2d Corps
Fairfax C.H. Va.
July 15th 1861

My dearest wife

I have taken my pen to write you and have been interrupted already several times. This commanding 3000 men is some work, particularly in the enemy's country, but I have got along without much difficulty thus far. Mordecai is my act. aide. St Buel is my aide. Henry Bentz Quartermaster. Charles is one clerk. We are in a room in Commodore Forrest's house. It is a lovely location some four or six miles east of Alexandria. If we were to remain here you could not have a better place to spend the summer. but we dont remain long in a place. We took three armed men day before yesterday

two from an Alabama Regiment — one a young lawyer quite intelligent. I am now very well indeed. Not the day before yesterday did I get a letter from you, the one you sent by Professor Church. We kept missing each other like that. I went to Alexandria & crossed in a steam ferry boat to Washington — and a few minutes to stay — found Professor Church & Maj Hendrick at Willards. Perry See came over to see us yesterday. He has lost his place in the Navy. I don't know the cause of it. He went to Washington today & will return tomorrow to stop with us a few days. But have one you? I wish I could just drop in. I am sorry you sent me the money you did, for I fear you must need it. I shall be paid in a few days & then, darling, I will refund. Does Guy continue to learn & think. Give him a smooth kiss from papa. Does Grace forget papa yet. Dust think, daughter, how happy papa will be to clasp you in his arms & have one of those good hugs & kisses. Poor little Jamie, he doubt to know me at all but you can kiss him several times for me. My kindest regards to Carroll & Jane. I wanted somebody with experience so much that I ventured to ask him if he would accept the Asst. Adjutant Gen's position. Now I have to be wide awake & clear headed & battle as no. Yesterday I preached to the 3d Regt. Their Chaplain has resigned & gone home & afterwards addressed the 5th Maine Regt. May God prosper & bless you & the children is my daily prayer

Aff. your own

Otis

Skillen

Bangor, July 15, 1861.

Col. Howard,

Dear Sir,

It is the expectation here that you will be appointed Brig. Gen. — an expectation founded, I suppose, on the obvious fitness of the appointment & confirmed by your present temporary appointment to act in that capacity. If thus appointed, I suppose a Brigade Surgeon will be one of your staff. On this subject I take the liberty to address you. Dr. McKuer of this city has been approved by the Medical Board & very probably will be appointed. He is at the head

of the profession in this region, & is eminent as a surgeon; being professionally all that could be desired. He is also of pure & high toned moral character, of refined & delicate feeling, of gentlemanly bearing, & high general intellectual culture. I am sure he is such a man as would be agreeable to you in this relation. In speaking of the subject this afternoon he mentioned the probability of your promotion & said that it would be a great inducement to accept such an appointment if he could be under you as General. This preference he expressed on the ground of what he knew of your character. As he is my family physician & I am strongly attached to him, I determined immediately to presume on the slight acquaintance I have had with you, & to address you on the subject.

Providence has thrown you into a very different position from that which you were anticipating, in usefulness & honor of the highest importance. May God keep you & bless you. Please give my regards to your brother. Accept my best wishes.

Yours Truly,

Samuel Harris.

P.S. Dr. McR. will make a decided pecuniary sacrifice if he accepts this appointment. He is actuated I believe by disinterested patriotism, by the benevolent disposition of a high minded physician to do all the good he can by his professional

Farmington July 16, 1861

Dear Sister Lizzie

I write because I think you would like to hear from us: Sarah came last Fri. night with her little family & a girl: She stay'd with us till Monday & is now at a Mr. Hendy's boarding: he takes them for $5 — per week! the girl working for her board: Sarah thinks she is saving money very fast & will remain till she gets her house ready for occupancy: they are all well. Most of the people here had rather sell than rent houses & they are so low now & the place is filling up so much that I think a house costing $1600 —

One more arg: I wish I could come on for you: will Susan come with you? I did not know but that Mr could detail Charles to come to Maine with you: the Diptheria still prevails to some extent in this region: would you fear it more here than at places where there are fewer cases?: Some one or two are sick in the town with it all the time: Ella is pretty well tho: rumbled some with a swelling of her feet & ankles. Mr Miller Heathie & a cousin of the same age from Bath are visiting us now: Lem Alice & Helen in Bruns: & they said they would write you. Love to

Ella seems near dead of love

the dear children from Much-Rem-ence

would be a good investment.
I wrote Charles that if
Otis would buy a horse for
you - I would guarantee
a good rent for it when
you get thro' with it = There
is a cottage that I think
would just suit you and
if you choose not to buy - I
shall try to persuade the
man to rent it to you = Otis
wife is now sick & unable
to move - but he thinks she
will be before a great while.
He is very desirous of selling
& the house could be bought
much below the cost & it is
quite new = Our friends at
Leeds are well - Aunt Martha
Fred & Carrie are visiting
there now = I saw Vaughan
Otis a fortnight since &
he cannot continue thro'
the Summer it seems to
us = Charles wrote Mother
& she sent me the letter
the 3d of July = I have not
heard from them since
except thro' the papers = Otis
does not write at all = We
have heard thro' the Soldiers
that he has quite recovered
from his illness & is acting
as Brig. Gen = I am so
glad that Charles can be
with him - if he is sick
&c = How are all your
little ones? Sarah's hair
pretty well & yet I think
they are as good as children
generally - What wrote that
you could keep your horse
at West Pt = I hope you will
be able to - until I can
get one to suit you here
& then you will have

upon God and asked him for Grace to act rightly. I tell you this because I know you will be glad to know how he stood in the eyes of God who seeth the heart. But I am trespassing too much upon your time. With every wish for your success in all you undertake and safe return to us believe me

Ever your true friend
Sarah B. F. Gustle

There is a strong movement being made to displace Father. His disloyalty to the Union is the point on which they hope to effect it. I suppose. Father says he will hold his principles fearlessly but will not raise his finger to hold this position he did not seek it it was pressed upon him. He I know is one of strongest understanding true Union men and has always taught us that love of God Country was next to love of God.

West Point July 17th 1861

My very kind Friend

I have allowed a whole month to roll rapidly by without sending one line to thank you for the sweet little words of comfort you sent me but believe me I felt them deeply. You are now truly the God Father of our little baby daughter. Little Clara is a perfect treasure and the greatest comfort to me. I know you pray for her. I can scarcely tell you how much responsibility I feel it is to have to bring up my two little ones without a Father's care. Edwin is thoroughly a head strong willful boy. if I can only merit God's assistance bring him up well he will make the

better man—
Mifer came
he spoke of
of these two
ale so very happy—
ful you are
Father—I heard a very sad piece of
news today that Smead (Abner) I mean
is now is in an Insane Retreat. I feel
sorry that so many of your class should
have left our ranks Mr Kett has
returned from Pickens Lewis Wheeler
and Rendall have been ordered away
from here for the present—It must
be a comfort to you to have your brother
so closely associated with you—I am
most thankful that you as an intelligent
well instructed Soldier and Soldier of
the Cross should have so important
a command That Our Heavenly
Father may give you strength and wisdom

Your dear little boys
to see me a few days since
these bright memories we have
dear Cottages where we were
happy—I feel daily thank-
ful you are our little mes Spiritual
Father—I heard a very sad piece of
today that Smead (Abner) I mean
is now in an Insane Retreat. I feel
sorry that so many of your class should
left our ranks Mr Kett has
returned from Pickens Lewis Wheeler
and Rendall have been ordered away
from here for the present—It must
be a comfort to you to have your brother
so closely associated with you—I am
most thankful that you as an intelligent
well instructed Soldier and Soldier of
the Cross should have so important
a command That Our Heavenly
Father may give you strength and wisdom

and courage to do that which is best
for our poor Country is the prayers of
many hearts for you We all miss
you from here but they say time but
changes, to me with all its sweet memories
of our happy lives days and those
first two years of happy married life
and our little having been given to us
here will always be the dearest spot
on earth—excepting one which holds all
that held all which was nearest and
dearest to me on earth—that is at
Woodlands near Philadelphia I am so
thankful I feel his rest is with Our
kind Saviour—for he was truly and
consistently an upright good man
Many thanks for that book and
take you back with my dear husband
he often spoke of it with pleasure he
said his prayers always mightily and
read his Bible faithfully—& seemed

West Point. July, 15. 1861.

My dearest Otis

I have finished reading the morning papers. Fairfax court House has been reached and you continue to advance. May God direct and protect you. I wrote you a long letter last week and Guy also wrote, directed it to Alexandria. I got a letter from Charlie Tuesday I am very glad he is so ready to write to me for you. He said direct as before. Mrs Gable has sent a note to be enclosed to you. Do give my kind regards to Mrs Sampson. I am very glad she is with you. I wrote to Ella this week. It seems to be the impression now that the rebels will make us stand this side of Richmond and after you reach Manassas junction Gen Scott will take his own time to advance, perhaps September. Would you leave at all were such the case, and we were here? I think I have as much fear of your being sick as from being injured by the rebels. I hope you will be careful

of yourself - of your own health as you are of your men. Dr. McDougall has been away nearly two months on the Medical Examination Board. He was here last Sunday week asked when I had heard from my poor husband. His son-in-law Capt Adams has resigned and the family are very much aggrieved by it. He was from Tennessee and will not join the Southern Army. He has nothing and his wife and four children are expected here. Aunt Wheeler gone to Old Point. West Point is very quiet. Mrs Vincent is still here. I wish he could keep her North. I dont know what his feelings are now. Mr Buck is going to house keeping. I dont think I will have much to do myself when I move. Mr Carroll is exceedingly kind. He said yesterday he would send teller to me, and I must tell him just what I wanted. Mr Newland says anything we can do for you, you must say so. I am happy here, and I shall be when I am in Farmington, and I dont think the more and journey will be any trouble really. We know the route perfectly. I write as if I was about to start, but I write because I thought of the subject just now. It is Mrs Blunt's dream carriage I have for the baby. We all Guy. Grace Jamie, Kate Carroll, Harry Duane, and myself went to walk yesterday, down the road beyond the Falls. Kate generally breakfasts with us, her message is, "Mama says do if the Children will come over to lunch." Often is in to prayers. Jamie is very well fat a real boy, always happy. Guy just came up stairs I asked if he had any message to Papa he said send papa a kiss and ask him to answer my letter quick. Then runs down stairs, "hep, hep hep." You have never mentioned your horse. Maggie said he saw an indication to stumble once when slowly trotting, but Mr Carter said he should not think he was a stumbling horse. I called to see Mrs Mahan (Prof M. by the way is in Washington) Mrs Douglas, not at the latter place Mrs Coughill and Mrs Wheeler. Prof Church wrote home he met you on horse-back, and was going to see you next day. I send this today to Washington and my next, unless I hear from you, to Alexandria. Love to Charlie. I dont hear from Maine often I wrote Aunt Sarah in answer to her letter a few days ago. With most

Love and earnest prayers from your
Own wife Lizzie.

Langster - July 18th 1861

My dearest - Iggie.

You can see where we are now a few miles in advance of Fairfax Station - the Station has been taken, also the Fairfax Court house - Thus far the rebel troops have retired as we advanced. We Encamped the first night on the Ground just across the Stream Poidée after marching till very late at night. The one hour's sleep I got was very refreshing - Last night I had a good sleep for the whole night. Two serious accidents have occurred in my Brigade - Two men have carelessly shot themselves. One by the name of Barker and the other by name of McLellan, both in the 5th

Maine Regt. I am not sure where we shall move (nor just when) from this place. Tell Guy papa read his letter with much delight. A Brigadier General, is a man who commands four Regiments, tell Guy. Sometimes he commands only two or three. We expected a battle yesterday but the enemy ran. I ~~wish~~ wish we had men, who had more regard for the Lord. We might then expect his blessing. Gracie & Jamie must be good children. Much love & many kisses. You must stay at West Point as long as you think it advisable. I am afraid you have shortened your allowance of money too much. Write much love. for my darling wife & children

O. O. Howard

Augusta July 18. 1861

My dear Col.

I rec^d but yesterday your letter in reference to paying for the instruments furnished the Band of your Reg^t.

There is no doubt I think that the State will provide for paying your acceptance. Before it can do this you should make out duplicate bills of the instruments & prices to the State, & receipt them. Send an order to the party holding your acceptance

to receive of Nathan Dane, Treas-
urer, the amount of the warrant
drawn in your favor for musical
instruments –

The Hotel bills in W. have
been paid.

We are honored by the dis-
tinction you have conf.d & gratified –

Yours truly,
L. Warbasse

Col. O. O. Howard
Actg Br. Genl.
Va.

Jonathan is my last a note from Allen Gibbs and sent to Washington. Read it on the to direct letters.

West Point N.Y. July 19, 1861.
Friday Evening. 10 o'clock

My dearest Otis

It is almost too late to think of writing a letter to night, but Mr Kinsley has been to see me, and has told me a great many things which are full of interest to me. He told me when and where he saw you every time. I told him I would report him favorably to you. He wished to be remembered. I don't expect you to write as much as he could tell me. If Cousin Perry comes to New York I would like him to come to West Point very much. Sarah is now at Farmington boarding at present, likes very well indeed. I take it from Rowlands letter of to-day. Rowland said he had written something about your purchasing a house in Farmington. I wouldn't have you for anything and I don't think you would wish it. I rather not go there if I would have to do that and shall write to him that I have no desire to do so. Guy will be very happy to know you got his letter as Mr Kinsley said you had. I have mailed a letter to Washington since.

Sunday Afternoon. 4 o'clock Dearest. I feel unsettled, anxious, too restless to do anything and perhaps too much so to write. Guy has gone to Sunday School. He was very anxious to go last Sunday although it looked like a shower. I taught him his lesson and he started, it began to rain before the School finished. but he went to Camp and sat in the "Reception tent" with Mr Smith, for an hour or more afterwards, when Mr Smith borrowed an umbrella of a Lady there and walked down with him. To-day he spoke of going when at dinner, and I reminded him when it was time to dress. taught him his lesson and he went alone, with his book in his hand, very happy. Jamie wakes just now. he will no longer stay in ones lap. he creeps. has done so two days much to the delight of Grace, only when she and Katie are having a tea party, then she calls him a vague, very pleasantly, and begs Susan to take him. Grace is down stairs talking very earnestly to Catharine Susan is out and Jamie is my dear little charge today. I took Grace to church with me this morning she was a little restless but kept still, that is, did not talk. Guy looked very happy when I told him of Mr Kinsley's visit, and that you had received his letter, and sent him word it was as he desired about a Girl. he expects a letter soon.

I was too much amused when he said "I guess papa didn't read about "going to Washington" because he didn't say anything about it." Guy returned from S. School and an hour passed very rapidly while engaged reading and talking with him, he is as thoughtful as ever. The three are now asleep and 'taters' ~~has~~ I heard a short time ago. I dont feel that I have anything to write but I am thinking of you. I would like to be told it is well with thee to-night every way. but I must wait and trust. Monday Morning. I have read the papers of this morning. Everything looks so uncertain. I shall look at the Evening Papers. I received your letter, dearest, written on the 18th, at Sangsters, this morning. We are all perfectly well Love to Charlie. Mr Carroll sent a man to take the measure of things for boxes. Guy says send a kiss to Papa. I shall be here if nothing happens and God willing, about a month longer.

May you be protected from harm, and come back to us, if it is the will of God.

Ever your own Lizzie

H Q 1st Brigade
July 20 1861

Dearest Lizzie

I am well & so is Charles. We are near Centreville. We have not yet been in battle. The Lord will take care of us. I feel we are not so wicked He would not bring such disasters upon us as Tyler's defeat. Give papa's love & kisses to Guy & Grace & Jamie. Much regard to Susan & Catharine & John. Remember me to the Church, & the Friends, but above all remember me continually at the throne of grace.

Affectionately yours
your husband
Otis

Hd Qrs 3d Regt Conn Vols
Camp Ward
Feb 20 1861

Dear Friend Lizzie

I write to you now to let you know that I am well & hearty. My boy Nick left me on Friday for home. He was not so hearty by reason of being sick coming on the cars. Our regiment is now in Camp Ward, Hartford, & we are drilling hard. We shall be ready to go to Washington at a moment's notice. We are in a good place for drilling. We have good water & plenty of wood. We have a good cook & we live well. We have a good company of men. We have had a very pleasant time since we left home. We have had no sickness in the regiment. We shall be ready to go to Washington in a few days. I shall write to you when we do go. Write to me as often as you can. Direct your letters to Hartford, Conn. Write all the news. Give my love to all the folks. Write soon.

Yours Truly
Wm Henry Clark

West Point. N. Y. July 22. 1861.

My dearest Otis

I have been looking at my paper for about three minutes not knowing what to write first. This morning the papers were all hope, and this evening filled with the like never before. the terrible loss - a mourning country indeed. individuals seem almost lost in this great calamity, but every individual can mourn over it as we look at it, although it may be best, and the Lord overruled it to our future good. You passed through all uninjured. I am thankful, and feel to throw myself at the feet of Jesus, and say, Thou art indeed merciful unto me. I dont want to be selfish about it. I think I feel humbled before God by it. Mrs Seymour, Mrs Wells, Mrs Rotting, I feel for them. We fear Mr Griffin was killed he thought so much of his battery. Mrs Mendell is sick in bed I hear. Col Bowman received telegraphic dispatches this afternoon long before the evening papers came. He was very much affected by the report, it was said. My first news was

McClellan passing, remarked to someone coming "Hey say we are upipped" I caught the whole truth in an instant, and soon ventured to ask Mr Carroll when he returned to dinner. I could scarcely believe we had met with so great a loss, and retreated. I went to ride with Mr and Mrs Carroll this evening got the evening paper then found Mr Smith here when I returned, to pass the evening, this class say they cannot remain here, are to petition to go away immediately. It was very thoughtful in you and Charlie to telegraph to me, or him only. outwardly I feel the same, but that was a beam of sunshine that went directly to my heart. I have written you twice since Guy's letter both sent to Washington I shall expect a letter from you next Thursday. I dont feel greatly disappointed when I get no letter for I know you have not much time to yourself, and the papers are next to Charlie's letter. I am so glad Charlie is with you. Morning. The exaggerated accounts we received last evening were terrific. I find it not nearly so great a loss and disaster. In the language of war. I feel this will be avenged. It seems to be stirring all to more ~~nearly~~ a united feeling and action. We are all well here. A report that Major Bowman is called into active service. Our mail now leaves at 12 o'clock so I dont have much time to write after reading the paper. I hope you can write soon. I feel that you are in the hands of God. I can trust you in his care.

Your Dear Lizzie

City Hotel Alexandria Va
July 24th 1861

Dearest wife

On my arrival after our tedious retreat at this place I was cheered by an affectionate letter from you enclosing one from my poor friend Mrs Gable. Since then I have been hard at work organizing, feeding & rallying troops. Our battle was planned so as to break God's holy day. Charlie & I were under fire & know what it is to hear balls whistle. My horse had a ball put thro. his mouth & is very lame. After we had reached Fairfax C.H. somebody stole him from me, but I recovered him. The battle was about ten miles beyond Centreville by the road we took. We were halted by Gen McDowell some six or seven miles this side of the field. & then were ordered to hasten on. & when about half way the order came to move at double quick. which we tried to do under a hot sun. The men were many of them exhausted when we came into sight of the battle. We passed the wounded for a mile before we got into the open plain. We then marched

Tell Capa I have many thanks - We have met with a good many checks - We have met with a severe - our baggage wagons are captured - I have lost all my papers from clothes & your miniature

Yours
Rutherford B. Hayes

about a mile under fire from heavy guns.
formed two lines. one of the 2nd Vt. Regt
Col Whiting & the ~~other~~ 4th the Maine - Col
Berry. The other of the 3d & 5th Maine.
I marched up the first line & got them
well at work & then returned to the
valley below for the other line. I
brought that up also - & we ascended
~~the~~ hill through a piece of brush wood
and then emerged into an open space
and it was a warm place indeed. A
battery on our right & another on our
left were pouring the shot upon us &
the musketry from the woods. I felt in
no way unpleasantly on the field. I keep
sending Chas. off on duty - no balls touched
any of us. Mordecai & St Buel were much
exposed showing a Good Providence or
rather a Good Lord protected us. We
retreated when ordered to do so at a quick
but all the troops were mixed up - till
we got to Centreville. There we organized &
marched back after an hour's sleep to
Fairfax Court House. slept till daylight on the
Ground & then retired in order to Alexandria.
The Cars came to take the troops to town -
where I got quarters for them & then we are

all safe. my aide Wyman was wounded yesterday. I am going back there tomorrow - I think the children will pay visits as soon as we are settled

City Hotel Alexandria Va

July 24th 1861

My dearest wife

On my arrival after
our wearisome retreat at this place
I was cheered by an affectionate letter
from you enclosing one from my
poor friend Mrs. Greble. Since then I have
been hard at work organizing, feeding
& quartering troops. Our battle was planned
so as to break God's holy day. Charles & I
were under fire & know what it is to hear
balls whistle. My horse had a ball put thro.
his gamble [i.e. gambrel ?] & is very lame. After we
had reached Fairfax C. H. somebody stole
mine from me, but I recovered him.
The battle was about ten miles beyond
Centreville by the road we took. We were
halted by Gen. McDowell some six or seven
miles this side of the field, & then were
ordered to hasten on, & when about half
way the order came to move at double
quick which we tried to do under a hot
sun. The men were many of them exhaus-
ted when we came into sight of the battle.
We passed the wounded for a mile before we
got into the open plain. We then marched

about a mile under fire from heavy guns,
formed two lines - one of the 2nd Vt. Regt.
Col. Whiting & the ~~other~~ 4th Maine - Col.
Berry. The other of the 3d & 5th Maine.
I marched up the first line & got them
well at work & then returned to the
valley below for the other line. I
brought that up also - ~~as~~ we ascended
a ~~the~~ hill through a piece of brush wood
and emerged into an open space
and it was a warm place indeed. A
battery on our right & another on our
left were pouring the shot upon us &
the musketry from the front. I felt in
no way unpleasant on the field. I kept
sending Chas. off on duty. No balls touched
any of us. Mordecai & Lt. Buel were much
exposed but a Good Providence or
rather a Good Lord protected us. We
retreated when ordered to do so at a walk
but all the troops were mixed up - till
we got to Centreville. There we organized &
marched back after an hour's sleep to
Fairfax Court House, slept till daylight on the
ground & then retired in order to Clermont.
The cars came to take the troops to town -
where I got quarters for them & here we are

[note across side of page 2:]

all but my own Regiment which I sent to Clermont yesterday. I am going out there tonight. Much love to the children. I shall write Guy as soon as I can.

[note across side of page 1:]

Keep up a good heart darling. We have met with a sad reverse - our brigade nearly all cut off. I lost all my papers some clothes & your miniature

Aff. Your husband Otis

My Dear sons, Otis and Charles, Leeds, July, 25th. 1861.

Knowing in a general way all that has befallen you, I will not refer to it in particular, I have received Otis letter written 17th. inst. for which I am greatly obliged and I think some what thankful, Charlie's of the 18th. 20th. and Mrs Sampsons' of 22d all of which I fear I do not deserve, God has kept me in "a way I know not" after our first shock, in our suspence I felt to rely on my heavenly father, when I felt to rely on my heavenly father then I was at rest, I hope our people will will not have sickness to encounter in this hour of trial, Henry Turner's father and Sanford Gilbert have been here a number of evenings the past week & hoping to get some news of Henry, and John Keene, up to last evening they had heard nothing, they desired me to say so, in my letter so if you had it in your power you would mention them to me, how very kind every body is to me Friday Howland wrote me a long letter enclosed Otis last to Lizzie and a short one from Lizzie to him, I have never said much to Lizzie on the subject of coming to Maine, but always feel, (when the subject is approach'd) that she belongs to me, that is Lizzie and the Children our family consists of your father and I, Thomas and Abbie, his wife, we are a long distance from Church, and not much refined society about us, but if Lizzie after her arrival here, feels contented to stay with us, we are happy to have her do so, somehow it seems to me quite an undertaking for her to begin housekeeping with

her three little ones, but she can do what she thinks best after she gets here, all her baggage will have to be changed at Leeds Junction so it need not be forwarded to Farming, until she needs it there, these are only suggestions of mine, I went to Farmington last week with my sister Mr. J. Strickland and Fred, and Carrie, saw Sarah and her four little ones, but they were boarding at that time, and I do not know how long she will continue to do so, we brought Frank and Tim down to Ensign to stop a while, Sister Martha and Mr. C left here for Hallowel, by the way of Waterville to stop at that place, two nights, I expect to hear from her at Hallowel everything seems to me of minor importance accept our National trouble everbody in good state of health (as far as I know) in town if either of you can drop a few lines to me accasionaly it will gratify me very much, I am extremely obliged to Mrs Sampson for her kind letters to me, and hope in providence, some day, to make her acquaintance in person, and thank her with my own mouth, we have had a smart rain to day which has kept us from Church, it is now nearly night everything is beautiful about here, your father has been getting hay two weeks, and has been very successful Thomas and one other man has made our gang for hay making, your father oversee's the work and helps when he can do the most good, you are at all times accompanied with your mother hopes, and fears, and prayers,

O O H and C H Howard) Eliza Gilman

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Head Quarters 3d Brigade
Bush Hill July 25. 1861

My darling Boy.

After the battle that papa wrote about in his last letter - papa went back with all his men to Alexandria. Now he has sent two Regiments back to their old encampment four miles out of town near Clermont. Papa has come to live a little beyond Clermont at Bush Hill. It is a nice farm, a big house on a hill, with a beautiful Garden. Mrs Scott lives here with four little children - one little boy - Frank, another Marshall & a little girl called "Cony" - The fourth child I have not seen. Mrs Scott is just about as big as Mamma. She asked your papa to conduct prayers this morning. The little ones repeated the Lord's prayer after me as you & Gracie do, & it makes papa cry to think of it. O. Guy, do love God & serve him. I can't write more now. Sweet kiss to dear Mama. my lovely daughter Gracie, & precious baby Jamie - May God bless & keep you all for Christ's Sake. Uncle Charlie sends love to all -

Very affectionately &
tenderly your papa
O. O. Howard

duty while here. I received a letter from Mrs Merrick last week written the 8 of July when Vaughan went home. She thought I would be at Augusta. "William has written you and so has Uncle John Vaughan" but had no answer then at that time. William has lost his younger brother died after his return from Cuba (of yellow fever I hear through Blanch), sent much love to you. I got another letter from Ella. Rowland has not got a house for me yet, but says I better stay here till the last of August then go to Leeds, and as I can go back and forth between those two places conveniently I can see the houses myself before he decides. Sarah will buy one. but she wishes a permanent home. I may not and yet I may, the Lord knows and he knows best. I think I would prefer to do this way, as Rowland says. I think our good mother might think it not just right to take the Children passed Leeds and not stop. Mr Smith thinks his brother (elder), will come to West Point when he is about to leave, and that would be just the thing to please me. I would go on with him, It has always been my fortune to fall into good hands and I presume I always shall. so do not be at all anxious about us. We Ladies meet next Tuesday to sew or see what we can do for the Wounded. About the battle and you being exposed I dont know what to say. If it was for me to say come back now, I don't know as I could say it. because I ~~[illegible]~~ fear it wouldn't be doing right. but may God watch over you and bring you back in his own good time. I havint heard any thing from Mr Benjamin. but have heard of all other friends. Mrs Vincent joins her Husband this week. Mr Douglas takes her, I could send you anything anytime, if you would say what you would like. and what you have lost that you need, That miniature is a great run-away, you may have another look after it. Saturday morning Grace sends her love to Papa and says she is happy. I tell her not to say sometimes because I always like her to be happy so I can tell Papa and that is what she means. Guy is out playing. Jamie is asleep. I am very well. Give much love to Charlie I enclosed our last letter to Mother this morning.

Yours aff. Lizzie

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West Point. July 26 1861.

Friday evening.

My dearest Otis

I was very much gratified to get a letter from Mrs Lampson late last evening (we have two mails per day) I wish you would remember me very kindly to her. I will write her soon. I saw Lieut Owens at the Carrolls evening before last, He was expecting to go to Washington the next morning. he said he had no authority to go into active service, but had obtained a leave. and was going to do some-thing. Wanted first to get on Col Heintzelman's Staff. then you were entitled to two 'aids' there might be a place for him. and if he could do nothing more he should go to McCook and tell him to give him a place and something to eat. It does my heart good to find a man decided. About ten o'clock that same night

I have written Mother to-night

he got orders to go to Buffalo, to muster in troops. Lieut Comstock leaves to-morrow for Washington with the "Lapwing" late returned from Oregon. Prof Mahan returned to instruct the present first Class in Engineering. Mr Smith says they will be away in three weeks. He has or will write you. He would like to be connected with one of the Maine Regiments. I want to communicate a lamentable fact. There are Cadets here who openly rejoice at the defeat, retreat, or by what unfortunate name you may call it, of the Union troops. I say they ought to go, or be arrested. I hope they will have a stronger sort of allegiance than the last class, or they can't get around, and not be allowed to receive an Diploma. There is one in contemplation by a portion of the Class. What a terrible sad affair of Col Miles. He is from Maryland. Shall we prosper if we are not just. Mr Smith is here this morning Saturday I am going to Newburgh. God still have you in his care, all quite well.

Your own Lizzie.

Sunday Evening. My dearest Otis. In my haste to go to Newburgh last Saturday I neglected to put a stamp on my letter and Miss B. very foolishly kept it at the Post Office, otherwise you would now have had it. We, Mr Smith Guy, Grace and myself, had a very pleasant call at the Phillips' saw Mrs Williams and Children All inquired very affectionately about you. They heard of you through a Mr Post of Newburgh. We left him at ten o'clock and came back to dear little Jamie at one o'clock. I went without seeing the Mail, and was very happy to find a good letter from you and also Guy's on my return. He thought a great deal of his letter, says he must write another letter to Papa. I had a good long cry over it and then read it very cheerfully to dear Guy. but I think I am pretty brave, darling. I now to say to you some things, were necessary to a certain extent, but now I dont think so. I see that "but one thing is needful" and so far as this world goes, it doesn't much matter, this is not our home, and I only ask that I may do my

Lieut Williams has written to Washington about these Cadets

Head Quarters 3d Brigade
July 29th 1861

My dear Mother.

Charles says, mother says I have not written her a letter since I have been here. It seems hardly possible. I thought I had written two. But I remember now that I began a letter to you which I did not finish. Already since I began this I have been interrupted several times. Since our return from Bull's Run the men have been very much disheartened & hundreds of cases of sickness occur. Everybody wants to get discharged & go home. The Colonels of the regiment are discouraged, but I am in hopes things will brighten soon. I do not lose courage. I try to

would think that a battle would be horrible & sickening, but the sense of personal danger & the effort necessary to meet it, make one feel very differently from what he would anticipate — I should like to see Sizzie & the children — I only hear good accounts from them. I am afraid Sizzie will wear herself out with her care & anxiety combined — I don't believe I shall cry for sorrow when peace comes. How is Father? Perhaps you would like to know our companions. My Brigade Quartermaster is Lt. Burt — Capt aide Genl Lt Mordecai Commissary Lt Smith of Batty. I have just got Perry Lee an appointment as 1st Lieutenant in the Hallowell company. Give love to Father & my good friends near home — Affectionately Your from threats. Your son

Otis

rely upon the Arm of Strength. War in earnest is a dreadful thing and has a decidedly demoralizing influence upon all of us. I try to pray & to love Christ & to do my Master's will, but I can't help longing for peace, when we can live in our own homes & not destroy the crops & gardens of other people. The real sickedness of our own people, in profaning the name of God & in taking the property of quiet citizens has sickened me to the heart.

But I am in hopes God will not remember our offences against us to destroy us, though I fear we deserve the severest chastening. I am always rejoiced to hear from you my dear Mother, and think now I shall have more time to write you. Governor Washburn was here today & made us a little visit. He is looking out for our interests. Charles is a great comfort to me, sleeps with me. He seldom leaves me & I give him a horse & he rides by my side. My little horse was shot through the leg but is getting well; Charlie went from me on the battle field to bring up the ambulances & to get instructions & then returned to me. I was afraid he might get hurt but neither himself nor his horse was hurt. It was a pretty hot place - the air seemed full of whistling bullets but generally I had too much to do to stop & think much about them. However, in the midst of danger I felt at peace in my heart. You

Farmington July 30th 1861

My dear brother Charles.

Rowland has gone to the Wednesday evening meeting, & left me at home, because it is rainy, & too far to walk. We received your letter, just as we were at tea, and it was read, before we got through our supper - You may be sure your letters are looked for, & received, very eagerly. I told Rowland two or three days ago, that I guessed I should write you - but somehow since you've got to be a "soger boy", it seems as if you were not exactly the same Charles you used to be, and so I am a little puzzled how to write! You can imagine how very thankful we were, to

has of you safely after that awful battle – O it is awful to have friends in such danger! I believe I love my friends better than I do my country! But we have been very thankful that God could have you with him – especially in his sickness. There's one thing I want to know about, that people never tell, & I never find except in novels. I believe – & that is, how one feels – how you felt. For instance, that Sat. night before the battle – when you didn't know but that night would be the last to you on earth – What you thought most about, & how everything seemed to you then – The world & its pleasures must have looked very small – very mean, to you – but did you

have any fear? Fear of death, I mean particularly. I have tried many times, to imagine a person feeling at such times — and I would really like to know, from one who has experienced them.

We realize very little of the horrors of this war, except as you are connected with it. We are so far away from everything in any way warlike, that we should almost forget all about it, if we had not a daily paper, & his brother in the army. We have not even a telegraph here. We wished we had, for a few days after the battle, I assure you.

Some of the ladies — old and young, have started a Society, which they call the "Ladies' Aid Society" — & in which

they intend to work for our
soldiers - especially for
sick, & wounded - We have
been somewhat troubled, as to
what to make - I believe Mrs
Rowland has mentioned it
to you once. but you have so
assisted us any as yet! Can
you give us a few hints, as it
to what articles would be
most useful, that we could
make, & send in? There are
many things I suppose, which
Government does not furnish
that would add very much to
the comforts of sick men. and
if you can help us any, we shall
be very grateful to you - I think
I would write to Mrs. Sampson
as she would be quite likely to
know. but I dont know as there
is necessity - She. Sec. met here
this afternoon - It is the first time

ous
fn.
I have been at one of the meetings
are very quite a no. here. Notwith
ice being so unpleasant. They seem
l icotly from among our own
ve people - & we dont wish it to
be a sectarian affair at all.
ugh it is pleasant tomorrow, we
be I. is to have a little picnic
ulds here by our house - but I
aid it will not be a very
ahreeable day - I wish you
i could come! It seems so
ch strange to think that you
have never seen us housekeeping
we have got a comfortable house,
tastically furnished with everything
n convenient and comfortable,
and many things even
th more than that - Our location
hp is the pleasantest, in the
tu pleasant village of Farmington.

We have everything to be thankful for, and everything to make us happy — And I've learned to make good bread!!
You don't appreciate that, as you would if you had been living with us these three months past — Bread, has been my one great trouble — I have wasted more flour, & patience, than you would believe, if you hadn't been here to see — But the last two times, my bread has been good. Poor Rowland has been a perfect martyr to bad bread — & he has borne it heroically, I assure you — I have been obliged to give him several doses of Thoroughwort, to remove the effects of it — but the treatment has proved so successful, each time, that I have never yet

been quite discouraged!
But as I told you, better things
seem to be in store for us, in
this line of our daily affairs -
We have had company all the
time - Sometimes half a dozen
at a time - We have Anna Katie
now, & she is the only one, at
present - Your Mother has been
up twice only - I hope she will
come up soon, & your Father with
her, & make us a longer visit -
Sarah Sargent & her little family
are boarding, at present - I
think they may board, through
the winter - Frank & Jennie,
are at Uncle Ensight's, at Ludlow,
making a visit -
I have had a letter from Lizzie
(Howard) lately, & have written
her a very long one, in reply -
I shall be glad to see her & the
children, when they come -

Rowland has just come in, and I believe I will leave what little room there remains for him if he wishes it - Good night, with heaps of love to both my brothers - & may God be very near you always -

Ella -

I like your letters in the Boston Journal very much - The last one came last night & I sent it to mother - Yrs. of the 27th came tonight & will go to Leeds tomorrow - I don't understand to whom you "gave up your bounty" - Ella inquires how you felt before the battle. I want to know how you felt & what you were doing the night after - O that must have been horrible! We try to pray for you & the army - Hardly a prayer is offered in my hearing but the soldier is remembered - Do you know McClellan will Otis be superceded? But good night - with God's blessing -