
1508 12/2/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1466

Source: Bowdoin

Head Qrs. Camp
"California"
(4 miles out of
Alexandria Va.)

[454]

Head Qrs. Camp
"California" Decr 2nd 1861
(4 miles out of Alexandria Va.)

My dearest Lizzie

Charlie has just returned & brought in the last news from you. After I wrote you, the next day I started for Springfield Station as ordered - reached there with two regiments, & was waiting for the other two & for the trains of baggage, when an aid came up & said Genl Sumner had made a mistake & ordered me back. Empty cars were then to take us to Alexandria. Genl Sumner had halted my wagon train & scattered it around, sent off the two regts. on the Leesburg turnpike. I put the rest of the men into the sheds & engine houses at the depot and found my way to the old city Hotel.

After ten that night with one of my colonels, I undertook to find Genl Sumner - dark rainy night. We hired a wagon or rather "covered buggy" with horse so poor that he could scarcely crawl - ran into a post, broke the harness - afterwards we rolled over carriage & all into the mud. After visiting some five or six houses & not being able to find Genl Sumner we returned to the City. I had a good sleep till daylight & then tried it over again a "Charlie" & succeeded better.

This was my first meeting with Genl Sumner. I breakfasted with him. He is a fine looking man - healthy, hardy, & robust. He has been in service since 1819. I like him very much. I think he is a strict disciplinarian & a vigilant General. We went out together Friday to select a proper position to locate his division. My Brigade being the 1st has the right. I am now in sight of our old ground at Bush Hill a little to the N. East.

Charlie being tired has gone to bed. He says you look a little pale - thinks Gracie does, but thinks Guy & Jamie are quite recovered. Mrs Genl Jameson came to see us today with Capt J.S. Smith (my former commissary). She is a beautiful lady. She staid & dined. I am almost afraid to tell you this for fear you will say I might go to. She, enquired with much interest for you & said I wont tell you that her youngest was three years old.

I should like to give you a description of my tent but will not try tonight. Everything is very cozy and comfortable however it snows a little. I am glad enough to get Charlie again & on our old ground. I am more than grateful to you darling for your thoughtfulness for me - for the cloak, the shirts, the pants, the mittens & the letter in the pocket of the pants. If you hadn't let the secret out, I should not have hunted for the note. Charlie suggested it was there.

I was over at the 3d Maine yesterday - about 15 minutes ride. Mrs Sampson said she had had a note from you - sent much love. Col Bard had his wife & baby in Camp - this one christened "Charles Howard" - a nice fat boy. As much as I would love to see you I could not consent to Camp life for you & the Children, unless driven to that sad necessity. Men can get along but it is a bad place for ladies.

Much love to mother & father & many kisses to my darlings.
Affectionately, yr husband
Otis

I enclose John Greble's picture. I can realize that the poor boy is no more. It belongs to Charles & he wants you to keep it for him.

1509 12/6/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1467

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[455]

Leeds, Dec 6, 1861

Dearest,

I have not written you for some time. I ought not to neglect you, but I generally write in the evening, and of late I have been making sacks for Jamie for he has outgrown nearly everything. I don't have much leisure during the day. We are all quite well now. Cynthia and Johnie [Gilmore] are sick with scarlet fever. Mother is down there now, so I am left alone with the children as Isabella has gone home to attend school. They could not have taken it from us for it has been too long, but they spent Thanksgiving day here and might have taken the disease in the house. I have now cleansed everything as thoroughly as after you had the "small-pox" with chlorid of lime. There are other cases in town with which we have had no connection.

Jamie don't seem to think there is need of my writing, so I wont be able to write much. I am also writing a note to Ella. You "are coming home when you go into winter quarters." I have never heard of winter quarters before and I fear you wont see any. Please don't think of taking me by surprise, I could not have you. Col. Gilmore has come for the letters.

Your own Lizzie

1510 12/7/1861 *From:* Geo. Wilson Howe

To: My dear Charlie [CH
Howard]

OOH-1468

Andover Theo. Sem

Source: Bowdoin

[453]

Andover Theo Sem
Dec 7th 1861

My dear Charlie

I saw in the Boston Journal this morning an account of the Staff of General Howard's Brigade and seeing your name reported as Aide de Camp I took it to refer to the veritable Charles Henry Howard of Class of '59. Albert and I have often wondered where you were and I have suspected that you were in some way connected with the Army.

Perhaps you did not know that we were at Andover. We have been here most a year and a half. Are now in the Senior class and are enjoying ourselves well.

We have two other Bowdoin men Stanton [1856] and Currier [1857]. Today Darling of '57 made his appearance intending stop as a resident a few weeks. Andover is one of the pleasantest places in the world as you know. It is a great place here for study and we have an excellent faculty as a whole. These war times however are distracting to ones thoughts at least they are to mine so much so that I am having serious thoughts of trying for a position as chaplain. I am not at all reconciled to the idea of having no part in the affair.

Do you think I could secure a position where I could exert an influence for good over our men either in a Hospital Station or in Camp? I suppose in very many regiments a chaplain has but little favor shown him by the officers of the Regt. They had rather not have him round, but our men need to be looked after watched over and prayed with and it is a serious question in my mind whether I am fit for the service and ought to seek a place to work. If you have time I wish you would give what you know of a chaplains life.

Albert has been at home this week. There is a Maine Regt. The 12th Col Shifty there (at Lowell) and one company was from Orino which has quite a no. of his old scholars in it. Farrington of Class of '60 is Capt. of it. A Geo. Webster is Lieut. in a Bangor Company. I suppose our Webster.

The Miss Cushman you saw with Albert at Commencement is married – to an old man – a doctor – a widower, rich &c.

I have been to Cambridge once to see Billie Nowell since I have been here. He was the same old sixpence. The last I heard of Moody he was studying medicine. I dont know where Libbey is. I saw by the paper today that Henry D. Hutchins of '59 had been admitted to the bar in Freyburg Maine. I like to take my Album and look at the faces of the boys occasionally and I should be glad to hear from some of them once in a while. The last letter I had from any of them was from Moody and that was most a year ago. I expect you would be surprised to see Johny Stanton here in the Sem. & to see what a change he has experienced since he left Coll. He is in our class and we Bowdoin men hang together well. It is funny that we should all be ψ's. I sppose you know that Joe. Burbank is dead and that he died a Christian.

How do you like your present duties? Do you find any opportunities to do good? I think every Christian man ought to be bold for Christ in these times and exert a decided influence for him. I have no doubt that you do this. There is one thing you would be glad to hear, as perhaps you see the effects of them and that is the fervent prayers that go up from every closet and family altar and prayer meeting and pulpit - prayers that God will keep our men from temptation, will give them courage to resist it as well as courage in the day of battle, prayers too for the officers of the army and navy that they may be men of God and be shielded from danger.

But I must not write more. I thought you would be glad of a letter from an old friend and so have written. If you can find time I should be glad to hear from you.

Yours,
Geo. Wilson Howe [Bowdoin Class of 1859]

1511 12/7/1861 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear Brother [RB
Howard]

OOH-1469

Cumberland

Source: Bowdoin

[456]

Cumberland Dec. 7, 1861

My dear Brother:

I have been waiting for a letter this some time but should have written you before had I been able to get the time. I have written this evening a letter to Otis and one to Mother. I am some tired but will try and finish this. I have a pretty good school of about sixty scholars of all ages which the law allows. The school is not so large or so "advanced" as I had been led to suppose before I came here. The boys are sometimes disposed to be unruly and roguish but I have had no serious trouble and do not anticipate any. My classes are very numerous and I was unable to reduce them any more than I have. I hear daily 32 recitations and I have put four under the charge of my older scholars who are very willing to help me in such a way.

The little ones, which comprise the great majority of the school are restless and much inclined to whisper. They take to whispering much as a hungry dog takes to eating. They are disposed to go into it heart and soul. Many of them are good scholars, but some are the dullest blockheads I ever had the misfortune to fall in with. I have a most excellent boarding place. My boarding master is Capt. Poland. He keeps a store across the road and within 20 rods of the G.I.R.R. depot. The school house is up the hill about 40 rods perhaps. The neighborhood is quite a pleasant one, though much divided among themselves.

The religious persuasion of most of the people who have any religion is 2nd Adventism, though there are Congregationalists & Methodists. Capt. Poland and his family are Methodists. He is a fine man and a man who has seen much of the world, having been a sea Captain in his younger days.

We have established a union prayer meeting which is quite well attended and the time is pretty well occupied. Some of the "Advents" like to harp on their peculiar theological views which very much annoys Capt. Poland who hates to hear any thing but what is accepted by every body in such a meeting. I never express my opinion in such matters either in or out of the meeting.

Pray for me and my charge. Write to Cumberland. Give my love to Ella and Willie.

Your aff. bro.
R.H. Gilmore

1512 12/7/1861 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1470

Cumberland

Source: Bowdoin

[457]

Cumberland Dec. 7, 1861

My dear Brother:

Your kind letter reached me the first of this week having call at Brunswick and Leeds on the way and having experienced the delays attending such a course. I was very glad to get it and I hasten to answer it on this the first occasion. I suppose Charles is with you now and has given you all the information I know about home and his affairs.

I am pleasantly situated here in a good neighborhood about two miles from Yarmouth village. My boarding house is in sight of the Cumberland depot which is only 20 rods distant and the school-house is about 40 rods back of this house. The school numbers about 60 scholars of all ages and grades. Some of them are very noisy and mischievous and show unmistakable signs of having had a rather poor bringing up. Many are very uncultivated, but still I have young ladies and gentlemen in the school who are a great assistance to me in many things. Some of them even hear classes for me which is a great help. I hear 32 recitations everyday besides what I let out. I came near having some difficulty with my large boys during the first day or two but every thing goes along pleasantly and quietly now. I have succeeded in starting a "union prayer meeting" in my school house which is quite well attended by all denominations.

The majority of the people are disciples of Miller or "Advents" as they style themselves. But there are Baptists, Methodists and Congregationalists in the district, all of which attend the prayer meeting. Many of the people are earnest Christians but some or perhaps the majority of those who profess Christianity are very lukewarm and at most are but a negative value in the cause of religion.

I have made a number of calls on the parents of my scholars and they seem to be very warm cordial people and press me to come again. The children are taking hold of the learning business pretty well and seem to have quite an interest in getting an education. I go to Yarmouth to church every sabbath to hear Mr. Putnam a classmate of Rowland's at the Seminary. He is a fine preacher and an earnest Christian. We have heard much about your going into Gen. Sumner's Division below Alexandria, but mother wrote me that you are still at Bladensburg. Has Charles got a commission yet? Please write me about yourself and how you are situated and any thing else will be of interest. I do not now take a daily paper but am going to take, The Daily Journal next week.

Give my love to Charles. Tell him to write me soon at Cumberland. Pray for me and my charge.

Your very aff. bro.
R.H. Gilmore

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written by Otis on the back of the letter]

Dellie
Answered

1513 12/9/1861 *From:* Jeanie Gray

To: My friend Col. [OO]
Howard

OOH-1471

224 Mill St Po'keepsie

Source: Bowdoin

[458]

334 Mill St Po'keepsie
9th Dec 1861

My friend Col. Howard

I come to you with another sacrifice for the holy altar of our country. a very lovely young friend begs of me to solicit from you an appointment, any position, from a Bread Second to a Captain. He is a young man of high moral character, such an one as you would appoint, independently rich, but wild to serve his country. He has been drilled for eight or nine months under Sergeant Smith of W.P. Sapper Corps, who served in Mexico. His friends have consented, but feel very anxious to have him under some one they can feel assured, is imbued with religious principles. I thought of you, and I knew you would do what you could as you always have for me.

Oh! how I wish I were pleading for myself! If I could go, how quickly I would fly! This life of inaction when I need to do so much, almost drives me wild. I have invested a small sum in a building lot, south of the Episcopal parsonage & am now making every effort to get a home put up on it this winter, so that I can rent it next summer, to pay the money back, that I borrow to put it up. Mr Vaux the architect has given me a lovely little plan, and Mr Smith a carpenter in the Falls has agreed to build it for \$1000 by next march if I can only get the money. I grow faint at the possibility of not succeeding!

O! if I were only a man! But a woman, I can do nothing. I have made many efforts, but hitherto, all of them have failed. I have completed a romance of three hundred pages. It is now in Boston awaiting the business of the publishers! I. F. Heady read it and approved of it, said if I could get it out it would be a success! Then I could pay any one who was Kind enough to lend me the money with interest. I never knew how dear a home was till now that I am in another's, dependent. I am trying to make some return, by teaching my uncle's little children. Is it not worth while to make an effort for a home?

You have seen me through all my sad struggles, & this last has been almost too much for my unnerved system and aching heart. Forgive me for telling you all my troubles but you know that is an old trick of mine! Now I have none to advise me. I often wish for your hopeful face to seek advice & approval. I wrote to uncle Beebe but he does not know the value of a house in that vicinity & discouraged me. He speaks of you in the most enthusiastic manner. His son has just gone a Lieutenant under Col Hazan, 41st Ohio - to Kentucky. I thought it rather hard that he discouraged me, but hope to be more successful in other quarters, if materially assisted. My hands held up. If my book sells, I can pay all immediately, if not the summer's rent - the house furnished, you know - will pay all.

Kind Mr Cozzins has been very good, like a good angel. He sold me 30 by 100 feet for very little, and I have the deed all safe. Our furniture is stored in Mr Bigilow's until spring & if I do not get the house shall have to sacrifice every article of it. If God will only put it into someone's heart to lend me the money I am sure he would bless them!

The young man's name is Frank Stevens, a most influential family & just returned from Washington, where he was visiting the elite there. You would find him really lovely I think. How is our dear friend Charles Howard? Did he ever get my letter? And where is he? Much love to him. Where is Capt Lee? Have I not written a letter this time? Let your merciful heart plead my excuse & dictate an early answer.

Believe me we can never cease to pray for your life & health & prosperity! Mama's most affectionate remembrances.

Very gratefully
Jeanie Gray

1514 12/9/1861

From: O.O. Howard
Brig Genl
Comdg
Head Qrs 1st Brigade

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie
Howard]

OOH-1472

Source: Bowdoin

[459]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade
Dec. 9 1861

My dearest wife,

I feel badly all the time to think I write you so little. I proposed to write you yesterday & did not & again this morning before breakfast & did not. Now you shall have a few lines. Rev Mr Whiteley has stopped with us for a few days and added immensely to our comfort. He has mended this camp's tools, rebuilt our chimney so that the stove will not smoke & by cheerfulness & good companionship made everything pleasant. Yesterday I went with him & Charlie to the encampment of the 3d Maine, where he preached a most earnest & truthful sermon. I called on Mrs Beaumont. She is a Christian young woman, boards in a house near by the 3d Maine. You should see what a warm welcome I get with my old regiment. Officers & men all seem to love me. The poorest of the officers are sure to come for a recommendation.

The Regiment is externally in excellent condition, scarcely any sick, beautiful grounds, <neat> streets, property, fences, <> &c <maintained>. My health is good & so is that of Charlie. One of my Regiments is on picket duty at Edsols' mill not far from Springfield.

I will not try darling to write more for I cannot write more than three words without interruption.

Give many kisses to my little Guy & Grace & Jamie & to Father & my dear Mother. I will try to get a little leisure for a decent letter.

Affectionately
your obt Servt
O.O. Howard
Brig Genl
Comdg

1515 12/10/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1473

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[460]

Leeds, Dec. 10, 1861

My dearest Otis

I finished my last letter in such haste yesterday afternoon that I neglected to put in this, that I will now enclose. I hear that Mr Walter Foss said if we "Leeds Centre" could'nt worship God with him he would not go with us in anything.'

Uncle Ensign and Laura came down here last evening. They came in just before tea, and before the children were abed. I put them to bed soon after tea, and then had a very pleasant evening with them. Jamie did not wake from the time he went to sleep till just before they went home - past nine o'clock. Louise, Laura's cousin from Phila, is spending the Winter with her. I do not like her as well as I did 'Bell'.

Warren Lothrop is in town, arrived at Auburn, where his Mother and Mary Jane live, some time last week. I should think he would call here.

I sent your letter, in which you gave me a description of your expedition into Lower Maryland to Uncle Edward. He seemed very much pleased that I did so. I borrowed twenty dollars of him and I want you to send me little more than that so I can pay him.

We received Charlie's welcome letter last Friday. Mother was very glad he wrote so soon that she could know how you both were. I shall mail this in the morning and also one to Aunt Sarah, asking if I have more letters at Auburn.

I keep thinking about your coming home all the time and about Winter Quarters. How is your cold? I don't like to hear you have one. I do hope you are not sick.

A letter from Rowland to-day informs us that he received from you Miss Sallie Carrolls wedding cards. I suppose they were married to-day. May be you are there at the house now, (Tuesday evening little past nine o'clock.) Were those cards for Rowland or were they yours forwarded? Have you seen Susan yet. Guy wrote to her two weeks since. I directed it to West Point.

I wrote to Mrs Sampson. Do you know if she received it? I fear I wont hear from her again. I neglected her so long. It was not intened neglect. It does seem as if I had had more to think about, more to do, and less time to myself, since I left West Point, than ever before. My time is so broken up I have nothing in place, and have no settled feeling. I have'nt wanted to stay here so long and don't feel right about it. If you were home, you might take me where you pleased, but while you are away I should feel better with my relatives, while I am not keeping house. I think Col Gilmore is quite pushed to get along. He has taken what money he had in Monmouth Bank.

I paid all of Isabella's wages \$1.25 per week. I get along without her about as well as I did with her, only Jamie slept with her, but she was great help to Mother, so I am satisfied. I have given my time so much to the children since I have been here that I am quite behind in their winter clothes as well as my own. Jamie is less care now he walks so I am beginning to accomplish some thing each day. Grace and Guy went out to play yesterday. They slid down the little hill before you get to the wood, or rather between the house and road. They were out over two hours, had not been out so long before. "Bunnie" ran about with them. Jamie wants to go 'bye' (with a bow) every time he sees a hat or bonnet. The warm weather and slight rains wont leave us the snow much longer. It was not one foot deep at first.

All have retired but myself. I have come into my room to finish. Children sleeping very quietly, and are well. I have many things to be thankful for.

Jane Bates has been sewing here to-day. She is a real good, homely Christian if that will express it. I think a great deal of her. Eunice Turner is very sick. John Leonard is crazy. I cannot write more to-night. Much love to Charlie. He has come back to us, and I love him a great deal more.

I pray God in mercy will take care of you, and bring you back to your own
Lizzie

1516 12/10/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1474

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 1st
Brigade
Sumners Divn

[461]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
Sumners Divn Dec 10th 1861

My dearest Wife

I have just received your letter written the 6th & mailed the 7th. I am glad to hear you say we are all well & sorry that Cynthia & her children are so afflicted. You must have your hands full if Jamie is as big as Charlie says he is. Does he crash through chairs now or trot his flesh off?

I have given you a little sketch of our encampment & the place of our Head Quarters. The ground is very uneven but pretty good soil for our purposes, i.e. gravelly. I send out a regiment at a time for Picket duty. Col. Crop 5th N.H. brought in his today & was replaced by Col Muller's 81st Penn. I spent much of the day with the outposts, locating the pickets. Charlie & Rev Mr Whiteley of Bath Me. went to Washington & have returned.

Griffens wedding is tonight. Charlie bought a nice opera glass & left it for me at the house with my regrets that I could not be present this evening. I really did not feel like going to a wedding.

General Sumner is a real soldier. He lives in a Sibley tent without a floor and declares that his Colonels & Lieut Colonels shall not live in houses while the men are in tents. Just at daylight every morning I have a bugle sound in front of my tent, three minutes after another sound & in four minutes the whole line is formed on the color line. The Colonels report to me as soon as the rolls are called. The brigade is under arms at this time.

I got Charlie an appointment in one of the companies of the 61st N.Y. and then appointed him my Aid de Camp. He has now got some straps on my coat & looks as much like the <Guardian> Lieut of Ordnance as may be. His mustache & whiskers add no little to the resemblance. You will perhaps be glad to know that I have gotten two large fox skin robes. They are very handsome & very warm. With the embankment & the stove my tent is as comfortable as a house. Almost every night I have company; we put our mattresses down so as to cover up the floor, spread on the blankets & fox skin robes & then go to bed one at a time beginning with Captain Sewall. John occupies the front tent - runs of errands during the night builds the fire & makes himself very useful. I am glad I was successful in getting him transferred to me.

Mr Whiteley, who has been with us three or four days, has fixed my chimney so that it will not smoke, fixed the camp stools, put on Charlie's straps & made himself of great comfort to us. I love him very much.

Tell Guy the bugle is just sounding tattoo. He would like to hear it. Guy I am sorry Mamma has no girl to help her, so she might tell me all about my little boy & my little girl. I think Guy & Grace could take care of that "great boy" Jamie, so that Mamma might write, but then she has to sew for these children. Tell her papa will let her know when he is coming home if he can come. There is little prospect now. The weather is as fine as it is at home in June now. The enemy is in force at Centreville & have pickets at Fairfax C. House & this side, but there are nearly ten miles intervening between our lines & theirs. I think you would like Mr Miles very much. He is handsome & good. His father came on & bought him a beautiful horse & staid with us a few days. I am to have for Commissary a Mr Buchanan. Nobody that Mamma knows. Grace must brighten up & have full & rosy cheeks when papa goes home. Does she continue to be a good little girl & love Guy & Jamie. I saw Susan's letter from Guy & she cries over it for very long. Susan longs to have a letter from you Lizzie & if you can find time you must give her that great pleasure. She isn't so happy where she is as she was with us & her heart seems filled with the children - particularly Guy.

I send you a check for one hundred dollars. Shall I not send you more?

God bless you my love.

Otis

Give much love to my dear Mother & tell father I send him ten cents bank bill from Dixie.

[On page 4 of this letter is a plan of the interior of Otis' tent and the arrangement of the brigade.]

1517 12/11/1861 *From:* H.V. Emmons

To: Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1475

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

[462]

Hallowell Decr. 11th 1861

Brig. Gen. O.O. Howard,
My Dear Friend;

I have been yearning over our men who have volunteered ever since they have been in the field - both the soul & the body. I cd not, however, quite make up my mind to leave my far off field at the East until recently some personal considerations have made it a duty - among others my health. My present purpose in writing you is to ask if you, consistently with your leisure & what you know of me, can interest yourself as to any vacancy among the chaplaincies in x army th. may come within the scope of your influence. I wd like to enter the work as a matter of Ch'n duty. My soul wd be in it.

I suppose these matters are being removed from the charge of the States to the control of the U.S. government, & tho. influence in the army or at Washington wd be of more avail than here.

I have applied as yet to no one but Mr. Blaine of Augusta who is now in Washington. If it shd be a plain & easy matter to you & you shd think my appointment any service to the army I will feel obliged to you for any information or any word in my favor in yr present surroundings. I shall return East in a few days, but any letter may be addressed here.

The Lord bless you in your health & your responsible duties, as in yr soul, & send His Holy Spirit to convince & convert among our Soldiers.

Yours with esteem & very truly,
(in the love of Ch.)
H.V. Emmons

It occurs to me tho. it wd be better to request you to send any letter to, Pembroke Me., as I leave here next wk.

[Written in another hand]
answered

1518 12/12/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1476

Leeds.

Source: Bowdoin

[463]

Leeds. Dec 12, 1861

My dearest Otis

It is now nine o'clock Thursday evening. Col. Gilmore is reading the paper. Mother is writing to Dellie. He reads a paragraph aloud now and then.

Was your Brigade sent on towards Fairfax Court House with others? A few days since. You wrote to me last Monday and I received the letter to-night. I do not always get them in so short a time. I had quite a bunch of letters to-night four and Mother one from Rowland enclosing Charlie's last to him. It was full of interest to us.

I got Mrs Carrolls cards remailed from Auburn so it is too late to write a note of acknowledgment to Mrs C. So you must thank her for remembering me among so many, and best wishes for her daughters future happiness. You know Capt. Griffin is a friend of mine without his knowledge or consent. Were you there at the time of writing the cards to send out?

You need not fear to tell me about having so many ladies in camp. I have no idea of wanting to live with you there. I don't think I could be tempted to take the children into camp, or rather into a tent. I would'nt object to going to see you but I don't think I would want to stay. Mrs Sewall is home is she not? She and Mrs H are going to be very sensible. There must be quite a number in the 3d Me. I cant blame any one without children, for going for they can make themselves useful. What would the 3d have done without Mrs Sampson.

I read the resignation of Capt. J.G. Sampson 3d Maine the papers had it, and I almost trembled before I could convince myself it was not our Capt. Sampson, who is now I see Major. I heard not till to-night of the mistake at the Christening of Col Burt's baby, rather a joke. My desire is wholly to get news and I therefore suppose you desire to hear all about us.

I am very thankful that we are all so well. Cynthia and Johnie are getting quite well. Guy and Grace made them a visit to-day, and I went to see Mrs Berry. How I did miss Mrs Turner. Capt. Turner looked so lonely. I know he feels his wifes death very much. I wrote you Emma Francis was sick. She died this morning. We had a good prayer meeting here this evening. Mr Chapin made some remarks on "seek first the kingdom of Heaven" - very appropriate. Every one left just as we began to write. I did not get the children in bed in time to come out before the first singing, and Dea Pettengill sat in the door so I had to remain in Mothers bed room, but I think I enjoyed it all the better for it, as I was there alone in the dark.

The thought came into my mind, and I presume was suggested by the circumstances. What would be my feelings to know I was shut out from the presence of my saviour, and that led to other reflections which I trust was for my own spiritual good. I talked with Mr Chapin a little afterward. He has two brothers, or she [three?] I forget which in the army and he has one in Hen'g that he can hear nothing from. I read the papers till I am tired, and then I know no more than I did before I began.

I will finish the letter commenced last evening. I am writing in my room - Jamie not yet wakened from having his nap. Guy busy taking spruce-gum off a stick Thomas brought him when he came to dinner. Grace rocking on my big chair chewing some gum, which is something new to her, and I have to answer a great many questions about it. Jamie waked and an hour later I resume my writing.

Much love to Charlie. I am very glad you and he are together. I feel that I know you all, Dr Palmer, Capt Sewall and all. I wish you would write more about yourself - what you do &c. tell me who you see that I know. I don't expect a letter to-night but I wish I might get one. You will think I wrote a little sad in my last letter, I fear, but it must'nt trouble you. I generally write about as I feel. I hope you are well. It is really too bad that when I write I have to do it in such haste.

Your own
Lizzie

Mr French's picture looked so good I wanted to speak to him. Mr Greble's is as natural as can be. I was glad to see them. I would not part with yours for anything.

1519 12/14/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My darling wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1477

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade
Sumner's Divn

Source: Bowdoin

[260]

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade
Sumner's Divn 14th Dec [1861]

My darling wife

I will write you a few lines to send with Charlie's letter. I left Genl Sumner a little while ago, suffering considerably from the fall of his horse. He is in some pain. I hope he may be better tomorrow. I do not wish to command the Division even for a day. I do not feel prepared to do so.

I feel badly about not having sent you money sooner. I fear I have not kept you well supplied. I didn't know you were so short of money. I enclosed you a draft in my last letter. I have purchased a saddle for Charlie, one for John & a reconnoitering glass, also two new horse blankets & two fox skin robes. John has begged this saddle of me. He says he can pay me as soon as he gets his pay. I will send you forty dollars with this letter for fear you will not have enough. I shall then have \$35 left for contingencies. I asked Charles if father is pressed for money. He says he thinks not for he has little call for money. Tell me all about home. I don't want to neglect my father & mother nor you, nor the little ones. God give me strength & wisdom to discharge all my duties & bless you & all.

I am glad you have been so careful to keep Guy in the house, till the scarlet fever & all its traces are gone for it is a treacherous disease. Let him be dressed thoroughly warm when he goes out this winter. His cheeks will soon grow red. Give him much of papa's love. I long to see you all. I can't tell at all when I may see you.

The Lord removes Genl Sumner from active duty. He will chasten us still more, for we have not yet learned to love him & keep his commandments. Whiskey & profanity still prevail to a great extent. When will we look to the arm of the Lord, our God for succor.

Mr Whitlesey is still with us. He is a delightful companion & excellent Christian. He says he will go up to see you when he gets home.

How is our little Gracie? Do you suppose she will know me if I stay away much longer. I hope & pray that Genl Sumner may get well right away. He is a real soldier, stern but courteous - with an iron will & a very good head. He seems to take a fancy to me. I am not "afraid of my pains" & I think he likes promptness.

I hope this will reach you safely. Kiss Jamie & Guy & Gracie. Papa can't tell how much he loves them. I hav'nt spoken of Walter Foss. I hope he has not worried you any. I should like to see the piece - you forgot to enclose it. Much love to Mother. She must have letters too. Now Charlie is here to help, she shall.

Aff. Yr husband
Otis

1520 12/14/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Bro. Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1478

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[464]

Farmington Dec. 14, 1861

Dear Bro. Otis

Ella & baby are just getting quiet in bed, and as I can never sleep very well after the nervous excitement of the Sabbath I will write you a little just to steady my nerves. I have read tonight the letter wh. You wrote me from Tampa giving me some acct. of your mental exercises at the time of your conversion. I would like much to go over it with you & compare its statements with our matured feelings & views. I value that letter very highly. It is & always will be a very vivid portraiture from the fact that it is a transcript made at nearly the moment of the exercises depicted. Our Zion seems desolate as yet. How long Dear Saviour. O how long! Is our cry.

I do hope you will get your anticipated Furlough. Ella & I are anticipating great pleasure in seeing you as well as your own wife & children. With whom would you leave your Brigade, if you came?

I have prayer meetings now Tues. & Wednes. Evenings & a Lecture on Thursdays. I am taxing my physical strength pretty severely but am still well & hopeful. Our Snow has been dissipated by a no. of warm days & our roads are not good for either sleigh or wagon.

Helen Otis made us a little visit last week. I conversed with her about her Soul some what. She seems not to have been fairly free from conviction since John was converted. She is very sensitive to the subject & confesses that she takes every method to drive it out of her mind. O that she should thus abuse her best friend! John seems to enjoy his place here very well, but is not constant at meeting.

Do you believe in immediate retribution for Sin? My Reason is rather against it, but I have a feeling that we are frequently punished. I never could get rid of the feeling that my fall in Va. From my horse was because we were riding for pleasure on the Holy Sabbath.

I preached this A.M. on "My Grace is Sufficient for thee" & this P.M. on "He that believeth in the Son hath life" &c. Our meeting this Evening was dull, the brethren being backward.

I haven't heard from Leeds since I wrote Chas. We expect to see Father Tuesday at the R.R. meeting. They are going to try to change the name of the Corporation & to consolidate the boards into one issue wh. Shall include the "extension".

I hear good news from the Revivals in Portland & Patten. It seems sometimes that I must be in those places, but O if I could only see a work of Grace here!

I enclose Dellie's last letter to me. How the wind howls around our house. Charles will tell you how it is situated. There was a Baptist Quarterly meeting here last week. One Bro. mentioned what you said in N.Y., as to the principles on wh. You were to fight, with much approbation & prayed for you & Charles. Some of the Bretheren had seen him on his recruiting journeys.

Tell Charles I feel anxious for Henry Johnson - that I hope he will not forget him, but will give him my love when he sees him. Mr Fiske has had a "Fast" in hopes to revive the Church in Bath. He has been laboring in Portland. But it is bed-time & I must bid you Good night. May God bless you. Give Christian love to Capt. Sewall.

Your aff. Bro.
Rowland

Did I mention that Ella & I had been down to Wilton & taken Tea with Warrens wife & hope soon to see her here. She seems to be a very lovable person.

Mr Caswell & Capt. Pillsbury of the Home Guard - (Chas will know him.) will leave here for Washington Tomorrow. The latter says he will go out to your Head Quarters. I bespeak a kind reception for him. He is an Editor.

1521 12/14/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1479

Camp California

Source: Bowdoin

[465]

Camp California
Dec. 14, 1861

My dear Lizzie

When Otis went over tonight after supper to Gen. Sumner's Hd Qrs to attend to the matters of the division he asked me to write you & gave me \$40 to enclose to you. Gen Sumner got hurt by being thrown from his horse this afternoon. Now Genl Howard being the ranking officer is in command of the Division. Capt. Taylor Asst. Adj. Genl to Gen. Sumner was in the Academy at the same time with Otis. Gen. Sumner was very seriously injured. We fear for his recovery. One of his sons is aide but he is absent today. The Genl will not allow his folks at Washington to be telegraphed to. He seems to have great confidence in Genl Howard.

Have you heard about the marriage of Capt Griffin & Miss Sallie Carroll. I went over to Washington that day - (last Wed.) & bo't a Field Glass for \$27 - put Otis' & my name into the box & sent it to Miss Sallie excusing the Genl & myself from attending the wedding.

That night, after a pleasant moonlight ride from Washington with Prof. Wittlesey of Bowdoin College who has been with us for more than a week, just as I was removing my outer garments for the night the order came to march to the outposts with our Regt to support a Regt which we had out there. I put on my clothes as rapidly as possible & with Mr. Miles & the Genl were soon riding down the hill upon the summit of which is our tent & within 15 minutes we were riding at the head of the Column with no noise but the tramp of marching men.

We had not slept more than half an hour when Gen Sumner appeared with the other 2 Regts - I should have said before that we marched out without finding any signs of the enemy & I may add here that we came back ditto.

Good for us that we were disturbed so much that we had no chance to get very cold & came out of our night march & bivouac in a good state of health & spirits. Next night made up all lost sleep. A letter from Rowland - the 1st since I arrived - gave us great pleasure tonight. Much love to the little ones.

Very affectionately
CH Howard

P.S. I will write mother soon. Hope she & father are well & happy.

1522 12/15/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear Rowland [RB
Howard]

OOH-1480

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade
Camp California

Source: Bowdoin

[467]

Hd Qrs 1st Brigade
Camp California
Dec. 15, 1861

My dear Rowland

Your pleasing letter last night gave me much happiness - no less for my not having had one from you or mother before since I came out. In fact I have rec'd scarcely any letters at all. It is just past tattoo & the Bands of the different Regts are playing beautifully - Psalm tunes as it is Sabbath night.

We have just enjoyed a good old fashioned prayer-meeting. Otis had had a large log house built for Commissary stores the past week but not yet put in use. Tonight he proposed to have a meeting there & sent a circular to the different Co's. of the 61st Regt saying they could use it for that purpose. We put a stove in it & some blankets up at the door. Put some "Flies" (Canvass) upon the ground floor. Carried in Cot-bedsteads for cots & a table.

The bugle was sounded at 7 o'clock but before that there was quite a gathering there. It was cold, as there were wide cracks between the logs. Most of the men sat right down upon the canvass - some remained standing. Mr. Whittlesey & Otis sat behind the table & Otis conducted the meeting. We have a beautiful little soldier's hymn & tune book given in this past week by Mr. Alvord of the Tract Society.

The meeting was a hearty, prompt & spiritual one - no intervals. The men were ready with hymns & <psalms> in prayer. At the close, the Genl asked for an expression from those who would try to serve Christ & nearly every hand went up. One female was there - matron of the 61st NY. has son, a soldier with her. Three officers were present. We all feel greatly refreshed by the <[CHECK ORIGINAL right edge of page glued]>. Col. Staples was over this P.M. as also Joe Smith & Capt Savage. The first time I have seen the Col. He says my promises to the men have been fulfilled. I have been over several times & found some discontented. They could not go in to the Co. they enlisted for. Now all is right. Tell Mrs Tarbox the K'y Cavalry is removed and up the lines so I cannot see them & I am thus compelled to send her letter to her son Frank Davis.

You will see about Gen. Sumner's accidental injury. It is doubtful now as to his immediate recovery & Otis is in Charge of the Division. We have 1200 Cavalry & 3 batteries Artillery & 3 Brigades besides. Gen. French 3d Brigade is an old army officer & lately returned from Santa Rosa.

Did you see my letter in Boston Journal signed "Weir". Please send me a copy if you have it. I have written to the Kennebec J. a letter about Gen Sumner for the most part. I hesitated about sending it. I fear it will not prove interesting.

The man from <Ster?> is in the Co. he desired to enter in 3d Me. <They> got only one.

There are rumors the enemy are soon to occupy Centerville. I guess we would not have much fighting to do in order for this. Glad you wrote about Ella's health & that letter from Millie & Maj. B was a great treat. I have scribbled hurriedly tonight. Otis has gone over to Division Hd Qr's since the meeting. Send Howard's Brigade Alex'a Va.

Not received my comm but expect it in the 61st N.Y. I have been published in order of aide de camp. Col. Mulligan visited 69th day or two ago near our brigade. Judge Palmer from Gardiner brother doctor is here. Wm Grant called to see us this P.M. Cant get rid of Capt. Barker. I feel Lt. Miles is young but efficient & so by all means is Capt. Sewell in his duties. Capt. S. is very faithful & accurate.

With great love.

Yr Brother
Charles

[The above letter from Charles to Rowland was probably sent to Lizzie, with the following postscript added.]

P.S.

Ella says ask Lizzie if she will be so kind as to send me a patern of Jamie's wrapper the one he wears mornings.

She can send it as a newspaper thro' the mail, if no way better offers.

R.B.H.

1523 12/16/1861 *From:* Jas. H. Tallman

To: Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-1481

Head Qrs 3rd Maine
Vols
Camp Howard VA

Source: Bowdoin

[468]

Head Qrs 3rd Maine Vols
Camp Howard VA Dec 16/61

Dear General,

Vice Prest Hamlin has assured me of his hearty support and cheerful cooperation with the Maine Delegation in endeavoring to procure for me the appointment of A.Q.M. If you will be kind enough to furnish me with a letter of recommendation you will confer a favor on

Yr friend
Jas. H. Tallman

Genl O.O. Howard

Genls Sedgwick & Jameson will confer a similar favor.
J.H. Tallman

[Written on the back in another hand]
J.H. Tallman
answered

1524 12/18/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1482

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[469]

Leeds Dec 18, 1861

My dearest Otis

I received your letter enclosing the check for one hundred dollars, and to-night I got your and Charlie's letter and the \$40.00 dollars. I will send you what New Jersey money I have left, and I shall return some of this when I get to Auburn.

I was going to write more this evening, but Jamie seems to come in for some extra attention when I really wish he would'nt. He has another tooth almost through and I presume it troubles him. I am going to Auburn day after to-morrow (Friday) if possible. I shall be governed by the weather. Don't forget to direct there.

Guy commenced a letter to you to-day - did not finish it because he went to see Johnie this afternoon. They both enjoy being out with their sleds, or rather Guy uses Thomas' hand-sled, and Grace has Johnies now he is not able to go out. They are getting very well at Roland's.

I was very glad you got Charlie to write. He always writes just the things I would like to hear - about yourself as well as the other things of interest. I regret to hear of Gen Sumners accident. I know you regret to command the Div. May God be with you at all times. I should like to see Mr Whittlesey but he must'nt take the trouble to come to me. I may meet him in Brunswick some time this winter. I should take the liberty to let him know I was there if I did go there for a day or so.

I don't need all the money you sent me. I have bought nearly everything we shall want for winter. What do you get a month? (Yankee) Guy and Grace are well clothed, all but an overcoat for Guy. Jamie and I are not all ready for cold weather yet. Our sleighing is all gone. I will have to go to the Depot in a wagon. I fear it will be cold. I have written to Uncle Edward this evening to send the money I borrowed. Little later than half past ten and I must not write more.

Lovingly, your
Lizzie

1525 12/20/1861 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1483

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[470]

Farmington Dec. 20 / 1861

Dear Mother

I enclose a letter recv'd from Charles last night. I did not see his letter in the Boston Journal & I presume it was not published. I read one in the Bath Times with the same signature & sent the paper to him. I hope that Father will send the Lewiston Falls Journal every week to Charles as soon as you have read it. It contains now more local news than any other Maine paper, & if I could be sure that you would send the weekly, I would never send the Daily in which I often see items of interest to Chas & Otis.

We had a very pleasant visit from Father & hope it will be so that you can come before long. I recv'd Lizzies note - have not had time yet to get Mrs Smiths things out. Had I known where they were I might have sent them long ago.

There is not much prospect of Ellas going to Leeds very soon. Her health is more miserable than since we were married, tho she seemed better last night & today. Her Mother will come up and assist about the Christmas Tree - Monday - the Tree is Tuesday night. Abby will go away in about a fortnight & then Aunt Jane will probably come. I have partially engaged a girl by the name of Jones, when Abby goes away. She is very highly recommended.

I rode out & gave a Lecture at Allen's Mills Industry, 5 miles, last evening. We had a good, full meeting. So on Tues. Eve. at Fairbanks Mills & Wednes. Eve at our Conference room. I read in the latter meeting part of a letter that Otis wrote me at the time of his conversion. It was deeply interesting & I hope always to preserve it. Frank G. writes me that the religious interest in Portland seems to be increasing. I am now looking over results for the year. They are so few as to humble me & yet so many as should give cause for gratitude. 19 will have joined the Church, 4 by prof, & the rest by letter, 4 have died & one has been dismissed. There seems to be complete unanimity of feeling & an increasing affection for their Pastor among the people.

Tell Lizzie if it is at all consistent, nothing would please me so much as to have Guy at the Christmas Tree, but it may not be. Jimmy has a bad cold. Sarah & the rest of the children are well. She took Tea here Wednes. night.

Your aff. Son
Rowland

1526 12/20/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1484

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade
Sumner's Division

Source: Bowdoin

[471]

Hd. Qrs. 1st Brigade
Sumner's Division
Decr. 20th 1861

My dearest Lizzie,

I have now so much to do that I hardly have time to write. I am on a Board of Examinations for disposing of immoral & deficient officers. This with two Brigade drills & other duties keeps me snapping. Genl Sumner has applied for Genl Sedgwick to take the temporary command of this division till he can get better from his fall. He assures me it is not from want of confidence in me for it is not. I have demanded that he make that statement to Head Quarters and his Adjutant Gen assures me it shall be done. His reason for calling in Genl Sedgwick is that Genl French, the Commdg officer of the 3d Brigade is an old Army officer & feels agrieved.

My greatest crime has been all along my youth. I do not wish to command the Division will not if I can help it; but I do not wish to be dishonored. And for this reason I asked that the reasons be stated to Genl McClellan why another man is sent here for the temporary command.

My health is good, tent warm. Charles & Capt Sewall both live with me in the same tent. I got a good letter from you day before yesterday. The one before that made me wonder what I could do. I want you to keep a girl if possible. You know best.

Give much love to Mother. How does she seem to be; cheerful & happy or not? Much love & many kisses to Guy, Grace & Jamie. Remember me very kindly to Father. Tell him some of Mr Lane's sentiments are mine. Chas is well sends love to you & all.

Capt Sewall thinks you are a very sensible woman & sends his regards.

I sent you a check of \$100 - afterwards \$40 in Government bill. Please acknowledge.

May God bless you.

Affectionately
Otis

1527 12/22/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1485

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[472]

Auburn Dec 22, 1861

My dearest Otis

I came here yesterday, none of the children took cold, although it was the coldest morning we have had. I shall be very comfortable here and it will give Aunt great pleasure to have us with her.

I went to church today (Mr Adams) a faithful sermon to his people and to me also. Guy went with me and as soon as the morning service was finished I came home, put little Jamie to sleep, and then 15 minutes past twelve, took back Guy and Grace to S. School. One of the assistants opened the door as I reached it. I told him I had brought the children to join the school, and I would take a class if I could be useful or join the school and I said "Mrs Howard" to him. There is a Bible class or rather two, he said. I will introduce you to Mr Dingley and then put the children into classes. I followed him and afterward, was introduced and took my seat among the scholars. Mr D. is the superintendent. Judge Morrell has the other Bible class and this Mr Dingley is the very identical name editor who puts everything into the paper he can learn. My name would not have been given to the public if it had not been for him. I think I will have to make up a face to him next Sunday (?)

I read this evening a letter written by Mr L. <Chapin> of the 3d Maine dated Dec 5 and after he had visited you at your new quarters. He described "the dress parade, and daily religious service of Gen. Howard's Brigade". I saw mother in what he spoke of the <> to them in having you near the Regt. I wish you could, and may be you do, see the first. It is to lengthy to copy.

I have had many blessings this day and I have tried to enjoy them. The children wanted to know if they could go to S. S. again. I was spoken to by Judge Morrell as I came out. He enquired after you. I went with Cousin Fannie to-day, but I shall take seats, i.e. hire seats which seems very odd to do, that I may have a home while here. Uncle Alden and Aunt Betsey came in to see Jamie just after tea. I know he is a splendid boy, (don't know what Charlie may think.) He was very much delighted to see Papa's pictures come out of the trunk tonight.

It is now Wednesday eve when I resume my writing. I did not wish christmas to pass without doing something for the children. We all, after the children went to bed, were fixing the 'tree' and room. Guy has told you about the presents. They were very happy as you can suppose, when they came out this morning. They remembered all about last year at this time. I remember that time with pleasure. I have greens to go over the windows, a star over the mantle piece, a ring and cross on the opposite side of the room - all very pretty. Minnie is a very sweet and good girl for Guy and Grace to be with. She sings very well. Eva is a beautiful girl. I don't mean in looks. Aunt is blessed in these <>. Jamie feels quite at home here, <> not at all afraid from the first. I don't have much care of him.

Mrs Adams and sister Miss Adams called to see me to-day. The latter knew Rowland at Bangor. We have fine sleighing now. I shall take the children out to ride the first pleasant day. I thought Guy was perfectly well, but he is not. His food does not digest, and his bowels are all out of order. I fear he has canker. I am going to have Dr <Oakes> see him. Grace seems well. She has a "<sore>" on her finger and is losing her nail. Jamie is as well as need be. I sent a sled <to> Frankie and one to Timmie to-day. Sarah was less than she could.

I got Guy and Grace one each yesterday. I took them both, sleds and all, over the river this morning. When I went for the boy's, and when Grace saw a pretty bureau she preferred to exchange hers for it. I turned her off once going down the hill, and her feet were very cold when we reached the store, so she concluded "a sled was too cold for a little girl."

I hoped a change of diet would be well for Guy, but it does not seem to make any difference. I think he looks a little pale.

Perry sent Sarah \$5.00 to get her children presents for Christmas.

I am very tired to-night, have walked too much for my back yesterday and to-day. I have been on the snow so much I find it very tiresome.

I saw Charlie's letter in the Boston Journal last week. I shall see them all while here.

Guy did not write so well as he might, but he was very anxious to write to papa all day.

[Note: The remaining three sheets attached to this letter were moved to the end of the letter from Lizzie to Otis, OOH-1403, dated 10/13/1861. They belong earlier, to the time soon after Lizzie arrived in Maine in 1861, because of the reference to the North room, and after the trip that Guy made to see Rowland. The reference to Lizzie's cooking places it just after Rowland's letter dated 10/10/1861. OOH-1403 was missing a closing.]

1528 12/22/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1486

Head Qrs 1st Brigade
Sumner's Divn

Source: Bowdoin

[473]

Head Qrs 1st Brigade
Sumner's Divn Decr 22, 1861

My dearest wife,

I have risen this morning & found it raining the first time since we have been here. The above three lines I wrote yesterday. It is again morning the 23d. Last night I was thinking how comfortable we were in our tent & wishing that the soldiers were all as well off or something like it when all at once a blaze of light appeared. I was just then reading aloud about Napoleon's moving with the rapidity of lightning. Capt Sewall sprang through the tent front without regard to strings & the rest followed. Our board chimney was on fire - the wind blowing furiously. It came down so fast & was thrown out of the way so quick that the tent was saved, but we have a practical prejudice against any more wooden chimneys. Oh, how the wind blew. Many many tents blew down & the flies flapped so that some could hardly sleep. It is now cold & windy

I hope you are all well & comfortable. I shall direct to Aunt Sarah's. You need not send my money back. I felt ashamed that I let you get so nearly out of money.

I am now in command of the Division. I wouldn't mind comdg. the division if I had my own staff but Genl Sumners staff suit him far better than they do me. They like things I don't like. Taylor the Asst. Adj. Genl was at West Point with me.

Give many kisses to the little ones. Mother says Jamie is a beautiful boy. I almost wish he could remain a baby so that I might see my little boy again. Give Guy much love. Papa expects a good deal of Guy. And Grace can't help being a good girl can she?

Genl French, an old army officer of the artillery has the 3d Brigade of this Division. Capt Clark also an old army officer & an instructor in Chemistry when I first went to West Point, is chief of Artillery in this divn. It is a little queer for me to command them, but all is done in the Providence of God.

May God keep you all in his love.

Affectionately
Otis

P.S. Love to Aunt Sarah & the children. I got the N.Y. & N.J. money.

1529 12/23/1861 *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1487

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[474]

Farmington Dec 23rd 1861

Dear Lizzie

I received your kind note today, and am very much obliged to you for your kind offer to get the sleds, and shall be very happy to avail myself of the opportunity of getting them cheap, if it will not give you too much trouble. Perry sent me some money (\$5.00) "to buy some Christmas presents for the children", and I have already spent \$2.00 of it in getting things to hang on the Christmas tree for them, in his name, and as they charge \$3.00 here for a good sled, I thought I would get one, but Mr Goff says he thinks I can get two for that price, and if I can, they would be much happier to each have one of his own, but I should like them strong, so that they may last them a long time, and prettily painted.

Frankie was very much pleased with your description of "Guy's set of tools," and has been teasing me for one ever since. Do you think you could find anything like it in Lewiston? I think he might like it even better than a sled but as I think it could not probably be found there, it might be as well to get them sleds and Mr Goff has very kindly offered to bring them up to me, if you can have them sent to his care. If you cannot get the two sleds for \$3.00, it will not be best to get but one, at this time, as I do not feel like going to the extra expense just now. I intended to have got them for a Christmas present, but as it is too late for that, it will just as acceptable on New Years. Not knowing your address, I do not like to risk the money in this letter, as it may never reach you. Will you please to let me know what it is, and I will forward the money by the first opportunity.

I saw Rowland & Ella today. She is not well, is troubled very much with dyspepsia. I am afraid she will have to wean the Baby, he's very well now.

[Missing Page]

and yours finely.

I was glad to hear from Perry, that Otis and Charles were well. I trust they will continue to enjoy the blessings of Life & health for many long years. Give much love to them, when you write.

My children are suffering from severe colds, this cold weather seems too much for them; it has been so mild, that they have not minded it till now. I am dreading the next two months for them. They are very anxious for the time to come, for you to move here, when, Frankie says, "he shall have some little Cousins to play with, as he had in Nassau." We shall all be glad to have you here. With much love to yourself, and little ones. From your

Cousin Sarah E. Sargent

1530 12/25/1861 *From:* [O.O. Howard]

To: Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1488

Source: Bowdoin

[13]

[Drawing of a New Hampshire sentinel at reveille in front of Otis' tent.]

Dec. 25 1861

Dear Guy

The above is the front of General Howard's tent. Mr Whittlesey made him a board door and a chimney of brick, some of the soldier's helping. You see a stone pavement in front of the tent; Uncle Charlie helped do that. The logs Lieut McNeshe a 81st Pennsylvania Regt. Put up. Papa had a wooden chimney & it burned up. He wishes mamma and all the children a very merry christmas. But if too late papa will wish you all a happy new year. How is Aunt Sarah? How is cousin Eva? How little Minnie? And Orestes? Did Grandpa and Grandma cry when you left them? Papa gave this christmas day to the troops. He did not make them drill. This morning, the New Hampshire men had a footrace: thus [drawing of men running]. This afternoon they caught a greased pig. [drawing of that scene]

[On the back of the letter is a drawing of 3 tents together and a Reveille Bugle and their family with the words next to the people:]

Guy's cap coat and belt

Brig. Gen. Vols.

Jamie's coat and hat

Gracie's winter cloak

Who is this?

1531 12/26/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1489

Head Quarters 1st
Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

[475]

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
December 26th 1861

Dearest Lizzie,

I have written a letter to Guy & will accompany it by a sort of introductory note. I suppose you are at Aunt Sarah's. Last night I saw Mr Caswell from Farmington Me. I told him I would take Mr Farwell's house. You must try to make yourself as happy as you can there till I join you. Perhaps Aunt Sarah would like to go with you? As you think best. Sarah & Ella are near, and the Abbots are pleasant, the schools good. I do not like Lewiston or Auburn as a place to live in. I will write next time just what time we can have that house.

I have no belief in a war with England. I have no doubt the English Government would like to have a war so as to break up our blockade &, I fear, scorn our whole government, but I don't think our many governors will suffer such a thing to be brought upon us just now. Maine will soon become the theatre of operations if we should have trouble with England. I should soon be on my way to Canada. Our present officers do not suit me in rapidity of movements. I don't want to move blindly but I want to see more activity. We may have it all too soon, however. God rules & he will direct. I wish I could never for one moment forget that.

Mr Pillsbury from Farmington accompanied Mr Caswell. They went to the Fourth Maine to stay last night; this morning they proposed to go to Mount Vernon & in the afternoon be present at my drill & parade and stay all night. Mr P. says the people of Farmington & (Rowland in particular) are very much interested in our movements.

I long to see you & the children but I see no "Winter Quarters" & no prospect of leaving just at present.

Poor Mother must be very lonely now that you & the children are gone.

Much love & many kisses
Affectionately,
Otis

1532 12/27/1861 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1490

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[476]

Auburn, Dec 27, 1861.

Dearest,

Mother remailed a letter to me from Leeds, and I got your first one directed here to-day. I fear you have too many trials lately. You are still in command of the Div. I have written three short business like letters this evening, one to Rowland. Mr Farwell had asked if I would engage the house. I wrote him yes. Said you did not get into Washington often now. Glad your tent did not burn up with the wooden chimney. I should think you would have a great practical prejudice against another of that kind. If you don't wish me to return any of this money so I will not now. I have \$107.00 now.

What could I have written that put you to thinking what you could do for me. I don't remember that I made any complaint - did'nt mean to. I have very little care of Jamie here. I love to peep in at the door when he is with Aunt, and see him play and try to talk to her, when he don't know I see him. It made me right sad to have you wish he could remain little, so you might see him as he was, again. If I was President, I don't know as I would have any "fighting men abroad." If I was king of France I know I would'nt. Are you still on the Board of examinations? You will work yourself half to death, then come home a sick old man. No more youth to complain of then.

I wrote the above evening before last. It is now Sunday evening. I engaged a pew last evening, took Guy to church with me this morning. When the morning service was ended I went into the S. School room and Guy came for Grace. They both came in very soon. I told them this evening I should have to write you about it and tell you what were their lessons.

Guy's Loving Jesus, gentle lamb
In thy gracious hand, I am.
Make me, Saviour, what thou art;
Live thyself within my heart.

Grace's I love the Lamb who died for me,
I love his little lamb to be,
I love the Bible where I find
How good my Saviour was, and kind.

Minnie, Guy, Grace and I went this afternoon. Our lesson was the 40th chapter of Genesis. Cousin Fannie joined the class with me to-day. Mr Adams came down while I was standing in the Hall waiting for Guy and Grace, which I did but not till they came. He spoke to Fannie and she introduced me. He remarked that we are pleased to have you spend the winter with us. I thought I was going to live very quiet here but I find already that many are interested in Mrs Gen Howard, and will try to make my stay here very pleasant. I hope she will be no discredit to the Gen. but between you and I, I don't like to have anyone even think Mrs Gen Howard when I am out. Mrs Stinson is here boarding. She is a sister to Mrs Blaine. Mr S as you may know is Qr. Master of Col Dow's regiment. She is a member of the class. I have bad ink and a bad pen and it is for that reason hard work to write.

Much love to Charlie. Kindest regards to Dr Palmer and Capt Sewall. I saw Warren's mother come into Church to-day, and Mary Jane. I want to know Dea Watson's family, probably shall. I hope Charlie will write to me some times. I see the Boston Journal while here, and the evening edition of the Lewiston Falls Daily Journal, and others I don't care to read.

Do write to me very often, Otis, if you possibly can.

May God be very near to direct you in all your ways, and in his own good time bring you back to us.

Lizzie

1533 12/30/1861 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1491

Head Quarters 1st
Bgde.
Sumners Divn

Source: Bowdoin

[477]

Head Quarters 1st Bgde.
Sumners Divn Dec 30th /61

Dearest,

This is probably the last letter I shall write you this year. I mean of course in 1861. I rec'd your good letter from the Auburn office. I am sorry, sorry to hear you speak as you do of little Guy. You must get him a good many apples & have them roasted & if he likes other fruit let him eat it regularly. It will take a good while for Guy to get entirely over the effects of the scarlet fever.

I have been almost home sick tonight. I <admit> I was not quite so much <pinned>. Perhaps Seward's admirable policy may soon work us out of our present position & I may go home. I would risk a good deal for a short look in upon you. I almost got over my prejudice against Auburn as a place to live in, when you wrote me about the church & the S. School, Aunt Sarah & the children, Eva & Minnie, but my dislike for the place remains when you speak of Guy's inclination to canker & indigestion.

I almost regretted at first having said anything about Mr Farwell's house, but I now think, if it be God's will you had better go there in March. I told Mr Casewell I would take Mr Farwell's house & asked him to lay in 15 cords of wood that it might be dry & good for summer. Everybody there longs for you to come & I feel that you & our darling children will find good & kind friends & Aunt Sarah can go with you. She loves to be benevolent & won't mind the trouble. Eva & Minnie will be good & useful companions. Get us a good little house & I will by the blessing of our Father go & see you. I don't know when. He is able to direct.

Mr George Patten, Mr Whittlesey's brother-in-law is with us tonight. He came yesterday. This morning I sat on the Examination Board. This afternoon reviewed my Brigade & drilled it a little while afterwards. This evening Mr Whittlesey read us aloud the correspondence with reference to our feared difficulties with England. Mr Seward's letter is more than good. England is fairly whipped without a flow Charlie says.

I never have been so fat since I was 16 yrs old, as I am now. He too looks in good health. I visited the hospitals yesterday. We are having a good deal of sickness - measles, mumps & some fevers. Dr Palmer's boy Erastus has got the measles. I saw him yesterday at Clermont. I tried yesterday to speak of the Saviour at the Hospitals. I believe I still love my Blessed Master & I hope & pray that it may not be necessary for him to take away any one of my precious little household. How is Aunt Sarah? Confidently repairing her trust in God I hope. Keep up a good heart my love. "Jehovah Jereh". Jamie, Grace, Guy, Lizzie God bless you.

A loving Father & husband
Otis

Guy's letter is a little treasure to me. I thank him.

Much love to Mother if you see her & father. Remember me to all my friends at Auburn.