
1569 2/1/1862

From: Rollin L Lofing

To: Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1525

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[31]

Leeds Feb 1 1862

Mrs Howard

I received your note sometime ago wishing me to make out my bill. I have been very busy and have neglected untill the present.

I have six visits and four calls and call it 7.00 seven dollars . We are quite well and trust this will find you and family the same.

I shall ever feel grateful to you for you kindness to me

Rollin L Loring [M.D.]

I enclosed the money by return mail. Mrs. Howard

1570 2/2/1862

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1526

Head Quarters
Howard's
Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

[32]

Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade Feb. 2 1862

Dearest

I feel almost homesick this morning, for I have been allowing myself to think of you more than usual perhaps. I hope nothing has happened to you but that you find yourself well & happy this day. It is the Sabbath.

We have had Reveille & I have received my reports at the Guard house, returned and we have had prayers. I read the last Chapter in Leviticus & the 117th Psalm. Then Charlie led in prayer. I was thinking how much his voice sounded like uncle Ensign while he was praying. Yesterday I learned that Col Parker 64th N.Y. whom I had sent with his Regiment on picket had been negligent. So besides writing him a reprimand, Capt Sewall & I rode out to Edsell's hill. We rode with Col Heath – formerly Capt Heath of the 3d Me. who came to call as he passed along. We went down the Little River Turnpike and then turned down a new road through the woods. It was a cloudy day & for a little time, there was nothing to show where we were for a mile or two. I kept the direction & came out just where we wished, but the Captain got completely turned round, and thought we were approaching Edsel's hill from the other side. We have cleared away nearly all the woods in rear & up to where our troops are stationed, but beyond much of the country is covered with wood.

You can have no idea of the mud here. My brigade is the only one that has been able to drill for a month. I believe Genl Kearney did have one drill. The mud is sticky and in many places five & six inches deep & so soft that it will not tread.

Today is the Sabbath & I have thought I would not inspect (myself) this morning, but trust to the Colonels to keep everything in shape. On Friday I rode through the regiments, reviewed them all but the one on Picket & visited all the Camp. Our sick list is diminishing. I sent out a scouting party day before yesterday of about 25 men under Capt. Harkman who returned last night and reported 4 Regiments of the enemy encamped at Fairfax Station & located their pickets in advance and implicated a young man who lives just on the lines in going there to the enemy's lines where he has a relative. His name is Talbot. I have sent Mr Miles this morning to bring him in.

I have succeeded in the getting a chapel tent raised in the 61st near by. Friday evening I attended a prayer meeting there & tonight I hope to do so again. I have thought I would not visit the Hospitals today but I may some of them.

How I want you to write much about yourself & Grace & Guy & Jamie. I do so long to go home, but if I do I will have to let every body else go, for there are plenty of applications. I only go to Washington once a month & then do not stay all night. I have not seen the Carrolls for 3 months; dont know whether Susan is there.

Much love & many kisses to the children. May God bless you my precious wife.

Aff.
Otis

1571 2/3/1862

From: Wm. V. Tupper

To: Brig. Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-1527

New York

U.S.A.

Source: Bowdoin

[33]

New York, February 3, 1862

Dear Sir,

Permit me to introduce to your notice David Gregory Adj't 61st Rt N.Y.S.V.

Mr Gregory has been one of our near neighbors & our families have associated on terms of great intimacy.

I have always found Mr Gregory a young man of great respectability & have felt desirous that he should in some degree secure the interest of his general.

Our warmest wishes accompany you, Sir, & I trust that God will enable you to return to us unharmed & honored.

Begging you to pardon me for thus bringing before your notice a neighbor & friend.

I am truly yours,

Wm. V. Tupper

Brig. Genl O. O. Howard
U.S.A.

1572 2/5/1862

From: Jam E Belcher

To: Brig Genl OO Howard

OOH-1529

Source: Bowdoin

care Jefferson
Insurance Co
No 60 Wall St
N. York

[36]

New York Feb 5th 1862

Brig Genl OO Howard

Dear Sir:

I have received a letter from my son, Lieut Edgar Belcher of Co. E 61st Regt NY S. Vols. in which he states that charges have been preferred against him for sleeping on his post.

Will you please write me about the case and what you think of it.

My son is young and inexperienced, and joined the army only from his wish to serve his country and contrary to our wishes.

He states that the charge against him is not true, but that if Capt Jackson and some men in his interest, swear to it, he does not know what to do.

I shall take immediate steps in relation to it, and I could refer you to Col Cone in regard to my son and myself.

I can not yet make myself believe that any harm is to come to my son, and I wish to do all in my power to protect him. May I not depend, General, on you to do all that you can honorably to see justice done to him, and that when his case comes to trial he may have as able Counsel and defence as is possible.

When will the trial take place?

What preparations will be necessary on the part of the Lieutenant?

I regret to trouble you as I am aware that your time must be greatly engrossed in duties connected with your position, but I feel that you will not turn away from a Father's pleadings.

Do write me at once, and address to me as follows

Jam E Belcher
care Jefferson Insurance Co
No 60 Wall St
N. York

1573 2/5/1862

From: Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1530

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[35]

Auburn, Feb. 5, 1862

Dearest

I have just received and read your letter written last sunday morning. I dont like to have you sad or homesick, but if you are I do wish you to say so. You must do as I do, never sit down to think. Somebody asked me the other day if I felt contented here. I had to stop a moment before I could answer her, for I came here to stay a certain length of time, and if I find everything pleasant so much the better, but if not, I can enjoy what is, and not grumble at the rest. I had never thought whether I was contented or not. I know I could under some circumstances make myself very discontented here. My paper has been lost every day this week and I have seen nothing to-day, and nothing this week but yesterdays "Boston Herald".

I am glad you enclosed the letter you did. Grace wanted me to read what Papa present was going to be. Guy, Grace and I went over to Uncle Hicks to-day, called at the P. Office on our way home just about dark. We took tea and then I came up stairs to write. When it was time I put the children to bed. I did as Jamie sleeps with Aunt Sarah every night. Some nights he does not wake at all and some times he cries. He is having some more teeth. He is just about as large now as Guy was when you went to Florida, but is much more go ahead and mischievous. He talks a great deal about "Pa-pa" because he hears it from the rest so much. I some times think he would call you "papa" if you were to come home and he should first see you in uniform by your Photo. He is always perfectly happy when I will let him have that and keeps repeating "papa, papa" and keeps walking very fast, but with such short steps that he does not get ahead any at scarcely. They are all asleep now.

Glad to hear the sick list is diminishing. I do hope you may continue to have good health. How is Charlie. I am so much obliged to him for writing me such good letters of late. I hope he will continue to find time to do so occasionally.

Where is the 3d Maine now? What is at Edsalls Hill? How far from your encampment do the (your) pickets go?

I cannot write more to-night and I hardly think I will have any time in the morning to write before its mail time. All letters go in the noon train, all that are going south. I do want you to write often. I don't look for you home on a visit now. My kindest regards to all with you and best love to yourself, from

Your Lizzie

1574 2/6/1862

From: Lieut Edgerton

To: General [OO Howard]

OOH-1531

H'd Qr's 1st Brigade
Camp California

Source: Bowdoin

[37]

[ca Feb 5, 1862 written in pencil]

Lieut Edgerton,

General

In behalf of the non-com officers of the 2nd Vermont Regt. allow me to tender to your acceptance this sword. It is but a poor token of our esteem for you as a man & an officer. You will remember, general, that we received our first lessons in the military profession under you and we are anxious to shew our appreciation of the able manner in which you dealt with us. We have had hard work to confine our list of Donors to the non-commissioned officers, for all officers & soldiers wished to bear a part & show the high esteem & affection they bear you. Take this sword & the motto engraved upon it *Palmas qui meruit ferat. Tuum est.* [The palm belongs to him who deserves it. It is thine.] You will not receive it for its intrinsic value, but you will value it for our sakes. Wear this belt & this sash & carry this sword, till you & this country we love are crowned with the laurels of victory.

[Written in another hand on the back of the letter]

Address of Lt. Edgerton on behalf of N.C. Officers Vt. 2d Regt Presenting sword &c to Gen. Howard Feb 6th 1862 H'd Qr's 1st Brigade Camp California

F

1575 2/6/1862

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1532

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters
Howard's
Brigade

[38]

Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade February 6th 1862

My dearest wife

I often mean to write you; when I set apart a time, in comes a Colonel or someone who demands attention, and I have to sit & talk, but Capt Sewall & Charlie turn around immediately & go to writing. So it has been this evening; until tattoo Col Miller & Major Cramer of the 81st Penn were here, also Dr Palmer. Just before they went out, in came Lt Col. Bingham & Major Brooks of the 64th N. York. Now Lt. Ballack has come in for the evening reading and prayers. So goes the evening. I think I shall separate myself into the dining room so as to accomplish more.

I have been anxious to write you & tell you of my good piece of fortune today. You received the letter of Lt. Col Stannard Vt. 2nd & are therefore prepared beforehand. Today a committee of two Lieutenants, just promoted from Sergeants & the Commissary Sergeant came to these headquarters with a sword, a sash & a belt. The sword Capt. Sewall said one of them said, was worth 150 dollars & the sash was a very large & beautiful one, rich buff, wide with large tassels as good as McClellan's. The belt of Russian leather & embroidered. I should like to show them to you. The sword scabbard is silver mounted with a Latin inscription on one side: *Palinam qui meruit ferat. Tuum est.* Let him bear the palm who merits it. It is thine.

One of the Lieutenants presented it in behalf of the non-commissioned officers with a few remarks in perfectly good taste, full of flattering remembrances. I replied as I took these gifts in a few words & gave them a letter to carry with them to read to the non-commissioned officers. I had a good dinner prepared for their reception & with Capt Sewall accompanied them on their way back for two or three miles to show them a shorter way home. They are in Genl Brooks Brigade, Smith's division. They say they have never ceased to be sorry they left me. And indeed this Vt. 2nd & the R.I. 4th were splendid regiments of men.

I am anxious to hear from you again to hear if Guy got through his indigestion without any more fever.

Yesterday evening I took Mr Miles & visited the 3d Maine, called on Capt Watson, found three ladies, his wife, Mrs Dr Hildreth & Miss Smith, Mrs Sampsons sister quietly esconced in the buck. tent or <house>, with everything in tip-top-lady like order. Went next to Col Staples log house found him & Mrs Staples enjoying domestic comfort. Went to Lt. Col Sampson's – found Mrs Sampson.

We called first at the Hospital., saw one of Charlie's friends very sick, a Mr Morrill of Vassalboro, with dyptheria. I talked with him I fear he felt unprepared to die. Today he is dead. I talked with him quietly & tried to direct his thoughts to God, but he said he had been talked to, much by his parents, & to the end he declared he was unprepared. Oh, he was gloomy. He said he believed he would try to pray, but I feared he would'nt & could'nt. It is terrible to be cut off so.

I dined at Genl Sedgwick's head quarters with Dr. McCruer, Capt Owen, Capt Smith & Capt Sedgwick, their Genl having been gone two weeks in Washington on a Court Martial & still absent.

After dinner at ½ past 5 or 6 P.M. we went to Mr Fowle's nearby the 3d Maine Regt. & called upon Miss McCruer. Here I found a little boy Bernard Fowle, called Birdie, with rosy cheeks & bright eyes – just the age of Guy. He is the one I drew in the donkey cart. I had a good kiss from him before I came away. He looked so much like my little boy Guy. Tell Gracie that there was a little girl there, but she was larger than the boy, & a little colored girl came to the door.

Today after we left the non-commissioned officer & officers of the Vt. 2nd we went & called upon Mr Adams the

clergyman of the Maine 5th. Col Jackson, Lt. Col Heath & Major Scammon being absent. We had an interesting call & talk with Mr Adams. What a good, good man he is. I wish there were more chaplains like him. I think he knows your Mr Adams. He is brother to Dr Adams of New York City.

Kiss the little ones. Ask Jamie if he would know papa. Chas. sends love.

Affectionately your husband
Otis

Capt S. would be offended if you did not go to see Mrs Sewall if you should go to Bath. Of course you would go to see her.

I have'nt drawn <my> pay yet.

Has mother come to see you yet?

Love to Aunt, to Eva, Minnie and Orestes.

1577 2/10/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1533

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

[39]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Feb 10 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I wish to write you a few lines & tell you that I was made quite happy be getting your & Gracie's picture. Yours is very good & Gracie is a pretty little girl, but her hair is dark & I am afraid I shall not know her. She is growing to be such a great girl. Little Guy & Jamie did not appear. You combed your hair down pretty close, which makes you look a little odd. I cannot thank you too much. I am getting rich in presents.

You did'nt say whether Guy had gotten well, but I presume he had for you said they were all asleep & stopped there. I am glad to find you so philosophical – that you do not stop to be discontented. I generally have so much to occupy me that I do not get very restless.

This morning I told the Colonels at Reveille that I would have a short march with the entire Brigade in Knapsacks. This will occupy us till eleven A.M. Then we have the meeting of the examining board in this tent. One of our Colonels, Colonel Cone, was complained of, by his officers for inefficiency and I have had him brought before the Board. We examined him all one day & are to give him another trial today.

You asked where is Edsall's Hill. I think I will make you a map soon. This hill is on the right hand of the rail road as you go out from Alexandria towards Manassas 7 miles out, three miles from here. The enemy occupied it just after I left Mrs. Scotts. There our division sends a regiment without tents for four days. We have 11 Regiments to do picket duty.

Charlie is well. So is Capt Sewall. When you going to Bath? Capt S says Go directly to my house. Mrs S does not set upon points of etiquette & wants to see you.

Many kisses to the children. When shall I get Guys & Jamie's <picture>.

Most affectionately Yr husband
Otis

My love to Aunt, Minnie, Eva & Orestes, Aunt Betsy, Uncle Adams & wife, Uncle Hicks & family.

1578 2/10/1862 *From:* Maria [(Otis)
Merrick]

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1534

West Phil.

Source: Bowdoin

[40]

West Phil. Monday Feb 10 [1862]

Dear Lizzie

I intended to have written you a note before this time telling you of the Mordecais – Maj. and his wife were here not very long ago. The young ladies have about ten scholars in their school. I am going to see them again very soon. I saw Mrs. Greble a week or two ago. She requested very affectionately after you and Otis, said she had thought of writing you. She has no nurse and is of course very busy as she teaches our boy, her <[torn page]> sisters, She seems to be anxious to be busy as she says that is the best comfort in trouble. It seems to be a great pleasure to her to think Otis is godfather to her little Clara. Mr French was here for a few days not long ago Mrs Greble says he is very much wearied out as he has had no assistance at all in teaching and he misses Otis very much in his other duties.

The Mordecai's have taken a very nice house indeed and I suppose their son helps them as much as possible. The son was very devoted to Otis and did not want to leave him his mother says.

My children are all very well. Sam goes to school for the first time today. I suppose Guy goes.

Write me when you can. Miss Berard is teaching Mary French this winter and another young lady. She was here for a week or two this winter. Her history is very highly spoken of. Give my love to Rowland and Ella. Good bye

Affly your cousin
Maria [(Otis) Merrick]

Private

P.S. How does Sarah [(Lee) Sargent] get along, has she means enough to make her comfortable. I wish you would write me about her as I have no way of knowing.

1580 2/11/1862 *From:* Alfred Mordecai

To: My dear Friend [OO
Howard]

OOH-1535

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[43]

West Point N.Y.
February 11th 1862

My dear Friend

Your note of the 8th was received by me this morning and I will not allow a day to pass without writing to you.

Your letter of October last containing the money was duly received and if I had done as I intended I should have answered it without delay, but I put it off so much that I at last imagined it was not necessary and satisfied my conscience when writing one day to Linith – your old Commissary by telling him that I had received your letter.

I have never even congratulated you on your promotion which allow me to do now. I know you do not care for the rank, but since you have determined to serve in the war it is pleasanter to be a Brig Genl than a Col. I have heard of you several times since I left Alexandria, from Sureth & also from Buel and I frequently speak of you to your friends on the point all of whom will be glad to hear something of you. I have often concluded how your wife was for when I saw her here she looked overworked & anxious though she declared she was perfectly well.

All here are as usual only more quiet than formerly, not the place it used to be in that respect. Mr. and Mrs. Church have been very well all winter. Capt Blunt not yet returned from Pickens but expected every steamer. French family all the same. Wheeler, Mendell, Craighill & Benet & families all well and the same as when you were here. Berards also well as is Col Bowman & family: amongst the single officers there has been changes. The maj the same as ever has been sick twice during the winter but is now well. I live in his addition where Symonds & Carling lived at different times. The Comdt is Garrard a Capt in 5th Cav a very fine man & an excellent Comdt much liked by the cadets. The Tactical officers all changed, are now Whistler & Hopkins of 3d Inf. Phillips of 1st & Adams, of my class of <61>. All very good but the latter who is too young. Piper of 3d Art is the Maj's Assistant in Chemistry a very nice man too; he & Garrard I suppose were 1st Classmen when you were a Plebe. Prof Church has Wheeler, Elderkin, who has just come & myself, has also 4 Cadet Assistants for the 4th class is very large, forms more than half the Corps. Boynton who used to be here in Chemistry is Adjutant & Quartermaster. Prof French has only Hopkins in his Dept. also two Cadets one of whom is Mr Smith; the latter named has I think greatly improved seems more of a man; stands very well indeed in his studies will I believe graduate in the fives. The Sunday school under the hill has been merged into the one at the Chapel & I think Mr Smith is one of its Pillars; he gives very general satisfaction to the Officers. Dr McDougall has been ordered off does not yet know where he is to be stationed. His daughters I suppose you know are married, the eldest to Buel the other to Babbitt they are both in the Ordnance now, Buel at Watervliet, Babbitt at Pittsburgh. I also am in that Corps, having been transferred, lost rank by it as I was a 1st Lt in Topogs & am 2nd now.

I know you were disappointed in me & I do not blame you for I was so myself. I did not intend that you should be but after Bull Run, I became very much disgusted with things generally & Volunteers in particular & I did not know enough to get over it; think I should do better now. I meddled in things that I had no business with & I know you saw it and I fear I have at times made myself very disagreeable to you & even hurt your feeling I now regret it very much. I never wished to come here and was sorry to leave the field but now that I am settled I find it pleasant enough; shall leave certainly in June.

I was in Philadelphia at Christmas a couple of days found them all well; my Father in fair spirits but well, has nothing to do which is a great worry to him & his family; my two oldest Sisters <> as well as they could wish with their school & seem perfectly contented. The only source of worry is that Father can find nothing that he will do or rather thinks he ought to do whilst remaining perfectly neutral.

I heard of your brother once I think through Mrs Greble whom I saw in Phila & who told me that she had seen

him. Please give my kind regards to him & also Mrs Sampson when you see her. I believe you are in Sumner's Division. If so you must be about where we used to be on the Little River Turnpike. I should like very much to go through our Camps once before you all move, but I suppose I shall not have the chance as by next June they will not be where they are now.

I have written more than I intended but I hope some of it will interest you. If so I shall be very glad. I enclose \$2 which is coming to you & which will make us, I believe, perfectly square. If you should hear of any one whom I owe anything just ask him to let me know. I left so hurriedly that I did not settle my accounts

Remember me most kindly to your wife when you write. Hoping always to hear of your good health & success in what ever you undertake. Believe me most kindly

Yours,
Alfred Mordecai [USMA Class of 1861]

Maj Kendrick begs to be most kindly remembered.

1581 2/11/1862

From: John J. Foote

To: Gen. O. O. Howard

OOH-1536

Source: Bowdoin

UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
CAPITOL OF THE
UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES
Washington City

[42]

[Letterhead]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington City Febr 11 1862

Private

Gen. O. O. Howard
Dr Sir

You kindly allowed me an interview with you in relation to the complaint made by officers in the 61st Reg. against Col Cone. Therefore I feel almost forbidden to trespass again upon your time, but my own anxiety, and the anxiety of others who with me have been instrumental in organizing the Companies of Captains Broady, Brooks & Deming press me, to again call the matter up for consideration. I am satisfied that the Reg. can never be efficient under Col Cones Command. There is such a want of affinity between him and his subordinate officers, that they cannot in the nature of things do as they would under a person in whom they had confidence. They think he lacks executive ability.

This is no new thing. The friends of these companies consented to their joining the Regiment under the impression that Col Cone not only had received a military education & every way competent, but that his Reg. together with the 3 companies of the Captains mentioned would make the Regiment complete. I do not know that Col. Cone represented that he had received a military education, but it was so said & believed, & also said he was fully competent to discharge the duties of Colonel. It was represented to a young man whom I sent to New York to make enquiries that 400 or 500 men were at that time enlisted for the Reg. when in fact there were only about 50. These companies at this time could have gone into the Ellsworth Reg. then being organized in Albany – that is a large portion of them, but such were the representations that they chose the 61st Reg. They have from the first almost, to this time, been sadly disappointed. They soon saw that Col. Cone not only lacked executive ability but lacked those elements of character necessary in order to obtain & hold the confidence of men of their intelligence & high moral character.

You have in that Reg. a large number of young men of superior intelligence & of high moral & Religious Character, and they are men too, who are brave – ardent in their attachment for free institutions, and if led to the battlefield by a Colonel in whom they have Confidence they will be an honor to your brigade & to your Division. Give them a Colonel in whose ability they have Confidence & battle they will display a valor & a bravery of which you will not be ashamed. I am satisfied from observations I made that they are governed by no improper motives. I know they are patriotic. They may be ambitious, but it is an ambition to serve their country. They risk their lives for their country, willingly, but don't want to risk their lives under circumstances where there will be no probable gain to their country. Had they not been influenced by patriotism they would never have enlisted. Feeling as they do, I think that unless there can be some change, they would all instantly resign their command were it not for the obligations they feel they are under to those who have chosen them to their respective commands. There is no obstacle so great to a soldier who desires to do his duty as a want of confidence in a superior officer – an officer who has the control of their action in a time of the greatest moment.

They have perfect confidence in you. This feeling I think is universal with their men, but none whatever in Col Cone. Now it may be said that Col. Cone passes a good examination, but is that enough. Ought not a Col. to

be able to obtain the confidence of his men. He might get along perhaps if he was simply unpopular if they only had confidence in his ability. Often military men are somewhat unpopular, when there exists a confidence in their ability; but unhappily Col Cone is not only unpopular with his subordinate officers, but they have no confidence in his ability.

During our conversation, you intimated that perhaps you could appoint Col Cone to some other office, Brigade Inspector I think you mentioned. Now, wont, you do so. For the sake of these men I hope you will if you can possibly make it consistent to do so. I can readily see why Col. Cone will dislike to broke of his command, but I have no doubt he would willingly accept of another post. I think under the circumstances, he (unless he can have some other place) ought to resign & that, without delay. I make no charges against Col. Cone personally. The misrepresentation is mentioned in regard to his qualifications & number of his Regiment to which I have alluded. I do not know as having been made by him, and I have only mentioned them to show the influences which induced their joining his Reg. & their consequent disappointment on finding they had by some person been imposed upon.

In Madison, Chenango and Onondaga Counties there is much feeling in behalf of the young men who have gone from those counties, and in behalf of the friends of the young men in those counties, & especially in behalf of the officers referred to & their friends, allow me to entreat you, to relieve them if you can possibly in any honorable way do so, any way consistent with your duty as the General of the Brigade. Of course, I do not ask you to do any thing improper to be done, & I know your high sense of honor & propriety would prevent, if I or any other person or persons were to ask it. But I am confident that if another place can be given to Col. Cone, or if there is no such place for him, if he in view of all the circumstances can be persuaded to resign, it will add much to the efficiency of the 61st Reg. & will be very gratifying to a large number of the friends of many of the Regiment.

I have written you quite freely, having been assured by you that there would be no impropriety in my exposing to you fully my views & feelings. You enquired of me whether more volunteers could be obtained for the Reg. I told you that under present circumstances there could not, but I think if there is a change in the Colonelcy – that with the present indication of a more determined course on the part of the Administration in regard to the war as is now indicated, that after one or two more victories we shall be able to send forward more recruits. We cannot certainly in any event unless there is a change of commander of the Reg. If a change is made we will make an effort to send forward recruits. I hope for the good of the Reg. & for the good of the young men who are dissatisfied & for the sake of their friends & of the cause we all have at heart a change will be made.

Most Respectfully your Obdt. Servt
John J. Foote

1579 2/10/1862 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest Otis][OO
Howard\

OOH-1537

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[41]

Auburn Feb 10, 1862

Dearest Otis

I have received two long letters since I wrote you. I am more than pleased when you write me often. I tried to have our Photographs taken last week but failed. We intend to go again soon when it is a pleasant sunshiny day.

Grace and Jamie are recovering from chicken pox. I suppose that was what ailed Guy about two weeks since. He most likely took it of someone and gave it to the others.

I had a treat last evening. I heard Dr. <Nollam> (T. Titcomb) lecture "Working and Shirking" the subject. It was capital as Blanche used to say. I wish you could hear it or see it reported.

I have spent nearly all the evening reading the Boston Journal of to-day. It contains "Carlitan's" account of the Capture of Fort Henry" but you of course see it. What a good reply Com. Foote made to the one who "feared he was nervous and did not sleep well." It also contains a short letter from Col. Cross "to the patriotic people of N. Hamshire.

I heard read an extract from a private letter written by a lady in N. Hamshire declining an invitation to spend Thanksgiving with a friend for she had so much work on her hands in work for the soldiers, that she would feel condemned to be seeking a more personal pleasure at such a time as this when so much could be done by the ladies. This is'nt all because I have forgotten, neither is it as beautifully expressed. I cried when I heard it read, from joy and sympathy, and wished this feeling was more universal.

Evening 13th. Jamie is so restless lately I do not get much time to write. He has been asleep once before this evening, but waked and I kept him a while. Now he is asleep. Thomas (and his dog <Liam>) was down here today to see us. Guy was glad to see the dog. He is much interested in "Castor" wonders if Papa will bring him home, thinks he might send him home by express or some way, but I had as lief you would keep him. I have babies enough (Bunnie included) to take care of at present.

The pictures you cut from books or papers are not as welcome as "papa's written pictures". Guy is writing to Susan. I shall try to have him finish it to-morrow. We often speak of what Susan used to do and say. Col. Gilmore has stopped the "Portland Advertiser" and now takes the "Boston Journal". He said "<wherefore> the politics had changed somewhat (by change of Editors) and he was not going to take a Democratic paper, nor one that advocated such principles". I have not yet had a visit from Mother. I wrote to her day before yesterday a short note and enclosed Lt. Col. Howard letter. I read of the presentation in to-days B. Journal.

The children are quite well but will not go out for a day or two. Grace said last evening before she went to sleep that I must send a kiss to papa for her, and for Guy, Jamie, and Minnie, which they all endorsed.

I hope they will cut down the pay of the Army and keep as much in the treasury as they can. There does'nt seem to be much just now, but I don't think Government will have to fail.

You visited quite a number of Ladies the other day I should think, but I think I am as well off as any of those you saw. I have not been to Bath. I hardly think I shall at present. I should go to see Mrs Sewall if I visit no one else. Ella will be coming home soon I presume. I have not heard from her since she went there.

I will send this without writing more, but I would like to say a great deal more. I think I will begin to believe the War is almost ended. I am in no need of money. I have the Gold Mrs Woodman received from her husband for you, and I deposited over two hundred dollars in Auburn bank lately. I have none by me now, and shall take out

twenty five to-morrow.

Much love to Charlie. If you were not together I should feel that I must write him also. As it is he gets neglected, but I love him just as much and think of him as often.

Yours ever,
Lizzie

1582 2/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1538

Head Quarters Camp
California

Source: Bowdoin

[45]

Head Quarters Camp California
Feb 13 1862

Dearest Lizzie

I found a little gilt locket at the <> of the 64th N.Y & got him to fit you & Grace into it. Now I have you two suspended at my watch chain, not gaudily for you know I have my coat buttoned most of the time in military style. Charlie thinks you look a little too serious. Is Gracie getting rosy & fat cheeks again?

What good news we are having from Burnside & what useful from Kentucky. Yesterday after the days duties Capt Sewall & I accepted an invitation to take a cup of tea at the 3d Maine. We took a straight road through mud & slope & brook and found ourselves face to face with Perry. He was just getting ready to go to the new Theatre – the Minstrells from New York & the Misses Hudson, but I declined going – dont think much of theatre any way & far less of theatres in the field in front of an enemy.

We found Mrs Sampson, her sister Miss Smith & Col Sampson just ready to sit down to tea. We had a pleasant chat. Mrs Sampson said when I come over there she sometimes wished it was you I was going to see instead of herself for my sake & yours – didnt say whether she wished she was my wife. It seemed so didnt it?

I called into Mr Richards this evening the man whose place we are in. She insisted on telling me that Mr Richards said he would die for me, & he would tell that Mr. R said that if he should die & Mrs Howard should, she should set her cap for me. Mrs Richards is a very pretty & ladylike secession woman. Her brother George is in the Rebel Army. This is the second time I have been in the house.

I had'nt finished with the 3d Maine. I called upon the chubby & happy Mrs Staples in their cozy little cabin. There are 8 ladies now in the 3d Me. They dont feel like moving forward you know. It is all very pleasant – pleasant to go there to visit, but I would'nt like to bring you to Camp to stay. Mrs McCruer was at the Misses Frobels, so I called there & found the Dr & Mrs McC, also Mrs Beaumont. So you perceive I have been considerably in lady's society lately.

Capt Sewall accompanied me last night & tonight. Mrs Scott invited me to take Charlie & dine with her Sunday. I expect I told you of that visit in my last letter. I feel very great longing to go home now & then. Success flows in upon us & perhaps we soon can meet.

Kiss the darling fairies for papa. John Hillhouse writes about them by name and speaks of the tall lady with red hair. Sends kind regards. Good night & God bless thee, my precious wife.

Otis

[Written at the top, very faint and poorly written, but in Otis' hand]
Save to Chest in General & family & to my friends

Has Mother been down. Charlie is writing to her. He says having no wife to write to has <> proposes to go to bed.

1583 2/13/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1539

Bath

Source: Bowdoin

[44]

Bath Feb. 13 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

Ella will return to Farmington with me today. She could not get any hat to suit you for Grace here. She is sorry that she could not have attended to it before.

I hope you will write how you all are. I sent the Eclectics & Childe Papers to Littlefield by Mr Goff. Mrs Patten sends her kindest regards & will be very happy to see you at any time you may come.

Mrs Sewall, on whom Ella & I called would like very much to become acquainted with you. She is an excellent Christian woman and is mainly engaged in the labors of the Revival.

Our meetings have been very large & interesting. It was a week Tuesday since I came down and it has been one of the happiest weeks in my life. Hattie hopes she has found Jesus & we are all hoping that Ellas father is coming, if we can only hold on in prayer. Do help us.

I stopped at Leeds one night as I came down. All well there. Tho's baby a week old, & Abby improving.

With a great deal of love for the children & kindest remembrance to yr. Aunt & family.

Yr aff. Bro
Rowland

P.S. Tell Guy quite a no. of little children, no older than he, have become Christians we hope.

1584 2/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1540

Head Quarters Camp
California

Source: Bowdoin

[46]

Head Quarters Camp California
Feb 14 1862

My dearest wife

I believe it is seven years ago tonight when that bonfire of houses took place in Portland & I worked at the engine breaks. Seven a week of years, since we were linked for weal or for woe. I wish I could kiss your forehead tonight & talk about the past, the present & the future. I have your picture with our darling little daughter's next my heart but it cannot smile nor talk, nor cry. How little we know of the future. When we were married, there was home, & mother – others were there & are not now. First Watervliet, the big stone house, the east window, the broken & sliding hill, the homesick little wife, the hopeless face, then the tour. Next Mrs Symington, the poor Majors prominent feature, her good size & strong ways, his goodness of heart – (Mrs Boggs, Miss Mary) Boggs & Shunk, Mrs Thornton with a husband away, waiting & waiting. He did come home.

Kennebec Arsenal. The good people Charlie & Mrs Mulliken. Mrs Williams & Susie Brooks. The happy Dr Briggs, the baby, Guy. How proud & happy we sometimes were. Mrs Clark gone - the discouraged. Back to Troy, leaving our friends & Capt. & Mrs Gorgas, Mulach, The pony, the sleigh, Thomas with his broad laugh, Ellen McCarty & Ella McNierty or McNierny. Jno. Hillhouse & Mrs H. Rowland, Albany, Mr & Mrs Dunlop (did I ever write you that Mr Dunlop had chanced to pay me a visit?) Now came the Orders, the parting, the first family prayer there. A long seven months, Maine again, Little Grace is given, Mother is taken. Home again, a new man, with new hopes, clearer head & clearer heart. You a Christian, Now West Point, with all its friends & associations & its several homes, from the packed room at Roe's to the little kennel at the North gate, thence to the cottage on the rock. Then the Carrols, then the good home, then the war & the runaway.

The wedding at Portland Feb. 1855, First Anniversary at Augusta Feb. 1856, Second Anniversary Florida Feb. 1857, third West Point Feb. 1858, fourth West Point Feb. 1859, Fifth West Point Feb 1860. Sixth West Point Feby 1861. Seventh Camp California near Alexandria Virginia Feb. 1862. We will not skip Dec 1st 1860 nor forget Jamie. Your places are respectively Portland, Augusta, Leeds, West Point & Auburn. How much it would take to fill up all the intervals with events, there is enough to link us closer & closer for time & for Eternity.

I am quite well, drilled the entire Brigade this afternoon. The mud is drying up a little. We have good news from Roanoke Island. We lost but 32 in the action. You know I sent the 4th Rhode Island & I am anxious to hear that they are safe.

Charlie & Capt Sewall are in the other tent. Kiss the children but dont wake them & go to bed. God hasten the time when I may join thee my darling little wife & make amends for the long hours. That is right fill up the time. A mother has much to do & so does he who is trusted with the lives of three thousand men. Pray for me.

Affectionately,
Otis

1585 2/19/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1541a

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade
Camp California

[48]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Camp California Feb 19 1862

Dearest,

I went to Washington Monday taking Charlie & McDonald the Hostler along with me. The latter is a member of the 4th R.I. Regt detached. He wanted to go in order to draw his pay by my assistance. We waded through the mud, via the long bridge, taking as straight a course as possible from my camp to that point. I went Monday to help Col Burt of 3d Maine get an appointment in the regular Army which he desired very much. I got my whiskers <covered> with ice. The first person I met in front of Willards was Major Prince the paymaster whom Gov. Washburn recommended for Brig. Genl. He invited & even directed me to his room to fix up, get dry &c, while Charlie & McDonald went to the P.O. & put up the horses.

After this Major Burt & myself meeting at Willards proceeded to the room of the Secretary of War, or rather that of his chief clerk. Here we found a crowd of people in waiting. At first we could not get near the Hon. Secretary, but soon the smoke took a fortunate turn & came down chimney. The Secretary changed his position to the hall & in following him we were thrown by the wave close by. I extended my papers made my request, introduced Maj Burt, got the homogeneous & polite refusal & a "thank you for coming"; and then retired – went back to Willards thence to the paymaster's, drew my pay for January and now enclose to you, one hundred dollars (\$100.00). I would send you more but you just said you had enough. I went there with Chas & McDonald & settled his pay matters.

Now Charlie & I paid a visit to Mr Carrolls. We met Miss Garry, Miss Glida, & Mrs Mercer at first. Mrs C. was lying down with sick head aches. She sent her love & request for us to dine & then come & stay all night. We went down Pennsylvania Avenue. I bought a new coat, overcoat, with semi-cape without sleeves. I think you would call it a Talma. I got also a military book, Jomini [The Art of War] translated by Lt Craighill & Mendell at West Point.

By the way I had a long letter from Mordecai at West Point. He inquired very kindly after you & the children.

We went back to Mrs Carrolls, met Dr Mercer & Mrs Carroll, saw Susan, who seemed delighted to meet us. Mrs C was better & in the evening we went & called on Pitt Fessenden & then returned to Judge Carrolls & spent a delightful evening. Mrs Griffin was quite unwell, with neuralgia. Griffin was in when I first got there. Mrs & Judge C wanted to be remembered to you. Sprigg is doing himself honor with McClellan. The next day we saw Mrs Farwell & her little girl. Then went to meet her husband. He said his tenant will not leave till the 29 of March.

Much love & many kisses to yourself & the little ones. When I can I shall make some more "written pictures". God bless thee.

Otis

1586 2/20/1862

From: Thomas Francis
Meagher
Brig. General

To: Brigadier General
Howard

OOH-1542

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters
Irish Brigade Sumner's
Division

[50]

Head Quarters
Irish Brigade Sumner's Division
Feby 20/62

General,

I accept with pleasure your very kind invitation and will do myself the honor to see you at the hour named in your note.

Very Respectfully
Thomas Francis Meagher
Brig. General

To
Brigadier General Howard

1587 2/22/1862 *From:* Uncle E. Waite

To: Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

OOH-1543

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

[51]

Portland Feby 22 1862

Mrs Elizabeth A. Howard

Dear Niece

This to inform you that I have collected the Interest on Coupons of your Treasury Notes amounting to \$14.60 the interest on the notes when purchased.

I paid leaving balance due me at the time 96 cents leaving now due to you \$13.64 which I would enclose if I was sure of your present place of residence. Please write me where I shall send.

Hoping this will find you and Children all well.

I remain Your Affectionate
Uncle
E. Waite

P.S. We are all well and all join in love to you and all yours.

1588 2/22/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1544

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

[52]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Feb. 22 1862

My dearest Lizzie

The 22nd of Feb is just past. Though invited by a resolution of Congress to be present at the Capital at the presentation of the Secession flags & other trophies to Congress I concluded when apprized of certain rumors of attack not to leave my Brigade. I have not granted a pass today. At ten A.M. I formed my Brigade in four columns in mass [small diagram showing the formation] and first had a piece by our Band, then a prayer by Mr. Hilberd Chaplain of the 64th. A second piece of music by another Band. After this I stood on the box and read Washington's farewell address to the Brigade. When about half through the New Hampshire battery, having come to pay Col Cross a visit, arrived & formed in the open space behind me. I closed the men up as compactly as possibly & think I made all attentive people hear. After this I spoke to them a few minutes. Then we had Washington's grand march played by the third Band. We then united in singing "America". After this was over, I formed the columns [diagram showing the formation] then [diagram showing a new formation]. Now the New Hampshire battery fired a salute of 34 guns, and the regiments were dismissed. In the afternoon we had a drill. Col Cross using his regiment to support the battery, i.e. drawing up his regiment in line in rear of the battery while it was firing and moving out to the front of it as soon as it ceased to fire, & opening himself with muskets.

I expect Guy would have been considerably excited over the events of today had he been here.

You will have read of the death of Willie Lincoln before this reaches you & perhaps think how the Lord tempers prosperity with sorrow. I hope He in infinite wisdom may make President Lincoln a Christian like George Washington. My trust is not in princes but in God; but no auspices are more satisfactory & promising than the work of the Lord in raising up men after his own heart to hold the rule.

The inauguration of Jefferson Davis, encroaching upon the anniversary of Washington's birthday is not by any means in joy or hope. Washington City & Richmond are shadowed in sorrow and I am hoping that good will come to us from both events. How calm, how firm, how constant a man can be if he has a real trust in his Divine Master. He knows, he feels, that events are in Good Hands & that all will be well - "Jehovah Jireh".

I have packed up my trunk with my white shirts, spare coats, spare books &c. &c. & sent it to Washington. My horse can carry all my baggage now except my tent, bedstead & mattress. We may not move, but it is my impression we shall before long.

A paper or letter sent me some months or more ago to the Washington P.O. asking me to give a sketch of my life came to hand when I was over in Washington last. Charles has concluded to answer it. So he is writing about me tonight. The editor or publisher wants to make a book of record of all the "Union Generals" engaged in this contest. I have expressly forbidden Charles to praise me in any of his Boston Correspondence & not to mention me only when he cannot help it. In this letter I do not wish him to appear & hardly know what to think of the propriety of his sketch. I am inclined to think it may tend to do good to the cause of Christ by making it prominent that I lean upon the Arms of the Lord, & it may tend to increase my usefulness or be a pleasant legacy to my children in case of disaster.

How is little Grace tonight. Papa has got her with mamma (in miniature) close to his heart. Papa has a sorrowful truth to tell Guy. Some wicked man has stolen "Castor" & papa cannot find him. Susan hung upon every word I spoke about you all. She is quite pale & very, very thin. How is Jamie now. How the chicken pox.

Good night my dearest wife. The beginning of the end is drawing near. Love to Aunt & family Most lovingly to yourself & the children,

Your husband
Otis

1589 2/23/1862 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: My dearest Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1546

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

[53]

Auburn Feb 23, 1862

My dearest Otis

I have just returned from Sunday School concert. Took Guy with me and left Grace home to sit up till I should return. I put them both to bed after she told me about the story Aunt Sarah read to her. As it is but little past eight o'clock I will write a short letter to mail to-morrow. I fear I did not write you at all last week. I hope you have not been anxious about us. We are all quite well. I must have spent more time reading the papers and <bible> than usual. We thought my picture hardly worth sending, but for fear I could not get another for some time I concluded best to send it.

Our pleasant days are very few. I have to improve every pleasant day to pay visits, or they accumulate too fast. I wish to get over my bad habit with regard to visiting. I want to seem to have more energy. Mrs Stinson has just returned from Augusta, where she has been to say good-by to her husband [David Stinson]. He is Quarter Master in Col. Dow's Regiment. I am glad you have such good (?) secession friends as Mr and Mrs Richards. What is in locket No. 2? You said there were eight ladies in the 3d Maine. Is it they who do not feel like moving forward, or the Reg't? Glad Mr Dunlop has been to see you. I also looked for the welfare of the 4th Rhode Island. They are under another Ordnance Officer Gen. Reno.

Do you have much time for general reading. Would you like any books sent you. I have been reading "Lessons in Life", Timothy <Strand>. I would like you to read the book.

Aunt Betsey and Uncle Alden took tea with us to-night. She says Jamie will know his father, he hears so much about pa-pa and is familiar with his pictures that she dont see why he wont. I think a great deal of her opinion on any subject, and hope this will prove correct.

Give much love to Charlie. Grace is writing to pa-pa but I dont know as she will finish in time to send it in this. I mean she has a letter commenced, and I will try to have her finish it in the morning.

Good night now, dearest. I hope the war will be ended soon. It looks more like it now I think.

Ever your own true wife,
Lizzie

1590 2/23/1862 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Charles H Howard

OOH-1547

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[54]

Leeds Feb 23, 1862

My dear Son Charles

Last evening we were made glad by the arrival of a letter from you of the 16, although a week old, owing to the snow storms. We have not had our mails regular for several days. I have written quite a number of letters to you this winter – two weeks ago this evening I wrote you. You have not mentioned any of my letters in yours. Perhaps they miscarry. You cannot write anything to your mother that is not interesting. Even the names of those with whom you associate are pleasant to me because they are your companions from day to day in your duties. I have sometimes thought of writing to Otis, and then I would think Lizzie writes to him and I will write to Charles and write Otis another time. But when you write you never have mentioned my letters, but I gathered from something Otis said in his letter to me that one of my letters had reached you.

I think a great deal about you this winter and hope you do not dispond. We have some reason to believe, that this terrible rebellion is on the wane, and our sons will soon return to their homes, those of them who do not fall a sacrifice to this great calamity. I am greatly obliged to you for describing your surroundings. Perhaps ere this you are on the march towards the enemy. I hope you feel safe to trust our Lord and Saviour with your Soul. Death is sure to us sooner or later.

We have had a sermon on that subject today from Mr Chapin on the funeral occasion of Mrs Rackley death. She died suddenly at Livermore falls a few days since, and her remains were brought into our church at noon today, where the funeral services were performed. It was truly an interesting day to me. There were a large collection of mourners and friends. Some lingered a long while over her coffin as though it was pleasant to their view. From my earliest recollections, I look back upon her, as the same calm example of propriety to the day of her death. She has been a member of our Baptist Church for 22 years. These things dont interest you as they do me, as young as you are. Mr C.'s text was, there is but a step between me and death 1. Sam. 20. Chap. 3 Verse.

Mr Isaiah Additon's family have fallen sick with diptheria the ten days past, and one daughter died seven years old, and it is thought the others will recover. I was very sorry to hear of the death of your friend Mr Merrill. It is indeed hard for his parents. But O, Charlie how many bleeding hearts there are in the land this very minute but our heavenly father suffers it to be so, no doubt for some wise purpose.

There is somewhat more attention to the subject of religion in North Leeds and at North Turner Bridge meetings are frequent and some have professed to a change of heart. How much I do hope, that God will appear for us. I have been benighted and hardened myself but I feel as though my saviour had appeared for me, and I feel an increased confidence to call on him for help in time of need, and the scripture seems indeed precious to my soul.

I should have gone to Farmington last week to spend one day if the storm had not prevented. Rowland thinks the attention of the people are somewhat called to the subject of religion in that place. I have not heard from Lizzie and the dear little ones the past week. Had a letter from Rodelphus last evening written his birth day, his twentyeth birth day. He said he should think parents would feel old to have their youngest son 20 years old, and indeed it is so. [Eliza b. in 1804 is 58 at this time.] I have been reminded of it particularly today, while seeing many of my old acquaintances that formerly were my companions in youth bald headed and grey headed with their children and grandchildren around them. Time carries us along and there certainly but a step between us and death.

Deacon Pettengill is very low, prostrated by sickness. I cannot help having a strong hope that he may yet be spared to us. Our church is fast thinning out, must thy children die so soon .

Your father's health is good, seldom coughs. Everything goes along well with us. I saw Brother Ensign today.

He was one of the bearers, and seemed well. Laura was with him. We have a great deal of snow, high drifts, but the Thermometer has been 40 degrees above zero. Roland and Cynthia and Children go along about the same.

It is reported in the neighborhood that Josie Keene has rallied somewhat under Doct. Loring practice. It is three weeks since he began to visit her. I have not seen her this winter. I seldom leave home unless some special duty calls.

Eliza Ann Perley came and talked to me after the funeral services. She told me Peleg had been confined to his bed with sickness two months and in the mean time his son three years and half old died with croup. Otis will feel to sympathize with him in his trouble, as an old friend and Chum and classmate.

I am in hopes to have more time to write letters and shall be able to write to Otis soon. My heart is always with him as well as yourself. When you see our Leeds boys remember me to them. If opportunity presents, tell them I still pray for them. I spoke with Dexter's mother today. She said a letter from him to his brother in law last evening he spoke of a forward march, but our papers do not say anything of it so I think it has not commenced. I was glad to hear that General Sumner had returned to his command. Hope he will recover his full strength. I see Col. Staples name in some paper saying he had captured a pianoforte for his log house. I saw Capt Foss's wife at the funeral with her father in law and Mother in law quite young and pretty. I understand she has lately returned here from her husband.

Your father has just ask if I had not nearly done writing. You have never answered my letter where I wrote you I had taken a note of your father for your money and whether you had ordered your trunk sent here from Bangor &c. Hope to hear soon from you.

From your affectionate mother
Eliza Gilmore

Charles H Howard

1591 2/24/1862 *From:* John R. Bacon

To: My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1548

New York

Source: Bowdoin

[25]

New York
Feby 24/62

My Dear Howard

I have just been looking at your "Carte de Visite" and at the autographic "yours faithfully" at foot of same.

I know you never say, or write, more or less than you mean, therefore, as I know your time is valuable, I go at once into the more immediate occasion of this note

My youngest brother George, about 24 is a first Lieut in the 91st Regt N.Y.S.V. now at Key West. He was a member of the 7th Regt and with them at Washington, a good soldier, full of muscle and health, pluck &c, and he wants very much, (and so do I) to get on some General Officers staff, or would be especially glad to get a commission in the regular service. A thousand words are no better in this matter than the precise number needed to ask you the simple question if you can aid him in the accomplishment of his wishes, and thereby rendering him a service and very much obliging me.

I hope you are in good health and that you may soon lead your men to victory.

Genl Grant & his brother officers in that region will steal all the honors from you if you dont take care.

I trust you get good accounts from Mrs Howard & the dear children. I was truly sorry to hear of poor Sarahs affliction, what a sad thing for her. May the Good shepherd comfort her.

We are all, thank God, quite well. Mrs Bacon desires her warmest wishes for you welfare and kind remembrances.

I commend you, my dear Howard, to Gods mercy and care and am, with sentiments of strongest regard & friendship

Affectionately your friend
John R. Bacon

1592 2/24/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1549

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[55]

Farmington
Feb. 24, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

I enclose a note from Maria that came in a letter to Sarah.

There is considerable religious interest here. We have had Daily & Evening meetings for a week and there are as many as 15 Inquirers and a few converts. Christians are waking up & we feel that God is about to grant us a great blessing. Pray for us.

It has been a long time since I have heard from you and the dear children. Wont you write a few lines. Give my love to each of them.

Yr. aff. Brother,
Rowland

Our Church was packed full to hear Mr Hammond last night, and 75 stopped at the Inquiry meeting.

Sarah & family are well now.

1594 2/25/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1545

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade
Camp California

Source: Bowdoin

[56]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Camp California Feb 25th 1862

Dearest Lizzie,

I feel quite badly to think I cannot send Guy & Grace some more "written pictures". I have so many different things to attend to. If I could do so I should like to make a drawing of a tempest in which my brigade underwent a review yesterday & afterward the wind blowing & chasing stoves, tents & <boards> at double quick over hill & dale. Sibley poles & flag staffs were quickly demolished. My poor tent stood the gale with difficulty but the dining tent was pretty badly torn, the kitchen & stable partly unroofed. <Rulantin's> & Carlos' tents were laid low. The 64th Artist's establishment turned over. Then his tables instruments pictures &c waked up into active life & joined the common <throng>: all this was to pay for our conduct the day before.

You see, the Inspectors General were known to be coming on Monday so our men turned in on Sunday and trimmed up their streets, planted trees & cleaned up their arms as well as they could. About ten A.M. on said Monday, we were formed in three lines & Col. Sackett came to inspect accompanied by Major Davis. It was a pleasant morning but a heavy cloud was rising in the west. It rained a little as we began to review. Then it poured upon us & drove into our faces hail & rain as hard as a battle almost. The men got wet pretty well through - arms & brasses grew dim. We dismissed them as soon as possible and then came the tug of war to keep the tents from blowing away. You should have seen Capt Sewall trying to get the flag down & to keep the pole up. His countenance looked wild & excited. His hat on the back of his head & his hair flying. The wind lasted during the day & part of the night. I got so tired at the windy inspection which I attended with Col Sackett till 5 P.M. without my dinner that I slept soundly during the night in spite or rather without fear of the elements.

Mr Richards very kindly took compassion on me & invited me with Chas. & Capt Sewall to dine at his house. & so I did a little after 5. Mrs Lt. Col Burlow 61st Regt boards there also Mrs Collet a wife of Major Collet of the N. Jersey 3d - Kearney's Brigade.

Tell little Guy papa has found "Castor". Carlos says "an Irishman had him tied up in his tent." A sergeant came & apologized for having him, said he found a little dog in his company ground & did'nt know whom he belonged to.

Yesterday Mr Jordan who came from the top of the house whence I got my dear little wife a few years ago, with two or three Maine friends paid us a visit, was present at drill & parade & enjoyed his visit wonderfully. He came into my tent, got Charlies autograph & mine & then left for the 5th Me. I told him when he went to Lewiston to call & see you. He said he often went & would do so.

A prominent factory gentleman from Lewiston was here the other day. He may drop in to see you. Col. Jackson is a fine soldier & I should like to have you call upon his wife. I think from what I have heard that she must be a grand woman.

How is my dear little daughter Grace. Papa fears she will change so much that he will hardly know her. And our little Jamie - bless his little heart. On Sunday Mrs Sampson sent me an invitation to go over to a Sing & prayer meeting in the evening & Mr Miles & I went. We had tea & then a good meeting.

I must stop for the hour of duty has arrived. I have written this interleaved by passes &c. Give much love to yourself & the bunnies - also to Aunt & family & all friends. I hope mother has been to see you & is well.

God bless you darling.

Affectionately
Otis

1595 2/26/1862 *From:* C.H.Howard

To: My dear brother [RB
Howard]

OOH-1550

H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade
Camp California

Source: Bowdoin

[57]

H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade
Camp California
Feb. 26 1862

My dear brother

Your letter of the 20th was brief but very welcome. Mr. Hammond's visit to you has often been in my mind. I trust that your hopes as to the beneficial results of the meetings will be fulfilled. I saw an article in Capt. Sewall's Christian Mirror which seemed to question rather critically the propriety & usefulness of Mr. H's labors. But if the Lord avows & blesses, it does not become editors to condemn too readily.

I thank the Lord for "signs of religious awakening" and hope your next letter will record something further.

I will not let any portion of your letter escape unanswered this time. I thought about your question regarding my Recruiting accounts just after I had sealed my last. I should have been more particular had I not concluded you better not be troubled with them. The larger one of \$25 is in Mr. Wiggins's name & is in the hands of Mr. Osgood - Express Agent at Augusta who has (what is required) the power of attorney "to secure" the money. Joshua Turner has another small account but perhaps he will not present it & no matter if he does not. This in my name. He also has "power of attorney" from me.

I thought of you & tried to pray for you & your people on Sabbath evening. We had a prayer-meeting in the Chapel tent of the 61st N.Y. This was a Hospital tent which Otis had put up (after it had been cast aside) for our meetings. We have interesting meetings. Some new one comes out almost every week, & some very interesting cases. Two Sergeants particularly. Wish you could have heard their simple Way of the Cross.

Glad to hear good news from Hattie. I did hope Capt. Patten would this time confess Christ. Poor Lizzie. I hope the shackles of this world & Satan will soon fall off from her.

Thus far I wrote before Breakfast. Mr. Miles is now attending to Guard Mounting. I hear the Band playing. Otis is writing Lizzie.

Yesterday P.M. while we were having Brigade Drill, Mr. Jordan who used to live in Mrs. Waite's house came riding out on horseback to see us together with two others from Portland & Mr. Warren the Suttler of the 5th Maine. They enjoyed the drill very much. I wish you could see our Brigade drills, they are much more interesting than Battalion drills. Today the General had the different Regiments take & hold different hills situated ¼ mile & more apart.

Last Sat. 22d Otis read Washington's Farewell address to the Brigade. A N.H. Battery came down from a neighboring Division to be present & in the afternoon Col. Cross supported them in a kind of show battle. The firing was deafening. They gave the National salute of 32 guns after the General finished the address. The troops gave 3 cheers to the General.

We had notice Saturday that Col. Sackett, Inspector General (of McClellans staff) would inspect our Brigade Monday.

The men as a matter of course neglected their cleaning up &c, a good deal Saturday & worked Sunday. The grounds never were in such good shape. The arms & brasses were all <burnished> & I thought our Brigade would take the Palm. But just the moment our Review began when Col. S. arrived it Commenced to rain in a flood & soon came hail & a terrible wind. Imagine the appearance of the review. We could hardly keep our horses in the field.

But just as we were marching in after the Review it cleared off & such a wind came up as I never before witnessed. We found Capt. Sewall with the entire force of <Ordellus> trying to keep our flag staff from blowing down upon the tents. We got inside but at the first Gust, almost every tent of the N.H. Regt was swept flat. Stoves & furniture of all kinds went flying past our tent. Our tent did not go down. Capt. Sewalls did & you can imagine the condition of our Sunday-fixed camp at the end of an half hour. The arms too of course suffered by the rain so that they did not look so well as they could have done. Otis stopped the work & had the men go to services but then took it up again. The General told Col. Sackett he thought the storm was to pay for working so much on Sunday.

We are to inspect the 64th this forenoon & I must close. We cant get that <chg> & clean. We expect to move before long.

With love to Ella, I am
Yr. Affec. Br.
C.H.Howard

1596 2/27/1862 *From:* Ella [Howard]

To: My dear brothers Otis &
Charles [Howard]

OOH-1551

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[9]

Feb 27 [1862] [The year was written in pencil.]

Farmington Feb 27

Thurs. Eve [Feb 27 1862 did fall on Thursday.]

My dear brothers Otis & Charles -

And I dont know but I might as well add Capt. Sewall, and the rest of the Gen'l's Staff! for I hear your letters are mostly in common! I've got into a letter writing mood tonight, which is quite a more cheerful thing for me. Baby and I are all alone this evening. All the rest have gone to meeting. Rowland has probably written you that Mr. Hammond was expected here two days last week. The storm prevented his coming until Saturday. He came Sat. night, intending to be here but two days – but Providence intended otherwise, and sent a big storm, so that the cars haven't been able to go since!

Mr. Hammond seems to carry a blessing with him, wherever he goes. He has certainly brought one here. There was much feeling among the impenitent, and christians had begun to pray, before he came, but now they have gone right to work with him, and sinners are coming to their Savior. Many remain to the Inquiry meeting, every night, and some have already given their hearts to Jesus. Dr. Alexander, whom you have both heard us mention, & whom Charles has seen – last night knelt down to be prayed for, and promised to pray in his family, and he is not a man to go so far, unless he meant it. Another man who had a “hope” years ago, has come now, & thrown his old “hope” away, and now has found a bran new one, that he never knew anything about before! He too prays in his family, and looks & acts like a “new man,” as he is. His wife is beginning with him, & it may now be called a christian family, tho' they have so long lived “without God & without hope in the world”.

A good work is beginning here, which I trust will not soon stop. I have often thought, & we have several times spoken of it, how you would enjoy these evening Inquiry meetings, and afternoon prayer meetings.

We made Lizzie an impromptu visit, on my way to Bath. I enjoyed it very much. The children have grown & it seems as if Jamie must be somebody's else child! How pleasant it will be to have them all here, this summer. Sarah & her children are getting along nicely now. Sarah gets out to the meetings quite often, and seems to enjoy them. I am very sorry your Mother couldn't come up. Rowland wrote her to.

Has Rowland told you that Anna Hattie hopes she has found her Savior? Mamma says she is very much changed. She loves her bible, & good books, & Dea. Mitchell & Mr Oliver never talked so well before, she says. In the evening meetings, Hattie was never much edified by these two, but she thinks they have improved! We are all praying for Papa – wont you help us?

We shall expect to hear astounding news, when the cars do get in. We have had no mails since Monday.

Rowland will write another sheet, I think, & I will write my good bye, I think. Please remember me to Capt. Sewall. I called & saw his wife & children when in Bath.

Good bye & God bless you both.

Your sister
Ella

Your nephew is getting to be quite a promising youth, I think. He grows wise & cunning, & pretty of course, every day, and is as good as can be.

1597 2/27/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1552

Hd Qrs Howards
Brigade

Source: Bowdoin

[58]

Hd Qrs Howards
Brigade Feb 27 1862

Dearest

I will just send you some money I have in my pocket. I have'nt heard from you for so long I fear you are not well.

Much love to all.

Tell Guy, Grace & Jamie papa has prayed for them separately that God will make them his own children.

Affectionately
Otis

P.S. We are getting ready - not likely to move immediately

\$10/00 enclosed & a bad engraving.