seem more encouraging and till all news is brought with painful regrets, even so blood must be the sacrifice, I hope it will be to the honor and Glory of God. Although we have such an abundance of snow the bright ~~sweet~~ sun shining on it, and the month of March has arrived, I feel to look forward to bare ground and agricultural labors to be going forward, the lambs to be growing and all things in their usual way, according to their seasons but still there is a stirring appeal in my heart, at all times, for God to help, help, to close up this terrible war, "when will our sorrows have an end our joys when shall we see it. Abbie is still here with her little babe five weeks old, says she is going to her fathers to stay four or five weeks as soon as the roads will do, she gets real weary with care of her babe, her sisters will help her to take care of her babe while at home, Thomas has been study at home through the winter but if Abbie is gone I fear he will not do as well, it will be a relief to me, I am to have Abbie Gilbert a while, to come any time I wish her to, Roland and family are well I do not see much of them there is so much snow, my plants have done well through the winter Guy and Grace ~~have~~ each of them one verbena looking very thrifty, they are to take them when they go to Farmington, I want to see them very much Jamie I hear is growing very much, I must go and see them if the cars ever get through again, I dislike to receive a letter with half a side to it, so I have been trying fill mine entirely. I will ask Thomas to get Capt Turner's last journal to mail, tomorrow your father can take them to Augusta and mail them if he can get through, it will be a pleasant sound to hear the whistle from the Engines once more, good bye my son, your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore.

Charles H. Howard.

P.S.

we have heard to day that Maj Sherrick is dead

Leeds March 2d 1862.

My dear son Charles,

I have this morning felt more than usualy strong desires that this may be a sabbath day indeed, and more especialy to those who are on the tented fields, preparing to fight their Country's battles, and that their faith may be strong in God, and that their Spirit may feel a united strength with the Holy Spirit, it is now two weeks since your last letter was written, it came to hand in one week, owing to the irregularity of the mails in consequence of the storm, I wrote last sunday evening and sent it out Monday not in time to go until Tuesday, and suppose it is at Mr Lothrop's now as there has been no trains down since last Monday we are having snow in abundance our house is nearly buried in snow your father shoveled the snow away from some of the windows yesterday which covered the lower sash, but still the weather is rather mild the thermometer 25, above zero, the teams draw very hard to get through drifts the districts are breaking roads to day they begun yesterday Tue. Mr Addition's other daughter will be interd today so those two lovely girls are laid away out of their parents sight my sincere prayer to god is that this affliction may be blest to their eternal good, to the salvation of their souls, I have heard within a few days Augustus Foss and wife are among the number who have professed religion at North Leeds, I hope it is a perfect work, that a throne of grace will be established in his family, and that he and his family will be shining lights to those around them, O that that the same spirit may be found in every house, there is a race a day but the bell is tolled for some death in Strong, it was heard in this neighborhood Friday and is supposed to be Maj Herrick, as it was known

he was supposed to be dying the day before, my family are all gone from me, but for anything I know they are still preserved an unbroken family, for which I am truly greatful, as far as I am capable, I often have thought, since the mails have not brought us any news neither particular nor general, whether I was prepared to receive sad intelligence, as well as cheering intelligence from the absent ones but I think I can say with the Psalmist, I "have been delivered from my fears." I have not heard from Rowland the past week, was intending to have visited him, neither have I heard from Lizzie and Children, if nothing in providence prevents, am in hopes to see them this week, I have call'd on Mrs Josie Keene last Thursday, found her feeble but still, not more so than so much as I expected from what I heard, she talked freely on any subject and was cheerful, has a fine babe, the babe had her father's minature in her hand open, liked to look at the picture, we call'd on Amanda Gilbert the same P.M. he is a poor skeleton of a man but thinks he shall be out when the weather is warm. It is now just twelve o'clock and our teams are within hearing distance, we have a delightful sun shining into our south windows I hope we may have many such to settle the immence snow drifts I call'd on Capt. Turner, the other day, he is looking nicely, Thomas has a bad cough but is out every day, we have a pair of twin lambs, and two calves at the barn, I wish Guy could be here to enjoy them but he has many enjoyments where he is, that I could not give him, your father has a big wood pile for Thomas to begin to chop soon we are hoping to see rain soon, to settle the snow, to make it better moveing about, your father has return'd from breaking roads and says there has been no passing on the Kennebec

and Androscoggin since Thursday, Nellie's last letter was written his birth day, now we date another month I think probable you have had letters from him and Rowland since I have heard from them, your father has no News paper readings, since we have no mailes he has been searching the house for something to read he has read Miss Gilbert's Cantos, and has brought forward Schmitz's History of Rome and Smellie's Philosophy and is quite interested in them, I would give a greatdeal this minute to know you and Otis are in good health, Oscar says quite a number of the Maine third have been taken to man the gun boats that were built at Cairo, if it is so, he says Henry Turner has written home to that effect, your father has let fall his book, and is so sound of sleep he does not know it, he purposes going to Hallowel next tomorrow, I would go with him but the traveling is so bad, I should not enjoy it, our town meetings will soon come off, that will make quite a move, we have not had our Lewiston Journal for two weeks, Oscar said he would let us have his, but no one has put it in practice, I have not heard whether Osias Millet has returned from Washington yet. It is now about year since this calamitous rebelion began to to show itself, I could not be made to believe it would burst upon us as it did until I was obliged to, what a world of iniquity has been unfolded to our view in one year, I little thought one year ago how many bleeding hearts would be in our united states at this time but the ing still go on, and must untill our National honor is reestablished or ruin'd, I feel a confidence that our cause is just and I feel to trust it in the hands God, my daily prayr to God is, that his wisdom may fill the hearts of our officers who guide and direct all the important movements to quell this rebellion, our last papers

Auburn, Mar. 2. 1862.

Sunday Eve. half past 7 o'clk

My precious Husband

I will try to write you a letter to-night, that I may be able to send it in the morning mail. We had Monday's mail at the regular time and fortunately your letter of the 22d reached me at that time. Tuesday's mail arrived Wednesday noon. Thursday's arrived Friday one very late in the eve. and that was our last mail till I heard a whistle just as Mr Adams was about to close his sermon this morning. It seems a much longer time than it really is since I have seen the papers. I should judge you have some mud yet, by the description of your trip to Washington. I was glad to hear of the Carrolls, and from

famie are asleep and they are all well. I feel that health is a great blessing. I have been to church all day. Guy and Isaac to Sunday school. My first communion out of the chapel was today. How well could I recall Mr Tinckle's words and words, and sentences of the service kept running through my mind. I am reading "Agnes of the little key" a book Mr Tarbell recommended to you one second year at West Point. I think it must be very good. Aunt Sarah says he Agnes' father is like you. I dont know as it is Agnes' father is one of the characters, but it is evident as I cant ask her. I should like to see Charlie's sketch of your life. Agnes had very good reports of the lives of the Generals. I should have written a tip top one. I would have said, he is the best man, and I guess (showing the quaker) pretty good Gen. I had a visit from Mr Ayer last Wednesday. He spent an hour or more in your camp or tent two weeks ago to-day, he told me, and seemed at your request, I was pleased to hear you were looking well. He gave me a good report of you all. I thank him heartily for coming. Guy regrets the loss of "Castor." when I told him he came very near dropping a tear while saying "Pa

Sarah. I hope you told her Guy (who is going to write to her) that the Regt has been at the 13th Va. I was entirely not there to finish it for you. The check came in a day or two. Uncle Edward sent me $14.00 interest on Confederate (Government loan) I imagine S.D. Carroll is still at West Point now for you say he is doing kind Francis with Mr Geddes. Where are they? I wrote to Portland to find out, but got no reply about having Mr Farnsworth take the 9th of March. I shall become well enough frequented to enjoy my stay here.

I received a letter from Maria a week ago at Harrisonburg, and one also from Uncle Charles same mailed to me by Portland. Maj and Mrs Wingate are up in Maine long ago. She going to teach a school about ten scholars. She sent Mrs Battle also a card of congratulation. Maria writes it seems to be a great blessing to her the thinks. Altogether God gathering to her little flock. Mr French was there for a few days. I presume it was after Mr Joe. Examination. Mrs Battle said he was very much worried out as he had had no amusement at all in leaving home. Mrs Wingate is very much in her other duties. Polaski was in Philadelphia for a week or two this winter. The "Thirteen" is very highly spoken of. I am very glad Maria pleased the Woodcocks. I feel very grateful to her for it.

I presume Bernard has written you about his visit to Batt. and of the revival there. It unites me that Christians are waking up in his church. And he feels that God is about to grant them a great blessing.

Our family are all well. A 24th the Perry if you can, we intend to have you give Cole Bros' Photographs. I like to know how you looked. What a big man you are! (I wrote that last entire in a whisper) maybe Charlie won't see it until his time comes to read the letter.

I have been writing, reading and thinking more than ever I know. Jay, Green, and

Guy & ~~Jamie~~ Gracie, that a poor little colored boy, not much bigger than Guy was brought to Poplar Grove yesterday morning by a soldier. The soldier said, he was so lousy that the men abused him & would not have him near them. & he got no place to stay. I went out to see him. The lice were on his jacket - thousands of them & on his head. I had him taken to a Sperm tent - a tub of warm water prepared his clothes stripped off - & burnt. The boy was washed & cleansed. & some old clothes put on him such as we could pick up. At night, nobody would let him have a place to sleep - Papa had some hay put in the corner of a tent & had him have an old blanket. Today he was again washed & the lice in his head bathed in strong alcohol - the hair had been cut close. Some got near his eyes. He beat Guy crying when papa used to wash Guy hard. Papa sent to Alexandria & got him a new suit of clothes - coarse thick woolen such as the colored boys wear here. You should have seen how happy he was. He fairly laughed aloud when he saw them. I fear he has learned many bad habits, but now he is clean & I hope he will learn of Jesus to do well.

Guy will remember George as Lois's nurse. Pass for Lois Good.

Lois is a very clever child & may be a companion for Guy.

Dearest Lizzie

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
March 3d 1862

I have hesitated this morning whether I should write you or study strategy. But I think I may see you as soon by the writing under a divine protection. So I will write you. Today I telegraphed the Adjutant General of New York, Thos. Hillhouse, Br. to John our friend, but before I got an answer Charles notice of appointment came. He is now a bonâ fide Lieutenant in Co. "A" 61st N. York & I am truly glad. His commission dates from the 24th of January. You can hardly imagine how hard it rains. Yesterday Mrs Sampson Miss Smith her sister & Mrs Watson with Capt Watson & Mr, came over here just before Church service, attended with us at the exercises of the 61st N.Y. returned to Dinner. It began to snow. They stayed, took dinner, and after awhile I got the N Hampshire Hospital wagon & accompanied them back to their Camp. I called upon the chaplain, Perry Sec. Dexter Howard & Col Stephen stopping a few minutes & then returned here.

Charles friends love.

In the evening we had a prayer meeting at the Chapel tent of the 61st. I don't know as I told you that Capt Ewell had had a chimney built in the back tent of our mess tent & moved in there bag & baggage. So that Charlie & I occupy this by ourselves. The floor of our new tent is raised a little above the other - on the right hand is my bed & on the left is his. in the middle & next to the ridgepole we have a bed which closes up like a stool & on which John buffalo robe is put by day. We have a dressing table by the side of the ridge pole upon which we hang clothes, caps &c. John sleeps in the front tent where the stove is. We are very comfortable. I wish all our soldiers were as much so, but they are not so, yet they seem to enjoy life from day to day. Capt Taylor. Lucius Cuyler Gen! said I must be wanting to go home & told him I did, but not till after the work was done. I am getting a little in haste to be up & doing. Personally I have had enough work of late for again I have been obliged to muster & inspect my whole brigade. Charlie has spent the

better part of two days in examining & preparing muster rolls. I have had to sign my name, he says, 1811 times to these rolls. I'm many of them he has just in the "fair", "good" &c for me & the "Poor" "Gen". It is not a little thing to have a brother when you need have a wife with you is it? How do you suppose little Gey is this morning? Dreaming so quietly & happily & comfortably - watched over by our Father. Send Gracie? After I wrote the word Gracie I got a note from Gen Sumner asking me to go to him as soon as ~~possible~~ convenient. He sends me with three regiments to protect the building of a bridge about 6 miles from this place, on the Orange & Alexandria R.R. We will have got it done before this letter reaches you. I sent you today a draft for $200. Next month or rather at the end of this month I should not be able to send you any money, for I must buy another horse, so you must so deposit your funds as to have enough. Give many sweet kisses for papa to all the children. Gey, Grace & Gracie. Tell

Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade March 3rd 1862

Dearest Lizzie.

I meant to
have written you a letter
but the mail is going I
will only say I am well
so is Charlie. Love to
Mother when you see
her. My love to Jennie
many kisses & much
love. We have not
moved yet. Don't
know when we shall
I enclose a draft
for $20.00

Truly & affectionately
Your husband
~~Otis~~
Otis

Love to Aunt Caroline &
all

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Burks Station
March 4th 1862

Dear Sr,

I took three Regts. of my Brigade & protected the Bridge over the Occoquan while it was being repaired - To day I advanced as far as Fairfax Station driving in the enemy's pickets - I have one Regt. there & two here - I think the Lord has blessed us this time. Thus far - tomorrow I shall probably return to Camp - Cold Harbor - having been relieved by another Brigade - I hope you are all well. Give much love to my Grace & Jennie from papa - Capt Gerrall will take this back to Camp & hand it to you - May God bless & protect them & me - Affectionately

Ths

Camp Cook. Mar. 9th 1863

My very dear Sabbath

Sister – This letter was sent down from Brooke's but did not get into the mail. Otis telegraphed you that we were well back again this morning.

It is a beautiful day, the last I shall be to divine H's Day being in Communion for today of the Divine. Much love to little one, – Charles

Mrs. O. J. Spencer
Cantonment
Rec.

March 6th. 1862

Brig.d Genl. O. O. Howard

General

I came to your Brigade today for the purpose of asking a favor of you. as you already know I have at B. Falls near West Point a wife and two children also a deaf and dumb sister. they cannot at the present time get sewing or work of this kind enough to keep them together with what I send them every pay-day. but they could if they were in Washington get plenty of employment I will need ($30) thirty dollars besides the funds that I will have next pay Gen Howard is the only person to whom I ~~can~~ feel like applying to. if I could get my family to Wash.n they would be in a way to take care with the help of God of themselves. should anything happen to me I will at the expiration of my time have about $100.00 one hundred dollars out of which I will pay you if we should be unable to do so before. and should it please God to call me home before then my wife will pay you. Hopeing that this request will meet with your favorable consideration

I remain Your Obd.t Servant
Sergeant Henry N. Rothery
Capt. Griffins Battery
Genl. Morrells Brigade
Genl. Porters Division
Minor Hill Va.

P.S. Sergt Robinson wishes to be remembered to Genl. Howard
H. N. R

I hear people about town and elsewhere growling bitterly about so large an army taking the people's money yet doing nothing. Many and probably most are willing to wait ~~till~~ till Genl. McClellan is fit for the army to move. I earnestly pray that my brothers may do their duty, yet be preserved from harm. I sometimes fear I shall never see both of you again but I hope for the best. I am not disposed to be gloomy about anything for a very long time continued. Give my love to Otis. Tell him that as soon as he can spare the time I should be very pleased to have a letter from him. Write again soon. Does the recent order of the Secretary of War prohibit your writing to the Boston Journal and other papers?

If not I hope to see something about Otis and his command there quite often.

Pray for me and my class and also for the College; ask Otis to do the same.

Your Very Aff. Brother

R. H. Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. Thursday, March 6. 1862

My dear Brother:

Your kind and most welcome letter reached me on Tuesday. I intended to have answered your other letter immediately but the mails have not been very regular. From Thursday of last week till Tuesday of this week we got no mail whatever.

I was in to see Hettie yesterday afternoon and she treated me most cordially. I mentioned that I had just got a letter from you, but she asked no questions and made no remarks as I said nothing more. I succeeded finely in my last declamation; and in the rehearsals Prof. Whittlesey paid me quite a compliment, but didn't favor any of the others in the same way but rather criticised them. Afterwards he inquired about you and Otis and mentioned his stopping with you and Otis. He paid Otis a high compliment as an officer and a man. I can't see why you can't get a commission as well as any one else. You certainly have the influence of some friends and I don't imagine you are much inferior to most of 2nd Lieuts. I was glad to get the engraving of Otis which I think hardly does him justice yet at a distance it looks like him. I don't hear from Rowland Pike. I haven't

had a letter from Rowland for over two ~~weeks~~ months though I have written him three, but I don't care much. I would like a letter from Otis if he can find time to write me. But I believe that Rowland could write me if he wanted to. I never complained to mother that I got no letters from you. I simply mentioned once that I had not heard from you for a sometime, but I think I owed you a letter even then. I cannot get letters regularly from home nowdays as the trains rarely get through in any shape. Some railroads have run no trains for more than a fortnight. George Lothrop went through here yesterday on his way to Livermore. Perhaps you have already learned that he has removed himself to Bath and is in the Grocery business on the corner of Central & Washington Sts. His family have not yet gone down there. They expect to go down. They are to live on High St., but exactly where I don't know. I haven't been to Bath this time owing to the lack of the "tiny". I saw Capt. Patten a day or two since. He said all his folks were nicely. He was feeling badly about the non-connection of the railroads. The snow is playing the mischief with all the railroads.

I am sorry to say that I think the religious interest in Colby is about as low as it has been since I came here. The Thursday noon meetings have been given up as very few attended them. Sunday morning perhaps fifteen or twenty attend. We manage to get as many as five or eight into our class prayer meetings. I have attended all of these except one. In the meetings all hold back and there are long pauses. Daniel Waldron always harangues and offers a prayer, all of which usually occupies 15 or 20 minutes of the sabbath morning meeting. He always sounds as if he was trying to show off and we have a great deal of it in our meetings. A petition has been in circulation headed by Daniel W. Waldron "earnestly requesting" Edward Payson Hammond to come here and preach to the people of Brunswick, but many of our most Christian men like John Rose Pres. of the Circle, did not sign it. It is proposed to have him preach in the Baptist House if he will come. The Baptists have given up trying to have any preaching and the house is now closed. Mr. Mary mau and his family attend on the Hill, except Hattie who goes to the Episcopal. Many others of the Baptists go on the Hill.

Our term is now more than half done and the time is not far distant when I shall once more find myself in Leeds and among my friends and acquaintances. I think I shall go to see Rowland up to Farmington. When George & Huldah go to Bath perhaps I shall find myself a more frequent visitor in that city.

People are now looking very anxiously toward the Army of the Potomac. Most of us can hardly see the necessity of such a protracted inaction there. For my part I am willing to wait and observe believing that the military authorities know best.

Auburn, Mar. 6th 1862.

Dearest,

I wanted to mail a letter to you the day, merely to ask if you couldn't write me nearly every day. You know the Papers are blank now. Your last two letters were very short, but you don't know how much better they were than no letters. I wrote in my last that your letter of the 22d arrived Monday. I made a mistake it was yours of the 19th that came that day. Yours of the 23d and 27th came together. I received your letters generally the third day after the date. Your last, March 3, came to me this afternoon. Guy and Grace have just gone to bed, not asleep yet. Grace wants me to give a kiss to Papa. Guy is happy to learn that "Badger" is found.

One would think him an old favorite to hear Guy talk of him; it belongs to Pepe and that is enough for him. Jamie is cutting more teeth, he has eight now. I received the draft to-day. I made a deposit some time since in the Auburn bank. I shall have to add to it. I received a card, if I may so call it, from Boston yesterday with regard to the revival there. I presume he sent you one also. So I conclude that the Cars have finally got shoulder through to this place. The Mails have been very irregular. I have not seen or heard from Mother. Guy goes to school, hired school, I assume you he enjoys it hugely.

I would like to call to see Mrs Jackson, but there are objections. I think I never not. I should be very glad to meet her in society. I cannot give you all of this evening, dearest, for I have some work to do for the children.

I am glad to hear you have good health and are looking well. I want Charlie to cut off some of your hair just as long as he can and send it home in your next letter to me. Don't forget. I have been out nothing to-day. The weather begins to seem a very little like Spring. I have heard nothing of Charlie common lately, but never mind that, you hold on to his coat tail if he should attempt to leave you. Many express the opinion that the War will be ended by next June. I wonder if it will.

I hope so, and my dearest Otis can come home to his own wife.

Lizzie

is a point three miles in advance of us & where our line of pickets meets Genl Franklin's on the right & Genl Heintzelman on the left. I have now advanced the picketing regiment to Springfield Station which is four miles from this place. I left there 6½ Clk P.M. there when I came in from Burke's Station.

How are the Rainers tonight & persons all asleep by this time. We got a letter from Mother tonight. She wants the Show to get so that she can see you & the children. She mentions many deaths, Mr Cobb's daughters, Mr Herrick & Mrs Rackley. How good the Lord is to us. Let us all love him & more than we love one another

Your own husband
Otis

Hdqrs. Sumner's Division
Army of the Va

Mac

Dear.

I got into camp last night after having secured about nine miles more of the Orange & Alexandria R.R. without losing a man. I have turned over the R.R. to Genl O'Kearney and am here all right. We found no the Enemy's pickets. But I don't think any one was killed except the Spy who was shot. He had on a Maine over-coat. Had a U.S. Rifle & pistol & a B. Rifle. His name was Chas. Dillon. He had a pass in his possession from our Military Governor of Alexandria Genl Montgomery & also one from Genl Sedgwick. He had also one from Beauregard & one from Genl J.E. Johnston

He was a young looking man
of fair appearance. The letters
from his wife beseeching
him to come home &
tremblingly anxious expressions
about his kind of service
as a Scout were touching in
the extreme. She has one
little child, Charlotte, a baby.
One could hardly keep
from crying on reading these
epistles from Miss. Mississippi.
All she seemed to think of was
that he must come home.
And as he had a furlough
all written out in his pocket
& think he was intending to go
home soon. We have
to remember always that
our enemy is a man & I
only felt sorrow that the
man was slain & not taken

But as he was a Spy he would
never have been hung & think, had he
been brought in alive. This would
have been more painful still
to his poor devoted wife. She
talked of resigning the Church
& wanted him to join with
her. It is now evening. I have
been in command of the division
today & so have spent part of
my time, not very profitably
as Div.n Hd. quarters. Genl. S.
has gone to Washington to
arrange the march most
probably in Council. He is to
command an Army Corps of 3
divisions, and we will have
some new Commander over
this Div.n We know that this
Division will constitute a part
of his command & that is all.
Were asked about Edsels bill. This

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J. S. BEDLOW, Sup't, Maine District. E. S. SANFORD, Pres't, 145 Broadway, N. Y.

OFFICES,— { In NEW-YORK, 145 Broadway.—BOSTON, 31 State Street, corner of Congress. PORTLAND, Fox Block, Exchange Street.

Lewiston Mch 9th 1862

Received at ___ o'clock, ___ minutes, M.

By Telegraph from Camp California

To Mrs. O. O. Howard

All returned safely to camp last night

Yours O. O. Howard

Brig Genl

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when this reaches you? Mother brought Charlie's last letter, Mar 3d date, to read to me. I am glad she did. I was very happy to get your Telegraphic message this morning. Mother was very glad to hear too. I shall look for a letter Wednesday. A few days ago, I thought you might move any moment, but now I dont think so. Seems to me you won't move right away, although you may. The beginning of the end has come, but when will the end be? If it didn't cost so much, and if there was someone I know going to Washington, and if I could leave, I think I might leave the children that length of time, and if it would be best, and you would be glad to see me, and above all consent to it I should soon be at Camp California pretty soon. How many ifs there are in the way, too many to rush through. Sarah sent word by Mother to have me stay with her while getting to housekeeping. I dont know as I would do that. I should prefer to go to a boarding house. I presume I shall remain here this month out. You

Must love to Charlie
Don't forget to write
Mother
Mellen
Mrs Sill is here for a month
Farmington
Sarah's
Mary Sarah's
Harriet
Lizzie

Auburn March 10th 1862

my Sunday paper, but I will begin my letter to you and tell you first that Mother came down to see me today. She went to Farmington last Saturday and came from there this morning. As it was "town meeting" today she could have had to remain at the "Centre" till the arrival of the Mail, so she concluded to come here and return in the afternoon train. I am glad to see she did so. I had been wanting to see her very much. I wish she could have stayed longer. She told me of the wedding, and rejoiced at it. She enjoyed what sermons she attended very much. I am very glad she went to Farmington. Some sorrowfulness has taken place in

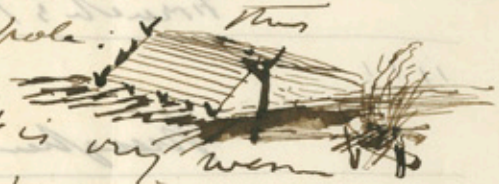
Lucas. She and Mrs Fox (formerly Caroline Sethre), were Miss Allen daughters.

I received a long interesting letter from Mrs Blount, who is still at West Point, and her husband still at "Fort Pickens", but she "does really expect him home next March" meaning the month of March. She says Capt Boynton is living in our last home. I wonder if it is the same you knew when a Cadet. She was out of the army and if in it again would be not rank higher than Capt. I have just thought he may be living there and not of the army. You know he was in Mississippi. Nearly all of the Officers there are on parole. Carroll is Col of a Ohio regiment and is the one whose name I read and wondered if it was not S.B. Carroll then. I see it in the "Boston Journal". I think he is under Gen Grant or in his vicinity. West Point is much changed and our old friends are scattered far and wide. The Sunday School then was moved to the Cadets Chapel, and the Children of all classes who choose to attend) met there. Mrs Blount says quite a number of the Ladies have classes there. Mrs Blount is well, and much interested in the School. Capt Field is said to have been killed while on a scout by one of our pickets. I hope Mr Field did not influence him to resign. Capt Mendell lost his only brother at Fort Donelson. All this news I learned from Mrs Blount, and I presume is correct. I learn that a young man from Jersey, Frank (a brother of George Blackstone) was wounded at the time of taking of Ft Donelson. He served a regiment from Minnesota. Riley was the first to go to Illinois and all those followed him. I forgot to tell you Mrs Blount wished to be remembered to you. "I see the name of your son frequently in the papers".

I have written your address on an envelope to go with this letter. I wonder if you will be in Court Calendar

Station. And the next day the Brigade in front of us retired. It was Gen. E. Kirby Smith's. Last night we encamped near Bunkstown Hill. I had us a shelter fixed made of rails. thus

and crawled in & slept warm in my buffalo robe. Tonight our wagon is here & we have drawn a tent flay over a pole. thus



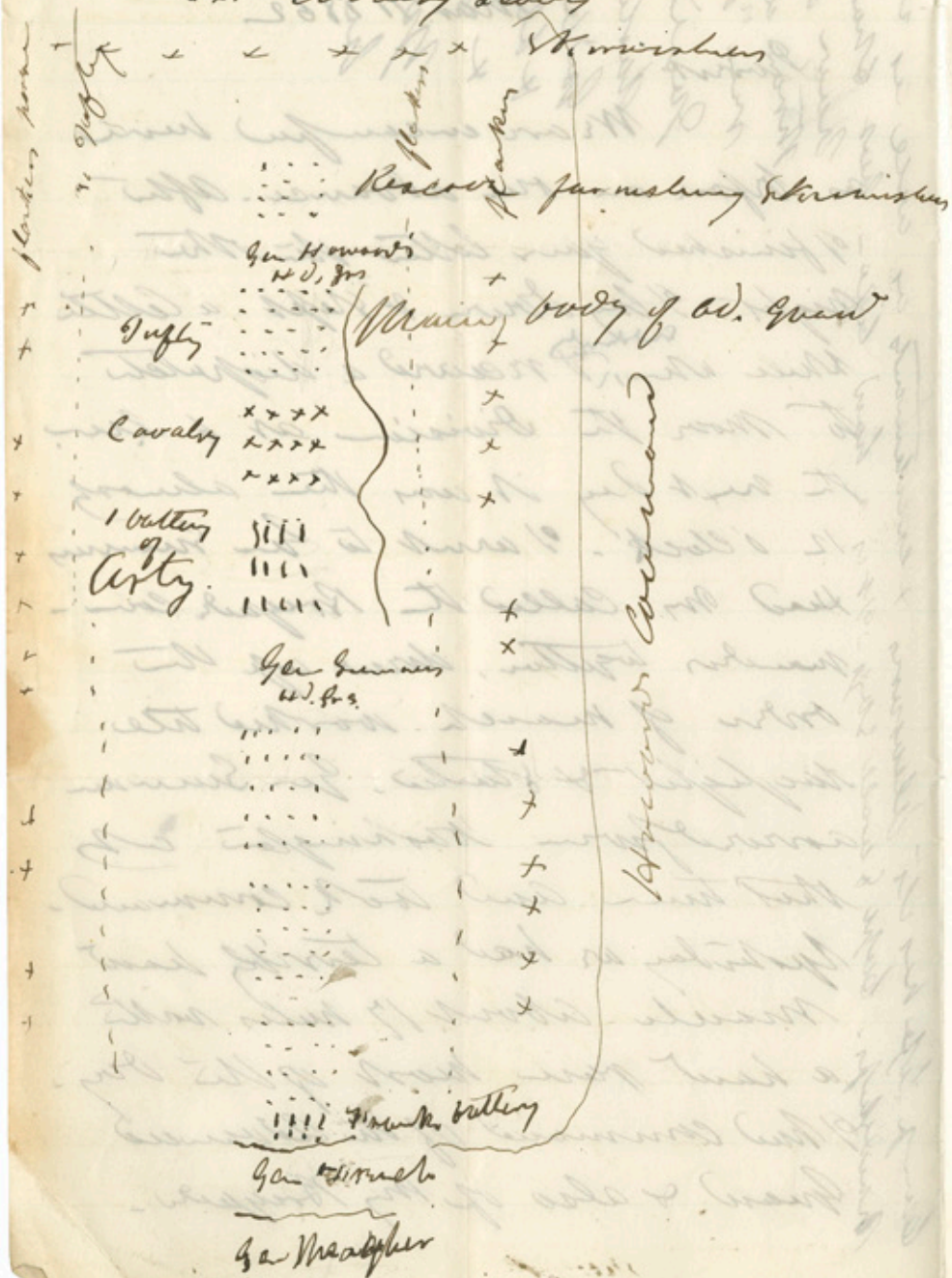
You know it is very warm from your perception the fire in front. I am writing right in front just in side the crotched pole. Give much love to Guy & Grace & tiss Jane in & the others if they claim it. Be not over anxious I have been very tired. Two nights with little sleep - but last night I slept beautifully. I have just hired a "Contraband" from Manassas. The band have come to bring to me - "marching along" "Mc Clellan's our leader &c"

Camp Near Bunkstown
Mar 11 1862

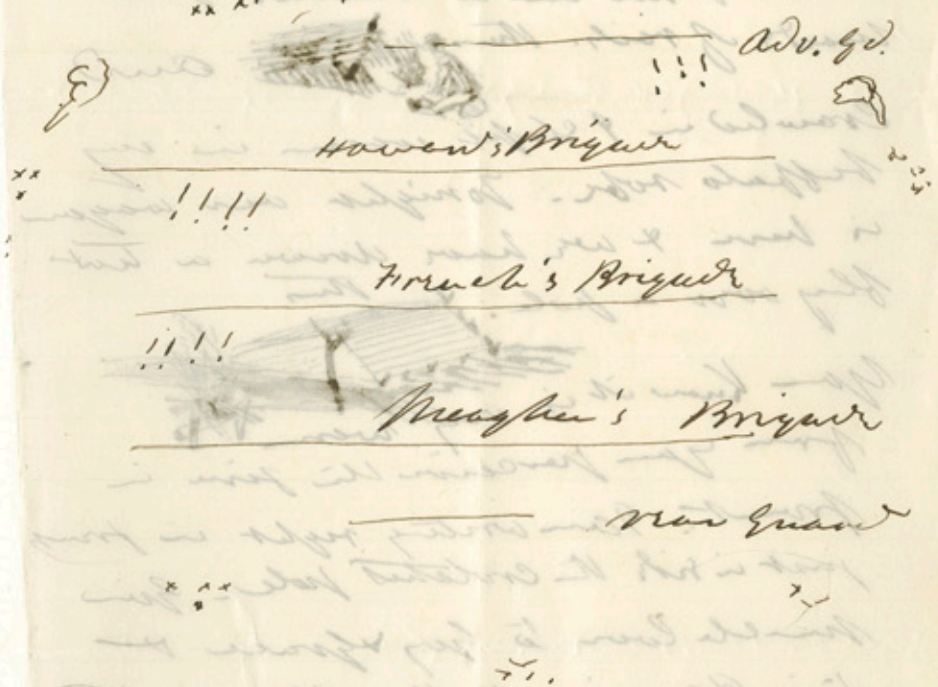
We are encamped here as before on our advance. After I finished your letter the other night I lay down & slept a little while when I received a despatch to move the Division at 6 A.M. the next day it was then almost 12 o'clock. I went to Gen Summers Head Qrs. called the Brigade commanders together, drew up the order of march, worked till daylight & started. Gen Summer arrived from Washington at that time and took command. Yesterday we had a terrible hard march - about 17 miles with a hard rain most of the day. I had command of the Advanced Guard & also of my Brigade.

Camp Near Bunkstown & encamped on ice in its vicinity - Slept in a shelter made of rails - I & Gen Summers Head Qrs. were thrown together - Gen S. is a perfect gentleman - Yesterday we had a terrible hard march - Rain & snow all day - I & my Brigade were in the advance - Gen S. arrived from Washington at that time & took command - I had command of the Advanced Guard & also of my Brigade -

Perhaps you might like to know of an order of March -



When we come into camp at night we encamp in three lines thus



This is the kind of work we are much engaged in. We have that Manassas was entirely evacuated Sunday. You will get the news from the papers. My brigade, Meagher, first started them in this quarter for & both Fairfax

Auburn, Mar. 12th 1862.

My dearest Otis

Manassas evacuated

Now what are you going to do? and where are you going? I received your note of the 4th inst, with a few words from Charlie which he added the 9th and mailed to me. I shall look for a longer letter to-morrow. I dont know as there will be new of my going to housekeeping. The War may be ended before I come into possession of the house engaged. So many say the war will be over by June if not before. Now, Otis, dearest, what do you think? I dont want you to write anything "contraband" but I would like your opinion. I got a note from Isabella to-day. She is expecting to be with the Children and I dont but that she will be enjoy-

ing herself. She had paid Jamie a

written to Mama yet in answer to her letter to me. I enjoy the society of Mrs Stetson very much. She is a sister to Mr Blaine's wife of Augusta, her husband is with Col. Dana under Gen Butler. I would like to know just how you are to-night, and Charlie. At least California I believe because you have but just got back. The same God watches there as here, and here as there. I trust you in his care. Children all asleep as we manage a home for them.

From your

Lizzie

Morning. Very fair a restless night. Another line written in his ear. All the rest my well.

Lizzie

little treasure, he is very old in all his ways. He sees a great many mamas and papas pass the windows. I believe I spoke of Mother's short visit to me in my last letter. I wish she could have stayed longer. I think of taking Grace and going to Lewis for a day or two. I am out of sewing, and while I have can I am going to begin my home sewing and with a go to my trunks packed at Lewis

I wish I could do something for you and the rest. Can I? I could do anything you might suggest. Will there be any particular things you may need. I know Charlie will tell me if there is. Do you may pass this letter over to him. You are not wearing white shirts I take it, from what you said about packing and sending to Washington a trunk. All the rest returned some time since but as I do not feel sleepy and have had an idle day I think I will not do so at present. Mrs Goff is here from Farmington. I received the opera glass in due time & found it just. Mrs Da Costa was out also. I walked on to the Book store and got the paper. afterwards called to see Miss Dening. she is a sister to Mr Grant the Dentist here, but she has always lived in Portland where I knew her. She has come up here to take care of her very aged Mother. Mrs Lathrop and Mary Jane have been in Lewis all winter. Warren was on his way to Fort Donelson after it was occupied by our troops the last I heard from him. He had lately returned from recruiting. I have not met one of the Watsons since I have been here. I think it a little strange. They attend Mr Adams church. I do like Mr Adams very much.

Do you suppose the secessionists will trouble Gen Burnside? I do hope they will not. I miss Aunt Betsy to talk with. She always comes in to see the papers she is in a great scalded. She has gone to visit Aunt Lucy. I hope you will forget to write me very often. I have not

Camp Near Warrenton
Va. Nov 13. 1862

Dearest.

All well. Blessed be God yesterday over the enemy's deserted works at Warrenton. Oh how I long for the division again. and God has blessed. Much love to all. Kiss the Children.

God bless you

Affectionately
Your husband. J. G. Tod

Farmington Mch. 14, 1862

Dear Bro: Otis

It may seem strange amid the alarms of war to hear of the peaceful triumphs of Jesus but I know it will seem good to you = The work of Grace still makes progress among us = A young lady found Jesus yesterday - two others & a young man were smitten by the Sword of the Spirit last night = and there is growing to be a more general interest among Christians. The Revival came upon us so suddenly that few were in any measure prepared to point sinners to Jesus = O it takes great Grace to do that well! = I visited

a family this A. M. the husband of this is a common labourer - He has all his life been a Swearer & Sabbath breaker and opposed his wife's attending meeting: She was once baptised but had gone back - He was induced to attend Mr. Hammonds meetings: the Holy Spirit met him and all is changed - the Father prays in his family and is a regular missionary among his own class - holding a solemn little prayer meeting at his own house last night: His Oxen behave well: the children have stopt swearing and the Eldest is seeking Jesus: I will tell you more of this

family by the name of Greenwood: One invalid of ten years has been a patient sufferer, but has just found Jesus = Ditto her sister who takes care of her = Her father a hard kind of man of 45. after a long, hard struggle, yielded to the Spirit's influence. So his three boys - aged 13, 11. & 9. and the hired girl = Four of our Dr's are interested, Mrs. Drs Alexander & Rapell, converted = In three families which I visited this morning the Servant girls had found Jesus = There are over 100 negroes in our congregation of 250 - 2/3rds of these have expressed hope in Jesus

and there are many
more among the Baptist,
methodist & F. W. Baptist
people. There is perfect
harmony among Christians:
Even the Unitarians
have their weekly prayer
meetings & they are well
attended - there are 8 or
10. of their young people
converted, who will prob-
ably join our church: The
Unitarian Minister is in
a terrible strait - O that
he would yield & follow
Jesus! Mother & Laura
have been up & enjoyed
some of our meetings -
Sarah does her duty in
conversation with the im-
penitent - and is greatly
blessed - It would do

you good to see and hear some of the babes in Christ lisping his name = Much fervent prayer has been offered for the Army in our meetings. Many request prayers for friends in the Service = 12. boys in the Abbott School give good evidence of piety & as many pupils in the Academy = Willie Frost has seemed changed. He "hopes" but we tremble for him — His Mother is here but does not yet seem to yield = Ella's Father has been here — He is very much changed — is very much interested in every thing Religious — but doubts

Seem to have found Jesus yet - He kneels at prayers, likes to talk, is a faithful Student of the Bible and, I have no doubt, is often in his closet - but he doesn't Confess Christ - Hattie is a sweet Christian - She will be here next week - Lizzie is in Portland still -

Your Lizzie seems happy & contented at Lewiston - Hadn't the better stay? And Mr Hamwell let his house to some other? We will have to move next month - Lizzie is now contented, it seems to me - The trouble & expense of housekeeping will be great & you may be home by next Fall - D. V. - My dear Bro

Rowland

more to get the transportation
arrangements made. The
R.R. here is being repaired
the bridges were burnt &
track torn up. Church
goes to Gray. I left Carter
at Burnside with a woman
she will take care of
him till I come back.
I am afraid he worse
than anything. I never
pray with Gray & pray for
peace in these times
and letters I have in them
his little mary.

God bless you
all
affectionately
your own
husband
Otis

73

Hd Qrs Division
Miles. Mon 14. 1862

Dearest.

I rec'd two dear
good letters from you
last night. I had command
of the division yesterday &
day before. Yesterday Gen.
Gen.l French with his
command to occupy
Rappahannock junction about
8 or 9 miles from here. I
feel sorry that I did not
write you a long letter
last night but I was so
interrupted by having a
double command. for I
continue to hold my Brigade
while I run the Division.
Gen.l Sumner returned last
night. He has been riding

corps. Genl Kearny has
this division. I am sorry.
I think it will be better
for me to command
a brigade in every way
but I do wish the lady
had fallen on some
other man than Kearny.
Because he has been &
I fear is still a very
corrupt man. profane,
a high liver. hard drinker
licentious. There are
lots of things to say & I feel
sorry to say them. for if
he was a good man
I would be perfectly
satisfied. All will be
well. "Jehovah Jireh".
Charles is well. Boyington
is only a Captain. He
came back from Sa: but
did not want to take a high
command. probably he
is on parole, not to fight
in this war. He was restored
to a Captaincy in the 11th
infantry & think is instructor
at West Point. I don't think
Field is killed. but it may
be so. Stuart is a Brig. Genl.
Carroll commands an Ohio
Regt. was under Genl Sanders
& mentioned in his report.
is now under Genl Sheridan
& is Blenker's crack corps.
I will not delay the Boys
mail any longer this
morning. The enemy are
50 miles from us. Yours & the
dear darling boy's
love now soon & constantly
tell. It will take a little
time to perfect the new
organization. & a little

Auburn. March. 16th 1862

My dearest Otis

I wonder what I can write to you to stay. I am thinking a great deal about you of late, and regarding ourselves of very little importance, for we are comfortable, having very few trials or troubles in this vicinity. I do hope you and Charlie are very well and I do wish you could have sufficient sleep. Ma's want you to take care of your health as well as you can. I should be much more anxious about you if Charlie was not with you. Under the present circumstances it is better to have a brother with you than your wife. And mark it is not a little thing either. I was trying to learn where he is in the village after they moved here is where they are living now

Don't you think I can make written pictures! I wish you would write Grace and Guy a short letter each if you are not moving every day and have time to write. You must have a great deal to do. I don't know but I should like to see someone else in command of the advance guard. I wonder if the papers will tell where the rebels are. I hope they are on their way to the Gulf. I cannot write more to night for I am to go to sleep. I will trust you in the hands of the who doeth all things well. Much love to Charlie, may he also be kept by the same power.

Affectionately your own

Lizzie

Mar 19. Dearest We are all very well this morning, I hope you are. I had no mail yesterday. Shall get it soon.

Yours

Lizzie

Sangster station is by a very old
letter written at the time of the
first advance, but I am not able
to find its exact location. I should
like to learn a great deal all at once
now. Are you going to try to write to
me, at least every other day? I commence
this letter in the afternoon. But I am
now writing in the morning, about eight
o'clock. We are having a severe snow
storm. This is the third day. A very
great deal of snow has fallen. I counted
twenty five men and boys together, that
came out of the church after morning
service, and not as many this afternoon.
I read to Joy this morning one an hour.
Grace and Minnie are downstairs reading
and singing. I had a play with Jennie also.
I read to Joy and Grace nearly all the
afternoon till they were both tired from
listening, although they enjoyed it very
much. Joy has not been very well
since Wednesday last. But I hope
by to-morrow he will be quite well.
I gave him a good dose of medicine
to-night. Jennie is so happy and willful
as usual. Tell Charlie he is beginning
to get quite a head of hair. I fear it
is going to be a greater task to govern
him than it was both the other children.
Mrs Jeff has returned, she called here.
She said she and Miss Hardy (they are now
in the Tomlee house) are going to take care
of and board Mr Walter Harwood. I think
the name is. So I suppose there will not
be any trouble about their moving. I
suppose I shall go to Farmington when
the house is vacated. Sarah and
Lucy go me the step with her while
setting the house to rights. But I should
prefer to go to a boarding house. Then I
need not hurry, but take time according
to the weather. Rowland is to move and
I presume will do so next month.
He and Mr Cutler are to exchange houses.
They are out of the village now, but will

Camp Griffin's Battery near
Alexandria Va. March 17th. 1862.

General O. O. Howard

General

I had the pleasure of receiving thirty $30 dollars from you on the 15th. inst. for which favor I am very greatful. The General hopes that I have not forgotten my saviour & shall not forget when I was brought to direct my attention to the great saviour of mankind by the remarks of Lt. Howard in the Chapel, on West Point. I was confirmed, in Washington, about two months since, but I am aware that this is not all that is necessary but it is a change of heart obtained by constant watchfulness and prayer. Your Obdt. Servant

Henry N. Pottery

Mt. Jos. Union Mills
Nov 17 1862

Dearest,

I marched the Division to Fairfax Station & thence to F. Court House yesterday. All but Gen Francis's Brigade — then from reports we got from Genl. Franklin, Genl Sumner ordered me back again with the Division. Genl. Richardson came & took command. So yesterday we marched upwards of twenty miles in the mud. Oh, how is I tired last night. To-day we shall cross Bull Run — into prospects of Manassas. We are intended to go ~~to~~ down the Potomac but when we shall cross Rivers is uncertain. I wish the strength & prosperity of the men could be economized a little more. You must not be anxious. For it is only once in a great while that we are exposed to danger. God bless you & the little ones.

Affectionately your husband
Otis

[ca - March 17, 1862]

Here is Rogers head Quarters this 17th March 1862 — He feels too tired to write a letter but he will just say to Mariana & the children that he is about a mile & one half from Manassas junction with his troops living in a secession Camp. The enemy built all the log huts & in the order of an encampment

Regards

I feel pretty well but a little tired - I regret
seems as to rest - & sleeping any where or
nowhere are the hard things on a
Campaign. We shall probably move
backward soon - such seems to be
the programme - I shall be sorry
when the work is done & I can
return to my happy little family -
There is scarcely any danger of an
action here. Gen'l Richardson is here
He happened to be at Fairfax Court
house, without any staff when we were
ordered back. So he came on. The enemy
is watching us but dont intend
any action. Mr Miles is going to leave
me & go on Gen'l Sumner's staff - I
shall have Sim Scott of the
6th in his place - Much love to
the little children - May
God protect you all & me
Affectionately
Your own
husband
Liz

P.S. Charles encloses the hair

of my saddle - I put my dinner in the saddle pockets & am ready for a march. I am feel anxious to send me something, but I am anxious to reduce my baggage to its smallest possible limits. I have scarcely had our wagons get up to us two nights after any march - so I go prepared. You must keep everything good till I get home. I would like to hear you & Aunt Betsy talk politics & tactics - You dont say much of Aunt Sarah. I fear her troubles & deafness have been a great detriment to her. Perhaps I never gave you any idea of this Division now belonging to Genl Richardson -

Genl Howard & staff
- Capt Sevall
- Lieut Wiles
- Lieut Howard
- Dr. Palmer
- Capt Parker
- Lieut Bullock

Genl French
- Capt [illegible]
- " [illegible]
- Lieut [illegible]
- Lieut [illegible]
- Capt [illegible]
- Lieut [illegible]
- Dr Greene

Genl Meagher promoted
- Capt —
- Lieut Gossen
- Capt Sullivan
- " —
- Dr Fagler

Hornsworth's Cavalry one Reg

Battery Capt Arlett
- 1st Lieut Clarke
- 2d Franks
- 3d Nettit

I am sorry to know that Gray's cough troubles him so much. Grace & Carrie are spoken of most highly by mother. Guy was at school. Will be home soon. I shall write much oftener to you & to yourself darling - Tomorrow

Good night & God bless you dear

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Hd Qrs Howard's Brigade 1862
Camp Manassas, Mar 18

Darest

We are still here quietly encamped. Yesterday, after making the disposition for the division, I rode with Charlie through the different camps about here. We are south of "Bull run". This morning Charlie & I with Dr. Tingley 5th N H Regt & a company of cavalry went to "the Manassas junction" a little way beyond. Genl French's Brigade is there, with one battery of Artillery. You will have seen a description of Manassas & its surroundings in the papers. There are fortifications here & at Centreville sufficient to hold a hundred thousand men. Our works at Centreville are pretty good. Here they are well arranged but incomplete - very different from ours this side of the Potomac. I presume we will be recalled to Fairfax Court house tomorrow - preparatory to a southern movement down the Potomac. I got your kind & affectionate letter of the 12th this morning. I think you had better act without regard to the close of the war. The retreat of Johnson from Manassas does not indicate any disposition to give

up. but a simpler change which was necessitated by the movements of Gen. Banks on our right. He has dropped Johnson's Reservation & is most probably footing & watching us. Our Cavalry will move as quickly as possible. Drs Valentine, Rowan the Rotunda, Banks replaces us & we follow the rest.

We have not conquered the enemy yet. Stuart is opposite me with 2000 Cavalry. 3 Battalions of Infantry & one battery. & can retreating against one of his and the raids. Gen. Richardson is here. He now has his adopted Gen. & I have learned him an aide. So he will relieve me from responsibility in a measure. I hear that Col. Field is not dead. You can have little idea of the distances here. There are so few houses to relieve the monotony of moving from place to place. The miles seem very long. and more so when this sticky mud is about 4 or 5 inches deep. But it is drying up rapidly. How desolate everything is here. I went over the battle field the other day. Horses bones are strewn around & graves covered with a few rails appear here & there to mark the places of encounter with the messengers of death. Most of the houses are deserted. A few poor people are living in the vicinity collecting a scanty subsistence from the abandoned Camps. The swelling tide a great deal plains is fagging themselves up for winter. All the houses are dung little log huts with one window & a good fireplace. I have a "Contraband" for a servant. agreed to pay him ten Dollars per month. His name is Abram. Gen. Porter went & took possession of our Camp. We say that poor Custer is dead. A wicked man went into our Camp & shot him. Poor people very sorry for he was a nice little boy & he anticipated a great deal of pleasure in taking him home to Gray. Pope Dwaze has a boy by the name of Charlie. They call him "Bonie". He isn't much larger than Gray. is not much taller. but very stout. he is a German. & very bright. He rides Gray horse "Charlie" when I am on the other. I was thinking Gray might ride him if he knew "Charlie" & I get home. I have a fine Gray. & uncle Charles rides the third. that looks exactly like a Zebra. I'll be stuck by me as my orderly. And you cannot beat him for activity in the field. When I move. I have my blankets & robe rolled up together & roll my india Rubber blanket on side of that & then bind them by three straps on the back

Auburn Mar. 19th 1862

Wednesday Evening. 10 o'clock

Dearest

I have just thought I would write you. I wish you to know that I have seen the "Order" against letters from the Army of the Potomac being written. I do not know as it includes both officers and men. If it does I am sorry but it will be no worse for me than thousands of others. I wish as many would stop finding fault with Gen. McClellan. To day paper says "reports capture of Fredericksburg last Sunday" I hardly think so for your last letter was written from "Union Mills" on Monday. We are all very well. I was out walking this afternoon with Cousin Fanny. I received your letter of the 17th to day. I thought it might be the last one for

some time. Who is Gen. Richardson? I did not see Gen Strong's name, so presume he is not there. In what Div is the 3d Maine. I must write a longer letter to night, because it is getting late. I was about to retire without writing, but I feared the children might hinder me in the morning, or something else might. I told Aunt to-day I was very sorry she or anyone would say or think I had a hard time. Doing what I have to do and taking care of the children, I wish everyone would wait until I said something about utering a complaint. I am not, what a forlorn sort of an individual I should be without these children. I have plenty of money and shall have occasion to spend but little till I go to Farmington, or else (if I do go to Lewis) what I should take with me. I think I have decided going in April. I haven't written at the paper, so am not quite done.

If I am not to get letters I shall want to hear from Mrs Gerrell more than ever. I must write good night. When I have finished a letter I generally delay writing to write more, then I would like to get into the envelope myself when I come to close up the letter. But your duty is there and I know mine is here.

Again Good night

Your own Lizzie

Headquarters 5th N.H.V.
Camp Manassas, March 21, 1862

Dear General

I was not only surprised and grieved at reading your note. Never in my life have I even shirked or shrunk from my duty even when I knew death stood in the way. The information I gave you yesterday morning I then supposed to be true & did not know otherwise until this morning. The flowers brought by my men from Manassas killed out their natures I hurt, his

that you did not do me the injustice to think I told you a lie to shield myself from duty. For 7 years I have borne arms, taken part in fifty battles, received three honorable wounds and it is not for me at this time, in the place I now hold to play the 'skirk'

For your expressions of esteem and confidence I thank you. Believe me, sir I entertain the most cordial sentiments of respect and friendship towards you—

self, and you will never find a traitor supporter, in camp, on the march, or under fire of the enemy.

I beg to enclose a little slip of paper, that you may see that I come of a stock is not in the habit of neglecting duty.

I hope, sir that my statement that I intended to state the truth & nothing else is satisfactory

I am very truly

Edward R. Geary

Give this Francis, Grace
& Guy — and tell them
Papa prays for them
daily. Guy & Grace must
never forget to ask God
to take care of him
& keep him from sin.
They must be holy
children & learn to
do good all the time
& want others to be
always unselfish
& happy —
Grace Good Bye
Good is to us all.
is he not? Be faithful
& be happy & do what
you think is best to
please your husband
loving husband Otis

Head Qrs Manassas
Mar 21. 1862

Dear —

I have an
opportunity to send a
a note. Lt Col Johnson
is waiting. he is going
to Alexandria. Yesterday
I made a reconnoissance
in the rear for about
12 miles along the
Manassas Gap R.R.
but found nothing
nobody but Banks
property & civilians now.
What forgotten it was
a false apparition.
Others went with him
he is the most energetic
& enterprising man we
have. I am really glad you

the Confederate guard or advanced scouts. We learned where the enemy was not. The roads have hundreds of dead horses left by the rebels on the retreat. They burnt a Depot at Gainesville containing from 300 or 400 bushels of wheat. They have burnt the bridges across the Shenandoah & Thoroughfare &c. &c. I saw some little children yesterday at Gainesville that my mind was of home. One little girl about as big as Gracie came up & talked with me very freely. We are still here waiting for Gen. Banks. These long days

look short on the march but they give me a good appetite & good sleep at night.

A letter from you saying what it follows me up & finds me in the field as as great a treat as any thing here. Give much love to little Guy. We this place is very sorry that he has so much pain in his ear.

I am happy to hear that many are turning to the Lord & will try to be a true & faithful disciple here. & my precious little wife must cling close unto Him & pray who can look have true wisdom to direct

Camp Manassas
Saturday Eve.

Dear Guy

Papa thinks Uncle Charlie cant print and I dont know but he is right. You must tell me if you could read such poor printing. We live in a log hut now. We have a big fire in the stone fire-place which is so large that you could walk into it without stooping.

John has just been over to Mrs. Landis to get some bread and tea for our supper.

Papa swam his horse across Bull Run the other day. Papa got wet but did not catch cold. Give my love to Gracie and mama and a kiss to Jamie.

Your affectionate Uncle
Charlie

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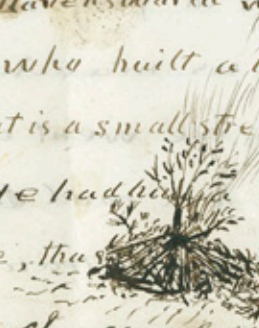
Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade Mar. 22 1862

Dear Guy,

Papa received a good letter from dear mamma this morning and he was very glad. It was written mostly last sunday, but sent wednesday after. Do you remember Alexandria, the city you and uncle Rowland came through when you visited papa in camp. Well if you kept your eyes as wide open as you generally do you saw a rail road going straight out into the country. That Rail Road leads out to where we now are. We are about 25 miles from Alexandria. The first station is Ravensworth where papa protected the men who built a bridge across the Accotink (that is a small stream of water with high banks). He had built a sort of Wigwam built there, thus  where he slept with uncle Charlie Capt Sewall & Mr Miles. The fire was built in the centre,

and against the tree. A little hole was left at the top for the smoke. Every body lay with his feet to the fire. The next station is Burke's. Here papa slept for two nights in a house. The next station is called "Fairfax Station". The next "Sangster's" where papa slept under a tent fly. The next "Union Mills". Here we had a house at Mr Landis where we were very kindly treated by the good woman Mrs Landis. She had a little girl about your size & age. whom papa talked with every chance he could get. Her name tell Grace was Sallie. Papa left that house in the morning & marched all day last sunday & the same night returned to the same house; perhaps to pay Genl Sumner for making us march sunday. The next day we went across Bull run along the same Rail road almost to the next station, called Manassas & here we have been, ever since. The Rebels have made thousands of huts & we are living in some of them. We are waiting and watching here, expecting soon to go back.

The hills are something like the above on both sides of "Bull Run". Papa feels very sorry that Guy has so many ill turns. You must try and be very kind to Gracie. Nothing is more pleasing to your Saviour than to show yourself loving and kind to your sister little brother and Mother. Papa is now going to Genl. Richardson's Head Quarters, i.e. Genl. Richardson's house. Give much love to dearest Mamma, Gracie & Jamie. If he dont understand that, kiss him. Always pray to God to protect your papa & bring him home in his own good time.

Your loving papa
Oliver — Otis — Howard

getting the timber ready as much chopping was heard yesterday. We shall probably move down that way today & some of Blenker's Divisn will probably come on from Fairfax Court House.

We deem it somewhat uncertain whether we go down river in the boats as we at first expected.

It is strange Banks does not appear with his Column to relieve us. With a great deal of love to Mary & Grace & sweet little Jennie — a mouthful to yourself — on the score of sisterhood, remember me

Affectionately yours as your brother

C. H. Howard

Hd Qrs Howard's Brigade
Camp Manassas
Mar. 22 1862.

My dear Lizzie

It has been a long time since I wrote you. Capt Hazard of the Artillery came here yesterday P.M. He is to relieve Capt Clark in command of a battery & chief of Artillery for this Division. Capt. C. goes upon the Army Corps Staff. Capt. H. was in Florida with Otis & so felt himself to be an old acquaintance. He is very social & told us a great deal about the Campaign & the Army of the West. He has been Col. of the 37th Indiana — was among those who first occupied Nashville. His experiences with a

Otis is going down to Washington for a few days in consequence of difficulties in his Regiment. It is said he will be back in a few days.

his Volunteer Regt. has been very similar to that of Otis.

It seems he was hardly dead & women wouldn't let the surgeon home &c. &c. so that 4000 women at length petitioned to have him relieved and as his connection with the army had never been dissolved he was ordered from Washington to join his Company. — He is not so popular in his town & more angular than your <u>venerated</u> husband.

One thing that must have militated against Capt Rogers was that he did not allow the Chaplain to visit the Hospital without a pass.

Last night it rained hard but our hut does not leak. We slept in a row upon the floor six of us — the Gen. Capt. H., myself, Lt. Lott (He takes Mr. Miles place who was promoted to Army Corps staff) Mr Pollock (Commissary) kept Herself; (in the other corner).

Dr. Palmer was here but slept on the table! Gotham also found a place.

We have been out bright & pleasant this morning — Gen. French who is down beyond the fords about 2 or 3 miles from us sent up word last night that the enemy had been discovered near & that they were building a bridge across Broad River as if to return upon us. He sent a Regiment in the night to escort but they did not find the enemy. They may yet be over the River

O. O. Howard
March 22, 1862

Odear still hard on McClellan. Genl Burnside gives a beautiful tribute to his McClellan's plans in his report of the battle of Newbern. I still have great confidence in the patriotism of Genl McClellan, which I have not in many of his Coadjutors & Subordinates. Our new division Genl is Brig Genl Richardson a graduate of West Point. I think he is a good man. but I ~~wish~~ he got up earlier in the morning & was a little more active. Our Army Corps is Sumner's consisting of Richardson's, Blenker's, & Sedg'wick's Divisions. Richardson's Division consists of Howard's Hancock's & Meagher's Brigades. Three batteries of Artillery 6 pieces each & one full Regiment of Cavalry. The Army Corps will be near by 30,000 men. The other Divisions I am not very fully acquainted with yet. We shall soon be brought together. I wonder if you & father have been able to go out to meeting today. I feel sorry I heard Sec Cannt & Swan again. but I can only rejoice that she has laid down the burden of life to join her good husband in the better land. They are with Christ. Give much love to Father from me & Charlie & to yourself. Remember us to Roland & Ellen - to Mrs. Wolf & to the neighbors. I feel sorry for Isaac's additional affliction.

Very affectionately
Your son Otis

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Mar 23. 1862

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My dear Mother

I will write you a short letter tonight. Charlie generally writes mother & I write Sizzie, but I must not get quite out of the habit of writing my mother. You may think we work very hard. Sometimes we do - work, eat & sleep irregularly. Then again for a few days we have scarcely anything to do, unless we make work. I don't like to let the troops lie still long - for they get sick & out of order. I made two long reconnoissances last week, but didn't do much else. The Rebel army in force is a good way off from us. They can retire & destroy bridges & rail roads faster than we can repair them. for you know it is easier to tear down houses than to build them. People may wonder why armies do not move faster, but they cannot. for horses & men have to be fed. and the country furnishes little or nothing to eat. This was a very poor section of Virginia in brighter days. The soil is nothing but red clay interspersed with sandstone here & there. One day the roads will be deep, sticky & troublesome to footmen & the next it will be dry even to dust, if a steady wind blows accompanied by sunshine. The two principal features here are deserted huts for soldiers & dead horses. There are scarcely any

dwelling houses. One, a Mr Weir lived about a mile from here, a wealthy man, who has gone away abandoning all his property. I have seen only one occupied by its owner within a mile and that is by a Mr Cannon who has just returned to it. War, under the best of circumstances is an awful scourge. Everything decays before it. Fences, woods & fields of grain are destroyed. It matters little whether the force be friendly to the country or not. I perceive also the demoralization of the men. We lose that careful recognition of the rights of persons to their own property, and make our necessities entirely the measure of our respect for those rights. I am afraid we shall steal when we get home if our neighbors have things better than we.

I try as hard as I can to prevent all marauding & foraging - but with all I am obliged to provide oats & corn & hay for horses & sometimes for an unexpected number. The course we have pursued is this. We tell a citizen. We want to buy your cows or your oats. And we give receipt for them & recommend to the government to pay on condition of the Seller taking the oath of allegiance at the time of payment. Every body is willing to take the oath. I understand that they had to take the oath to serve the Southern confederacy when the other army was here. The poor people between the two armies have a hard time of it. I don't wonder they get corrupt. There are no schools, no churches, no sabbaths.

We had today one service of the entire Brigade. We formed a large square thus:  like four blocks, each Regt. a block with the band & Chaplain & the field officers in the center. Mr Wilkins, the only Chaplain out here, of the New Hampshire 5th preached on the text: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation". He gave a real good, honest, truthful & touching discourse. Rowland writes most cheering news from Farmington. I am rejoiced to see so many turning to the Lord. I wish I could support him by the prayers he desires from me.

But it seems to me that I need all your prayers to keep me in the path of duty. I know I need the help of the Lord. Charlie is a dear good brother. Bold & fearless in the saddle, kind & gentle in quarters. We always move on in perfect harmony. Lizzie says he is better than a wife. I think so for this is too rough a place for a wife. I heard that the wife of the adjutant of the 61st N.Y. came to the camp tonight. A beautiful & delicate little woman. I wish she was away in a good comfortable home. I ought to write Dellie & I mean to.

Hd Qrs Camp
Manassas —
Mar - 24 1862

Darling,

All well & waiting of our Boundy. Dowsen again Chas. has gone with Lt Col. Singleby to the old Battle ground. Some of the men are getting sick in these old Camps. The man is waiting for the letter. I thought I would just send love to the Children & many kisses. Our position is entirely safe with a regard to the Enemy. & God is our protector

Good bye
Affectionately
Your husband
Chas

our forces have landed at
New Port News —
Rosetta thinks you
are as safe & happy
at Auburn as at Farmington
would you rather stay
at Auburn?

Farmington Mch 26/62

Dear Little Lizzie

From some hints that you have dropt, I have thought that perhaps you would feel happier at your Aunts & in the neighborhood of the telegraph & relieved from the cares & expense of housekeeping:

If this be your feeling, why not stay there & let Mr Farnell let his house? To be sure it has seemed settled but I have no doubt all could be arranged with him = Write me, please frankly, what you wish & how you feel and I

So write immediately = Mr Hendy is to leave the house today & if you move before the snow goes away it had better be pretty soon =

Sarah expects you & yr. family there and she is now well situated to have you come = I wish we were not quite so far off - but we expect to move down town in May = We have not had a case of diphtheria in the Village since these Elected meetings commenced nearly six weeks ago = The health of the place is now good &

your loving Brother
Rowland

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will do just as you wish.
The Revival is making great progress and I am at work as hard as I can. but O it is a most delightful work!
Our last news from Alex & Chas was the 16th inst, when they were at Fairfax Ct. H. on their return to Alexandria & Embark on the Boats for Ft. Monroe &c. I hope you have heard since. The Engagement at Winchester shows that Banks can't relieve them at Fairfax as they hoped.
Sarah & family are all well. So are we.
Hattie Patten is here for a few days of her vacation.
A deaf & dumb man called here in my Absence one day to see Isabella. John & Helen are housekeeping over the River. We have had no mails for a week till yesterday or I would have written before. A good bill has been presented to me and a bill for the Electric this year. the former about 46 $ & the latter 8 $.
If you don't come the good can be easily disposed of. but if you still desire to come & keep house here till God permits Alex to join you. We will be very happy to have you & the dear children so near us.

Near Mrs Warren's
Junction - Mar 2

[March 26, 1862?]

Dear Sarah -

All well. We had a slight skirmish yesterday with horsemen - nobody hurt. a N Pitted & blown - Give much & many kisses to the Letter & Good Mass you call & keep you. Affectionate

Chas

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Camp Near - Cedar Run
near Warrenton Junction
May 27 1862

Dearest -

We are here - in
beautiful morning - all well
& in good spirits - Miss the
little ones - Pray for me
that I may have the courage
to do right, I will write
as soon as possible more
at length -

Very lovingly Your
husband
O. O. Howard

Farmington Mch. 30 [1862]

Sab: Evening

My dear Brother

I will not write like tomorrow morn: May God bless & keep you this night! Mar: morn: I am having an opportunity this morning to "see what preparations the Sun makes when he leaves his Eastern chamber": We have a splendid crust. and the coasting down over the hill in front of our house is magnificent. I well inspired. your kind note came Sat. night - I am not "angry" but if you send my letters to Ned Parker, I cannot write confidentially - What we understand, inter nos, might seem to him Officious in me - Rev. Dr. Thurston last night - some new ones - a few first & profound hope yesterday - the usual hopefully converted in connection with these meetings cannot be less than 150 - Old Professors are waking up & showing more & more signs of life every day - So for the young Converts appear well - H. M. Dyer to whom you wrote, is not the Dr. who still inquires for but does not find Jesus - The former is a printer in the Patriot Office - Remember us kindly to yr. friends

Yours forever

R. B. Howard

Ordination?

of Searsport - below Bangor on the coast, is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, settled Pastor in the State. He is connected with a large family of excellent Congregationalist Christians & I am glad he has invited you = Prof Whittlesey of Bowdoin Coll. preached for us yesterday & I rested till evening. We want you to come to Brunswick - If Dr. Adams will invite you cordially - I need go, otherwise, not. = I will hope to see you while at Lewiston: When will you come? We pray for Plymouth. Our Unitarian minister, Preston, is from that place. He advertised in the papers & preached a doctrinal sermon yesterday morning Uh. dear may some of our young people = I hear that he was quite orthodox in the use of language = May the Lord keep that vile fox from destroying the vines - the tender ones here - & He will = I delivered your message to Mrs H. & said - She generally reads your letters before I do = Hattie & Lis go home today with Prof. W. = My Brothers are in advance towards Gordonsville - Va, working & praying their way along = I feel a little acquainted with Mr. Hearsey on acct. of his contributions to literature - May the Lord help you to help him! June 15. rose for prayers