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1598 3/2/1862

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Charles H. Howard

OOH-1553

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[59]

Leeds March 2d 1862

My dear son Charles

I have this morning felt more than usually strong desires that this may be a sabbath day indeed, and more especially 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 Spirt 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 storms. 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 began yesterday P.M.

Mr Additon's other daughter will be interred today. So those two lovely girls are laid away out of their parent's 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 the same spirit may be found in every house. There is scarce a day but the bell is tolled for some death in Town. 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 inteligence, as well as cheering inteligence, 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 called on Mrs Josie Keene last Thursday, found her feeble but still not more so nor so much as I expected from what I learned. She talked freely on any subject and was cheerful, has a fine babe. The babe had her father's miniature in her hand open, liked to look at the picture. We called on Aranda 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 immense snow drifts.

I called 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 woodpile for Thomas to begin to chop soon. We are hoping to see rain soon, to settle the snow, to make it better moving about. Your father has returned from braking roads and says there has been no passing on the Kennebec and Androscogin since Thursday.

Dellie'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 Newspaper reading, since we have no mails. He has been searching the house for something to read. He has read Miss Gilbert's career, and has brought forward Schmitz's History of Rome and Smellie's Philosophy and is quite interested in them. I would

give a great deal 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 gunboats that were built at Cairo. Is it 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 proposes going to Hallowel 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 to send out to Virginia but no one has put it in practice.

I have not heard whether Oscar Millet has returned from Washington yet. It is now about year since this Calamitous rebellion began 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 <army> still go it on, and must untill our National honor is reestablished or ruined. I feel a confidence that our cause is just and I feel to trust it in the hands God. My daily prayer 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 seem more encouraging and still all news is fraught 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 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 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 and joys when shall we see".

Abbie is still here with her little babe five weeks old, says she is going to her father's 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 to take care of her babe while at home. Thomas has been steady 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 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 blank sides 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 Herrick is dead.

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1599 3/2/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My precious Husband  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1554

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[60]

Auburn Mar. 2d 1862  
Sunday Eve half past 7 ocl

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 Mondays mail at the regular time and fortunately your letter of the 22d ult reached me at that time. Tuesdays mail arrived Wednesday noon. Thursday's arrived Friday 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 Susan. I hope you told her Guy was going to write to her. He began his letter the 13th of Feb. I really could not have him finish it before. The check came in safety. Uncle Edward sent me \$14.60 interest on coupons. (Government loan) I imagine S.S. Carroll is not at West Point now for you say he is doing himself honor with McClellen. Where are they? I wrote to Rowland what you said about having Mr Farwells house the 29th of March. I have become well enough acquainted to enjoy my stay here.

I received a letter from Maria last week. It was enclosed in one to Sarah and remailed to me by Rowland. Mr and Mrs Mordecai were to see her not long ago. The young ladies have a school about ten scholars. She saw Mrs Greble also week or two ago. Maria writes "It seems to be a great pleasure to her to think Otis is God father to her little Clara." Mr French was there for a few days. I presume it was after the Jan. examination. Mrs Greble said "he was very much worried out as he had had no assistance at all in teaching, and misses Otis very much in his other duties." Blanch was in Phila for a week or two this winter. Her "History" is very highly spoken of. I am very glad Maria visited the Mordecai's. I feel very grateful to her for it.

I presume Rowland has written you about his visit to Bath, and of the revival there. He writes me that Christians are waking up in his church, and he feels that God is about to grant them a great blessing. Sarah's family were all well the 24th. Tell Perry if you see him.

Was pleased to learn you saw Col Cross' Photographs. I like to know how your officers look. What a big man you are. (I wrote that last sentence in a whisper.) Maybe Charlie wont see it when his turn comes to read the letter. I have been writing, reading and thinking more than an hour. Guy, Grace, and Jamie are asleep and they are all well. I feel that health is a great blessing. I have been to Church all day. Guy and Grace to Sunday School. My first communion out of the Chapel was today. How well could I recall Mr French's room and words, and sentences of the service kept running through my mind.

I am reading "Agnes & the little key", a book Mr Farwell recommended to you our second year at West Point. I think it must be very good Aunt Sarah says. Her Agnes' father is like you. I dont know as it is Agnes' father but one of the characters. Aunt is asleep and I cant ask her. I should like to see Charlies sketch of your life. Now if the request had been sent to the wives 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 yankee) a pretty good Gen.

I had a visit from a Mr Ayer last Wednesday. He spent one hour or more in your Camp or tent two weeks ago to-day he told me, and called at your regiment. I was pleased to hear you were looking well. He gave me a good report of you all. I thanked him heartily for coming.

Guy regrets the loss of "Castor". When I told him he came very near dropping a tear while saying, "Now I cant have him to stay with". Grace I had told before, so she turned to comfort him and said, "Well, Guy, may be we will have some other dog." Grace is a very thoughtful, sweet and affectionate child. Guy's theories are all right as usual, but his practice is not quite perfect.

I feel more and more every day the necessity of relying on God to direct me in their education and government. I think of sending Guy to the private school, it will keep four weeks.

Not anything about dear little Jamie yet, but to begin, we had a great frolic this afternoon in the parlor, Jamie and I alone. I was saying, the other day if you had been in the habit of playing with him and been with him all the time I presume I should have very much to do with him. For there is so much of the boy to know that if he was in the habit of having strong hands toss and play with him, I should be wholly unable to manage him be worse he would be more well and he now is very strong, and he is very large also. He is a real go ahead boy. Aunt has taken him to sleep with her in a room opening out of mine, which Guy and Grace occupy with me.

Give much love to Charlie. I want him to write to me sometimes. I would like Col. Staples photograph with the consent of Mrs Staples.

Not much more this time. I have not had a visit from Mother yet. Uncle Oren has been here twice. He had many questions to ask about you. Aunt Lucy's health is better. Uncle says she is about as good a woman as he knows; and he knows she is a Christian, and that is what makes her so.

Good night, dearest now. May God continue to guard and to guide you, and in his own good time bring you home.

Your own loving wife  
Lizzie

I often think of Jehovah-jerah.

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1600 3/3/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1555

Head Quarters  
Howards Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[61]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
March 3d 1862

Dearest Lizzie,

I have hesitated this evening 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, Mr. Hillhouse, br. to John our friend, but before I got an answer Charles' notice of appointment came. He is now a bona fide Lieutenant in Co. 61st N. York & I am truly glad. His commission dates from 24th of January.

You can hardly imagine how hard it rains. Yesterday, Mrs Sampson, Miss Smith her sister, & Mrs Watson with Capt Watson 3d Me, came over here just before church service, attended with us at the exercises of the 61st N.Y, returned to this tent. It began to snow, they staid, took dinner, and after awhile I got the N Hampshire Hospital wagon & accompanied them back to their Camp. I called upon the chaplain, Perry Lee, Dexter Howard & Col Staples, stopping a few minutes & then returned here.

In the evening we had a prayer meeting at the Chapel tent of the 61st. I dont know as I told you that Capt Sewall 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 rear 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 rear pole we have a bed which closes up like a stool & on which Johns buffalo robe is put by day. We have a scraggly stick by the side of the rear pole upon which we hang clothes, cups &c. John sleeps in the front tent where the stove is. We are very comfortable. I wish all poor soldiers were as much so, but they are not so, yet they seem to enjoy life from day to day.

Capt Taylor Sumner's Adjt Genl said I must be wanting to go home. I 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, 180 times to those rolls & in many of them he has put in the "fair", "good" &c for me & the "Brig" "Gen." It is not a little thing to have a brother when you dont have a wife with you is it?

How do you suppose little Guy is this evening? Dreaming so quietly & happily & comfortably, watched over by our Father. And Gracie?

After I wrote the work Gracie, I got a note from Genl Sumner asking me to go to him as soon as 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 March I shall 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 - Guy, Grace & Jamie. Tell Guy & Gracie that a poor little colored boy, not much bigger than Guy was brought to papa's tent yesterday morning by a soldier. The Soldier said, he was so louzy that the man 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 spare ten, 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 & then 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 woolens 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

George to do well. Guy will remember George as our colored cook. He is a very good man.

Now for bed. Good night darling. I may not be where I can write for a few days. God bless you all. Love to Aunt Sarah & fam.

Affectionately

Otis

Charlie sends love.

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1601 3/3/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1556

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

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 wh you see her. Guy, Grace & Jamie many kisses & much love.

We have not moved yet. Dont know wh we shall.

I enclose a draft for \$200

Truly & affectionately  
Your husband  
Otis

Love to Aunt Sarah & all

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1602 3/4/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Mrs O.O. Howard

OOH-1557a

Burkes Station

Auburn, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Burkes Station  
March 4th 1862

Dearest,

I took three Regts. of my Brigade & protected the Bridge over the Accotink while it was being rebuilt. Today 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 California, having been relieved by another brigade.

I hope you are all well. Give much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie from papa.

Capt Sewall will take this back to Camp & mail it to you.

May God bless & protect you & me.

Affectionately  
Otis

[Written on the back of the letter by Otis]  
Mrs O.O. Howard  
Auburn, Me.

[A note from Charles was written on March 9, 1862 on the back of this letter.]



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1603 3/6/1862

*From:* Sergeant Henry N.  
Rothery

*To:* Brig. General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-1558

*Source:* Bowdoin

Capt. Griffins Battery  
Genl. Morrells Brigade  
Genl. Porters Division  
<Minon> Hill Va.

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[65]

March 6th, 1862

Brig. General 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 & will need (\$30) thirty dollars besides the funds that I will have next pay. Gen Howard is the only person to whom I feel like applying to. If I could get my family to Washington 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 \$100.0, 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. Hoping that this request will meet with your favorable consideration.

I remain Your Obedt Servant  
Sergeant Henry N. Rothery  
Capt. Griffins Battery  
Genl. Morrells Brigade  
Genl. Porters Division  
Minon Hill Va.

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

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1604 3/6/1862

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1559

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

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 Nettie 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 so 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 criticized 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 often. I haven't had a letter from Rowland for over two months, though I have written him there, 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 sometime, but I think I owed you a letter even then. I cannot get letters regularly from home nowadays 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 soon. 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 tin. 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 college 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 Pease 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. Wyman and his family attend on the Hill, except Nettie who goes to the Episcopal. Many others of the Baptists go on the Hill.

Our time 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. I hear people about town and elsewhere growling heartily about so large an army taking the peoples money yet doing nothing. Many and probably most are willing to wait till Gen. McClellan sees 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

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1605 3/6/1862

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1560

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

Auburn, Mar. 6th 1862

Dearest,

I wanted to mail a letter to you to-day, merely to ask if you could'nt write me nearly every day. You know the papers are blank now. Your last two letters were very short, but you dont 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 25th and 27th came together. I receive 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 "Castor" is found. One would think him an old favorite to hear Guy talk of him; it belongs to papa 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 Rowland yesterday with regard to the revival there. I presume he sent you one also so I conclude that the cars have finally got shoveled 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 assure you he enjoys it hugely.

I would like to call to see Mrs Jackson, but there are objections. I think I better not. I should be very glad to meet her in the city. 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. Dont forget. I have been out walking to-day. The weather begins to seem a very little like spring. I have heard nothing of Charlie's commission 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

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1607 3/9/1862

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1561

Hd. Qrs. Sumner's  
Division

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[123]

Hd. Qrs. Sumner's Division  
Mar 9th 1862

Dearest,

I got into my old 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 Kearney and came here all right. We fired on the enemy's pickets, but I dont think any one was killed, except the spy who was shot. He had on a Maine overcoat, had a U.S.. rifle 2 pistols & a B. knife. His name was Chas. Dillon. He had a pass in his possession of our military governor of Alexandria Gen Montgomery & also one from Gen Sedgwick. He had also one from Beauregard & one from Gen. J.E. Johnston. He was a young looking man of fine appearance. The letters from his wife beseeching him to come home & troublingly anxious expressions about our kind of Savior & a Servant were touching in the extreme. She has one little child, Charlotte, a baby. One could hardly keep from crying on reading these epistles from West Mississippi. All she seemed to think of was that he must come home. And as he had a furlough all written out in his packet I 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 have been hung I think, had he been brought in alive. This would have been more painful still to his poor devoted wife. She talked of rejoining 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, at Divn 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 Divn. We know that this Division will constitute a part of his command & that is all.

You asked about Edsels hill. This is a point three miles in advance of us & where our line of pickets meets Genl Franklin's on the right & Gen Heintzelman on the left. I have now advanced the picketing regiment to Springfield Station which is four miles from this place. I left the 64th N.Y. there when I came in from Burke's Station.

How are the Bunnies tonight. I presume all asleep by this time.

We got a letter from Mother tonight. She wants the snow to get so that she can see you & the children. She mentions many deaths - Mr Additons daughters, Mr Herrick & Mrs Rackley. How good the Lord is to us. Let us all love him as & more than we love one another.

[A small sketch, unreadable, is at the top of page 1.]

Your own husband  
Otis

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1608 3/9/1862

*From:* O. O. Howard  
Brig Genl  
Camp California

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-1562

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

American Telegraph Company

Mch 9th 1862  
Received at Lewiston  
By Telegraph from Camp California  
To Mrs. O.O. Howard

All returned safely to camp last night  
O. J. Howard  
Brig Genl

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1609 3/10/1862      *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1563

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Auburn March 10th 1862

My dearest Otis

I have not finished reading Sundays paper, but I will begin my letter to you and tell you first that mother came down to see me to-day. She went to Farmington last Saturday and came from there this morning. As it was "town meeting" to-day she would 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 she did so. I had been wanting to see her very much. I wish she could have stayed longer. She told me of the revival and rejoiced at it. She enjoyed what services she attended very much. I am very glad she went to Farmington. Some conversions have taken place in Leeds. Mr and Mrs Foss (formerly Caroline Lothrop), Osias Millett daughter.

I received a long interesting letter from Mrs Blunt 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. He was out of the Army and if in it again would he not rank higher than Capt. I have just thought he may be living there and not of the "Army". You knew 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.S. Carroll there. I saw 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 has been moved to the Cadets Chapel, and the Children (of all classes who choose to attend) meet there. Mrs Blunt says quite a number of the Ladies take classes there. Miss Blanche 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 thro' Mrs. Blunt, and I presume is correct. I learned that a young man from Turner, Frank (a brother of George Blackstone) was wounded at the taking of Ft Donelson. He joined a regiment from Minnesota. Peleg was the first to go to Illinois and all those followed him. I forgot to tell you Mrs Blunt wished to be remembered. She said, "I see the name of your Genl frequently in the papers."

I have written your address on an envelope to go with this letter. I wonder if you will be in Camp California when this reaches you? Mother brought Charlies last letter, Mar 3d dated, to read it 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 wont move right away, although you may. The beginning of the end has come, but when will the end be? If it didnt cost so much, and if there was someone I know going to Washington, and if I could 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 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 house keeping. 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.

Give much love to Charlie. Dont forget to write as often as you can, dearest. Mother has seen Osias Millett. I dont know I want to owe anybody else from your cash. Mrs Goff is here from Farmington. I must go and see her to-morrow.

Now good night. May God's choicest blessings ever be with you both.

Lizzie

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1610 3/11/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1564

Head Qrs Sangster's  
Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70]

Head Qrs Sangster's Station  
Mar. 11 1862

Dearest

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 suddenly I received a dispatch to move the Division at 6 A.M. the next day. It was then almost 12 o'clock. I went to Gen Sumners Head Qrs. called the Brigade commanders together, drew up the order of march, worked till daylight & started. Gen Sumner arrived from Washington at that time and took command.

Yesterday we had a terribly hard march, about 17 miles with a hard rain most of the way. I had command of the Advanced Guard & also of my Brigade. Perhaps you might like to know of an order of march. [Sketch showing the positions of the various components of the brigade –cavalry, scouts, skirmishers, artillery and the regiments with their commanders, the number of men marching in a line, etc.] When we came into camp at night we encamp in three lines thus [Diagram showing the positions of the various brigades with the names Advanced Guard, Howard's Brigade, French's Brigade, Meagher's Brigade, Rear Guard. Also a drawing of a man putting up a tent.]

This is the kind of work I am much engaged in. We hear that Manassas was entirely evacuated Sunday. You will get the news from the paper. My brigade, really, first started them in this quarter for I took Fairfax Station, and the next day the Brigade in front of me retired. It was Genl Kirby Smith's. Last night we encamped near Brimstone Hill. I had me a shelter fixed –made of rails, thus [sketch of a man sitting in front of a shelter.] and crawled in. I slept warm in my buffalo robe. Tonight our wagon is here & we have drawn a tent fly over a pole thus [sketch of the shelter and a fire]. You know it is very warm for you perceive the fire in front. I am writing right in front just inside the crotched pole.

Give much love to Guy & Grace & kiss Jamie & 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 sing to me - "Marching along, McClellan's our leader &c".

Camp life has its pleasures & excitements as well as its hardships. Capt Sewall says – It is a hard life – but Chas & I have been thro a "Bull run" defeat.

Good night darling. God be with & bless you & me.  
Your husband  
Otis



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1611 3/12/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1565

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71]

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 need of my going to house-keeping. 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 anxious to be with the children and I have no doubt but that she will enjoy herself very much now. She would find Jamie a little treasure, he is very old in all his ways. He sees a great many mama's and papa's 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 Leeds for a day or two. I am out of sewing, and while I can I am going to begin my summer sewing, and wish to go to my trunks packed at Leeds. 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, so 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 retired 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 called to see her this afternoon but found her out. Mrs Dr Harris was out also. I walked on to the Book store and got the 'paper', afterwards called to see a Mrs Venig. She is a sister to Mr Strout 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 Lothrop and Mary Jane have been in Leeds all winter. Warren was on his way to Fort Donelson after it was occupied by our troops the last I heard from him. He has 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 retreating rebels will trouble Gen. Burnside? I do hope they will not. I miss Aunt Betsey to talk with. She always comes in to see the papers. She is a great reader. She has gone to visit Aunt Lucy.

I hope you wont forget to write me very often. I have not written to Maria yet in answer to her letter to me. I enjoy the society of Mrs Stinson very much. She is a sister to Mr. Blaines wife at Augusta. Her husband is with Col. Dow under Gen Butler. I would like to know just how you are to-night and Charlie. At Camp 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, so no messages or kisses from them.

From your  
Lizzie

Morning.

Guy had a restless night. Another sore broke in his ear. All the rest very well.

Lizzie

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1612 3/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1566

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills Mar 13, 1862

Dearest -

All well. Chas & I rode yesterday over the enemy's deserted camp at Manassas. I am in command of the Division again, and dont have leisure.

Much love to all. Kiss the Children.

God bless you  
Affectionately Yr husband  
Otis

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1613 3/14/1862    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1567

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

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 wh. is a common laborer. He has all his life been a Swearer & Sabbath breaker and opposed his wife's attending meeting. She was once baptized 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 now of one 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 brother a hard kind of man of 45, after a long, hard struggle, yielded to the Spirits influence. So his three boys – aged 13, 11, & 9 and the hired girl. Four of our Dr's are interested, two Drs Alexander & Russell, converted. In three families which I visited this morning the Servant girls had found Jesus. There are over 100 inquirers in our congregation of 250 – 2/3 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 probably 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 impenitent, 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 everything religious, but don't 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 don'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 she better stay? And Mr Farwell 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 house keeping will be great & you may be home by next fall. D.V. [God Willing]

Yr. loving Bro  
Rowland

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1614 3/16/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1568

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Hd Qrs Union  
Mills Mar 16, 1862

Dearest,

I rec'd two dear good letters from you last night. I had command of the division yesterday & day before. Yesterday sent Genl French with his command to occupy Manassas junction about 3 1/2 miles from here. I feel sorry that I did not write you a long letter last night, but I am so interrupted by having a double command, for I continue to hold my Brigade while I run the Division. Genl Sumner returned last night. He has an army Corps. Genl Kearney 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 lot had fallen on some other man than Kearney, because he has been & I feel is still a very corrupt man, profane, a high liver, hard drinker, licentious. These are hard 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-jereh"

Charles is well. Boynton is only a Captain. He came back from La. 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 I think & is instructor at West Point. [See Note.]

I dont 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 reports, is now under Genl Shields & in Banks Army Corps.

I will not delay the Post Man any longer this morning.

The enemy are 50 miles from us. We shall move south very soon but how soon I cannot tell. It will take a little time to perfect the new organization & a little more to get the transportation arrangements made. The R.R. here is being repaired. The bridges were burnt & track taken up.

Much love to Guy. I left "Castor" at Camp with a woman. She will take care of him till I come back. I am afraid he wont learn anything. Grace must join with Guy & pray for papa in these times, and little Jamie bless his little heart.

God bless you all.

Affectionately, your own husband  
Otis

[Note. Edward C. Boynton was a graduated from USMA in 1846. He served in the Mexican War and then returned to West Point as instructor. He became Professor of Chemistry at University of Mississippi until September, 1861, when he was dismissed for not supporting the confederate states. He was permitted to return to the north by promising not to take an active role in the military against the south. He was then appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster of the USMA.]

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1615 3/16/1862     *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* My dearest Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1569

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Auburn, March 16th 1862

My dearest Otis

I wonder what I can write to you to-day. 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. I do 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 as you say it is not a little thing either.

I have been trying to learn where Sangsters station is by your old letters, 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 commenced this letter in the afternoon, but I am now writing in the evening, 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 aloud to Guy this morning over an hour. Grace and Minnie were downstairs, reading and singing. I had a play with Jamie also. I read to Guy and Grace nearly all the afternoon, till they were both tired from listening, although they enjoyed it very much. Guy has'nt 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. Jamie is as 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 that it was both the other children.

Mrs Goff has returned, she called here, she said Mr and Mrs Hardy (they are now in Mr Farwell house) are going to take care of and board Mr & Mrs Stanwood, 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 sent word for me to stop with her while getting to house-keeping, 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 be in the village after they move. Here is where they are living now. [drawing of the street layout, showing Rowland's house a little away from the two main streets.] Dont 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 dont know but I should like to see someone else in command of the advance guard. I wonder if the papers to-morrow will tell where the rebels are. I hope they are on their way to the Gulf.

I cannot write more to-night for I need to go to sleep. I will trust you in the hands of Him, 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

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1616 3/17/1862    *From:* Henry N. Rothery    *To:* General O.O. Howard

OOH-1570                      Camp Griffins Battery  
    Near  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Alexandria Va.

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[76]

Camp Griffins 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 grateful. 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 Obedt. Servant  
Henry N. Rothery

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1617 3/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1571

Hd. Qrs. Union Mills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

Hd. Qrs. Union Mills

Mar 17 1862

Dearest,

I marched the Division to Fairfax Station & thence to F. Court House yesterday - all but Gen French's Brigade. Then from reports we got from Genl French, Gen 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, was'nt I tired last night.

Friday we shall cross Bull run, take possession of Manassas. We are intended to go down the Potomac but when we shall get there is uncertain. I wish the strength & property of the men could be economized a little more.

You must never be anxious, for it is only once in a great while that we are exposed to danger.

Good bye & God bless you & the little ones.

Affectionately yr husband

Otis



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1618 3/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1572

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[78]

[ca - March 17, 1862]

[Ink drawing labeled Secession officers house.]

Here is papa's head quarters the 17th March 1862. He feels too tired to write a letter, but he will just say to Mamma & the children that he is about a mile & one half from Manassas junction with his troops living in a secession camp. The enemy built little log huts & in the order of an encampment.

Dearest. I feel pretty well, but a little tired. Irregular hours as to rest & sleeping any where or no where are the hard things on a campaign. We shall probably turn back very soon, such seems to be the program now. I shant be sorry when the work is done & I can return to my happy little family.

There is scarcely any danger of an action here. Genl 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 Genl Sumner's staff. I shall have Lieut Scott of the 61st in his place.

Much love to the little children. May God protect you all & me.

Affectionately your own husband  
Otis

P.S. Charles encloses the hair.

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1619 3/18/1862     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1573

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd Qrs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp Manassas

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[79]

Hd Qrs Howard's Brigade  
Camp Manassas Mar 18 1862

Dearest

We are still here quietly encamped. Yesterday, after making the dispositions 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. Knight, 5th NH Surgeon, & 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 quarters here & at Centerville sufficient to hold a hundred thousand men. Nine works at Centerville 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 simple change which was necessitated by the movement of Genl Banks on the right. He (Johnson) has crossed the Rapahannock & is most probably fortifying & watching us. Our Army will move as quick as possible. Deo Volente, down the Potomac, 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. I am watching against one of his sudden raids. Genl Richardson is here. He now has his Adjutant Genl & I have loaned him an aid, 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 homes 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 & greenery covered with a few rails appear here & there to mark the places of encounter with the messenger 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 enemy took a great deal pains in fixing themselves up for winter. All the houses are <long> 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.

Genl Porter went & took possession of our Camp. Tell Guy that poor Castor is dead. A wicked man went into our Camp & shot him. Papa feels very sorry for he was a nice little dog & he anticipated a great deal of pleasure in taking him home to Guy. Capt Sewall has a boy by the name of Charlie. They call him "Boni" . He isnt much larger than Guy, ie not much taller, but very stout. He is a German & very bright. He rides my horse "Charlie " when I am on the other. I was thinking Guy might ride him, if horse "Charlie" & I get home. I have a fine Grey & Uncle Charles rides the third, that looks exactly like a Zebra. John sticks by me as my orderly. And you cannot beat him for activity in the field. When I move, I have my blanket & robe rolled up together & roll my india rubber blanket outside of that & then bind them by three straps on the back of my saddle. I put my dinner in the saddle pockets & then I am ready for a march.

You 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 the night after any march. So I go prepared. You must keep everything good till I get home. I should like to hear you & Aunt Betsey talk politics & tactics. You dont say much of Aunt Sarah. I fear her troubles & deafness have been a great detriment to her.

Perhaps I must give you an idea of this Division now belonging to Genl Richardson.

Genl Howard & Staff: Capt Sewall, Lieut Miles, Lieut Howard, Dr. Palmer. Capt Barker, Lieut Balloch.

Genl French: Capt Fast, Capt Valli, Lieut Farber, Lieut French, Capt Fuller, Lieut McGabe, Dr Grant.

Genl. Meagher (pronounced mar): Capt –, Lieut Gossen, Capt Sullivan, Capt –, Dr Tayler

Batteries Chief- Capt Clark: 1st battery Clarkes, 2nd Frank, 3d Nettil

Farnsworth's Cavalry -one Regt.

I am sorry to know that Guy's ears trouble him so much. Gracie & Jamie are spoken of most highly by mother. Guy was at school. Tell me about his school. Much love to them all & to your self darling.

Yr husband

Otis

God bless & protect you all.

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1620 3/19/1862    *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1574

Auburn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[80]

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 so many would stop finding fault with Gen. McClellan. To-days paper says "reported 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 Kearney's name so presume he is not there. In what Div is the 3d Maine.

I wont write a longer letter to-night, Dearest. 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 uttering 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, except (if I do go to Leeds) what things I should take with me. I think I have "interest money" in April. I have'nt looked at the papers, so am not quite sure. If I am not to get letters I shall want to see Mrs Sewall more than ever.

I must write good night. When I have finished a letter I generally delay wishing 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

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1621 3/21/1862 *From:* Edward <Gurld>

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1575

Headquarters <51st>

*Source:* Bowdoin

NHV  
Camp Manassas

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[81]

Headquarters <51st> NH  
Camp Manassas, March 21, 1862

Dear General

I was not only surprised and grieved at reading your note. Never in my life have I ever shirked or shrank 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 floors brought by my men from Manassas eked out their ration. I trust, sir, 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 five battles, received three honorable rewards and it is not for me at this time, in the place I now hold to play the shirk.

For your expressions of esteem and confidence I thank you. Believe me, sir I entertain the most cordial sentiments of respect and friendship towards yourself, and you will never find a warmer supporter, in camp, or 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 <Gurld>

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1622 3/21/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-1576

Head Qrs Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[82]

Head Qrs Manassas  
Mar 21, 1862

Dearest

I have an opportunity to send in a note. Lt Col Johnson is waiting – he is going to Alexandria. Yesterday I made a reconnaissance in the rain for about 12 miles along the Manassas Gap R.R. but found nothing & nobody but burnt property & civilians somewhat frightened at our sudden apparition. Chas went with me. He is the most energetic & enterprising man we have. I generally give him the advance guard or advance 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 some 300 or 400 bushels of wheat. They have burnt bridges across the Shenandoah & at Thoroughfares &c. I saw some little children yesterday at Gainesville that reminded me of home – a little girl about as big as Gracie came up & talked with me very freely. We are still here waiting for Genl Banks. These long scouts look short on the maps but they give me a good appetite & good sleep at night.

A letter from you darling when it follows me up, & finds me in the field is as great a treat as I can have. Give much love to little Guy. Tell him papa is very sorry that he has so much pain in his ear.

I am happy to hear that sinners come turning to the Lord. I will try to be a true & faithful disciple here & my precious wife must cleave close unto Him & then she can but have true wisdom to direct her.

Kiss Jamie, Gracie & 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. I want them to be always unselfish & happy.

How good the Lord is to us all, is he not? Be patient & be happy & do what you think is best & believe me your most loving husband  
Otis

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1623 3/22/1862      *From:* Oliver Otis Howard      *To:* Dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1577a

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[84]

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 himself sort of wigwam built there, thus [small picture of a tree and shelter] 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. Everybody 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.

[picture of hills next to water.]

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't 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

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1625 3/22/1862    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1578

Hd Qrs Howards  
Brigade  
Camp Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[83]

Hd Qrs Howards 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 sociable & 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 new Volunteer Regt. has been very similar to that of Otis'.

It seems he was firstly strict & wouldn't let the men go 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 turn & more angular than your venerated husband.

One thing that must have mitigated against Capt Hazard 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. Scott (He takes Mr. Miles place who was promoted to Army Corps Staff) Mr Balloch (Commissary) Capt Sewall (in the other corner). Dr. Palmer was here but slept on the table! John also found a place.

The sun came out bright & pleasant this morning. Gen. French who is down beyond the Junction & over 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 Run as if to return upon us. He sent a Regiment in the night to ascertain but they did not find the enemy. They may yet be over the River getting the timber ready as much chopping was heard yesterday. We shall probably move down that way today & some of Blenker's Division 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 Guy & Grace & sweet little Jamie - & mostly to yourself on the score of sisterhood, remember me always as your brother,

C.H. Howard

Otis is going down to look for a place in case we move forward. I just heard him call for his grey horse. Did you know he had two?



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1626 3/23/1862    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1579

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[88]

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Mar 23, 1862

My dear Mother

I will write you a short letter tonight. Charlie generally writes Mother & I write Lizzie, 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 dont like to let the troops be still long, for they get sick & out of order. I made two long reconnaissances last week, but did'nt 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 this 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 mud 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 and 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. Farms, 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 & lawless 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 will 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 dont 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: [picture of the arrangement of 4 groups of soldiers around a central chapel] 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 here 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.

Is Oscar 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, Blenkers, & Sedgwicks Divisions. Richardson's Division consists of Howard's, French's & Meagher's Brigades – three batteries of Artillery, 6 pieces each & one full Regiment of Cavalry. The Army Corps will be nearly 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 shant see Aunt Howard [See Note 1] again, but I can only rejoice that she has laid off 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 & fam., to Thos. & wife & to the neighbors. I feel sorry for Isaiah Additon's affliction [Note 2].

Very affectionately yr son  
Otis

[Note 1. Mary (Howard) Howard died 12 March 1862 at the age of 94. She was married to her second cousin, Barnabas Howard (1770-1859), who was the brother of Otis' grandfather, Seth Howard.]

[Note 2. Isaiah Addition's three daughters died in Feb & Mar, 1862. Flora and Juliette both died 15 Feb. Loretta died 10 Mar.]

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1627 3/24/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1580

Hd Qrs Camp  
Manassas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89]

Hd Qrs Camp Manassas  
Mar 24 1862

Dearest,

All well & waiting. I am Comdg. Division again. Chas. has gone with Lt. Col. Langley to the old Battle ground. Some of the men are getting sick in these old Camps. The man is waiting for the mail. I thought I would just send love to the Children & many kisses. Our position is entirely safe with regard to the enemy, & God is our protector.

Good bye  
Affectionately  
Your husband  
Otis

Our forces have landed at New Port News. Rowland thinks you are as well & happy at Auburn as at Farmington. Would you rather stay at Auburn?

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1629 3/26/1862     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1581

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[85]

Farmington Mch 26/62

Dear Sister 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 Farwell 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 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 Otis & Chas was the 16t inst, when they were at Fairfax Ct. H. on their return to Alexandria to embark on the Boats for Ft. Munroe &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 wood bill has been presented to me and a bill for the Electic this year., the former about 40\$ & the latter 5\$. If you don't come the wood can be easily disposed of, but if you still desire to come & keep house here till God permits Otis to rejoin you, we will be very happy to have you & the dear children so near us.

So write immediately. Mr Hardy 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 Diptheria in the Village since these blessed meetings commenced nearly six weeks ago. The health of the place is now good.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

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1628 3/25/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1583

Hd Qrs Warrenton  
Junction

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hd Qrs Warrenton Junction  
Mar 2 [March 26, 1862?]

Dearest -

All well. We had a slight skirmish yesterday with horsemen – nobody hurt. A <horse> killed I believe. Give much <love> & many kisses to the little <ones>. God bless you all & keep you.

Affectionately  
Otis

---

1630 3/27/1862    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1582

Hd Qrs Cedar run  
near Warrenton  
Junction

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87]

Hd Qrs Cedar run  
near Warrenton Junction  
Mar 27 1862

Dearest

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

Very lovingly your husband  
O.O. Howard

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1631 3/30/1862     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard[

*To:* My dear Brother  
[Unknown]

OOH-1584

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington  
Mch 30 [1862]  
Sab. Evening

My dear Brother

I will not write till tomorrow morn. May God bless & keep you this night!

Mon. 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 & well improved. Your kind note came Sat. night. I am not "angry" but if you send my letters to Ned Parker, I mustn't write confidentially. What we understand, inter nous, might seem to him officious in me.

Rev. Dr. Thurston 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 me yesterday & I rested till evening. He wants you to come to Brunswick. If Dr. Adams will write you cordially, I would go, otherwise, not. I will hope to see you while at Lewiston. When will you come? We pray for Plymouth. Our Unitarian minister Raston, is from that place. He advertised in the papers & preached a doctrinal Sermon yesterday morning wh. drew away some of our young people. I hear that he was quite orthodox in the use of language. May the Lord keep that wily fox from destroying the vines - the tender ones here - & He will.

I delivered your message to Mrs H. & David. 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. Headly on acct. of his contributions to literature. May the Lord help you to help him!

Some 15 rose for prayers last night - some new ones - a few first expressed hope yesterday. The no. hopefully converted in connection with these meetings cannot be less than 150. Old Professers are making up & hearing more & more signs of life every day. So far 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 at home.

Yours forever  
R.B. Howard

How about the Ordination?

[Note: This was not addressed to Otis or Charles and probably not to Dellie because of the reference to "yr friends at home". The reference to the ordination and the tone of the letter probably means that it was sent to a fellow (unknown) minister.]