Sometimes I get off my horse & walk ahead & then wait till all the Brigade is over. The Band plays & the men march straight through. The last we crossed just as dark last night was Broad Run. & the water came near up to the middle of the short men. "George Bates" Reg't is now within a half mile of us for a supper. He is in Banks' column & we are going to Chipes on our way to Fortress Monroe or in that direction. I was just ordered on a night march to capture "Beauty Stuart" when I got up. had my coffee prepared, when the order was reversed & we were ordered North. So, so, the rule goes — March & Countermarch — the road is like that of the children of Israel & I hope that our God is the Lord. I have so much more I would like to write, but I think I will not now. Papa is much interested in what Guy & Gertie said in the Gazette, do write

Camp near Bristoe Station
2 miles South of Manassas.
Apr. 2nd 1862

Dear Mother,

We are now on our return to Alexandria. We have been four weeks in the field without tents. Our shoes are many worn out with long marches in this clayey slippery mud. So we will probably delay long enough to fit up anew. Last night after bivouacking for the night, I set to Manassas junction & got the Mail. You may guess my joy to get two letters from you one written the 24th & the other previous. Charlie got one from Mother & one from Delia. I got one from Mother & one from our friend Mrs Jno. Brown. I have not seen our action of the 28th of March reported & think

Sometimes I get off my horse & walk ahead & then wait till all the Brigade is over. The Band plays & the men march straight through. The last we crossed just as dark last night was Broad Run. & the water came near up to the middle of the short men. "George Bates" Reg't is now within a half mile of us for a supper. He is in Banks' column & we are going to Chipes on our way to Fortress Monroe or in that direction. I was just ordered on a night march to capture "Beauty Stuart" when I got up. had my coffee prepared, when the order was reversed & we were ordered North. So, so, the rule goes — March & Countermarch — the road is like that of the children of Israel & I hope that our God is the Lord. I have so much more I would like to write, but I think I will not now. Papa is much interested in what Guy & Gertie said in the Gazette, do write

Guy writes always to me himself. I hope he keeps up his interest in the Gazette & I wish he would write to me.

Charlie sends his love to all.

it was not. If any of our friends would like to give an account of it to the papers in Maine I gave the facts to you in your letter. I gave to Dick notoriety, but I had had some cracking now & then it would have helped me probably from being improperly commanded. However, the best way is not to look at all to the Public for praise, but endeavor to do your whole duty & say nothing about it. I think they are having more deaths at home than here. Now the diphtheria is taking off the young people of Leeds. Capt Hayford you spoke of he is a splendid friend to me. He cooperated then other day with prompitude & success. I have hardly met an officer before who didn't at first seem to think it exceedingly absurd that I was a General officer but I believe by diligence & the blessing of God, I have not failed to secure the respect of every one whose respect was worth the having. The Skirmish spoken of in the paper occurred on Thursday & not Saturday & the 61st N.Y. was not engaged but the 81st Penn. Skirmishers came under fire of a few of the Carbines of the enemy but nobody was hurt. I & Blenkiron & horse came up bitter. The inspector of the Army Corps & corps Editor were as soon as the firing began. The inspector Major Davis of the Reg. Army was left alone. The horseman watching on cleared the track as soon as Blenkiron & our 81st Skirmishers came up & crossed the run. You should see us cross those streams. The men wade there some 40 or 50 feet in the

will remember you - and now will you sub
in the yard and get you a little piece of
myrtle or cedar -

I want you to give my love to your dear
Mother and Grandmother and kiss little Gracie
and Jennie for me - I hope on of them can go to
see them all - I shall try very hard to see your
papa and Uncle Charlie as often as possible,
and will be very glad to do any thing for them
at any time -

I hope you will write me a long letter and
tell me all about your little brother and sister, if
your rabbit is living, and if you go to school
and when I think of them I love at home, I
will remember my little sunbeam Guy -

Your affectionately yr -
Wm Sampson
at Lieut. C. B. Ferguson's
A. A. Quarter-Master -
box 10 - Alexandria
Va.

I should have printed this letter but had
no time.

Quarter-Master's Depot.

Alexandria, Va., 1862.

Friday P. M. April 4th 62

My dear little Guy -

Do not think because I have not
written to you for a long time that I have
in any way forgotten you, or any of the
pleasant little times we had together at
Camp Ferrandow - I love to think of them all,
and of the little kiss of yours I took such
good care of after you left -

Our next Camp was named Hamond,
and there we, & we very happy - Your papa
need sometimes to visit us, and every body
was always glad to see him - After Camp
was broken a furlough came, and the Regiment
went to Fairfax - Thence - I came to Alexandria
to remain until it should be prudent for me
to join the Regiment which I hope may be
very soon - I am at Lieut. Ferguson's where family
was friends of mine before we left home - They

have no little boy, about as old I think as your little Jamie, and I love him very dearly for he is the only white baby I have seen since I left home. We stand him in the window with a little silk flag I have made for him, and when the soldiers go by he waves it and hurrahs, and they often bow to him.

By the way some of our neighbors are secesshonists, and the other day I saw the little girls playing with a secesh flag, and if you would like to have me and will assume this letter, I will get some ribbon and make one for you.

And now you would like to know, why I write to you today. It is because I have just seen your papa and uncle Charlie, and I know you would be glad to hear from them through me, as perhaps they did not get time to write you themselves, for they were very busy.

They came in from Manassas at midnight and went to embark at twelve today, and I know they would have no time to come and see me, so write my pioneer I went down to the steamer to see them. They were looking very well, and though they have had very little rest for three nights, were in excellent spirits.

They went to embark in the steamer Spaulding which was the finest one I saw at the wharves, and as the day is very fine, and there is a good moon, I dare say they will have a fine run down the river; and will all have an opportunity to get rested.

Genl McClellan went to Fortress Monroe a week ago, and we may expect to hear of some important action very soon; but you must tell your Mama, not to worry too much, for the days that soldiers are in actual danger, are very few, and your papa has become well accustomed to soldiers life and if we may judge from appearances it agrees with him.

The weather is beautiful here, many of the spring flowers are in bloom, and at Fortress Monroe the peach trees are in full blossom. They sent me up a nice little branch I wish I had saved a bit for you, but when I go there myself if they are not all gone I

HD Qrs City Hotel
Alexandria Va
~~March~~ April 4 1862

Dear Wife

Left to Charge
California about 1 A.M. last night, slept till daylight
Came to Alexandria. have embarked
3 Regts ~~etc~~ my troops. on Steamboats
of Spaulding. Col Olson & Davidson
the other the 64th is state at
Manassas. We go out over
to Fortress Monroe.
Will write you on the Boat.
Keep up a good heart. Remember
me. Many kisses to the
children. & God bless you
& them. Very affectionately
Chas

feel completely well. He & I both have had a sleep today, to pay for our prevarication last night. Capt Sewall has had a very bad cold & cough lately & I am very careful of him. He has at times been half inclined to leave me & go home on account of his inability to stand the storm & fatigues of Camp life, but I think he will not leave. I don't like to spare him. Genl Richardson is a great fat man somewhat given to lie abed in the morning. But I believe him to be a well meaning & brave man. He & I get on quite well. We shall be at Fortress Monroe by daylight tomorrow morning & then I have no notion of further movements. I saw Isabella's brother at Bristoe's Station tuesday morning. He looked hale & hearty and had a face beaming with smiles. George Bates was with him. I thought

George was not quite so contented. I believe we really deserved well. They have been not sure of rough times & very hard work. I have been sanguine from the first. The cows are good. We have had a good night's sleep. We crossed the Rappahannock, but I thought it best not to stop. The weather was very fine. We had a pleasant passage. I write you just a line this morning. I received your letter just before I started dated Nov. 21st. I thought I detected a slight tinge of discouragement in your affectionate letter. It is accounted for in your being unwell. I wish you could be well all the time, Pro Volente. But I know I cannot hope for it with your constant care & anxiety. The last four weeks have rather told upon Charlie, Capt Sewall & me. I find we have marched & countermarched about 140 miles besides the cavalry scouting. Capt

(Direct Fortress Monroe Va.)

Taylor, now A. A. Gen. of our Army Corps says, he had no idea I was so indefatigable. I like to see things move, and when a movement is ordered, if it is within the range of possibility I try to accomplish it. But these labors are nothing. You have the care of men's lives on your heart. You have to see them fed & clothed, the horses must have oats & hay, and the enemy must be watched. Everybody comes to me for direction: "Where shall I go, General". Where the Ambulances, where the horses. Where the commissary stores? Then the complaints. The fights on a small scale between officers mgts. & officers. Then the disposition to struggle away, the carelessness of Company Commanders, the marauding. Poor people coming with hearts broken for protection against "the Dutch" or Irish or American robbers either connected with you or encamped near by. All these things connected with the care & movements of troops press upon a commander. When all goes well, there is much satisfaction, but it dont always go well. Best men of ours now enjoying a precious rest. The boat is moving along evenly. There are some 1200 men aboard this boat tonight. I think they are nearly all asleep. The sentinels are awake to guard against fire & to keep all the men in their places when they get up. Charley & Capt Sewall are writing at the same table with me. Charlie was not well last night & this morning but is better now, in

Head Quarters Hawes's
Brigade Spring Point
Apr 6th 1862

Dear Sister -

Here we are about seven miles from Yorktown. Gen McClellan is near that place - We are facilitating the forwarding of supplies. We are quite safe a little tired. Gen Richardson not having arrived I am still in command - Always seem to have much of the hard work to do - Much love to the Children - I kissed a little girl 3 yrs old named Lilly Howard for Grace - God bless you - Good

Yr affectionately
Otis

100

Dear Lizzie. Leeds 6th Apl. 65.

After I left you, I was constantly thinking of you, and your look so worn, and your being so undecided and talking with my husband this morning I suggested to myself whether you had not better stay at auburn until May and then come to me, you and the Children and stay through the hot weather, I dont know whether you would like the proposition you know how we live, Guy could go to school to Eva, I propose it for your consideration why I did not suggest it when with you I cannot tell, When I arrived home I found a letter from Charles, covering two large sheets of ~~large~~ paper, giving in detail an account of their reconnicence to the rappahannock, he says the instructions were direct from General McLellan with orders that the designated Command be under General Howard, he

Charles says their reconnoisance is considered a perfect success by the officers I hope this will find you, not sick but better do be careful about lifting the Children if you once get bad in that way it will be hard to recover from it give much love to Guy, and dear Grace, dear little Jamie, learn him to say Grand ma, remember my regards tunt Sarah and Eva and Kiny Johnnie, I shall send Charles letter to Kirtland, I found a letter from K when I got home, he has not heard from his brothers for some time drop me a few lines soon and tell me how you are, and all the rest, from your affectionate mother

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. Please tell me what you think of my proposition

E. Gilmore

next hose

Leeds April 7 1862

Dear Lizzie

I understand that you have some money that you ~~owe~~ spare if you will pay Mrs Lothrop twenty four Dollars & endorse on the note which she holds against me (received the Interest to April 5th 1862) I will account to you or Otis for that amount

Yours Truly

John Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. Apr. 7. 1862.

My dear Mother:

Your last letter reached me a day or two after I mailed my last, and I imagine you may be sending me another before long, perhaps ere this reaches you. The term is now nearly done. It closes one week from tomorrow. I am now reviewing as rapidly as the Profs. see fit to put us through, much more rapidly than we are pleased to go. We finish all languages this term except English. I have become pretty tired of thumbing dictionaries and am not sorry that our labors in that direction are over. Prof. Chadbourne gives us today his introductory lecture on Natural History. The trials and stripes of the Junior Year are nearly over. We look forward to the studies of next term with pleasure as to a recreation. Now never since I came to college have I seen so little interest in the cause of Christ.

The Medical Class is unusually full this term; about 70 in all, among them Alf. Mitchell & Bucknam. Mitchell boards at Mr. Everett's.

Fast Day occurs here in Maine on Thursday of this week. I am going to Bath to hear Mr. Fiske and call upon Capt. Patten's family and George Lothrop.

I am making extremely hard work trying to write this letter. It reminds me of my boyish attempts when I would scratch my head with my pen handle and ask you or mother what I should write next. After giving my love to Otis I will close for cause. I don't know what to write next. I will write from home next. Your affectionate Mother

Dell.

the studies which belong to the Senior year properly come one term earlier, thanks, it is said to Mr. Fiske of Bath. Prof. Smyth intends to give us another dose of Calculus next term it is said but the class intend to make a row about it as the Committee of the Trustees obtained the agreement from him that we were not to have it after the second week of the Spring Term.

I don't intend to say much but shall be very glad to see something instead of Calculus. - I see Nettie often. She treats me with great consideration.

The last time I was there Mrs. Mercyna inquired about you. Mrs. M. has had a very severe sore throat but is now better. George is on his way from Hanover and is expected soon. - The state of things about college remains the same as of ~~your~~ you. Woodside of the Senior ~~class~~ died last Wednesday of consumption. His class and the Delta Kappa Society went to Bath to the funeral.

The state of the Snow banks in our vicinity are certainly not promising for this season of the year, and mud and water are the bane for every profession.

I had a letter from mother during last week in which she said the snow was four feet deep - Poor prospect for farmers.

I had a letter from Rowland on Saturday, on the first for about four months. I was somewhat surprised to get it. I shall answer it immediately. He has had a remarkable revival. I wish something of the kind might manifest itself here quite speedily.

Prof. Egbert's lectures are attended by about a dozen, usually the same ones. The Thursday noon prayer meeting is no more. Sunday morning prayer meeting thinly attend. Junior Class prayer meeting thinly attended, cold and stiff.

Dear daughter, Leeds Apl. 6th 1862.

You letter to my husband came last evening he has gone to Augusta on business, will be home either this eve—g or to morrow evening I think he will come down to Auburn, you probably got our letter by last night's mail I received a letter from Charles last eve written Apl. 2d on the march back from Warrenton to Manassas at Brister's Station you probably had one from Chi, too, William Thomas's son was here just now he tells me they received a letter from Henry dated 30th March. at Big Bethel, a neat letter came to Guy last evening which I will enclose, tell Guy to hold on to his good nature until the ice cream works off then it will be easy to keep it, his Gamie for me, and Guy and Grace remember me kindly to your aunt and Cora and Minot, and Orestus, much love to yourself. Yours Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

the Quaker Society is stopping with us now. My horses & Head Qrs. wagon are put on the Boston. We just echoed of Fortress Monroe & get here this evening. The weather is so bad that I doubt if she gets here tomorrow. The Captain was so cross & selfish that I would not go with him. I thanked him for his accommodating spirit after I found the Spaulding with so much better accomodation & have kept hunting about the children. While writing the above but have not mentioned them I know that if they are awake they are sleeping quietly enough: I want you all to pray for me that I may have wisdom & discretion given me daily to enable me to do my duty faithfully. Give my kind regards to Aunt, Sarah & Aunt Betty I thought you were up in Fairville till your last letter. You described your room once but I still located them there. Chas. is well, but has sleepy & retired. I am going to put a large force on this awful road tomorrow & try & put it in order. I hope Mother is well & feather. Much love

Your Husband

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Ship Point Apr. 9th 1862.

Dearest

It is about 9 o'clock Wednesday evening. Since Sunday we have had a strong North East wind & almost continuous rains. I find that we are so located that we get very little intelligence of any kind & no letters. When it clears off & the boats can run to Fortress Monroe we can get the mails. The Boat on which I proposed to come, the Boston has not yet arrived here. I am glad I changed to the Spaulding, for I got here Saturday night & landed two regiments & went to work. The ground is almost all quicksands & the whole Army has had to be supplied from this post. I have worked my Brigade very hard; making bridges, roads loading & unloading commissary & quartermaster stores. We found some huts at this place made in good style & quite spacious, about enough for two Regiments. I put them in them but today I moved into the woods a little to the South & across a small inlet of the bay. Mr William Howard's place adjoined this place to the South. I have done this time what Brig. Gens sometimes do. I have gone into a house with my staff. A Mr Pomphrey lives here. He seems

like a poor man & yet he has two hundred acres of land. Some fifteen slaves. a wife who is more of a slave than the colored for she smokes a pipe incessantly. Seems to wear nothing whatever but an old dirty dress & for all the world I could help pitying her for her forlorn life. The house is pretty tidy. You never saw more grateful people than Mr P & his wife were when I proposed to come here & make this my head quarters. He says he shall stay tonight. Imagine yourself in a country where soldiers, wagoners, negroes & camp followers are apt to come to your house at anytime of night or day & rummage everything they can lay their hands upon. I have thought how mother would feel to have the cows shot, the chickens killed the eggs stolen & the cellar robbed of a winters supply. Such is the ~~conduct~~ work of scoundrels & it is almost impossible to get hold of them in times like these. I have got so now that I try to protect everybody without stopping to ask their principles unless they are in arms against us. I write this in the morning, they dinned before. I got up by five this morning to reconnoitre a place for a camp & think that within three bloody days matters now look rather hoped. McClellan was in my quarters yesterday: and I saw him quite a little time at Gen. Richardson's. Colburn his aid says, the President gave the solemn promise to him that his command should not be interfered with. & yet 50 thousand men have been taken from him & placed under McDowell at the last moment. Yorktown is said to be a very strong position. It cannot be carried without a partial siege. McClellan looked cheerful. He looked at the works, talked with the Quartermaster & others right to the point. took a smoke at Gen. Richardson, while doing this & then disappeared. Home looks a good way off down here, but when the war is over. it will not take long to go home. Duane paid me a good long visit last night. I don't know as I told you. that I found one day to my surprise that Dr Hammond was on Gen. Sumners staff as medical director of our army corps. I found him at Gen. Sumner's head qrs. at Warrenton junction. He inquired kindly for you. He is just as odd as usual. I met a college classmate yesterday. Holmes who used to sit beside me in college. He is now Dr Holmes & on his way to Gen. Maine as surgeon. Capt Sewall's cough still holds on. I wish he could get over it. Rev Mr Alvord, agent

Hd Qrs Horses Brigade
Apr 13th 1862 Camp Porter

Jennie,

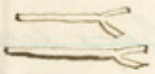
I have a chance to send a word. I meant to have gotten you a long letter. But Rev Mr Atwood is just starting for old Norfolk & an opportunity can so seldom occur I must take advantage of this for sending. Chas. & I are well. We have not begun operations acting against Yorktown. The storm caused delay in getting up the siege guns. I am building a log road from here to the army above Yorktown. Much love & many kisses to my precious little flock. I got a good letter from you last night written just after leaving home at Warrenton Junction.

Be cheerful & happy. For God will take care of us. Most affectionately your husband

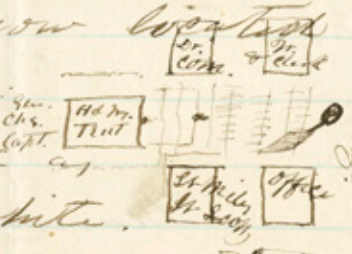
Chas

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Camp Winfield Scott
Near York Town Apr. 13th 1862

Darling.

I have taken my paper in season to write you a long letter. Last night we found little insects crawling over us and my experience in the southern country showed me the propriety of getting up from the ground & that the few insects will very soon be increased to ten millions: so this morning I took two men and went into the woods and cut 8  and 4  and 16 more , and then brought them into our tent & put them together thus:  and put a mattress upon them. Charley & Mike are together & Capt. Dewalt alone & on the opposite side of the tent. Charlie is not yet very well. He is now lying upon ours & asleep. I am sitting upon Capt. Dewalt's writing on a book thus:  with a fig box:  & the inkstand on the top as you see by my side. You know darling my pickers are for the children to see. Col Crane has been in, the Chaplain of the 64th. Mr Miles & now dinner is ready & I have got down only to this point. You can hardly realize how hot it is here, and it has become so very suddenly. Immediately after that rainy storm. The weather cleared up & since then they

not been a drop of rain & the weather has been exceedingly warm. Our tents are now located in "Three Sides of a Square" in this way:



Our tents are all new and look as white as clean sheets. My pillow case is not white. I turned it wrong side out this morning & I think it looks a little more respectable. I have a line running from pole to pole with our clothes upon it. And have pitched the tent fly in front like an awning. Thus:  . I have had a nice chair presented to me (made of oak) by the Chaplain of the 64th Regiment. Rev. Mr Hibbard. Perhaps Grace or Guy would like to hear me make a drawing of it. It is made just like Grandmother's old fashioned kitchen chairs. I will not stop now for the mail carrier is calling for my letter. There is no change in our position & that of the enemy I don't know what Genl. McClellan is doing. I wish he would wake up to the impatience of the country a little & make us move with a little more rapidity. I fear he will be superseded if he does not do so. A siege party I believe is at work on our right & another detachment is at work making some fresh works near our centre. But I do not think the purpose is a regular siege. I will let this go. Unfinished and close & God bless you & the children. C. B. Otis

Portland April 14 1864

Mrs Lizzie O Howard

Dear Niece

I recd your letter with the coupons of Rail Road Bonds and have collected and deposited the same as you requested - also dividend on Bank Stock say $44 - on Casco Bank $28 Canal Bank $18 International Bank making in all $240 - if you should conclude to have it invested or any part of it you will please let me know and I will attend to it at any time - I was much interested in reading the letter you refered to in the Boston Journal - may a kind providence watch over and safely keep your Husband and so order events that he may soon be permitted to return to his home

from your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

Portland April 15th 1862

Mrs E. A. Howard

Dear Niece

the dividend on Rail Road Bonds is due and payable at the Canal Bank — if you will send the Coupons I will collect and send you the money if you wish

the Band dividends will be payable after Monday next —

from your Uncle

E Waite

Washington
April 16. 1862:-

Mrs. O. O. Howard:-
Auburn Me.

I received your favor of the 6th some days since and should have answered it before. but for the expectation of seeing the Gen. your husband, Owing to quite a severe indisposition. I have been unable to visit his Command, and hence cannot write you as I had hoped to do.

Although I very much dislike to have my house remain unoccupied. I cannot consent to compel you to occupancy. if it would in any degree decrease your happiness or increase the burdens and cares of life. and hence you are at liberty to consult your own wishes in the premises. and I will regard myself as at liberty to lease it to other parties, unless the General shall hold me to contract.

I have written to your brother Rowland, and

he will. I doubt not, interest himself further, that the house does not long remain empty.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt.
A. B. Farwell

New Yorktown
Head Quarters Howard's
Brigade Apr 16 1862

Dearest.

Yesterday while out on the road superintending our Corduroy Construction, I received orders to move up to join Genl Sumner, for which I was very glad. Sumner is a Soldier & likes me & my brigade. I drove my forces out of the wood & dirt and quartermaster's department as soon as I could & moved up. Charlie was unwell & I had to leave him behind, but he came up this morning & is now pretty smart. He was threatened with a fever, but having had good care I think he is safely over it. Mr Edwards, Clerk to Capt. Barker is just going to Fortress Monroe. I am writing this note to send by him. Here we are far from the post of danger. Genl McClellan intends to take Yorktown by a partial siege. I hope you feel cheerful & dependant on the will of God. I told Genl Sumner this morning that I had a wife & three little children, & that they were not well provided for, but that I believed if I was

Nathan, they would be cared for. I hope it is not God's will to take you away, be[cause] many others have gone & leaving loving wives & lovely children have had to pray with broken hearts for consolation & strength. Let us be dependent & trust. We have a pleasant encampment & are living in tents. It is as beautiful & warm as in midsummer. Give much love to Lucy & Gracie, & kiss them. Mrs Dempsey wanted to come with me but I would not take her. There is no place here for a lady, none whatever, as things now are. She cried to come. The battle in the West was a hard one. We shall not take Yorktown without a struggle, but Gen. McClellan is a safe man: notwithstanding the goading of the press. Good by my darling wife. May God in mercy deal with us all according to his own holy & righteous will. I got your good letter of the 16th inst. directed to Fortress Monroe. Put on "Richardson's Division" on your letters. Most lovingly - your husband

Oliver

Monday Sunday Come to Luzzie - "This is a letter I wrote when I was in the Navy" "Ship"

Head Quarters - near Yorktown
Camp "Winfield Scott"
April 17 - 1862

Dearest.

Yesterday after I wrote you & sent the letter off by Mr Edwards, I rode with Mr Scott through the woods to try & find Genl. Keyes Army Corps. We rode into the woods by a corduroy road - & on & on we went for some three miles and found nothing but a continuous forest. Then we came into a small clearing & found a few tents & some men marching. We heard firing from our right & as I feared I would be wanted, we rode back over the same road. I ordered a drill at 4 P.M. just at that time, the order came for us to march. We immediately broke up Camp got ready & marched - but only about a mile to occupy the place that Genl Sedgwick had just left. Our new Camp is not so cleanly as the old, but we are well off for water. The weather is

extremely warm, as hot as July at West Point. A slight breeze is playing over the surface of the ground & relieves the oppressiveness of a hot day. Today Mr Scott Lt. Col Langley of the 5th N.H. and I went out straight to the front to get some idea of the fortifications & what our forces are doing. We went where we could see the works. One battery was in position & firing upon their works. They had evidently withdrawn & were throwing up new works in rear of the first line. When McClellan will take these works I do not know. I hear that were to be held in reserve. This is an entirely safe place unless the first & second line gave, which I hope they are not going to do this time. Charley is not yet quite well, but expects to be quite well by tomorrow. He is so much better. Everybody is talking & I have tried to throw a few words together. I hope this will find you entirely well & cheerful. Many kisses & much love to Guy, Gracie & Pleasie & may God's blessings rest upon you, Darling & them. Affectionately - Otis.

like. His name is Charlie. Sometimes they call him "Bony." He was a little boot-black in Phila. I think I saw 12 or fourteen yrs of age. Capt. Sewall took him of Col. Miller. 81st Penna. He is a real nice little boy tho' Gray. without any relatives that he knows of - but just as cheerful & kind as he can be. He talks German as my interpreter very often. I met Genl Jameson the other day. He says Mrs Jameson is now at home. I wish you could see her. I think you would love her. Capt. Sewall keeps begging that you will take a trip to Balto & see Mrs Sewall. She feels dreadfully about her husband being here. Begs & pleads with him to go home. & some of her friends think they have driven him away - I wish she could feel how all important her husband is to his country's service - & how absolutely necessary it is to make these terrible sacrifices for the common good. He longs to go home & I think will do so soon as he can with honor & without detriment to me. Mrs Sewall thinks I have bargained for a soldier. I hardly think that is so in the drawing up of the primary contract: "Vieux ce pas!" Many kisses to the little ones. Charley is pretty smart but not quite well. His liver won't act & he is weak. It is very rainy today. May our Common Father bless us & protect us & bring us together in safety

Affectionately Your husband
Otis

Head Quarters, Howard's Brigade
Camp Winfield Scott near
Yorktown Apr. 20th 1862

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Dearest,

I commenced a letter to you yesterday with the intention of writing you a full one but I failed to finish it. I have not received a letter from you since day before yesterday and am hoping to get one today or tomorrow.

I learn last night from certain orders received about the sick that the big battle anticipated at & near Yorktown would begin today; but I am happy to find that there seems little change since yesterday. I said I learn. I have an abiding hope that Sunday will not be selected for an attack. I have worked my brigade Sunday & hard & feel willing to do so when necessary - but I cannot understand the recklessness that leads our Generals to select Sunday upon which to open an action.

I visited a poor family about a mile from here this morning - a Mr Bracken. He has a wife & some dozen children - & I noticed one little grandchild about the age of Annie. The mother & one child were sick in bed. The daughter-in-law wife of a son now our prisoner was sick up stairs. The house was very small & situated in a clearing of some fifty acres. Completely surrounded by woods & completely isolated from the

rest of the world. He had some stock. A little corn. Some bacon & a fair amount of other necessaries of life. Our troops took them from him when they first came in this vicinity. Two sons were taken away. One had been a secession soldier but & the other had not, but was probably taken for a guide. The poor mother is sick & almost dying with anxiety for these sons. I told her they would not be hurt & were really safer than they would be at Gettystown at this time. I shall try to give these people some provisions. We could get along much better in our army if we had no robbers.

I spoke of Mr Wiles. He has come back to me. He got a little ambitious. Had the promise from Genl Sumner of going on his Army Corps Staff, but failed of it on account of a reduction of the number of the staff in the Bill of organization. He then went with Genl Richardson, but found that the association & demeanor of his staff officers did not suit him, so he came back to me. Genl Sumner is just announced as commanding the two Left Army Corps on Left wing of the Army of the Potomac. This will probably give us Genl Franklin to command our Corps d'Armée, for I understand his division is arriving & will be assigned to us. I have a notion that this arrangement augurs a change in the disposition of our forces, but cannot say. Genl Smith, on account of a "misconstruction of his orders" on Wednesday last where the 3d & 6th Vermont Regiments suffered so much from being unsupported, has been arrested. I hear it so reported. I have from good authority that he was drunk, or very much under the influence of liquor during the action. An eye witness told me that he fell from his horse.

There are other Brigadier Generals that get drunk. You must know the horror I feel regarding such men. Most excellent officers (otherwise) drink drink, drink, and advocate whiskey rations. I don't like to be uncharitable, but I do not wonder at paralysis when liquor is ruling. McClellan is a good man, but his staff is drinking. Grant is a drinking man. hence, a want of preparation, a want of vigilance, & a lack of proper orders in action. God grant that Drunkards may not be allowed to destroy us. We only hope and pray not to rest upon a drinking army. Our troops are generally sober, but utterly profane. The people of this land do not fear God. They will face the jaws of death with blasphemy. It is wonderful that rebellion is not crushed out! We have a nice little German boy who is singing in a neighboring tent. His voice is sweet & soft & child

Auburn April 22d 1862.

Dearest

I received such a good letter from you to-day that I want to write and tell you how happy a letter makes me. and if you and Charlie are well and happy also of course I am made more happy. You wrote this letter on the 16th the next day after you joined Gen. Sumner which you deemed very glad to do. if it was "near Yorktown". You wrote "tho we are far from the post of danger" but from what follows and you having moved up as you termed it I presume you left out the not and meant to have said, "not far from the post of danger. I think I am cheerful. I think I am dependant on the will of God. "The way of man is not in himself. it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." God is my strength and my hope, I do most earnestly pray you may

clear I will get ready to go out now and take this to the P. Office. What would I do without the mails.

As ever your trusting wife

Lizzie

may come back to us. but if God takes you to himself. he can also take care of us.
I am not writing a long letter I am only telling you. I told you in my last that I had written to Mr Farrell. I got an answer and he also wrote to Rowland. the gentleman he mentioned to Rowland will take the house. I may have to pay this month or so rent. but would do that ~~with joy~~ willingly. The thought of going to house-keeping alone began to be a burden and I got rid of it as soon as possible and I dont think Mr Farrell cares or is disappointed. only there is a little mistrustful feeling on my part that he would like the Generals family in his house it preferred to others. I dont think I am bound to gratify him in so small a matter. I finished a letter to Maria before I commenced this and it is now late I will leave it now. when I stop to think what sentence to end with I can only lift up my heart in prayer to God for you and for me.
Morning We had a rainy day yesterday and it is not very pleasant this morning. I am going over the river with Cousin Fanny taking Grace with me. Fay has gone to walk with Minnie. I am glad to learn that Mr Dowell is moving on hoping he is to go to the near of Yorktown according to Mr Mellen's plan. I was sorry when I learned that the former was given a department. I think Gen McClellan must have felt badly to have lost his command but he is a good man and if the end is only accomplished that he aimed at he will rise to above jealousy and be thankful. All he has done will eventually be known. Fay is going to wear a Mr Mellen hat it is a small thing but in a community like ours small things are noticed. We are all well this morning I hope and trust you and Charlie are also. much love to you both. I presume I shall go to Farmington to spend the summer. Mrs Bennett wanted to board us a while ago. You must not worry anything about us. When we are all well I think I dont want anything

Farmington Apr. 22/62

Dear Lizzie

I arrived home about 7. last Evening using the "Shore car" for the last 5. miles. The cars came thro' without difficulty this A.M. =

We have had such a severe rain that I have been out but little today. but have been resting very fast = Mr Howes thinks he can go into Mr Farwells house pretty soon if you decide not to take it = Mrs Norton's rooms are let permanently to a Dr Hamilton's family =

So it seems to be housekeeping (unless your Aunt would come) or nothing! - The wood is not cut yet & I will see the man & tell him not to do it =

I have bought some dry

move in the work house of Mr Handy. a part of wh. you can have if you come = Sarah & children are well - but her girl has gone home for a few days & she is alone -

Give much love to the Children & yr. Aunt Jennie

Yr. aff. Brother

Rowland

Washington D. C.
April 23d. 1862.

My dear Sir.

I can not tell you how truly happy I felt in hearing from my son that I must direct my letters to "General Howard's Head Quarters" for if I mistake not "Genl. Howard" is my old friend of Tampa Bay, Florida, memories thus a Lieut in the Ordnance Corps.

I trust so, for I am sure for my sake and Col Morris' you will lean a friendly interest in our boy — he is out the one we used to think looked like you, but our youngest and darling — not yet nineteen

years of age. He is a good youth, a good son, manly and self-reliant, and will, I trust, show you he is worthy the good will you will put for him on his parents account.

My heart in common with those of thousands of anxiously bereaved and loving is in a constant state of disquietude. I scan but to hide in the daily accounts, misguided as they do of the foe to be, and in prayer to God to give success to our arms, to end this most afflicting war. I have a few moments only before the mail today closes, and I do not wish to lose it. To introduce my boy to you, and to ask your thought for his welfare.

With sincere & priority regard
Mary A. Dennis.

My son is in the 4th Artillery Company A. under Capt. G. W. Hazzard.

My address is
1st Lt. Henry Md.
Baltimore.

Col. Dennis has been there since the beginning of the war.

school house building for the Courts - a little gaol of course & one other building, perhaps for a bank. There was one old, dilapidated wooden dwelling house. near by. This is what occupies our clearing. The interval lands in that vicinity are beautiful. The apple trees & peach are in blossom. and the trees are leaving. As soon as the rains are over the ground gets settled & effect is will be pleasant here. but I would rather live now in Auburn. If you dont want to go to Harrington. not to housekeeping. I would a thousand times rather you would not. I want you to be where you feel most happy & contented. Other love if anything I have not got any letters for several days. but I shall look for one from you during today. Pray God bless you my precious wife & keep you in his love & peace. Ever & ever Yours

Otis

Where Wilson is where I may be at any time

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade Camp Winfield Scott
Apr. 24. 1862

My dear parents,

Yesterday I went up to Genl. McClellan's Head Quarters in the forenoon. Saw our friend Col. Kingsbury and had a long talk with him. He says Genl. McClellan wishes to get all his batteries in readiness before he opens fire. If our friends could realize the kind of country we are in, they would not be impatient. The peninsula is level. the crost is some six inches below you strike water & quicksand. The whole forest & the whole country in fact is a forest with clearings large enough for separate farms. The Warwick river, I visited in the afternoon of yesterday. is a stream some 20 or 30 rods wide and looks

If Mary Wilson is where I may be at any time I want her address. Give it to Mary. Grace & Hannah. Tell Hannah I am working for her. Tell Cally & other nieces & nephews. Remember me to Cousins — Wishing you all a happy Easter. Yours

Otis

by a swamp on each side wider than the river. I went to our extreme left in the afternoon called upon Genl. Weyes, saw Major (alias Capt) Baird. Baird was very pleasant but always manages to show what a small opinion he has of me as a Genl. There are others like him but we get on very well here. thanks to a good staff & a good Providence Charlie took the afternoon ride with me. also Capt Porter, & Lieuts. Scott & Miles. Charlie was not strong enough to ride so far & got pretty tired before we got back. but he slept late on our pole bed & is still sleeping last night I concluded I was too tired & stupid to write a decent letter so I got up this morning & am fulfilling the purpose. One incident occurred yesterday that was a little amusing to lookers on. We were crossing a ravine in the middle was a muddy stream. Mr Miles came up, looked at it & checked his horse. I thought it would do to pass through & let my horse "Charlie" have the reins he went in & immediately sunk in the mud. I scrambled off on my hands & knees as fast as I could & let the horse take care of himself. He made a few plunges & brought himself clear through. Such are some of the scenes you must write home. but I myself have never had to leave my horse's back before. I saw one poor horse lying in the mud & water almost covered & just ready to die. with the other three of his team looking on. Wednesday got off. Warwick court house consists of a small brick

exercise on horseback agree well with my health. I generally ride one horse in the morning and the other in the afternoon where I have much riding to do. My little brown "Charlie" is still a favorite. I can ride him for hours & he will then kick up his heels & caper like a colt. He very seldom gets tired. Charlie's house looks like a large sized Zebra. We want to take these horses home to show to Guy & Gracie. Perhaps Jennie would like a ride. I know you must read the papers with anxiety. These siege operations are tedious, but I hope they will be effectual with comparatively little loss of life. You were asked about Genl. McClellan. I dont like to form a hasty judgment. We might have taken Yorktown by assault; & then again we might have failed with an immense sacrifice & an utterly hopeless termination of the war. But with the steady operation of a siege we shall undoubtedly succeed unless the will of God is against us. A man is judged of much by success or failure. Genl. McClellan might have done better in the selection of some of his Staff. & Congress might do better than in confirming every boy as Brig. General. But I dont feel like complaining. The self-seeking. Office hunting of our public men at this junction fills me with sorrow. God sees not as we see. He does not see his government or the permanency of human institutions. I am anxious to hear what the Tribune said to you in reply to your letter to him. I dont

Charlie has just sent a letter to you & I intended to have put a line in it, but it was just leaving for the mail as I entered this office tent. So I concluded not to detain it but to begin another to send by the next mail. Yesterday after my usual duties had been done I went to the York River & visited Genl. McClellan's "Water battery" No 1. I found Col. Tyler there in the Class before mine at West Point. Four guns were down in place. With the one hundred lbs balls piled by their side. From this battery I could see the enemy's works at Gloucester Point just opposite Yorktown & the Water or Seacoast battery on the Yorktown side. The distance is nearly two miles, rather a long range. The guns in our battery are on wrought iron carriages & look as if they might break them on recoil. We took a survey of the enemy's works. I say we. Col Miller 81st Penna was with me. Also Maj. Cook & Capt. Dodd of the 1st U.S.A. And after that Col M & I went past Genl. McClellan's headquarters to visit another battery nearer Yorktown. We saw Brigades coming in & Brigades going out on picket duty. We saw a second battery of 6. 20 lbr. guns in position. But as it was growing dark I & Col Miller

Morrow's letter to Rowland's Catholic wife to Kearney's Warrenton

by a straight course to my Head Quarters. I met Reese near taking No I. He said he engineered that & acquitted himself for you. Lt. Wagner died from hemorrhage after he thought he was going to get well. Lt Merrill is in hospital (wounded at the same time.

Today, though it rained, I took another trip to Genl Gillmore's, about a mile & a half ahead - through woods and thence to the front. I saw Capt. Owen, of your acquaintance but Gillmore's Head qrs. & Gracie's Dr Hammond. Capt Owen inquired for you whom you are & if well - Dr Hammond was much pleased at the children's messages & says Gracie ought to come. What a place to come to! At the front I found a battery ready for 6 guns & whom should I meet but Lieut Kirby. He has had the typhoid fever since I met him with a bloody face at Bull Run. He asked for Mrs Howard & seemed glad to see me. I thought he looked very sober, I mean serious with a tinge of sadness. There was a Skirmish this morning near where he was. He pointed to the place. I went along to the north & looked at our works & the enemy's like I could see the same battery we left yesterday at dusk & then turned about and went to Genl Smith's Div.n called at the tent of my old friend Col Whiting 2nd Vermont. The Chaplain Rev. Mr Smith was there, but

Suppose visit you in hoping "peace" also hinder victory. - God forbid

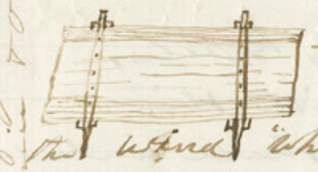
Heard Sam say - I thought it advisable

Heard Gen. Gillmore say - Gen. Smith to Whiting if Gen. Terry - Gen. Smith - Vermont

the regiment was out on picket. I John puts in his head & says "Genl the supper is all ready, Sir;" "the oysters are cooling". Capt Howell says -

After supper it was dark and I sat by our fire, talking with Capt. Haggard till quite late. The weather is very cold & trying when the wind is northeast. It storms for three days consecutively and we have a fire arranged thus:

Mr Scott looked at my picture & recommends that I chew tobacco. The smoke goes in under the fly. I am sitting under the fly with Charlie & Mr Scott now. The other day I sent some pioneers to get some chestnut bark to fix up the sides under the fly. The front of the tent pitch up the back. Tell Guy they brought some bark that looked thus:  then they unrolled it thus



- There are stuck up under the edges of the fly like the side boards of a cart. When the wind "whiffles" around now it sometimes drives the smoke under the fly & makes everybody cry. We have some pine boughs or twigs for a floor in the tent & this with our nice pole bedsteads makes us very cozy & comfortable. You can hardly think how little a man needs to make him comfortable. Capt Howell says he shall not put up a tent & build a fire in his back yard when he gets home. This is because we sometimes try to make him own that a man sleeps better out of doors than in a house.

My health is good. Dr. Palmer says he was deceived in me when he first saw me. He thought I could not stand anything, but now thinks I am "tough". The open air & smoke

Farmington Apr. 27/62

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My dear Brother

Perry wrote a long letter to Sarah the other day in wh. he complained bitterly of her long silence & I thought then I would write you the first opportunity. This has been a most beautiful, quiet lovely Sabbath. Our church has been full, but the Spirit was not so manifestly present as in Sab. past. 24 were "propounded" to be admitted next Sab. There as more than as many more to come forward at the next Communion if Satan does not catch away the seed Jesus hath sown. Our blessing here made us remember & pray for you today. So still so solemn & so delightful has been this holy day here among God's Everlasting hills.

Where Wordsworth's verse is: he loves praise

O how the Spirit of War conflicts with that of Jesus! I do believe that I have committed you both to God in faith, but I cannot be certain till the blow falls upon you. I preached (extempore, for three mos) on "I can do all things thro' X, which strengtheneth me" this P. M. Heads — (1) How He strengtheneth us — (a) By Instruction (b) By Example (c) By working faith in us & presenting himself as its object (d) by constraining love (e) by divine union — 2. For what? All things — more particularly (a) all duty (b) all temptation (c) all suffering & endurance — the plan was mostly borrowed, but I do think God helped me to fill out with & feel the truths I preached, &

I do hope his Spirit has gone with it: X. will strengthen you for all duty - He has not called you to a work & then refused the "sufficient Grace": How sweet to remember that every emergency has its own supernatural strength: So I look forward to your possible suffering & even death with confidence that Jesus will be with you in just the manner & to the degree your souls need: Keep looking to Jesus, my dear Brother - You have not yet learned a practice of the power of a look to strengthen & save:

"My all to Jesus trust you cling
By a living faith
Doing is a deadly thing
Doing ends in death
then cast your deadly doing down

Down at Jesus feet
Stand in him, in him alone
Gloriously complete" — is as
true in our sanctification
as it was in our justification —
Ella & Dorie went to Bath a week
ago yesterday. We moved the
day before — but haven't "set-up"
yet — expect the "Study" & our bed
room rooms I occupy — Will &
Abby Jones are with us and
we live about as unceremoniously
as you do in camp — Lizzie has
given up Mr. Farwell's house &
will continue to board at
Auburn. Mother, is here — I
hope she will be able to spend
part of the summer here — I
long to see more of the children
especially Guy — He is a great
favorite at Lewiston — Ella
will come home next week

I hope: I have the County
ministerial association here a week from
next Wednesday: Mr Hammond
went to Lewiston yesterday. I
have no doubt there will be a
Revival. I saw evidences of it
the Sab. I spent there. In
Auburn. Christians are less
awake. Our street is now
perfectly dry. but the grass
wants for rain & the buds on
the maples do not look red
yet. I now live amid shops
& stores. no dwelling house very
near. It is a noisy place, but
the best I could get. Sarah
is without a girl just now and
kept at home. all well. John
& Helen don't come to our meet-
ing. perhaps they attend the
Baptist. I enclose a letter
published here from Cousin
Warren Woodman. He is

Evidently more accustomed to the Sword than pen = Two of those prosperunded today said, in telling their experience yesterday, that they promised dying husbands to meet them in Heaven = A shoemaker who has become a Christian had his Bible reading it as I entered his Shop yesterday - He has what he calls "two terrible Universalists" at work with him & says he would be often "flooded" but for taking up his Bible occasionally & reading to them out of that! He was terribly profane & profoundly before his conversion, not at all so now = Why our army are not sent to the rear of Yorktown is the wonder of Everybody, and the grief

& trial of your unmilitary brethren = Why you should be left to be needlessly killed in front of those intrenchments - while the Enemy, even if driven out, can safely retreat, is a mystery - & looks as if God was yet again going to answer the prayers of his children "by terrible things in Righteousness" = God be more merciful to the homes of N.E. than he has seen fit to be to those of the West, is our prayer! Next Sab. is our Communion O how much I need grace for that occasion, in some respects the most responsible of my life = Sy. will unite with Mr Fisher's Church next Sab. among them Hattie: & nearly all her School-companions = 12

have joined the Church in Waterville, among their recent converts are Bodge & Barrell. R.R. Conductors = Nellie seems less interested than he did = there are now 25. inquirers in Winthrop = I do hope that if God permits you to enter the ministry it will be in such or even better spiritual times than these = Nellie made me a little visit & is now at Leeds. I suppose = Our cousins Theopa Howard & her Sister have lately hoped in Jesus at No. Leeds = Thank you again for all your kind letters = Every word is read with interest & pleasure = Kind Regards to Capt Lewis =

Rowland

Hammington Apr. 30/62

Dear Sister Lizzie

I was glad to hear from you last night - I had spoken to Mrs Caswell & found that it would be inconvenient for her to take you - this morning I called on Mrs Hopkins who boards Mr Kelsey, the principal of the Acd - He leaves the 5th of June and she thinks she could take you family then - It will be usual that time before you get ready. I suppose, a you give Mother a visit in the mean time - I had no time to enter into particulars with Mrs. H. but

If you write to Both Nellie & Ella write next time I see them before coming up - Good bye -
R

Please stop "Ella C. Hammond" a line of your letter

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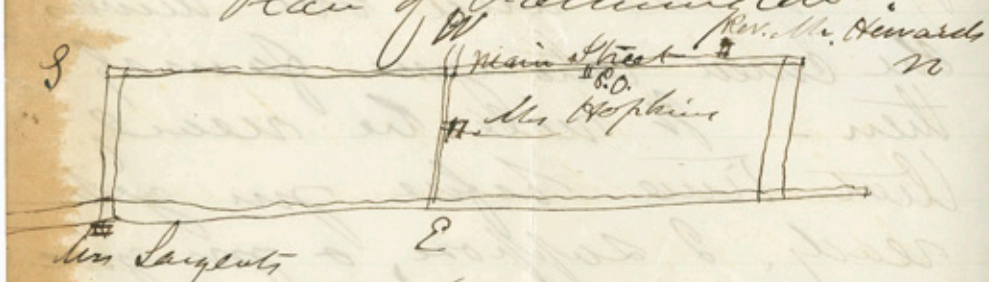
be the same as Mrs Norton's, perhaps less = You would have her parlor & bed room opening out of it and a chamber. The house is 1½ stories = She is a good housekeeper - Mr H. is out of health & able to do marketing &c. both are members of our Church & among the most active = There is a nice large play ground - & the best children we have in the place to play with =

Plan of Hanmington!



You will thus be pleasantly & conveniently located half way between Sarah & me! Mrs H. is a quiet, industrious little woman & one of the best = She is accustomed to boarders

Ella will come home Monday. I like your plan of going to Bath & wish E. could be there, but wish her here more! Mrs Patten will be very glad to have you come there = A letter directed Mrs. Rev. D. Sewall will be sure to reach Mrs S. = She lives quite a way above Capt. Pattens a little off the Lane St. (Washington) =

I hope Greg & Grace will learn a lot in the School so as not to be behind the Hanmington boys & girls = I know they will like to hear Mr Hammond next Sat. P.M. =

No news from Otis since yours - Love to the Children -

Your aff. Bro. Rufus