
1686 6/5/1862

From: Maria (Otis) Merrick

To: My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1636

Phila.

Source: Bowdoin

[143]

[The edges of this letter are quite torn, so there are a lot of missing words.]

Phila. June 5th 18 [1862]

Thursday

My dear Lizzie

I feel very sad [when] I think of Otis pain and suffering and I cannot help feeling very thankful he has been able to do so much sacrificing his life. As you may guess [I have] been looking very intently in the <papers> for any news of Richardson's division since you wrote me Otis <> that and when I saw in the <> day that, it was in the midst [of] terrible battle I felt very <anxious> Monday evening came the telegram <Genl> Howard was wounded twice in <>. William wrote directly for him to < > if he could but we had not the <> his arm. Yesterday afternoon came a note <> the "refreshment Saloon" telling Will that <his> relative, Gen. Howard had passed through <>. William has since been down to the <"saloon"> and hears that a "Capt" the man <thought > it Gen. Howard's son had been wounded <> the day and was with him. We suppose [it] must be Charley. In last night's paper [it] also spoke of Gen. H and his son passing through. You can imagine we are very anxious to hear from them both, we <could> have taken good care of them [if] they had only staid here, as I told <> as soon as I saw the battle, if <> Charley or Perry are wounded <> will take care of them. I think [it] is a pity Charley (if it is he?) did not <>. I suppose Otis felt as if he must [be] with you and the children and though [of] course we should have been glad to have had as many as the house <> accommodate yet it would not be <> convenient to bring 3 children at <short> notice. You would have come as <far> as cars could bring you. I only trust they will not either of them be worse for their long journey through this storm. Give a great deal of love to Otis and tell him we have thought of him constantly since he went to Yorktown and have prayed for him regularly. I am going to enclose a little bit of praise that was in this afternoons 'Bulletin' which excited my pride considerably especially as we are apt not to hear as much of the deeds of valor of our New England men as we should if we were not in Philadelphia. Of course my own special family pride was roused <> deserved praise. May God <> valuable life for many <years>

<> danger again but I know he will never shrink from his duty. It is such [a] comfort to feel that this war is a positive duty and our cause a righteous one, is [it] not? I feel as if every life sacrificed has a glory about it that no common course could give. The soldiers are my constant theme of thought. I feel grateful to every one I meet, knowing how great have been their hardships and from what dreadful calamities they have saved us.

I must bring this letter to a close for you will be almost to busy to read it. Do get Roland or Ella or somebody to write and tell me how Otis and Charley are, and all about them since the beginning of the battle. Mrs. Greble has gone <> West Point, she will probably write <> she sees this notice of Otis, <> has often said she meant to write <> is very busy here as she teaches Mr Greble's sister Sallie. Miss Berard has been here to see what she could do about getting Maj. <Vogdes> exchanged as he was very sick in prison and they did not think he could live if he was not released. She has gone back and I am afraid has not been able to do much. I hear he has become very serious since his imprisonment. She was very anxious to hear about you and Otis.

Give my love to Ella, Roland and Sarah. Tell Sarah I wish she would write me. With much love I remain

Your afct. Cousin
Maria