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1778 11/2/1862 *From:* Harry [Stinson]

*To:* My dear Mother [Emily Stinson]

OOH-1727

Camp in the Field

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[231]

Camp in the Field  
Sunday Evening  
November 2d /62

My dear Mother, [Emily S. Stinson]

Your letter of the 28th was received last evening containing the gratifying intelligence of Gen. Howards generous offer.

Gratifying, because I consider it a high honor from a noble general. After thinking over the matter and considering it in its different bearings I have decided not to accept the position, even if it was a sure thing.

You may be surprised that such should be my decision, but I have not jumped at this conclusion.

My reason is simply this, I have not the necessary capital. If I should accept such a position I must live as a staff officer. In the first place I must buy a horse, and it is doubtful if one horse would be sufficient. Government allows forage for one horse only and if obliged to keep a second I must buy forage, then I must have a servant. If my horse is hurt on the road I must buy another. They only pay the loss of a horse when he is killed under fire and even then it is a round about process to obtain remuneration. Besides this it would be more necessary to dress in good style which requires funds.

Perhaps I have overestimated the expense, but were it less I could not cover it at present, and I do not know when I shall get any pay as there is trouble about it as I was not assigned to the vacancy which existed at the time of my commission. I will not try to explain the matter to you, indeed it was my intention not to mention it at all till rendered necessary. I have written to Mr Blaine in regard to the matter. I hope to get it after a while.

These are the reasons and these only that have brought me to the above decision.

I should have liked the position very much, for it is truly a splendid situation. I have not given up the idea without some regret. You can see how the matter stands, and do not feel bad that I have come to this conclusion. The chance for promotion is about as good here if not better, but I do not expect any of that for a long time.

This afternoon we had a sermon from the Chaplain. There we sat as the sun was setting this fine autumnal day while ever and anon came the dull and heavy booming of the cannon from our advance. I am beginning to like soldiering and if I was paid off and matters straitened so I could send you some I think I should be as happy as ever I was.

Love to the boys. Tell Herb I should not have objected to doing the same thing he did at school. Remember me to Aunt Caddy and Hattie. I stand the march first rate.

Your affectionate son  
Harry [Stinson]

Nov 3d evening. Have advanced about 7 miles in the direction of Sniggers Gap in the Blue Ridge.

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1779 11/5/1862    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1728

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[232]

Leeds Nov. 5th 1862

My dear Lizzie

Your letter to Isabella came last night with the money safe although the letter was not sealed. We are all well as usual. Father has gone to a R.R. meeting at Farmington. I also recv'd a letter from you & the accompanying letters from Dr. P. & Capt Whittlesey for which you have my thanks.

I will send those statistics to the State Adj. General's Office today I think. I suppose Otis only wished me to copy & correct what he had written & I will do so. I shall be glad to go to Texas if Otis should go & want me. Hope he will go, if it please God.

I cannot send my Commission till father gets back as it is in his safe & then I dont think we will get our pay any sooner for that will not prove that I have been mustered in. I have already written that I was mustered in by Capt Whipple & it occurred the 27th June 1861. Since that date I have never been out of service, therefore did not require a remuster.

Dellie began his school last monday morning and boards with Mr. Joe Frost.

I saw Laura yesterday & little Otis well & I took Uncle Ensign down to the Cars to go to Farmington. Father has sold the two cattle-cars for \$200.

Mother sends love to you & the children. She has this morning bought 4 qts. of Beechnuts which I spoke for yesterday, and intends them as a present to you, says she will send them down the first opportunity. They were picked by Charlie Hanson & brother.

Cousin Aurelia Preston (Leadbeter) is quite low. Otis has often said he would like to call on her. Did he have time or did he think of doing so when he went on. She seems to have Consumption. Aunt Lucretia is going on to stay some time with her.

It looks like a storm & has been raining a little this morning.

You ought to be up here now if you like <veo cide>.

The papers seem to indicate that a battle is soon to take place. I cannot decide whether Sedgwick's Div. has left Harpers Ferry or not. Hancock who has Richardson's Div. is in the advance & in all probability the whole Corps is together.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Isabella is almost homesick, she wants to see Jamie so much.

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1780 11/6/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1729

Harpers Ferry  
Dr Palmers room

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[233]

Harpers Ferry  
Dr Palmers room  
Thursday Morning  
Nov 6 1862

Dearest,

I arrived here with Capt Whittlesey & John at 10 P.M. last night. Am just about to start for Snickersville Gap about 30 miles distant. Have a borrowed horse & a two horse Ambulance.

I reached Boston at 2 P.M. Monday, went to the Parker House, called on Gen Banks, saw his wife, dined, went to 67 Rutland St, saw Mr & Mrs Webb. They gave a pressing invitation for you to come to them. Mrs Webb said she would write you if she thought you would not take the invitation, come & take the children. You go down Washington St cars - to Rutland St.

Good bye & God bless you. I am well.

Yr aff. husband  
Otis

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1781 11/8/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [CH Howard]

OOH-1730

Head Qrs. 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[11]

Head Qrs. 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Nov 8 1862  
7 miles from Warrenton

Dear Brother,

I am here & at it again. We waited tonight till 8 for our wagons to come up. Yesterday we had quite a snow storm, but the sun came out today & dissipated it. Many inquire for you & express sorrow that you are not back, as Gen Williams, Gen Couch, Major Walker, Capt Taylor & others. I had the warmest kind of receptions from Gen McClellan, Gen Couch, Gen Sumner & all. Gen Gorman only feels badly that he loses the Divn. I hav'nt yet assigned him to a Brigade as Sully has his. Gen Burns has a Divn in Burnside's old Corps. Couch retains this. Sumner has the Grand Corps i.e. the command of two or more.

Gen. McClellan was relieved today & ordered to Newton N.J. We are frightened. There we are in the midst of a rapid march, the enemy on one side of the Blue Ridge and we the other, running for "gaps" & position. Burnside feels dreadfully without a staff, and without sufficient statistical & topographical knowledge to be put over an army that he hardly would dare command under the best of circumstances. All this creates uneasiness. I should feel safer with McClellan to finish what he had planned & was executing so well. Slocum with his Corps commands Harper's Ferry.

Capt Whittlesey & I staid with Dr Palmer at Harpers Ferry in our old house transformed into a Corps Hospital, together with all the neighboring houses. He had one room his own & we slept with him. We got an ambulance of Gen. Slocum & started Thursday morning - 35 miles first day - 20 the 2nd & today 12 - brings us here. Col Hall commands Danas. Owens dismissed & reinstated commands Burns Brigade. I have Harry Stinson appointed but he has'nt arrived.

Much love to Mother. This my birthday - 32.

Gen. Banks said to me in Boston he would be pleased to have me go with him. I called on him at Parker house. Mr Webb wants you to go up & stay with him. Wm Merrick is quite well. Capt Whittlesey has been sick & is not well. I shall see Thomas Bubin tomorrow, & perhaps Geo. Bates in a day or two. Col. Sewall is getting better. We are soon to pass our old stomping grounds beyond Manassas.

I didnt get your letter at Augusta & hav'nt yet. I hope you will try to gain much in Spirituality, get near the Lord. Mrs Greble said much of you. She & the children were well. Love to Father, Mother, Isabella & all. Let us have letters. Tell Rowland & Dellie that I am well.

I now feel sorry for McClellan. I fear we hav'nt a better man.

God bless you all.

Yr Aff Bro  
Otis

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1782 11/8/1862    *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1731

Head Quarters  
Howard's Divn  
Rector Town, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[234]

Head Quarters Howard's Divn  
Nov 8 1862 Rector Town, Va.

Dearest,

I have got up early on this my Birthday morning to write you before the march. I reached Gen McClellans Head Qrs yesterday about 11 a.m. in a regular old fashioned Maine snow storm. I went directly to McClellan's private tent, found him and Genl Williams together in a comfortable tent. I received a warm welcome. Gen Mc. said I was the Jonah to bring such a storm, and he had half a mind to order me straight back. He said they were talking of me and were really glad to see me. I got the same warm reception from Gen. Couch. I hav'nt seen Gen. Sumner. He got here about 15 minutes before me, or rather reported then at Gen. Hd Qrs. He commands two Corps, ours & another & leaves us Gen Couch.

Now I will go back and begin where I left off at Harpers Ferry and give you a brief account of my journey. I told you of my visit to Mr Webb. He went with me to the Wn St cars & directed me on my way. I saw Mr Twing in the cars down and inquired for Cousin Susie. She drives her carriage about Boston fearlessly. I met Lieut Whittier, Gen Sedgwick's Aid. He showed me a letter from Gen. S. He could not be back for four weeks.

I went on to F. River Depot and then found the young lady from Auburn Miss Stevens who had put herself under my charge, for conduction to Jersey city. I think she was about 15. I felt somewhat interested in her because "she had never been aboard a Steamer before." John & I secured a good State room. After ten I took the young lady round to look at the Salon &c and then conducted her to the lady's cabin. I had a prime sleep on the boat.

We reached N.Y. about 8 a.m. I ran up to 501, found I must go to Brady's corner 10th & Broadway - sat for my picture. They took a small one & a large one. I hurried down to Canal St., took Desbrosses St. Ferry & met John & baggage at Jersey City via J City Ferry. We went on to Phila in 10 a.m. train.

I breakfasted at a saloon at 2 ½ P.M. for I had only eaten two apples. I then went on Mr Guff's found all the Greble's, Mrs Sully's little ones but she was gone out. I staid awhile, went out and got some books & play things for Eddie & Clair & returned, staid till after ten. Mrs Greble & the children were glad enough to chat with me. Little Clair calls me God father & so does Edwin. He don't look so happy as he used to. I found Col Leach who married Miss Hannah Greble, a class mate of mine at West Point, at home temporarily. I went to Wm Merricks found him quite well, with a good old fashioned cold.

The next day I left Phila at 11.35. I found Capt W. very pale & thin, he is now not well, though full of goodness & self-denial. Mrs W looked very full of sorrow, & I didn't wonder.

We reached Harper's ferry a little after 10 P.M. found Dr Palmer in our old Qrs filling every room with sick. He had reserved our little room. We slept there on the floor & were thankful. The next day we rode 35 miles over an unguarded route but without accident. Yesterday 20 more miles - now on Manassas Gap R.R. On today - Harry Stinson has been appointed A.D.C. & ordered to report to me if he accepts.

Give much love to Guy Grace & Jamie. There is no immediate danger of a battle, probably not at all.

Don't be anxious. God bless & keep you. Tell them at Mr Danl Williams that Gen Williams inquires for all & for his little nephew especially. He is looking in prime health. My kindest regards to Mrs Clark & Lottie. I could'nt pay her son for carriage. Please send a qr or half.

Affectionately your husband  
O.O. Howard

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1783 11/9/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1732

Head Qrs 2nd Divn near  
Warrenton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[235]

Head Qrs 2nd Divn near  
Warrenton Nov. 9, 1862

Dearest,

Yesterday we made a march of 8 miles and are now located on the Gainsville road within a mile of Warrenton Va. We got into camp quite early last evening. The wind was blowing hard and I placed Hd Qrs in a ravine. This morning we turned out our troops and drew them up along the road to give a parting salute to Genl McClellan. He rode along and the tattered colors were lowered, the drums beat and the men cheered him. Gen. Burnside rode by his side. I called on McClellan yesterday. He appeared well, said: "Burnside is a pure man & a man of integrity of purpose & such a man cant go far wrong". He also said in the course of our conversation "I have been long enough in command of a large army to learn the utter insignificance of any man unless he depend on a power above". It is not possible to be associated with Genl McClellan and not love him.

After visiting McClellan I went to pay my respects to Genl Burnside. He looked very tired as he undoubtedly was for he said he had been without sleep for a night or two. He had concluded to take the command but did not regard it as a fit subject for congratulation. I gave him my words of allegiance & came away.

Tuesday Nov 11.

I was interrupted yesterday so that I did not finish my letter. Yesterday we did not move waiting for supplies & for Genl Burnside to get his staff in working order. I inspected a brigade yesterday after 3 P.M. It took me until after sunset & then called upon Genl Couch & had a pleasant conversation with him. He looks younger than I, is quiet and good & I like him much.

Harry Stinson came to me last night and said he had concluded to decline my appointment, & he said the only reason was that he had no horse & no money to buy one. I told him to come if that was all and I would furnish him a horse till he can pay for it. The position of Aid De Camp will increase his pay. He appeared delighted at the idea of coming to live with me. He was looking well. His corps now is at New Baltimore half way between here & Gainsville.

I have applied for another young man to act as aid, till it is decided about Chas. He is a fine, Christian young man and has been long anxious to get on my Staff.

I hope you are well of your cold & happy. You have a good deal to bear and alone. I wish I could help you. How is Guy, hard at play still? If you have such cold weather as we do you dont let them play out of doors much. Does Guy still want papa to resign? How is Gracie this morning? And little Jamie. Give very much love & many kisses to them all. I have written to Charles but have not heard from him.

I never gave Jno. Ivory the letter that came to him at Augusta. Please send it. And I cannot find the letter of Genl Sedgwick now about Cols. Owen & Morehead. Col. Sewall has'nt yet come back. We are expecting him daily. Col Ames is near me & well. Col. Chamberlain came to see me. I hear that Capt. Commerand of Waldoboro is Capt of a Co. in the 21st.

Much love & God bless you.

Aff.

Otis

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1783 11/9/1862      *From:* Otis [OO Howard]      *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1732      Head Qrs 2nd Divn near  
Warrenton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[235]

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Much love & God bless you.

Aff.

Otis

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1784 11/10/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1733

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[236]

Leeds Nov 10 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

It is 10 o'clock in the evening & father & mother are preparing for bed. We have had family prayers and Isabella who completes the household has gone to bed. I read tonight the 37th Chap of Ezekiel. Please notice how you may take the decorations or promises in the last part of that Chapter – from the 22d to 28th verse and embody them into an appropriate prayer for our nation at the present time – with very slight modification.

We have been hoping to hear from you for several days. We feel particularly anxious to get any word about Otis. Mother feels a great deal of anxiety for him & is continually speaking of him. She asked me to write to you in hopes to get something from you about him as well as about yourself & the children. We want to know how you are. Mother also expresses anxiety lest you may not be well. And how are the children not forgetting little Jamie?

I hope you will give us a few lines at least by return of mail.

The papers brought exciting news tonight. McClellan gone. We will at least indulge the hope that a change will not result for the worse. McClellan has really seemed to me much to be blamed for lying still thus long & permitting the Rebels to escape again.

Four letters from Oscar Turner came into the neighborhood Sat. night. He is well & seems to be expecting active duty – to enter upon the more terrible realities of war. He is now in Md. not far from Rockville.

George Huzzy who enlisted in the 16th Regt. from this town while I was at home in August – a fine young man & a Christian is dead. His funeral sermon was to be preached at the Center last Sabbath but it was so rainy none of our family attended. His folks live next house beyond Mrs. Veranus Lothrop's.

Dellie came home Sat. Eve. I went over & visited his school & bro't him home. He has a good school & school-house. He says the easiest school he has ever had. I took him back this morning.

I got an answer from the Adj. General's Department tonight inclosing an order which I had not seen saying a Leave was not necessary, for an extension, only the Surgeon's certificate, duly certified; & that the one I sent covered my case satisfactorily. I, however, need a copy of it which I think I will write to Dr. Briggs to furnish me. Poor Jameson is gone & poor Gen. Richardson. I do hope their attention has been directed to their soul's welfare since they have been upon beds of languishing.

Do not omit to give lots of love to Guy & Grace from their Uncle Charlie. I really hope Otis may in Providence go to Texas & that I may accompany him. But the Lord will direct all these things for the best.

Rowland writes all well & Sarah on her way home.

Do write us for the good cheer of  
Yr. Very loving br.  
Charles



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1785 11/12/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1734

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[237]

Leeds Nov. 12th 1862

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Brother

We got our first news from you tonight by letter from Lizzie. She writes that She has got well of her cold & that the children are well. Asks if all the "ifs" are cleared away whether I will not take her to New York with me to see you before you go to Texas.

Seeing by tonight's paper that Gen. Augur is going with Banks & is to be Maj. Gen. makes me fear you will not go. But, I will be reconciled to the disposition Providence shall make of us.

In answer to my application for leave Adj. Genl. Townsend sent Gen. Order No. 160 War Department, also adding a note saying my certificate covered my absence. But I see that I should have a duplicate one to shew to my commanding officer on my return & for fear either that you might forget that you saw mine or that some other commanding officer might require it I have sent to Dr. Briggs for a duplicate copy.

6 Me. Regts. & a battery go with Banks. He ought to have a Maj. Gen. from Maine.

I saw a letter in the Portland Press tonight which spoke in high terms of you but rather higher of Berry I thought, saying that Gen. Hooker recommended him for Maj. Gen. & that Gen. Berry had been in Hookers Div. (Where?) The letter was from Washington & spoke in the highest terms of Jameson, now gone. Lizzie has heard that he joined the Church before he died.

I am in hopes to be quite well & strong by the expiration of the Leave which is the 6th of Dec. & I feel quite a desire to go with you if you go to Texas.

I wonder where you are tonight. I hope well. My kindest regards to Capt. Whittlesey, - hope he is fully restored. If I were not still troubled with my leg I should believe myself as fit for duty as ever. In helping father "fix up" for Winter I find I cannot "hold out" long especially in the lower extremity. But my leg grows stronger I think & upon level ground you would not notice that I walk lame at all.

Mother is well & has been taking out a "baking" this evening. The warm weather today has carried off pretty much all the snow. Isabella is at home for a few days - expects her brother home next week whose foot does not heal. Fabyon of South Leeds whom I enlisted has died from Diptheria.

Have you heard from Lt. Stinson? I see that Gorman is in Washington. How did Gen. Augur have a Divn in 2d Corps? Was it a mistake of the news-paper?

May the Lord bless & keep you.

Your Affec. Br.  
Charles

Letter from Rowland says all well. He is anxious about you & Mother is almost afraid to have the mail come for fear of some bad news. Good deal of excitement now about McClellan's removal. I am well satisfied, aren't you?  
C.H.H.

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1787 11/14/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1736

Head Quarters  
Warrenton Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[238]

Head Quarters Warrenton Va  
Nov 14, 1862

Dearest,

I anticipated getting a letter from you today but did not. I got your note written the day I left enclosing the one for John Ivory. It has been now almost two weeks since I left home and I am very anxious to hear from you, darling, and my precious little flock. I hope you are well.

I got a telegraph dispatch tonight, which gave me some feelings of uneasiness before I broke the seal, but it was on military business. Yesterday I had a Divn drill and today inspected a brigade with the assistance of Lieut Stinson, who is worth his weight in gold. He is so intelligent & quick that I like him much. I have now finished the inspection of my entire division except the Arty. & find it in very good trim. I have now appointed Col. Sewall on my staff to take this duty off my hands.

Did I tell you that Gov. Washburn with his aide Col Hathaway, came to see us and I accompanied them all around to visit different Maine Regiments. The Governor was very agreeable & I enjoyed his visit. He said he should call upon you when he got back & tell you how hearty I am.

We will probably move tomorrow and the next letter will show you where we are. Gen. Burnside has just got ready to go on. I do not think the march will be dangerous.

I want to get time to write to Guy and Grace, but tell them papa has had such big bundles to attend to that he could not get time. Much love to yourself & them. Commending you to God.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

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1788 11/16/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1737

Head Quarters  
"Spotted Tavern" Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

Head Quarters near  
"Spotted Tavern" Va  
November 16 1862

Dearest,

I felt too tired to write last night but am less so tonight though we have made a march of nearly twenty miles today. Last night I encamped two miles this side i.e. south east of Warrenton Junction. Tonight we are about 13 miles from Fredericksburg, Va. we (i.e. Couch's Corps) move in three columns one in the row, one on the right & the 3d on the left of the road. I have the left. Today it has been our fortune to have woods to march in most of the way. The pioneers go ahead, open the fences, clear away the brush & cut the small trees in our path. One Brigade has the lead one day and another the next. Gen. Sully an old army officer has Gen. Gorman's Brigade. Col. Hull, whom you knew at West Point commands Gen. Dana's Brigade. Gen. Dana, I met in Phila. His leg is still lame. I have learned since that he is in Washington. Col Owen, who formerly commanded a Regt. in Burn's brigade, commands my 3d Brigade. The army has been divided into 4 grand

	Left	Center	Right		
divisions	Franklin	Hooker	Sumner		
Corps	6th	1st	Porters Hint old 6 3d	Couch 2nd	Wilcox 9th

Gen. Siegel has the reserve. Yesterday I crossed my old line of march made last Winter. The ground that was so wet and muddy then is very dry now. The weather is beautiful. We anticipate rain tomorrow as it has clouded up this evening.

It has'nt been much like Sunday with us today – marching on – on. You have undoubtedly been to church. I hope you have enjoyed it & Guy & Grace the Sunday School, and the darling little Jamie the company of Auntie Clark and John. My love to all.

I think we are moving now as rapidly as the country can wish. I hope it is the will of God for us to succeed this time, but I fear much, as I have said, on account of our own wickedness. I saw two Generals commanding divisions, drunk day before yesterday, and another yesterday, much under the influence of liquor.

I have just announced Lieut Atwood as Aide a fine modest young man. He and Lieut. Harry M. S. will tent together. Capt W. & I tent together and they come in for prayers. We, Capt. W & I, sleep on the ground & side by side, in a Sibley tent. [Sketch of a Sibley tent a conical structure over a central pole.] The stove you see is the central figure – our heads near the eaves, feet towards the fire.

Much love & many kisses from papa to the children & much love much sympathy & God bless you.

From your loving husband  
Otis

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1789 11/17/1862 *From:* Your Father *To:* My dear Guy [Howard]  
O.O.H [OO Howard]  
OOH-1738a Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
*Source:* Bowdoin Near Falmouth Va  
Opposite Fredricksburg

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[no number stamp]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
Nov. 17, 1862  
Near Falmouth Va, Opposite Fredricksburg

My dear Guy,

I wrote Mamma last night and think I will write you tonight. The rebels fired some heavy guns at some of our troops but did not hit or hurt any of us. This afternoon after we had pitched our tents, nearly a mile and a half from the Rappahannock River, a number of big guns and a Brigade of our soldiers were sent down to drive the rebels back from the other side of the river. This was done - some of these guns will fire a ball three miles - i.e. further than it is from Augusta to Hallowell. The rebel guns fired one ball which hit a wheel of Capt Petit's battery & broke it. They, the rebels, soon ran away and our troops marched down to the river and into the little town of Falmouth, about as large as Winthrop village. Fredericksburg is on the other side of the river, thus: [Sketch showing the Rappahannock River and the towns of Falmouth on one side and, downstream a little, Fredericksburg on the other.]

Fredericksburg is quite a large city. Perhaps you would like to have papa tell you the names of the officers who sit at his table now - Capt. Bachelder, he takes charge of the wagons & horses. Capt Smith, he takes care to feed the soldiers. Col. Sewall, he sees to the guns & belts & knapsacks &c that they are in good order. Capt. Whittlesey, he writes the orders. Lieut Harry Stinson & Lieut Atwood assist papa in moving, camping, &c. of all the 14 Regts. & two batteries of his divn. Dr Sherman in place of Dr Palmer sees to all the sick.

Good night my dear Guy. Papa prays for you & you must for him.

Your (<[CHECK ORIGINAL- page edge glued with another].) Father  
O.O.H

Papa sends to Mamma in this letter \$100.

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1790 11/19/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear little daughter  
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1739

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps near Falmouth Va  
Novr 19th 1862

My dear little daughter,

I wrote Guy a day or two ago and now I have another chance to send a letter and think I must write you. We are still in the same place as when I wrote Guy, waiting to make some bridges before we can go on to drive back the rebels.

Papa is now very well, his arm aches considerably, but he is otherwise well. His horse "Charlie" has learned to be cross since he went home. Gen. Gorman's horse was hitched along side of 'Charlie' and he didn't seem to like it so he kick Gen. Gorman's furiously. Besides this Dr Palmer's horse kicked "Charlie" so that it made 'Charlie's leg quite sore; and McDonald my hostler went home while I was sick and a negro lad took care of him and being a sensible horse he took offence and so now he puts back his ear & acts as if he was going to kick. I gave him a potato yesterday from my hand, which he turned around and ate very kindly. I shall not like to take him home if he does not behave well.

The mail carrier is waiting for me. Tell Mamma I sent a hundred dollars in Guys letter.

Love to Mamma

" " Guy  
" " Jamie  
" " Auntie Clark  
" " Lottie

Papa will be glad to get a letter. Goes Gracie love her Saviour?

Yr loving father  
O.O. Howard

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1791 11/20/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1740

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps. Near  
Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[244]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps. Near Falmouth Va.  
November 20, 1862

Dearest,

Our Mail has been suspended since we left Warrenton Junction till today. Today we got our first letters by the way of Acquia Creek. I got two big letters & one little one from you, enclosing Guy's and Gracie's. I was really glad to get them and only sorry that the date was no later than the 9th inst.

I think I wrote you from Phila., know I did from Harper's Ferry and have written very often since. I hope you have got my letters. I sent one by an orderly to Harper's Ferry, and have sent the rest directly to Washington. A day or two ago I directed a letter to Guy to your care containing one hundred dollars. I wrote to Grace the next day, but I think Guy's & one to you will get home much the soonest for they went by different routes. The first were taken by a reporter directly to the nearest station that communicated with Washington.

Today we changed camp a little nearer Falmouth (your old habitation?) And now I am living upon a high bluff covered with stones as thick as hail. It is now evening raining very hard and has nearly all the afternoon.

The children's letters were a great treat. How quickly they have learned to write legibly, almost as quickly as papa the second time. They both spelt mamma with one m in the middle - thus "mama". I think those are <bad boots> to make a young man's side & <feet> ache don't you?

I have worn my india rubber boots today & they made my feet ache. I am afraid Guy put his hands in the snow. The rain comes through the top of my Sibley tent right down on my letter and makes it look much worse than it otherwise would .

Harry Stinson has become quite domesticated & I think is contented. He has not yet bought a horse. I had him furnished with a public one for the present & I do not think it will be more expensive for him; considering his increase of pay he will be able to send home as much & perhaps more than before. I believe thus far we are mutually pleased with each other.

Mr Atwood too is a fine young man, member of the Episcopal Church & sensitive.

Capt. W. has been well until today. He has a slight indisposition today. He looks many times better than when I found him in Phila.

We have a pretty hard storm to stand, but it will prevent "raids". The country will wonder why we wait here five or six days. Our answer is men must rest, so must horses & mules. We take five or 6 days supply start off - at the end of that time you must have something more. The <track> depots & bridges are destroyed between here & Acquia Creek. They are being rebuilt as rapidly as possible.

Last night after I had got to bed & asleep who should come in but Sprigg Carroll, with three friends. He was just on his way from Washington to his brigade. They call him General, though he has not yet been confirmed. He had a picture of Mrs C. & Katy. He inquired for you & Guy & Grace & sends his kind regards. Mrs Carroll, his mother has gone to Pr George's Md. to the funeral of her brother. Sprigg says that brother was'nt much loss as he drank himself to death. Mr. C is the same old sixpence.

Good night, my darling wife. God bless thee.  
Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

Kind regards to Mrs Clark & Lottie. Many Kisses to G, G, & J. Give my love to Mrs Stinson & Mrs Daniel

Williams.

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1792 11/20/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1741

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[245]

Leeds Nov. 20, 1862  
Dear Brother

We were very glad to get your letter to me written 7 miles from Warrenton & upon your arrival with the army. We were relieved to know that you were well & hope soon to be reassured.

I am so much recovered as to feel much inclined to return to duty. If it is my duty to continue in the struggle until either it is ended or my longer adherence is rendered impossible. I am sure I would not shrink from the labor, the hardship or the sacrifice. How shall I decide whether it be duty? I made up my mind to accompany you if you should go to Texas. So far it is decided. Now the question remains – What, if you do not go?

My health is good. My leg has grown stronger tho' it is by no means equal to the other & if I were in Infantry Service I should be able to decide at once that I ought to resign. I could not march on foot. I am not strong physically but I believe it is because there has hardly been time enough to develop my muscles since I got better.

Unless something in Providence shall transpire to make the path of duty plain I shall depend much upon your wishes in the matter of returning.

Have you not been a little cramped in your staff Lts. Have you, I believe, Mr. Stinson not arrived?

Is <Steele> with you? Give him my kind regards & ask how he likes the horse. If I am to come back, I ought to get me a saddle here & perhaps a horse – tho' I believe it would be better not to get a horse here if you think there is a tolerable chance to buy one out there. This for two or more reasons one the cost & trouble of taking one on, another the difficulty of procuring a suitable one here and another that I will not draw my two months pay till I get to Washington if I come on.

I have written to & got answer from Maj. Gardiner who says he will muster me in on presentation of my Commission & to date from the same. I only wait the return of my Commission from W.

Hayes writes that this mustering in is all that is required.

How is John Ivory and I am anxious to learn how Capt. Whittlesey's health is. I hope he is well again. I hear nothing from Col. Miles & my promotion in the 61st N.Y. If I should conclude to resign I should like first to get my promotion which is due me from the time the vacancy occurred.

Oscar Turner was disappointed at not seeing you on your return as also Clark Curtis, who is at Alexa. The latter is expecting a furlough. His foot is no better. He is at the Prince St. Hospital. Oscar wrote in answer to me that he had heard only two prayers since they left Portland & that there were no praying men in his company. Plenty of swearing which he says "sounds disagreeable" to him. His (23d) with 5 other Me. Regts (9 mos.) is to go with Banks. I dont believe Gen. Sumner will consent to you leaving.

How does the Divn seem? Has it improved. With a staff all our own it seems to me I would like much to be with you again (if it is my duty). I do not feel certain that I am as good an aid as you can get, if I did I dont know as I should hesitate to urge coming back. May the Lord, my Guide, this time also as heretofore direct my steps.

All well. Mother says she thinks of you almost constantly. I was edified by a good old preacher of the Gospel up at the Methodist house last Sabbath. Mother, Isabella, Dellie & I walked up. Mr. Chapin is at Frederic Md. in hospital. I have been helping father paint his Grave-yard fence. I read aloud a good deal to Mother & Isabella. Intend to visit Augusta as soon as the Com'n arrives for which I wrote last week. I may visit Bangor 1st of next week & be back to Thanksgiving 27th Inst. Write me as often as possible. From the papers I judge you are



nearing Fredericksburg. I made some feeble efforts to draw near to my Lord & feel that He is blessing me greatly tho' I never was more conscious of my own wickedness & dependence upon His mercy.

I know almost nothing about our Corps & its prospects. Kind regards to your staff. Is Dr. P. with you?

Very affectionately  
Charles

P.S. My certificate extends to Dec. 6th. If I return, I ought to start by Dec. 1st or 2d. C.H.H.

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1793 11/22/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1742

Head Qrs. near  
Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[217]

Head Qrs. near Falmouth  
Va. Nov 22, 1862

Dearest,

I was disappointed last night when a large mail came without a letter for Head Quarters, but this morning I got one that had found its way into a Brigade mail. Last night Capt Whittlesey and I felt so confident there must be a letter for some one of us, that we had two or three immense mail bags brought in to search, but there was such a large number that we gave up after about a half hour's work.

I was sorry to see that you seemed to feel so sad. You said you kept putting off writing till you felt more like it, or something which I so interpreted. I don't wonder at your feelings, darling, and am happy that you have so good sense & bear up so well.

I have not yet bought a horse for Harry, but let him ride a public one for the present till we can find a good one. Harry has got to feel at home and gives me much satisfaction. He does as well as Charles used to in establishing pickets. He just went to inquire into an unusual noise in the Division. It is about 9 P.M. I have an excellent staff now. Capt. Whittlesey knows & does all his duty; so do the Qr. Mtrs & Aides. I am very contented, though I can't say I want the war to last that I may campaign in the winter instead of be at home with my precious wife and children.

The nights are now pretty cold and of late we have had long rains, yet today I visited nearly all the hospitals in the Divn and found only one man much sick and he had the measles. Col Sewall is away with his Regt repairing the road between Redplain & this place.

The enemy are pretty strong in our front, have much artillery in position and are making preparations to dispute our crossing the river. One ponton bridge has arrived and where it will be put down I do not know. I suppose we shall have to cross over soon, as we are getting supplies and are ordered to keep quite an amount on hand.

Lieut. Benjamin & Lt Murray came to see me & spent a pleasant half hour this evening. Benjamin says he kept from swearing till he got into battle & then he gave way, thinks he would give anything to break off, but can't; it has become a part of his discipline. Murray, another member of the church "doesn't swear very often". Benjamin cried as he told me of his father's sudden death. I didn't know of it. I feel badly to see as it were the very ~~elect~~ falling into sin. I have no doubt God will lead us all to repentance but how much we lose!

I feel the necessity of more watchfulness and prayer. I am filled with self more than with Christ. I believe my principle & purpose are right but I come so very far short of them. You must pray for me that I may be enabled to do the will of God.

I wrote you a letter and Guy one & sent them by a messenger to Washington by the way of Catletts Station the 18th inst. We feared the messenger had been taken prisoner till he made his appearance this evening. Guy's letter had a hundred dolls. in it & Mrs Whittleseys (also carried by him) had a hundred & twenty.

Give much love & many kisses to the children. I like to have you write what they do & say. Their letters were fine. Jamie is a nice boy to go to bed with Gracie. Papa will be glad to see them all. I am well. I hope you have enjoyed your sabbath today. Love to Mrs Clark & Lottie and to Mrs Stinson and a heartfelt to my precious wife.

Otis

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1794 11/24/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1743

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[248]

Leeds Nov. 24 1862

Dear Brother

It is a bright cold morning with a little snow upon the ground which fell Saturday night. Sarah has just come down from Uncle Ensign's with both children – all well. She came to town last Frid. I am writing this to send to P.O. by Albert, uncle Ensign's boy, who is going right back. I hoped to have had a second letter from you before this, in answer to some of my questions.

I have about made up my mind to come out and join you starting the 1st of Dec. I shall go to Augusta tomorrow & back Wed., thus see Lizzie & get "mustered in". Be home at Thanksgiving & start for Washington next Monday. If you get this before Dec. 6th please write in Care of Mr. Hayes at Corner of K & 12th Sts. W.

My certificate ends at the above date & I thought I would attend to our business in W. if I had time. I hope also to get my two months pay & so be prepared to buy me a horse. Where can I find one? Had I better wait till I reach you?

If I get a letter positively dissuading – from you before week from today, I can change my purpose & send you my resignation.

I am feeling quite well except occasionally Rheumatism.

Mother is well. We read with interest Gen. Sumner's proclamation to the Fredericksburg Authorities. What came of it?

Rowland spends Thanksgiving in Bath. I have not seen him since you left. How did you spend yesterday (Sabbath). I read "Patience of Hope".

Kind regards to Capt. Whittlesey. Is Mr. Stinson with you?

Very affectionately  
Charles

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1795 11/24/1862 *From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1744

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[250]

Phila Novbr 24th 1862

Mrs Howard -

I trust you will excuse me for troubling you this time by writing to you. I have given up all hopes of again having a letter from Guy. I would not have been so much dissappointed at his not answering my letters had I not expected to receive the likenesses of the children. I have written two letters to Guy and did not receive an answer to either. I suppose he has entirely forgotten me.

I will be forever thankful to you if you would be so kind as to send their photographs to me. You promised them to me on your leaving West Point and you do not know what a favour you will confer on me by allowing me to have them. I was divided about writing to you but came to the conclusion I would it being the only means left to me of receiving those dear children's pictures. If you would be so kind as to tell me something about the children I shall be forever grateful to you. I surely never see a child that I do not think of Guy and Grace and dear little Jamey that I loved so dearly.

I must say I did not feel content after I was separated from those children. It was foolish I suppose but I could not help it. They were ever in my memory and ever shall be. I trust Almighty God will ever protect them from harm and guard them in this world. The days I have spent with them are amongst the number of happy ones I have spent in this country.

Excuse me I did not intend saying so much but I feel now as if I could talk about them for hours. I hear occasionally from Mr Howard through Mrs Carrolls family. I suppose you have heard from him of my being married. I am living in Philadelphia and I am very comfortable. My husband has a very good situation at the arsenal and I feel now perfectly happy. When I left you I could not feel content anywhere. While in Washington I felt miserable.

Please remember me to Mr. Howard and tell Guy I did not think he would forget Susan so soon. Please tell Guy Grace and Jamey that Susan would give any thing to be able to kiss them once more.

I remain  
ever grateful  
Yours Susan [Keys]

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1796 11/24/1862 *From:* I. Washburn, Jr

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1745

Orono

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[246]

Orono, Nov. 24th 1862

Dear General,

At home for thanksgiving, I have time to tell you how much I enjoyed my visit to the Army, & how much I am indebted to you for your kind attention & courtesy. I am glad for many reasons that I went to the front, & not the least among them, is that I think I have thereby been enabled to say a good word for you in the right place, & which I hope in due time will have a fitting response. On my return to W. in speaking of the Army, the Generals, & other officers, & particularly of yourself, I discovered that in high quarters the impression had been recd that you were one of the special favorites, pets & <confidants> of a General who has not now so large a command as he once had, & whose policy or no policy is believed by many to have come very near ruining the country, & who is the special care of all the disloyal sentiment in the North. I was glad that I had it my power to state not only your position in the army as a General, your standing among the high officers &c, but also your precise status, & your true opinions, not alone, recently, but uniformly for many months, expressed to me, so that I felt that you were now "rectus in curia" ["right in court"].

Genl. Berry having been urgently presented by the Vice P. & others, will I think be appointed Maj. Genl. before long. To present you in his stead under the circumstances might harm him but could not help you. I have thought it best to secure his appointment as soon as possible, & then to make Maine a unit for you, & I have not the slightest doubt that your great record will be recognized by the President & Secy at an early day, by your nomination to the Senate as Major General. Whatever I can do to bring about a result so just to you & true in the Adm'n. will not be neglected.

Yours, very truly  
I. Washburn, Jr

P.S.

Genl. Reynold's telegram by some mistake asked my son to meet me at Arlington written at Warrenton, & so I had the pleasure to meet him the night after I left Warrenton. He was very well, & was sent by the Sec'y to Hagerstown for the clothing of the 16th.

I.W. Jr.

[Written on the back page.]

Letter from Gov. Washburn

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1797 11/26/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1746

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[249]

Head Quarters 2nd Div &c.  
Near Falmouth Va  
Nov. 26 1862

Dearest,

I will just write you a few lines to say that I am well, so is Capt W & Mr Stinson. We are in the same place as last letter showed. Another heavy rain & deep clay mud. It was arranged to try to cross the river but given up at that time. I was to lead. A kind Providence protects me.

I got a good loving letter from Rowland. He said you sent Ellas letter back, and that she felt dreadfully about it. I am sorry you did so, for R says he never thought of that paragraph when he sent the letter to me. I am terribly afraid hard feelings will spring up. I know it was mortifying to you, darling, but if it was not intended you must forgive without punishment.

Tell Guy & Grace that papa saw a curious sight on opening his eyes yesterday morning. A man stood near the table with several forked flames <protuding> from the top of his head. I called out & he put both hands up & the flames disappeared. It was John Ivory whose hair was "tossed" like Grace's some of those mornings. He had put his head near the candle to see what time it was and his locks caught fire. It was lucky I waked at the time I did was'nt it. John thinks he would have found it out.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, & Jamie and many kisses. Has Jamie fallen down stairs yet?

The people will get vexed at us for not going ahead. I have no doubt that God has us in charge and that he will bring out all right. Col. <Sewall> has just come in and wants to be remembered. Capt. W. sends his love. I feel that God will have you in his holy keeping.

The mail carrier is waiting, so good bye.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1798 11/27/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1747

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[253]

Leeds Nov. 27 1862  
- "Thanksgiving Day" -

Dear brother

It is a beautiful winter's day. It snowed all day yesterday & cleared away in the night. We have done justice to an abundant and luscious dinner. Father, Mother, Roland & Cynthia, Dellie & I, the two grand-children & Isabella.

Yesterday I parted from your little family at Augusta after spending a very happy 24 hours with them. Guy urged me to stay, said I might stay. He did not see why I couldn't. I told him I was going out to see his Papa and he was silent a little while. He wanted me to go skating with him before Breakfast. This before we got up in the morning as I slept with him. But lo! it was raining when we came to look out. They were all very well & we were very happy to get your letter to Grace the evening I was there. Little Jamie is a wonderfully good & happy boy & I loved him very much. He came down stairs saying "Charlie come" "Charlie come" as I entered the Hall. Lizzie seemed very happy & Grace was delighted to get a letter from papa. I was very glad to see your letters to Lizzie & the children as I had not rec'd but one from you & that written when you arrived with the army.

I had a tedious ride in the snow-storm. Came home by way of Gardiner as the Maj. did not come up to A. But I did not care much as I got my "muster in" all right down there & I saw Mrs. G. having a pleasant call at the Major's house. He is relieved & to go to Annapolis Md. - probably owing to disagreement with the Gov. I like Maj. G. He seems to be a man of strict integrity.

I got home by dark. The wagon went hard in the snow & it was very rough before the storm, from the frozen mud. Lizzie talks of going to Boston to do some shopping, &c. Jamie was delighted with a little spotted red frock his mother was making him "new dress" he said "Jamies new dress". Lizzie sent some sweet potatoes up for our Thanksgiving. I took down about as many apples as before & 26 lbs of butter. Also some chickens & some Bechnuts.

I was exceedingly glad to get your second letter to me last night. From Lizzie's I learned much to my gratification that Lts. Atwood & Stinson were with you & Col. Sewall. Give my kind regards to the last & tell him I am glad he is home again - i.e. in our family.

From what you wrote last night about my staying till my leg was all well &c &c and owing to Mother's desire to do some sewing for me I have decided not to leave here till Wed. next. I was intending to leave Monday, but think I can reach you by Sat. if I do not start till Wed, at least can get to Washington before Sat. & I hope to find a letter there from you in Care of Hayes Corner of K & 12th Sts.

What shall I do about a horse? I think I will get a saddle here if Mr. Garcelon can make one.

Dellie is troubled a little with his throat but nothing serious. Mrs. Berry is quite sick with the measles. Mr. Bubie hoped you would mention Thomas. Mr. Blaine told me (Do not mention this) that he heard that Capt. Whittlesey was sick & going to resign & that I was going to be your Asst. Adj't General. Where did he get such a report?

Gov. Morrell said he was going to Washington this week. Jamie Wingate is better. Gov. Washburn not back yet. I don't think he tried very hard to have you go with Banks. I am quite well except the leg which is not much lame. It is reported that there will be no fighting for a month so I shall not be too late to cast in my mite probably.

We have abundant rain to be thankful today to the Giver of all good.

Affectionately

Charles



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1799 11/27/1862 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1748

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[254]

Portland Nov 27 1862

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I write to inform you that I can send you the amt that is due to you - \$260 dollars with interest from 21st of May last and \$8 dollars due on Bank Stock. I have no particular use for it at present. I will either send you the money or invest it for you in some stock here as you direct.

We intended to have invited you to Portland to spend Thanksgiving with us – if we had expected to remain at home – we had thought of going to Quincy & spend Thanksgiving with Susie but got disappointed. Hope you and the children are all well.

With much love

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1800 11/28/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1749

Hd. Qrs near Falmouth  
Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[255]

Hd. Qrs near Falmouth Va  
Nov 28, 1862

Dearest,

I shall have to write you another short letter this morning, for the mail carrier is waiting for me & gives me 15 minutes. I was too tired to write last night. Capt W. & I worked on official papers till 11 P.M. In the morning I began at Falmouth and reconnoitered all the picket line of the Corps, riding from nine a.m. till one P.M. ate dinner and then went off on foot to select a place for Head Qrs. I found one of the pleasantest places you ever saw except home – on quite a high bluff & in the woods, the immediate surroundings being cedar. I led a party who cut a couple of rows out. The cedars around us are so thick that we are entirely protected against the wind. The prospects of immediate action are not strong. We are probably waiting for information & to let the column by the James River have a chance. I think Gen Banks will go there & not to Texas, but we shall see.

The Army in this vicinity is in good health & spirits. Lieut Stinson A.D.C. is well & happy, and comfortable tell Mrs S. Give her my love. I feel that you & she can get much comfort out of each other's society. Gen Jackson is reported in our rear with 30,000 men, and we keep wide awake.

Much love & many kisses to self & the children. The divine blessing upon you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1801 11/29/1862 *From:* Edwin M Stanton

*To:* Major General Oliver O.  
Howard

OOH-1750

*Source:* Bowdoin

Secretary of War  
WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington

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[314]

[Letterhead]  
WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington

November 29, 1862

Sir:

You are hereby informed that the President of the United States has appointed you

Major General of Volunteers,

in the service of the United States, to rank as such from the twenty-ninth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two. Should the Senate, at their next session, advise and consent thereto, you will be commissioned accordingly.

Immediately on receipt hereof, please to communicate to this Department, through the ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, your acceptance or non-acceptance; and, with your letter of acceptance, return the OATH herewith enclosed, properly filled up, SUBSCRIBED and ATTESTED, and report your AGE, BIRTHPLACE, and the STATE of which you were a permanent RESIDENT.

You will report for duty to

/s/ Edwin M Stanton  
Secretary of War.

Major General Oliver O. Howard  
U.S. Volunteers

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1802 11/29/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

OOH-1751

Head Quarters &c near  
Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[258]

Head Quarters &c near Falmouth Va  
Nov 29 1862

My dear Brother,

I received a good long letter from you last night dated Nov. 20, 1862 and I hasten to reply. I doubt if this letter gets to you before you leave for Washington, but I will direct it so that Mother will open it if you are gone.

All the questions propounded I have answered in previous letters. I want you for an aide if you are well. But if you cannot be well, I should prefer that you have the comfort of houses to sleep in.

I have a beautiful place for Head Quarters now, on the top of a high bluff & completely surrounded by cedar, the slopes in every direction covered with woods. It is a little too far from my troops but the beauty & coziness of the place draw me to it.

Capt. Whittlesey is well and quietly does his whole duty. Lt. Steel is still with me, though just now gone to Washington for Ordnance Stores. Capt. Batchelder is well & seems to stick by me. Capt. Smith as of old. Lt. Stinson a jewel & so is Lt. Atwood. Everything seems to work well & be very pleasant now. No knowing what a day may bring to us, but we know who rules on high.

Much love to Mother & Father, and kind remembrances to all the neighbors. We are waiting here because the Govt says so.

Very affectionately  
O.O. Howard

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1803 11/30/1862 *From:* Charles [CH  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1752

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[260]

Leeds Nov. 30th 1862

My dear Lizzie

I was much pleased to get your letter – to have a word about yourself & the darling children and your Thanksgiving – altho' I was happy enough to get a letter myself from Otis the evening I reached home – Wednesday. It was written the same time as yours – part of it the next day. He urged me to stay at home till I should be quite well & my leg strong.

On consideration, I decided to stay one day longer than I had intended! So I expect now to go from home Tuesday to spend one night at Auburn & go to Boston in the early morning train.

Otis wrote in the best of spirits – seemed happy, contented & cheerful.

I am feeling somewhat blue tonight, I hardly know why. I very seldom have depressions of the kind – especially when well – as I am now.

Your solicitude about my going home hungry was almost amusing to me – an old campaigner. I did not think of such a thing as eating & why should you. But as you imagined I dined at rather a late hour.

Maj. Gardiner was very kind – made out the papers properly – mustering me in as I desired. Introduced me to Mrs. G – was sociable & invited me cordially to dine with them.

I could not spend the time altho' it was then about 7 P.M. I knew I would be late home. The travelling was so hard. The wagon dragged like an anchor. The horse “pulled” and once slipped & fell breaking the harness & compelling me to get out into the snow which gave me the luxury of cold feet the rest of the way home. The route was a new one to me & the storm made me rather cold, wet & uncomfortable.

But nothing like being inured to rough weather & disagreeables. I guess I was in as good humor as usual as soon as I was warmly posted before the blazing fire at home, & especially after reading the 6 pages from Otis. He does not believe the Generals above him will agree to his going with Banks.

We enjoyed Thanksgiving – Roland & family, here at Dinner & we all down there to Tea. Father read a sermon of Beecher's to us in evening. Had my first sleigh-ride for the mail that night. Weather fine. “Going” not bad. Took Dellie back to his school next morning. Mother was greatly pleased with the sweet Potatoes & we all enjoyed your contribution to the Thanksgiving dinner.

Rowland arrived here yesterday evening from Bath. We (Father, Mother, & I) were at Warren Mower's but got home early. We spent the afternoon there very agreeably. Emma had come home from her school & bro't a young lady friend. - Louisa was cheerful. Warren had just come from Lewiston & bro't my pants which had been colored deep blue from light.

We had a pleasant sleigh-ride home by moonlight and a happy surprise in finding Rowland here. He went up in the train last night. Ella & Davie not yet come from Bath.

Today has been pleasant & I get another sleigh-ride in taking Isabella home, who goes to school tomorrow. We miss her much. Her brother Clark will be home in 6 or 8 days. His wound is no better.

There was meeting at the Center today but we had no notice of it except the bell & as I was just starting with Isabella, none of us got to Church.

Father & Mother went up to see Mrs. George Lothrop who is just alive.

Love to Guy & Grace. Perhaps Guy makes up in "sliding" what he lost in skating by this snow. Tell him we have a long hill out here to slide down but I will soon be gone to Va. where there is no snow. Kiss Jamie – sweet boy – about a dozen times for me.

I am Your Affectionate brother  
Charles

Mother sends love to you & the children. It is 10 P.M.

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1804 11/30/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1753

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[259]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn  
2nd Corps Nov. 30th 1862  
Near Falmouth, Va.

Dearest,

I have spent this sabbath morning seemingly in a very unprofitable manner. I hope you have been more edified, for I have only attended to business. I ordered that there be no drills today and that Chaplains have every facility to hold services with their Regiments, but what's the good of it when there is only one chaplain and he "No better than he should be".

I dont get many letters from you. I fear they halt on the way, somewhere. I think I have rec'd but three besides those of Guy & Grace since I left home. I got one from Charles a day or two ago. He is in doubt about coming back. If he gets well and strong I dont know any more acceptable or suitable aid than Charlie, but I feel that he had better not come if still suffering.

We are having beautiful weather now – the frosts & the rain have disturbed the hardness of the soil and the roads. Col. Sewall has his regiment still near Belleplain repairing roads. The R.R. from this place to Acquia Creek is now in running order and the whistle blows. I have just received another letter from Charles and he says he shall start tomorrow for Washington and wants a letter from me to meet him there.

I am again interrupted and must go out to locate some troops. I went out after the last sentence, reconnoitered the two hills for batteries and placed a Regiment for the support of one of them; this is done for fear the enemy might attack us; but I do not fear that at present.

I had a letter from Farwell intimating that I was to go with Genl. Banks. I suppose he got his information from some Maine paper or letter and therefore do not place any reliance on the report, for I have heard nothing from Genl Banks or the War Department on the subject.

We all continue very well, I have been particularly well since I got back. My arm aches a little but it isn't worth speaking of. I have'nt had a twinge of rheumatism. Since the ground has got damp I have slept on my cot. The air comes in some of these cold nights making my back a little cold and sometimes John gets up pretty early, and "by order" to build a fire. Capt Whittlesey made him a board bedstead and two foot planks from some boxes sent from Washington with our stationary. His bed-stead is in two parts: thus [sketch of the bed-stead] you perceive they can be piled up so as to make a short pile by day and when pushed together make a warm box at night. The Capt to whom I submitted my drawing says: after divining that it was his boxes, too high for the length, our foot boards are merely box-covers of inch boards. You may say in view of all these luxuries, how is it with the poor soldier. Why, two of them stretch their shelter tents over a pole and button them together, [sketch of the scene] put some bushes or bows at the back and stick their feet out towards the good birch log fire in the front. They sleep very warm.

Give love to Guy. I expect he will be amused at papa's pictures. Well, they are for him & Grace to look at as well as Mamma. I should love to look in upon you tonight. Hope you are happy and well and that the children are so too. Guy must be careful how he dips into the snow quite so strongly. I hav'nt said much about Jamie but papa thinks much of him. Has Gracie read a good story today? Much love to you my darling wife. Asking upon you the choicest of God's blessings, I remain

Your loving husband  
Otis

H.M.S. is well & happy.