
1805 12/2/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1754

Head Quarters 2nd
Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[263]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c
Dec. 2nd 1862 Near Falmouth Va

My dear Mother,

Charles wrote me that he should start for Washington yesterday; if he went I presume you will feel more lonely. I directed a letter to him a day or two since but sent it under cover to you as I thought he might be gone. I think I have written him other letters which he has not received, for I had answered all his questions & some that he seemed to be uncertain about judging from his last letter.

We are still in the same place. I heard that we were to have reinforcements. Gen. Couch said some 16000 to the Right Grand Divn. We will then probably halt till these troops come up.

The enemy have much heavy artillery across the river in position and mean to contest our passage and unless our crossing is managed very carefully, we shall suffer a very heavy loss if not defeat. It is the most difficult of military operations to cross a river in the face of an enemy of equal strength. We could easily have done it the day we arrived but Gen. Halleck had withholden the ponton bridge and it was impracticable to move over without it & folly to throw over a small force for the enemy to crush as at Balls bluff. We had to wait and while waiting the enemy brought a hundred thousand men to our front and Jackson brought some 30,000 to threaten our base of supplies. So goes war, a game that both armies can play at, and one that the small item of a bridge may disconcert if the bridge is not at the right place at the right time.

However we may get impatient. God's way's are not always our ways and he will doubtless regulate us to his own praise. I feel that I am too little dependent on Him, too disposed to be ambitious. You must pray for me that I may be kept in the right path.

We have a very beautiful place for our Head Quarters, tents and the weather holds good. Capt Whittlesey has got entirely well, & thoroughly conversant with the duties of his department. I cannot be too thankful for the Good Providence that has sent him here. I find Lieut. Stinson a good Aid & an excellent young man. I am glad I chose him.

I meant to have written you a longer letter but the mail carrier is waiting.

Give love to Father & Isabella. I hope her brother Clark is home by this time. God bless you.

Yr. affectionate Son
O.O. Howard

1806 12/2/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1755

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[262]

Farmington Dec 2, 1862

My dear Brother

I think I wrote in my last that I would write once a fortnight! I must have been demented about that, thus I meant - I will write often.

Ella has been at Bath with Davie now a little over a week. I went down to Bath Thanksgiving Day & returned Sat. spending a night at Leeds with mother & Charles. I suppose he starts today for your Head Quarters, going as far as Lewiston. I hope he will not hurry on unless you need him. I think he is pretty well now, but not strong & not capable of enduring fatigue. Mother seemed well & to take Charles departure quietly - Tho doubtless she feels as I do, that we may not see him (nor you) again "this side Jordan".

I often feel that my life I would willingly give if it would be a mite towards putting down this Rebellion & I could part with my dear brothers with greater equanimity, it seems to me, for this cause than for any other. The hearts of the people are becoming dejected & the timid are crying "Peace - peace on any terms!" The educated, moral & religious classes of Society must "Hold up the hands that hang down & strengthen the feeble knees". O for the eloquence of a Henry. O for the prudence, moderation & patient, unwavering perseverance & undaunted fortitude of a Washington!

I look upon this Rebellion as I would upon a great criminal who having committed a capital crime is endeavoring to escape justice. No amount of means, no no. of friends, no respectability, derived from mere power, no success in eluding the avenging rod, can alter my estimate of the turpitude of the crime - the punishment due it, nor the great moral obligation resting upon "the power that be" to inflict it. Surely if a single murderer or thief is visited with the full penalty of the law, those who have directly or indirectly promoted the Rebellion, with its thousands of murders & its millions stolen, should not escape. God will fix the responsibility and punish the offenders, whether human justice overtakes them or not, but our duty is not performed - our obligations are not met, if we leave a single thing untried to bring these transgressors of human law to condign punishment.

My feelings of benevolence are more & more excited for the slaved, & I took occasion to denounce the dread that many have of abolition, as well as the prejudice so generally entertained against the negro Race, as un-Christian - not in accordance with the spirit of the gospel as embodied in the Golden Rule, last Sab. evening. I then asked a good democratic Deacon to pray. He passed over the Slaves & freedmen & prayed that we might feel right towards the Rebels - "This might be to have done but not left the other undone" I wish to feel towards the Rebels as I would towards any band of outlaws. Among them are many deceived & innocent, but the essence of the Rebellion is against human & divine law. I pray for the criminal that he may repent - I teach him - I pity him - but if he is a murderer - I would hang him. I can't get this idea of simple justice - righteous penalty - into my Deacons mind. Charity, mercy & many other virtues, he loves. But unswerving, unbending Justice - such as the Bible teaches is the attribute of God - he can't comprehend.

Lizzie has not written me since you left Augusta. I sold part of the wood and sent her the proceeds. It had become wet & heavy by reason of being out of doors & I concluded to take the balance & will send her a fair price for it on Jan 1st.

Our winter has fairly opened (or shut). The sleighing is excellent the weather cold & blustering. I am in Winter Quarters - the house has a "banking" - the new furnace heats well - my Study has a new stove and temporal matters are well enough.

I wish you could share my comfort & conveniences, and yet I often envy your life of strong activity, where every day presents its own duties unmistakably. I never am so happy as on days when I am most active with things that must be done. But it is hard to be responsible for your own time & its improvement to devise methods of

usefulness & to furnish Sermons, that shall not be flat, stale, & unprofitable. I have now a Bible class Monday evenings wh. promises well.

Last Sab. the funeral Services of a Vol. in 16th Me. crowded our house of worship. I preached with some ease & enjoyment in "the uses of affliction" and the special consolations that friends have who give a dear one to their country. I am trying to keep up a correspondence with all our church members who are in the Army.

Dec 3.

Charles will be likely to reach you as soon as this letter & will bring the latest news from home. Huldah is to be buried today [See Note]. Charles will tell you about her. I called Sat. saw her & prayed with George & the children. He seems deeply affected. She has been unto him Rudder & compass and in spite of both he has often missed his course. I am glad she has found her "rest".

I expect Ella & Davie tonight. I hear incidentally from a lady Mrs W.W. Thomas of Portland that you forgot to give or send her a Photograph you promised.

With kind remembrance to Col. Sewall & Capt Whittlesey.

Yr. aff. Bro.
Rowland

[Note: Huldah Alger (Gilmore) Lothrop died Dec 1, 1862. She was the wife of George Lothrop and the step-sister of Rowland, being the daughter of Col John Gilmore and Huldah Alger.]

1807 12/3/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1756

Hd. Qrs. 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[265]

Hd. Qrs. 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.
Dec. 3d 1862

Dearest

I have got up, got washed & got dressed and Capt Whittlesey says it is six minutes after seven, as the sun rises somewhat earlier in your country than here I must imagine you already up, unless you are lazy and lie abed in the morning which I believe you never do. If Grace & Jamie sleep together where does Lizzie sleep? Alone or with Guy in the little room? I shall have to go home & find out. I presume Charles will reach Washington today, but I do not expect him here before next Monday.

Yesterday I mounted "Charlie" and rode to Genl Sumner's, some two or three miles Eastward & in sight of Fredericksburg in a large brick house. I gathered very little from him as to movements. Probably we shall attempt a crossing before long. It will be a difficult operation at the best, but I think we can do it when we get ready. We are to be pretty strongly reinforced today or tomorrow. I shall probably get a regiment more. Col Sewall's is still at Belle Plain. We have been intrenching batteries, drilling & changing camps. I am going out this morning to see Col Hull, drill his Brigade, and shew him how he is to cross a bridge, if he does not know already. Those five year Cadets know everything almost. Col Hull is married, I believe I told you, & had a visit from Mrs Hull while at Harpers Ferry. Hull is a very good officer.

All of us are well. Dr Palmer was at Harpers Ferry when I last heard from him & was expecting to be sent to Frederick. Dr Sherman my Divn Surgeon has gone to Washington. He was a member of Congress from N.Y. State and gave his services as a Surgeon during the recess; quite advanced in life I should think upwards of 60 yrs.

How is Guy this morning? I suppose you have had more snow before this and perhaps he has played in it, but maybe not without those new boots & mittens. I shall expect that that dressing gown by Charlie a little. I have made the other <underwear> for an outside night gown. I take off my clothes, except drawers & put on the dressing gown. It keeps my back warm where the robe doesn't stay tucked. John sometimes is called up to put overcoat on feet, but I generally sleep very warm.

The mail is ready.

Hugs & kisses to Gracie & Jamie as well as Guy. God bless you & keep you all.

Affectionately
Otis

Mr Stinson is well.

1808 12/3/1862 *From:* Thomas R. Deverell *To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1757

510 North Eleventh St.
Philadelphia

Source: Bowdoin

[264]

Philadelphia 3d December /62

Genl Howard

Dear Sir,

I have often thought of you, and the excellent advice you used to give us (the members of your bible class at West Point) and I should have written you before, had I been aware how to address a letter that would find you. It is some two weeks since I have found how to write you. Mr G. P. Presser leader of the band formerly attached to Genl Burns's brigade informed you were the same I had the honor of knowing. I heard of your losing your arm, and deeply sympathized with you, not knowing at that time, you were the man that gave us such excellent advice.

I have taken great interest in the events that have transpired since the beginning of this terrible war, and have made many efforts, to get a commission so that I could join those brave hearts in fighting for the restoration of our glorious union, but up to now, my efforts have failed, some Colonels informing me it would be necessary to have money or political influence, neither of which, I (unfortunately) possessed, or I would have paid any amount, as it is a life I have been used to. My father was an officer in the british service, and I have had some experience in the same Army.

It gave me much pleasure to learn that Mr. McCook had attained to such an eminent position. It is gratifying to think that the merits of such officers are not overlooked and that politics does not entirely rule. If it were not for party favoritism, I think the army would be much more efficient. It is a bad system to appoint men as officers whose only merits consist in belonging to the Republican or democratic parties. The only consideration should be, who are the best qualified, for command.

Dear Genl if there is any position you could procure for me, you would confer a great favor by recommending me for it. I would be extremely grateful if you could get me a commission however subordinate it may be, and if I could only be so fortunate as to be attached to your Brigade, I am sure you would never be sorry for having recommended me. I have been well used to a millitary life and should be delighted to serve under a man who is not only a Good soldier but likewise so devout, and consistent follower of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Again thanking you for the many Kind words I have received from you and earnestly hoping you will be preserved for the sake of all who may be fortunate enough to know you. I am sir with very great respect your humble servant

Thomas R. Deverell
510 North Eleventh St. Phil

Formerly a member of your Bible Class at West Point. [He was not a student at the USMA.]

1809 12/5/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1758

Near Falmouth Va
Head Quarters 2nd Divn
2nd Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[266]

Near Falmouth Va.
Head Quarters 2nd Divn
2nd Corps Dec 5th 1862

Dearest,

I received your letter written the 27th (thanksgiving day) day before yesterday. A good cheerful letter, and one from Charles written the same day from home telling of his visit to you. The two together gave me a very complete picture of home at Augusta. Charles put off coming till Wednesday. It is now Friday. He is probably in Washington tonight. I shall not look for him before Monday or Tuesday. We are now having a heavy storm. It rained & then snowed and is again raining; though the snow and ice are clinging to the trees.

I have, stopping at my Head Quarters, Mr Richardson a correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune. He takes occasion, not withstanding my prohibition, to use my name once in awhile, as in describing our march from Warrenton to this place. In the past paper he mentioned Genl H's Head Qrs. which I will enclose if I can find the Tribune that contains it. I do not like puffs. They may please the vanity but they are not wholesome.

I think a good deal of Senator Morrill and not the less for his domestic qualities. I should like to slide downhill too. Just think of it to be 32 & 30, staid people with grey hairs, and some three or four children.

I wrote a letter to Mrs Jameson last night. I had thought of it quite often, but I did'nt muster time & courage till last night. Capt Smith her brother & my commissary received a letter from his mother giving a description of Jameson's last hours & speaking of the severity of the blow to his wife. He asked how the evening before his death (if I remember rightly) if they (he & she) were alone. She said yes. Then he said, "Repeat the Lords prayer." She did so, and he tried to repeat it after her and said "Amen" distinctly. She went on to ask that he might be spared to them a little longer. He checked her and said, "no more" At another time he said, "It will be her hardest trial" speaking to her father of his wife, and then added, "Whom he loveth he chasteneth". His last hours were doubtless those of a christian, brought in, "Purified as by fire" through much bodily suffering and perhaps not less, mental. He was a kind hearted man and a gentleman. He was ambitious to rise a gallant officer, sacrificed on the alter of his country, for the peninsula laid the diseases upon him, which terminated in his death.

Tell Jamie papa is going to try and get another arm one of these days. What will he say then. You can send me a bundle by express – direct: "Via Washington Army of the Potomac". Write when you send and if it does not come I will send for it by some one going to the city. Guy gave me so much encouragement about the dressing gown that I hoped Charles would bring it on, but there is no haste as I shall have plenty of old coats, as soon as I get to be a Major General.

I received a letter the other day, no, Capt Smith received it, saying I had been promoted, but the letter was too fast. My name was sent up with many others, but the appointments suspended, probably till the President gets law-authority to make more Major Generals. I did not feel very much disappointed.

Mrs Whittlesey had'nt returned to Maine last Monday. The Captain continues in excellent health. Mr Stinson is well. He has bought a horse of Capt. Whittlesey. His pay outs were sent in with mine but the paymaster wanted the evidence that he had been mustered in to the U.S. Service. When that is furnished he will get his pay.

Does Guy & Grace slide much? Give them Guy, Grace & Jamie papa's love & a kiss apiece. Remember me kindly to Mrs Clark & daughter. The blessings of God upon you.

Your husband lovingly
Otis

I wrote to Mother a few days ago. Charlie says her mind reverts to me & to my younger days a great deal. He speaks of it again that she thinks & talks a great deal of me. I got a letter from Wm Merrick a few days since. All well there. I am very well & strong.

I will enclose you \$300. Write as soon as you get it.

My kind regards to Mrs Stinson. Does Mrs Blaine go with her husband?

1810 12/7/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1759

Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[267]

Near Falmouth Va
Dec 7 1862

My dear Mother

I presume you got my last letter before Chas. left. Now I rather anticipate him to be in Washington & here tomorrow: giving him Sat. & Monday there for business. On Friday we had a snow storm and it has been very cold since. The ground is as white & wintry as it is with you.

Thomas was away from me five or six miles off till Friday when his regiment returned from Bell Plain to this place. I saw Thomas twice yesterday. He has been a little bilious but did not call himself sick. He was looking well. I should'nt wonder if winter, with a shelter tent went rather hard with him. The cold creeps through the canvass.

Perhaps you all wonder why we delay so. Well, I do. Men can move and work if the order is given and I am anxious to have the work done for I wish to return to civil & civilized life. I am not unhappy; the most of the time quite the reverse.

My health is good. I have a good appetite, sleep well and am able to endure a great deal of fatigue. With these blessings, almost any body is cheerful.

It is very possible, the progress of events seems so to indicate, that the very incompetency of our leaders is God's way of blessing the nation. Why? because his object is to humble, disenthral & purify the nation & ours merely to prevent disruption. Slavery, which has given us so much trouble must "go by the board". We want to hurry a settlement, but no settlement is to be had at present. In the meantime, the oppressed are going free.

I hope you and father are very well. Who (what man) is with you? I suppose Isabella has gone. I will know all about things at home when Charlie gets here. I am anxious to see him and yet almost afraid to have him leave houses for tents at this inclement season. We have a large wall tent to eat in and have had no fire in it yet. We generally eat with our hats and over-coats on.

Today I proposed to make a "California fire-place". Perhaps you are curious to know how they are constructed. [Sketch of the fire-place.] You dig a hole in the ground somewhere in the compass of the tent and then lead a small trench to the outside and place two empty <meat> barrels without heads over the end, cover the trench & part of the hole with flat stones, and dirt on top. The hole is the fire place, the barrels the chimney, the trench does not prevent a draft and has the effect to dry the ground.

Thomas said he heard that Charlie was coming back from a letter. Remember me to all the neighbors.

I hear from Lizzie and the children quite often. Guy & Grace wrote me each of them pretty good letters in writing & not printing. Guy tells me about the visit of Uncle Charlie & the beach nuts he brought. They seem very well & very happy. Guy can "stand on skates on the ice".

You dont have any better church privileges than we do now your minister is gone. We cant have services very well out of doors, the weather is so cold. Pray for me Mother that I may never forget God.

Your affectionate Son
Otis

I have just had letters from Charles & Rowland. Chas. is in Washington. The Auditor now want two more certificates from me.

1811 12/9/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1760

Near Falmouth Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[268]

Near Falmouth Va.
December 9, 1862

Dearest,

We are still in the same place but from all appearances may not be here long; for last night our teams were detached to help draw boats, logs for corduroying &c, which looks like an attempt to cross. We shall stay here till the rest get fairly over, how long I cannot tell.

Charles wrote me friday from Washington. The auditor still demanded other certificates. I must certify that I did not draw forage or pay for the dead horses. I must certify that I bought horses to replace each of the horses lost. I dont know what will come next. Charles letter was delayed in getting to me, reaching here last night. He cannot get my reply before tonight & get through his business before tomorrow night. So I shall not much expect to see him before thursday noon if as soon as that.

I have just got a new Regiment the 127th Penn. assigned to Col. Hull's Brigade, and I must see about encamping it.

Afternoon.

Quite a large Regt - the Col is named Jennings. He must think a good deal of home, for almost his first inquiry was, how he could get his mail. He seemed like a good officer, handling his men well.

Capt. Whittlesey has been making us a door to the tent. [Sketch of the door.] The lower frame is fixed so as to incline as the tent does and is propped up as in the figure. The canvass is nailed to the outer frame which constitutes the door.

Guy & Grace would like to see our cedar wash stand. Capt Whittlesey says there is an advantage in that wash stand for it never tumbles over. [Sketch of the wash stand - a tree stump in the ground.] They can see my water pail and wash basin. Papa was delighted to get their letters and would write them now if he could.

Dearest, I am now writing on Wednesday morning Dec 10.

Before you get this letter you will get the news of a battle. I try to rely calmly on my Saviour in these trying hours. If anything should happen to me, I feel that I have committed you all to God and I hope to meet my wife and children in Heaven. May the divine presence relieve you from all excess of sorrow and the little ones find in Jesus one to love & trust. I have no forebodings of disaster, but I know the desperate nature of our undertaking. But if it is the will of God it will be easily accomplished.

Charles has not reached here and I am rather in hopes he will not come before thursday.

Mr Stinson is well. I feel sad to expose my personal staff to the hazards of a battle. I hope God may see fit to spare us all as He did at Antietam.

Guy, bless his heart, I should like to see him and talk with him this morning. Thomas, the former owner of Lion, was in hoping to see Charles. He has got the jaundice and is feeling quite unwell. Capt W. has a bad cold. I am well, my arm does not trouble me much. I can lie on my right side part of the night. I do not think I am half thankful enough for my blessings and I feel that I am a great sinner before God. Every time nearly I open my Bible I read this: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear". Then I always see the next passage & fear it for me, but I remember the Lord our Saviour.

Grace & Jamie papa would like to have two sweet kisses .

Your loving husband,
Otis

I sent \$300 in \$50 dollar notes in my last letter.

The mail came good bye & God bless you.

1812 12/13/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1761

Source: Bowdoin

Hd Quarters 2nd Divn
2nd Corps
Knox House
Fredericksburg Va

[269]

Hd. Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps
Knox House Fredericksburg Va
Dec 13, 1862 [Saturday]

Dearest,

I have waked this morning at 3 a.m. and not feeling sleepy I thought I would write you a few lines.

On thursday we left camp at 6 ½ a.m. and moved down near the R.R. & near the place of crossing the river. At 8 I sent Col. Hull's Brigade to support Batteries & aid the crossing. The Engineers succeeded in getting the bridge about half done, when the fire of the sharp shooters became so great & close that they desisted and it was impossible to get them to work. In the mean time our batteries were pouring in shot & shells concentrating their fire on the sharp shooters position, but they were in a block house, in cellars, in rifle pits, behind stone walls & buildings.

Finally at about 4 in the afternoon, Lt. Col. Baxter with his regt. 7th Mich of Hall's brigade, volunteered to cross in boats and drive the enemy off from the bridge head. The Engineers were to get the boats ready. This they failed to do, two or three would get hold of a big boat and as soon as fired at would run back. Finally Lt Col. Baxter said he would put the boats in and did so with his men at once and filled them & shoved off. One man was killed & himself wounded. They pushed to the other bank, disembarked, and rushed for the houses, cellars, &c. One company took 32 prisoners. The 7th Michigan held the bank, the 19th Massachusetts followed, then the 20th, then the 59th N.Y.

The bank was now held in sufficient force & the Engineers put down the bridge. I moved up the rest of my Divn by Gen Bank's direction, and just as soon as the bridge was completed, the rest of Hall's brigade, the 42nd N.Y. & 19th Penn followed by Col Owen's brigade moved over the bridge. I followed this brigade with my staff.

Meanwhile the enemy's batteries had found our range and shells & shot struck close to the column, but I believe by the blessing of God not a man was killed and few hurt. The 127th band undertook to play, but just as the instruments were put to their mouths a shot struck right amongst them and they fell on their faces, then scattered, so our only music was cannon & musketry fire.

I sent Col. Hull to the front, Col Owen to the left through the town and kept Gen Sully in reserve near the bridge head. It was getting quite dark, but the Regts pushed forward. The fire from homes & "round corners" was deadly. The 20th Mass lost 19 E.M. Killed & 81 wounded. Capt Cabot was killed & 4 offs. Wounded. The 19th Mass. had 8 killed, the 7th Mich had 5 killed, the 69th N.Y. also lost some.

We got as far as the 3d Street parallel with the river and I ordered firing to cease, as soon as it could be done. We placed our pickets. Our men were in the houses & pillaging & destroying went on to some extent. Women & men who had spent the day in cellars came for protection. No instance of abuse occurred that I heard of. Some mothers brought little children for permission to cross. A few men got into wine cellars & got pretty drunk.

I took Head Qrs. in a little old house <karcked> to pieces somewhat by our shot. Col Hall stopped with us. I did'nt sleep much, went out frequently to quiet the men. Another Brigade came over the bridge built ½ a mile below, comd. by Col Hawkins, Dexter's brother. This bridge was built like ours, by throwing over men in boats, after they heard what we had done. Col H. reported to me and took post on my left. At 3 a.m. I went around the out-line pickets and found all quiet, no enemy near.

At daylight threw forward Genl Sully & Col Owens, took the whole town and picked the front range of heights

near by. During the day we have had a little skirmishing. The enemy have shelled us from their hills, but the Army has been crossing. Gen Franklin is over, so is Gen Sumner. Today the heights will be attempted. By God's blessing we will be successful.

Burnside says he puts his trust in God. He made some remarks to a room full of Generals Wednesday evening. He heard they had murmured. He rebuked them, & told them he lacked, but his trust was in God. Solemn, noble, manly & Christian were his remarks, and God will bless him.

We are now in a house abandoned by Mr Knox and near the front line. One or two shells have passed clear through it, but my room is in pretty good shape. Chas. joined, of course, the day before the battle, is well & sleeping. So Mr Stinson, Capt Whittlesey & Mr Atwood & Mr Steel sleeping on the floor near me.

I am sitting on this floor, near a fireplace, just like Professor Church's writing on my lap having an ink stand, candle stick and paper on a large portfolio with Tom, a little colored boy, holding up the outer edge. Tom drops asleep now & then. When my candle stick with its light sinks and with it ink slip down, - but I wake Tom & it is soon all righted. Tom also acts as paper clamp at the bottom of pages. "Tom" works for Capt W and Chas, & as you see for me. Every body works for me darling, but rebels.

Guy & Grace will be much interested in papa's letter, and Jamie can be told that papa found a little white pussy here & a big, big dog – big as lion. Much love to my precious children and a prayer to God in their & your behalf – that he will bless you & keep you all as his faithful children.

By the military committee I learn that I am unanimously recommended for a Maj Gen! It seems now less strange now that I have become accustomed to a larger command. Oh. that I may increase in love to God, who so abundantly blesses me.

Much regard for Mrs Stinson. Harry is a man, a brave & true one. He is amongst my blessings. My love to Chas. M. [Mulliken]. I wrote him a long letter; he has not replied. Chas has written Mother.

We may be in battle today. We trust in God to do for us.

Affectionately your own
Otis

Chas sends love to Lizzie & the children. Love to Mother when you write.

1813 12/15/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1762

Head Quarters 2nd Divn
2nd Corps
Fredericksburg

Source: Bowdoin

[271]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn
2nd Corps Fredericksburg
Dec. 15, 1862

Dearest,

I would write you oftener but my labors of all kinds makes me feel almost unfit to write when I get a chance. We have had another terrible battle. Chas. slightly wounded, but of little account. A piece of a shell hit him on the rubber boot near the top and took a small piece out of his left leg. His horse was standing on my left and touching me. "Charlie" my horse was wounded slightly in the ankle by a musket ball. All my staff had their horses wounded, two orderlies had theirs killed. Lts. Stinson & Atwood were often exposed but not scratched. God has been good to us indeed.

I will not describe the battle but say that I supported Gen Hancock and held my ground from 1 P.M. for over 12 hours until relieved by other troops, only 100 yds from the enemies rifle pits - <> my men lying down. One of my regts, staid till four A.M. 157 Penn, when some of Gen. Hooker's men who came to relieve me swept them off in a retrograde movement. They brought a fire I understand four deep & cut us up terribly. Col Miles wounded not badly. Col Cross ditto.

Much love to my precious children & to yourself. My reliance upon my Saviour, I feel to be unshaken.

This hard work will soon be over I hope.

God bless you. Chas has written Mother. Love in abundance to her.

Your loving husband
Otis

1814 12/15/1862 *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1763

H'd Q'rs 2d Division
Fredericksburg Va

Source: Bowdoin

[270]

H'd Q'rs 2d Division
Fredericksburg Va
Dec. 15, 1862

Dear Sister Lizzie

For fear Otis may not get time to write I send you word that we are all safe and well. We had a fearful battle on Saturday and we were exposed much and long but the Lord shielded not only Otis and me but all our staff. No fighting yesterday, for which we were doubly thankful because it was the Lord's day and because we were weary from the tension of the day before. Otis' and my horses were slightly wounded – not enough to disable them. I had a very slight wound by a bit of shell in calf of the leg but it will not put me off duty. My new rubber boots protected my leg.

It is a beautiful morning, warm as September. The ground is damp and somewhat muddy. We were disturbed many times last night as 5 Regts. of our command are on picket & Otis has the responsibility of looking out for an attack.

I think we may not be in action again at present tho' it is possible. We failed to carry the works in front & some other plan than pressing right here has undoubtedly been adopted. Siegel will probably be sent down South – down river I mean to outflank them.

We have good quarters. Lt. Stinson I like much. He was brave & gallant the day of the battle in the highest sense and both our brigade Commanders and their staffs say they will vote him a Brigade General.

I have got my promotion as 1st Lt. and Otis is sure to be Major General if he is spared. The Lord is very gracious to us. How kindly He deals with us all. Many, many friends have been laid low. Gen. Caldwell was wounded, not dangerously. So was Col. Miles formerly of our staff. Gen. Bayard is said to have been killed. Col Cross was badly wounded.

Gen. Couch is very genial and is disposed to deal justly with all – not a man of caprice nor is he obnoxiously willful as some Generals in high places are liable to be. Otis likes his Brigade Commanders much and they cooperate heartily.

We have had an almost amusing acquaintance with a rich secession lady, our next neighbor and our host Saturday night. She was glad to have us come in & sleep there for her protection but showed so much unwillingness at our making her house H'd Q'rs & taking our meals there that we came into this Parsonage and we feel much more at home with a house of our own. Had feather beds on the floor last night & might have slept beautifully had we not been waked up about 25 times by orders & other matters of business.

Otis is writing you by my side so this letter will not be so important as I thought. It will however assure you of the love of your brother
C.H.H.

Tell Guy I'm glad he can skate & hope he will have plenty of ice. Love to him & to Grace & Jamie.

1815 12/16/1862 *From:* Susan [Key]

To: Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1764

Source: Bowdoin

North West corner
Brown & New Market
Sts
Philadelphia
Pa

[272]

Phila Dec 16th 1862

Dear Mrs Howard

Your letter bearing date of the 8th I received today. On first opening it I felt disappointed seeing it contained no likenesses but on reading it my disappointment left me. I hasten to reply to it, knowing the sooner you receive this the sooner I will receive Grace and Guy's letters which I shall be most anxiously expecting. Please let me have Jamey's likeness too. I would like to know whether Guy or Grace ever speak of Susan to him.

I think Guy would know me now if he saw me but I am afraid Grace would not. Is there any chance of you ever coming to Philadelphia to visit your friends for if I remember rightly you have some living here. How glad I would be to see you and the dear children here. I believe I would take it as a special gratification of my wishes from Him that can do all things. I watch the papers closely to find all accounts about Mr Howard. Until this last battle I could get no information for some time of where he was. I heard he went back after recovering and that he called at Carroll's and I think I heard once or twice of him since then. I heard that Mrs <Duam> was living in this city now. I dont know how true it is.

Please tell Guy & Grace and Jamey that Susan sends them a thousand kisses and is longing very much to get their letters and likenesses.

That Almighty God may spare Mr Howard and always grant you peace of mind and happiness is the daily prayer of
Susan

Address
North West corner
Brown & New Market Sts
Philadelphia
Pa

1816 12/17/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1765

Head Qrs. Old Place
near
Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[273]

Head Qrs. Old Place near
Falmouth Va Dec 17, 62

Dearest

I feel the exhaustion of the past few days labor & excitement so much that I neglect even my precious little family. After the battle of Saturday we had a working night of it; my division, after remaining for more than 12 hours within a hundred paces of the enemy's lines were withdrawn being relieved coming back to Fredericksburg. The next day Sunday was comparatively quiet all day. Monday my division were picketing the front again. The enemy shelled us badly & one time three regiments abandoned their position. I had been at work laying out defences was in a high cupola, a mile off, when I saw a regiment giving back & knowing it was mine I hastened to bring up others. The most of the abandoned ground was retaken, under the fire of with my command, then had a detail of 625 men for entrenching. Just as a part of them got to work, we were ordered to retreat to the old Camp. This we did. Our tents are repitched - old picket lines reestablished and we are trying to rest. I have addressed the entire command – regiment after regiment & I fear have done some harm, as I said some truths to those regts, that did badly. Charles wound was so slight that he does not mention it. I have had a new tent stocaded today & am having a fire place put in. I am going into Winter quarters..

Give much love & many kisses to my/our precious children & God bless you all.

Mr Stinson is well.

Your loving husband
Otis

Dec 18 Thursday.

We are all well & nicely rested this morning. Guy's birthday has passed. Papa will try and get a leave & go to Phila as soon as he can be spared, to fit a new arm. I wonder if somebody would not like to meet me there, Mamma, Grace, Guy or Jamie? You must assure Mrs Stinson & Mrs Blaine that Harry is noble & brave and deserves just as much praise as if we had defeated the enemy.

I must make out my report today and get my new house (tent) in order. I am perfectly well.

What mourning and depression there is in our land today. Read the 44th Ps. It just describes us, only we are sinful.

Much love
Otis

1817 12/18/1862 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1766

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[274]

Farmington Dec 18th /62

Dear Brother Otis

We hope tonight will bring us some news from some quarter concerning you & Charles. Farwell has been home to attend the funeral of his Brother-in-law Mr Sampson, & says he heard in Washington that you & yr staff were safe. That & the meager acct. in our newspapers of Sat's battle & the subsequent Retreat is all that we have heard. We were led by Sundays dispatches to think that the assault on the Enemy was only partial, but when I read them & learned of the repulse, I was very anxious till I heard that the Army was safe back again. "Safe" did I say. O may God comfort the widows, fatherless, & childless made so in that assault! I am not sorry that it was made. Nothing else could have demonstrated that the works could not be carried. The People will now more patiently endure slower & surer procession.

I write in the hope that your Division did nothing to cause chagrin to their commander, and that those nearest you were spared tho' the end is again painfully postponed. Poor Charles Hutchins! His name last night was among the "killed" & no comment. His family are in Augusta.

Uncle Ensign & Laura spent the last night here & he is to break the news to Uncle Charles & Aunt Hannah Knapp tonight. Capt Belcher of this place is wounded, & he of all the 3 years Quota both of Leeds & Farmington who went in the 16th is the only one we have heard from. We hear nothing from Perry except that he is Maj. of 3d Me.

Ella & Baby are very well. We have the "Circle" tonight & probably a house full of our parishioners. Father spent a day & two nights with us (R.R.meeting) - so did Ellas Father & Mother. Mr Sampson died of apoplexy after only 16 hours illness. He was a good man. We mean to observe New Years Day as a Day of Fasting & Prayer. We enjoy it much more, spiritually, probably, than if flushed & vane of a great victory. O for more humility. God must crush us all before we can safely rise & prosper!

I do not hear at all from Lizzie and the dear little children. Farwell thinks your promotion & Perrys will be made simultaneously & very soon. He has lost one his most faithful & best friends in Mr Sampson. We have a Christmas Festival for Our S.S. this year. Our people are healthy and some I hope are praying. "O Lord Revive thy work"!

Give my love to Charles & kind regards to Capt W.

Affly
Rowland

We received Chas letter written on the Battle morning.

1818 12/19/1862 *From:* C.H.H. [CH Howard] *To:* Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1767

Source: Bowdoin

H'd Q'rs 2d Divn 2d
Corps
near Falmouth

[275]

H'd Q'rs 2d Divn 2d Corps
Dec. 19 1862
near Falmouth

Dear Lizzie

Otis has at length got in the reports of Brigade Commanders and is this afternoon busy in writing his report. He sits near me for I am in his tent. Perhaps you are not aware that he has a new tent all by himself. It is pitched upon stockade walls of timber some 3 or 4 feet high and will be more comfortable in cold weather.

It is moderate today. The war committee of Congress are down here. We cannot divine the future but trust the Lord.

Love to all, from papa & uncle Charlie.

Otis says he is going to write some decent letters just as soon as he gets his reports out.

Yr Affectionate br.
C.H.H.

1819 12/20/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1768

Head Qrs. near
Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[276]

Head Qrs. near Falmouth Va
Dec 20 1862

Dearest,

I received your letter written last Sunday last night, Friday. I thought the telegraph would have apprized you of Saturday's battle & of the affairs of crossing the river and seizing the city. This morning my report went in – tabular lists of the killed, wounded & missing have been sent before. This morning we sent up the names.

Guy wrote me a good letter and what is better he sent papa, himself in ambrotype. It is good indeed. My little black eyed boy is all I lack. But I shall not object to the one with brown.

I presume before this reaches you, you will have heard of our repulse. I cannot say much about it – I am now in the fog. I have just heard that Seward had left the Cabinet and if Mr Lincoln reorganizes his cabinet will be better it. I feel more & more the need of a general humiliation before God, to wont upon Him & know his will.

A letter to the rebel General Jackson came into my possession, this morning, from his wife; just before the birth of a daughter, the first part was written & the rest after, purporting to come from the child. The matter was so touching & so sacred that I sent it directly to Gen. Burnside and asked him to forward it by the first flag of truce.

I am now the only Gen'l officer in this Div'n. Gen Sully has been sent to com'd Gen. French's Div'n, Gen French having gotten a sick leave. Gen Couch Comdg Corps is quite unwell. I do not understand why every body is down on Fred. Sewall. I expect it is on account of his politics & prejudices which are strong. He was with his regiment in crossing the river and afterwards in the Saturday's battle. On Sunday he was sick and turned over his command to Col Heath. He is now better, but weak & unfit for the field. Tell the Governor not to be too hard on him. There never was a more diligent man in the performance of duty. I understand that Maj Cunningham of the same regt. has been working a little against the Col & Lt. Col. but cannot vouch for it. He wrote to the Gov. & made recommendations adverse to those of Col. Sewall. Give my kind regards to Gov. Coburn when you see him. He soon goes into power. Success to him.

Some of your friends suggest that you made a bad move when you moved to Augusta – for Mrs De Janon or Mrs French would have told you, that in the Old district your husband was intended for Congress & in the new Blaine outranks him. What a pity you had not thought of it, but cant we wait till Blaine is a Senator? I have no higher thought now than to do what I can to save my country, and this is the highest I can have, for I believe in doing this I am serving God.

You should hear the high terms in which the brigade commanders speak of the conduct of Harry Stinson. Chas. wound was so slight he does not speak of it. I hope you are nicely. God bless & strengthen you darling.

Lovingly
Otis

1820 12/20/1862 *From:* Andrew Merrell

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1769

Geneva

Source: Bowdoin

[277]

Geneva, Dec. 20th 1862,

Gen. O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir,

Your beautiful & highly finished silver knife & fork for Master Howard was received by yesterday's mail.

As he is too young to thank you himself, permit me, as his sponsor, to express the honor conferred upon him in possessing a gift from one whose name and character he will early be taught to love & imitate.

This pleasant remembrancer of army friendships and experiences, though a perfect surprise, is grateful to our hearts, and for it please accept from Mrs. Merrell and myself our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Praying the Lord to shield you in the perils of battle I remain

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Serv't.
Andrew Merrell

1821 12/20/1862 *From:* E Waite

To: Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1770

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

[278]

Portland Decm 20 1862

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I intended to written you before. My business prevented me the day you left Portland from assisting you & Grace with your Bundles to the Cars. I enclose the Bill paid Lowell & Senten & the two dollars which I exchanged at a very trifling discount.

I have purchased for you two shares in Mechanic Bank which I will forward after getting the Certificate, which will leave due still to you \$15 dollars including interest that I owe you.

We have all contemplated the Battle at Fredericksburg. Glad to hear that your good Husband has been preserved. May the Lord still watch over him & keep him safe.

Love to all.

Your Affectionate Uncle
E Waite

1822 12/21/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1771

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd
Div'n
2nd Corps near
Falmouth Va

[279]

Head Quarters 2nd Div'n
2nd Corps near Falmouth Va
Dec. 21, 1862

My dear Guy,

I received your good and welcome letter with mammas, which was written a week ago today. I mean to answer you tonight. I have also received Graces in which she tells me about her new furs. I shall try and write her very soon.

Papa now lives in a tent by himself. Capt Bachelder had one without pole & stove. Papa had some logs about four feet long cut & split into thus: [sketch of a log split long wise in two halves, along the length.] Then he had a circular trench dug: [sketch of a circular trench] about two feet deep and then stood the logs up side by side & fill in the dirt. Then he spread the tent over the tops of the logs and holds it up by three long poles. You can see two of them [sketch of the tent held up by exterior poles]. The fire place is at the back side of the tent and you cannot see it. Papa can show you how it looks thus: [Sketch of the fireplace against the rear wall of the stockade with a stone hearth extending out and a chair at the end of the hearth.] The chimney runs up just outside the tent. You will see something that looks like papas chair not far from the hearth.

Papa had services in his tent this morning. All the white boys & all the colored boys came in and Mr Whittlesey and papa read & talked to them about Jesus. We had a real good meeting. This afternoon Capt Whittlesey & papa went to see the poor wounded soldiers. Some had lost arms & some legs. They all looked very cheerful & some were trying to look to Jesus for strength. Poor boys & poor men, papa hopes God will bless them in His own way with much comfort.

Give lots of love to Grace, Jamie and Mamma.

We are all quite well. Uncle Charlie & papa take much pleasure in looking at your picture. Papa hopes you love the Saviour with all your heart.

Your loving papa
O.O. Howard

P.S. Love to Lottie & Mrs Clark.

1823 12/22/1862 *From:* E Waite

To: Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1772

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

[280]

Portland Decm 22d 1862

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I now send you the two shares of Bank Stock which will draw interest from October last. The interest that I owe you makes the balance now due to you \$15 dollars, which I can send to you at any time.

We expect to go to Quincy on Wednesday and spend Christmas with Susie and return on Saturday.

Hoping this will find you and the children all well

I remain

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

1824 12/25/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear little daughter
[Grace Howard]

OOH-1773

Head Quarters 2nd Divn
Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[281]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn
Dec. 25 1862
Near Falmouth Va

My dear little daughter,

Papa has promised you the next letter. He wishes you this morning a very "Merry Christmas" . You will not hear the ring of it from papa's lips this year and the wish will not reach you till Christmas is all over, but yet papa does hope his little daughter will have a merry Christmas & a happy new year.

You remember Dr Wiggin; he over-worked and got quite unwell after the battle; so papa went to see him and invited him to come over & stop a few days with him in papa's large tent. Papa has had a door made to his tent since he wrote Guy and Dr Wiggin is making a latch for it. My door as you see opens inside and is a little straighter up than the drawing would show. [Sketch showing the tent, the door and the chimney.] In the first place I had no boards & had cedar bought to cover the ground floor but now I have had the present of some old boxes and by breaking them up have got a very good floor. John got me a piece of carpet a square piece that I put right in front of the fire. Everybody says what a pleasant tent when he comes in.

Give lots & lots of love to dearest mamma. Tell her papa is commanding the Corps & Division too just now which gives him double duty. Gen Sumner reviewed the entire Corps yesterday, taking from 11 a.m. until near Sunset. Papa got very tired & did not sleep so well for it last night, but is well.

Much love & a merry Christmas & a happy new year to Guy & Jamie. Don't forget to remember papa to Auntie Clark & Lottie.

How is Mamma well & happy? Does her little daughter behave well? Does she act like a little child who loves the Saviour. Dr Wiggin & Uncle Charlie send their love to Gracie.

May God have you all in his holy keeping is papas prayer.

Lovingly Yr Father
O.O. Howard

P.S.
Lt Stinson is quite well.

1825 12/26/1862 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1774

Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[283]

Near Falmouth Va
Dec 26 1862

My dear Mother,

I desire to make you a new year's present and having nothing to send but money, I forward the enclosed with the request that you buy something that will add to your comfort.

Perry was wounded in the last battle, about as badly as Charles was at Fair Oaks.

I saw John Keen two days ago & Henry Mower. They were well. So was Dexter Howard.

Love to Father & all.

Your affectionate son
O.O. Howard

1826 12/26/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1775

Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[282]

Near Falmouth Va.
Dec 26, 1862

Dearest,

I have just received your letter mailed Dec. 22nd 1862, containing the three blank cards which I have written on to the satisfaction of Chas. I am always happy when the mail carrier comes in with my darling's superscription. I have put off writing you for a couple of days, to write to Guy and Grace, feeling that this would please you best. My letter to Gracie was shorter and more hurried than I meant it should be. Gen. Sedgwick has now returned and assumed command of the Corps and I have only my own division to attend to.

The weather is a little warmish and I do not feel so strong as I wish I did, though I am well and endure a great deal of fatigue. I am kind of nervous and feel like Dr Wiggin as though a few days rest would not hurt me. When I think of you my patient little wife suffering so much without complaint, I do not feel that I have a right to say, "I am tired". Dr Wiggin spent two days with me & went back evidently refreshed. His eye was dead & his flesh thin & he looked worn.

Gen. Sedgwick takes Capts. Batchelder & Smith and I have applied for Owen & Balloch in their places and shall probably get them. You can hardly think how pleasant my tent is. John has got me a white table cloth and a tall brass candle stick from some place. My ground floor is now nearly covered with boards, and my fireplace & hearth very cheerful. John puts on big logs which last all night. I dont like to live in a house without a little wife in it, would you? So I adhere to the tent. Gen Sedgwick who dined with us today exclaimed as he came in, what a beautiful tent and I would as lief have it as a house.

Gen. French has gone & Gen Sully has been assigned to his Division. There has been a reduction of Generals, of late. In this Corps there is not one commanding a brigade. All are wounded, dead or on the shelf. I did hope for success in the last battle, I prayed for it when Hooker's men were giving way, but it was not the will of God. Oh. We must wait on Him and learn His will & then do it. Would that He would give me the wisdom. I omitted to tell you that our noble General Couch was taken sick and obliged to leave. He expected to return but I fear will not be able to. I like Gen. Sedgwick. I believe I always have good commanding officers at least I have had the good fortune to get along well with them.

You must tell me how Guy & Grace get on with their letters. I wonder at Jamie. I feel badly to think he & I fell out such willful individuals as we both are. I received a letter from Mrs Gray assuring us of their (herself & Jennie) prayers & inquiring for our little family.

Chas. thinks John Wier did'nt like it, that I never had him appointed an officer – do you think so? Charlie says he never answers his letters. You know that Perry Lee got wounded full as badly as Charles old wound in the last battle. I did'nt know it when I wrote you. I saw him at his tent. I think he is on his way to Sarah. His conduct was gallant. He staid on the field all day after he was wounded in the thigh.

Much love & many sweet kisses to yourself & children.

Aff.
Otis

Harry Stinson seems well & happy. Capt W was thankful for your message. Chas sends his love. God bless & keep you & make your heart light.

Lovingly
Otis

1827 12/29/1862 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1776

Hd Qrs 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth, Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[459]

Hd Qrs 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth, Va.
Dec. 29th 1862

Dearest

I received your kind letter enclosing Gracies ambrotype last night. I think it very good, not so good as her little self, for her hair is inimitable. I take them out & show them to my choice friends. I don't know that I would do that of yours, for ones wife is very sacred as well as precious. A cold look implying criticism would pain you, a high commendation would make you jealous: one has to entertain very peculiar & contradictory feelings when the wife is in question.

Who directed your last letter? I am quite affected about that, half inclined to fear you are sick. Perhaps Mrs Stinson? If so she writes a very manly hand. Perhaps Mr. Blaine but that not likely. Perhaps Charles Mulliken? But it is'nt his hand. Who wrote it? Perhaps Mr Merrill & enclosed the letter in a note to you? There, that's it why did'nt I think of it before.

I hope Grace was not much sick at the time she had her ambrotype taken. Why does he have such cold rooms to take pictures in?

Yesterday I went with Mr Stinson & visited every hospital in my division. We found very few sick. In our regiment we arrived just in time & staid thro' the divine Service. The Methodist minister was loudly calling the men to believe & do well that they might pass the judgement & meet on the right hand of God. The Chaplain did not know that I was present till he got through. I stepped up & said a word or two and then we passed on.

In the evening we had a good meeting at my head quarters. Col Owen came in. Capt Corkhill & his father, a minister on a visit to him. Mr Alvord our old friend who visited us so often on the Peninsula and the servants, clerks & others about these head quarters, all had a chance to sit or stand & I mus'nt forget Lieut Benjamin who came from his battery a mile away. Benjamin feels that he has wandered away & wants to get back to a closer walk with God.

We have had beautiful weather, but I hear the rain beginning to patter on my tent and fear we shall have to take some of the mud now. The weather has been so warm that I have not even worn a cloak for more than a week.

Give papa's love & kisses to his little children.

We have been talking of winter quarters, but I doubt if we get into any more comfortable than these we now occupy. I think we may try another forward movement before long. Lt Stinson, Capt W. & Chas are well. Capt Owen is ordered to me, but has a short leave. It is Tuesday Dec 30. The mail man is waiting.

Much love & may God bless you darling.
Your aff. husband
Otis