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1828 1/1/1863

*From:* R.M. Rogers  
A.A.A.G.

*To:* Lt. Col. C.W. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

OOH-1777

At the Front

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[328]

At the <front> - 1 P.M [1863] [Filed with Jan, 1863, assume 1/1/1863]

Colonel

I have been delayed with the Hd Qrs Ambulances and forage wagon. It is impossible to get them over the river and I will probably be detained here, an hour or longer if it is desired to have me see to them. Please send me word by orderly (if you send one back) as to what you desire me to do.

Very truly yrs  
R.M. Rogers  
A.A.A.G.

Lt. Col. C.W. Asmussen  
Chief of Staff

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1829 1/1/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1778

Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[284]

Near Falmouth Va  
New Years 1863 [Jan 1]

Dearest,

I will just write you a line to say that we are all well. It is near twelve o'clock. I have felt such a burden for my country, that I have written a hasty article to the times under my signature whether win or not for the end I have in view viz: to do good I cannot tell. I have acted sincerely.

God bless you dear & kisses to you & the children. Harry is well, tell Mrs S.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1830 1/4/1863

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother Otis  
[OO Howard]

OOH-1779

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[287]

Farmington Sabbath  
Jan. 4 1863, 9 P.M.

My dear Brother Otis

Charles sometimes writes that you enjoy my accts. of my Sab. services and so I will employ a few moments before retiring recounting them. I preached a New Years Sermon this morn: Rom. 13. 11-12, showing the folly & unreasonableness of sleep, when duty calls & danger threatens as it does now. I enjoyed reading my Sermon and wish I could have preached it without notes. This P.M. my Sermon was on Eph. 5.14. The darkness, sleep & death of Sin, till Christ give light. Our meeting was unusually full and our communion well attended. Father Rogers always assists me at the latter. None joined the Church today. Tonight was our "Monthly Concert of prayer for the conversion of the world" - was rather thinly attended as it is apt to be. It takes a large Souled Christian to feel towards Christian missions as one ought. Unless our faith be great, our prayers scatter & generalise at the point "Thy Kingdom Come". We have adopted a "family monthly subscription" for the present year. I hope there is no child so small or poor but will give one cent per month. The Board is now greatly embarrassed by the high rates of exchange.

Ella says "tell Charles I am reading the Life of Lemuel Norton presented by him". She breaks out laughing & reads me the good "elders" unsophisticated passages occasionally. David sleeps so soundly as to almost to snore in the cradle. We have had 10 days of the most beautiful weather I ever remember in a Maine winter. Such sleighing. Such perfect moonlight nights!

Perry arrived at Sarahs last evening. He has been gaining all the time & seems very comfortable. I called a few moments after meeting. Ollie Hazard came with him - no one else - and goes back tomorrow. He (Perry) seems to enjoy himself with Sarahs children. Mother spent only new years day with us, - we could not prevail on her to stay longer. She seemed well and to enjoy her visit.

I read a letter from Dr Wiggin to a Sister-in-law of his tonight. He speaks of his visit to you and his hopes in case you are promoted. I wrote Lizzie a New Years letter, in wh. I sent the balance of pay for the wood - now sold or consumed - and hope it will elicit a reply.

My pen goes every many way I am so nervous after the labors of a day - a call on a sick & dying woman being added to the above - and I guess I'll stop.

Much love from your sister Ella & Brother  
Rowland

Give much love to Chas. Thank him for his frequent letters.

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1831 1/4/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1780

Head Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[286]

Head Qrs 2nd Div &c  
Near Falmouth, Va.  
Jan 4. 1863

Dearest,

I have not written you during the past week so often nor so much as I wish I had. I came back from breakfast and found that John had fixed up my tent very nicely: he put my table in order and "stood up" Guys' & Grace's ambrotypes by the side of a book, so that Guy looked <sober> at papa & Grace smiling. Guy is sorry papa is gone and Grace is glad he is coming home. Perhaps this picture taking is serious business with Guy, but a pleasant novelty to Grace. I miss Jamie the little rogue with his "papa's arm all gone".

I wish I could know how you are, my darling wife. I hope you are not pressed with excessive anxieties for at this time it is so very necessary for you to be as Mr McKenzie thought you were calm & happy. I was just thinking you never told me whether you kept up the habit of regular family prayers just before breakfast. I presume you do. I would like to have you tell me of your daily exercises, so that I can think of you all at such times as thus engaged.

Here Charles, Capt. Whittlesey & myself take turns, just after breakfast & just before retiring, in reading from the Scriptures & in prayer. Today we have services in my tent at 11 a.m. Capt. Whittlesey is to lead. In the morning I go to their tent as soon as I am dressed on my way to breakfast: in the evening they come into mine.

Sprigg Carroll was here day before yesterday, said his wife, Katy, & mother were very well. I invited him to dine with me yesterday, but he sent me word he was on a court and could not be here. He was full of nonsense as usual. I fear he swears & drinks. He told me how much "egg-nog" he made and dealt out on New Years. He had a good deal to say about Guy & Grace.

Yesterday I visited Genl Burnside. He is afraid the rebels opposite us have sent reinforcements to Bragg. What a terrible battle in Ky. Poor Joshua Sill is dead. Slavery dies hard and costs us a bitter sacrifice, but I hope and trust we hav'nt invested our blood and treasure for naught. They, the rebels, will have it so, and our Government has come up to the issue that Providence has imposed, viz. the emancipation of Slaves. You should see our colored boys around these Hd. Qrs. They are all <learning> to read. Tom is Chas. & Capt. W's boy. He affords himself and other people a great deal of amusement. Nothing makes his eye sparkle so much as the mention of taking him home by Capt. Whittlesey. He reads & spells by himself very often. He comes out of his tent & says where is the b-a-g bag.

Charlie must write Guy a description of Tom & his doings. He rejoices greatly at the idea that his father, mother & friends are free. I cannot convince these boys that slavery is so much better than freedom.

I hope you are having just such a beautiful day as we are. Mr Stinson has just come in to report the condition of the 3d Brigade which he has been inspecting. He is well & true as ever.

Much love from papa to all. Mother feels very sad. Chas. Hutchins, Walter Boothby & <Young> Berry are very near home.

Your loving husband. God bless you all.  
Otis

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1832 1/5/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Guy Howard

OOH-1781

Head Quarters 2nd Divn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head Quarters 2nd Divn

Jan 5, 1863

My dear Guy

Mr Alvord, uncle Charles & your papa took a ride the other day to find Benjamin's battery and just as we were passing the Hartwood road we saw an ox-cart like the above. [Sketch of a cart being pulled by two oxen.] it was an unusual sight in Virginia, but its contents, a lot of colored children: the short horns of the oxen, and the rickety old affair attracted our attention and I thought I would try to draw it for Guy. You dont see so many of these colored boys & girls as papa does. Uncle Charlie says they are very jubilant: i.e. they laugh & play a great deal. I dont think they play any harder or any more than you and Wally Stinson. You must write papa about those Stinson boys. Tell him their names & which are older than you and describe them so that he would know them if he should meet them in Richmond when our Army gets there.

How is dearest Mamma. Does she look out of the window any now. When Momma first went to Troy she used to be a little homesick now & then and she was sure to look out of the window & over the river at a steep barren hill side where the rocks & soil had slid down.

Papa had a review today of two Brigades. Did you ever see a review? [Sketch of the formation of the regiments for a review with dots and lines.] Suppose the little dots to be the men in Regts. facing toward P. That begins the review. They all present arms & then P goes & looks at each man. Then goes back. Now all march past P as the lines show & then go back where the dots are. You don't know how much company my two little children are. They stand beside an old book that I think uncle Charlie must have borrowed over in Fredericksburg. He said "there were a great many books lying around loose" and perhaps he picked one up.

This is the way the children look [sketch of the ambrotypes on Otis' desk]. I mean towards papa – who is sitting in front of the table on which uncle's old book is lying. John has made a different kind of wash stand for papa in this tent, it is thus: [sketch of the wash stand] with the towel stand close by but papa dont wash there for that is too near the door and it is often too cold. So John places a box thus: [sketch of Otis leaning over the wash bowl on a box near the fire, with water dripping from his head] right before the fire close up to the hearth. Papa now has a barrel of apples or rather a barrel half full of apples near his trunk. Do you have any good apples? [Sketch of an apple] you see I tried to make an apple like the fine looking one on my table but I could not without your red paint.

John has now come in to fix papa's bed. Uncle Chas. is here and Capt Whittlesey will soon come for reading in the Bible and prayers.

How is it Guy? Do you love to do what is right? Do you try to live as you know the Saviour wants you to? I hope you & Grace & little Jamie are quite well. Papa expected a letter from Mamma tonight but it did not come. He hopes you are all very well. Many kisses one of these days & much love from your loving papa

O.O. Howard

To/ Guy Howard

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1833 1/5/1863

*From:* Wm Smyth

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-1782

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[288]

Brunswick Jany 5th 1863

Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

My son Wm. H. Smyth, as you may be aware, after a short term in the Volunteer Service in Kansas, was appointed, more than a year since, a 1st Lieut. in the U.S. Regular Army in the 16th Infy. He was kept on the Recruiting Service some six mos; thence was ordered to camp Coolidge near Chicago on camp duty, and thence recently to Fort Ontario, Oswego N.Y. for better Winter Qrs I suppose for the men.

I have just returned from a visit to him, and find that he has already acquired a high reputation among his associate officers for ability in the service. He has, I know, great energy and decision of character combined with sound judgement & indomitable perseverance. His education, habits of study, & tastes, all adapt him to the military profession which is now his choice. He is already an accomplished officer in all that pertains to his profession thus far, and I found it the unanimous opinion of his associates that he is qualified for a much higher position than he now occupies. He could have obtained a higher commission at the outset, but he entered the service modestly determined to work his way up, and to secure promotion by deserving it.

He has long been anxious to get into more active service, and has become conscious of ability to serve in a higher position than that which he now occupies. He would be an accession of a Field Officer to any of our Volunteer Regiments. The position, however, which he would first of all prefer, would be, if it were possible, a place on your Staff, both on account of its relation to you, and the kind of service it would afford.

He would not leave the Regular Army for the Volunteer Service. But for some such place as I have indicated he could, I presume, get leave of absence from the Secretary of War. You know something of the young man. From my own knowledge of him, from personal observation of him at the Fort, and from the unanimous testimony of the Officers there, given to me unasked, I can have no doubt that he would fill with manifest ability any of the places to which I have referred. Major Coolidge commandant at the Fort, spoke to me of him in the strongest terms, remarking that he possessed in a high degree that "indescribable something" essential to success in the military profession, which few possess, and no education can bestow. I would refer to the Major & to Capt Prescott of his Regiment for testimony in regard to him. I might refer to others his superiors in office, but have not their address. Major Coolidge & Capt Prescott are now at Oswego.

I write to call your attention to my Son, without intending any solicitation in his behalf. Having given him to God and his country's service, I only wish that his abilities, whatever they may be, may be employed to the best advantage.

Now that at last the axe is laid at the root of this wicked rebellion, I have great confidence that God will prosper our efforts to put it down.

Praying, my dear Sir, that God will give you health and life and eminent success in the discharge of duty, I am in the bonds of christian affection,

Most truly & respectfully yours  
Wm Smyth [Bowdoin College Professor of Mathematics]

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1834 1/7/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1783

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[289]

Head Quarters 2nd Div &c  
Jan 7th 1863

Dearest,

Our anxiety with reference to Rosecrans is now somewhat relieved and mine turns to my home. What is the reason I do not hear from you? I fear you or one of the children may be ill. I was sure I should get a letter last night but "Hughes" the mail carrier came in with two news papers and "No letter, Sir." I wrote Guy a short letter with some pen-sketches, day before yesterday.

We are all very well.

I have been reviewing my command. Yesterday I was to review Col Owen's brigade, but there came on a rain & prevented the review. Today I am going with Capt Owen to inspect his trim, and this afternoon have the review that was omitted yesterday.

I am thinking some of going to Phil'a. I would if I had a Gen'l Officer to take my place in the Division and yet I dont like the going without going home or inviting you. If Maria & you were both well, I should ask you to meet me there, but I had better run home for a day or two than that as it is.

Tell Mrs Stinson that Harry is well. It is a beautiful day. Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie, & much love to yourself.

May God have you in His holy blessing.

Lovingly  
yr husband  
Otis

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1835 1/8/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard

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

OOH-1784

Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[291]

Near Falmouth Va.

January 8th 1863

My dear little daughter,

Papa wrote Guy and then Mamma and thinks it is now your turn. Uncle Charlie is in papa's tent and eating an apple while reading an interesting news paper. He has now gone and Lt Stinson's colored boy has come in to get some sugar. Now he has gone. This makes me think of two things - the boy & the sugar. This boy is about as big as our "Tom" but you never saw our Tom. He is about the size of Mr Blaine's oldest (is his name Walter?). He has curly hair, black eyes, but his skin is not exactly black, the white & the black both appear - not spotted, but a wave of white follows close upon a wave of black. The sugar comes in a barrel. Capt Bullock our new commissary brought it and for fear these little colored boys would put their hands in the barrel too often where it was deposited, the Capt put it in my tent.

Evening.

I have just received a budget of letters one from Mamma. She tells papa the sad news that Guy learns something wrong almost every day. Papa hopes & prays that his little boys may strive to do right every day. Do you try hard to do the things you know Jesus loves? Papa finds it hard to do what he knows to be right but he prays & asks God to help him.

Your two Ambrotypes dont look as if you would do wrong. They are very sweet children. Give much love for papa all around and pray for papa in real earnest.

Very lovingly your father

O.O. Howard

I send you a picture from Mr Alvord's paper. I would draw one, but wish to write Mamma.



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1836 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My dear Grace [Howard]

OOH-1785a

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[290]

Phila January 8th 1863

My dear Grace

I cannot tell you how delighted I was to get a letter from you. What a great big girl you have grown since I saw you. You write just the same way as Guy did to his Papa when we were all at West Point. I often think to myself if you are as big as Libby French was when we left West Point.

I should like to go to Fort Putnam too Grace with you but I would like to go in summer and I know you would not like to go up there such a cold day as this is. Do you remember the time we would go up there to gather nuts. What a nice time we had then Grace. I am sorry it did not last longer. Grace I have a piece of your hair that you gave me one day when we lived at the black gate in the little cottage and also a piece of Guy's that he gave me the same time after your Mamma cut it. Well I must tell you what I do sometimes with those two pieces of hair. I take them out and look at them for a long time, and then I kiss them very often before I put them away again. I suppose you think that Susan is a very queer girl to be kissing your hair. But you must know that Susan loves you now as nearly as she ever did.

Good bye now Grace and I hope you will not forget to write soon again to me. Tell Jamey that Susan sent him three kisses and I hope you will give them to him for me.

Your old friend  
Susan

[The following letter to Guy was appended to the one to Grace.]

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1837 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan [Key]

*To:* My darling Guy [Howard]

OOH-1785b

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter to Guy was appended to the preceding one to Grace.]

[290]

My darling Guy

I was intended to write a very long letter to you this time but I think I will have to wait now until I write again. Guy you look in your likeness just the same as you did the day Mr McCook called you a girl. I think if he saw you now he would not think you were a girl. Do you think he would. Guy darling I did hear that your Papa lost his arm. I always heard about him when in Washington and I was there at the time. I need not tell you that I was very sorry when I heard it. Katey Carroll was there & just of the time and she often said to me that she would not take you to her Maine because you did not take her to your Maine. She fought there just as much as she did on West Point.

Guy excuse this letter. I have a great deal more to tell you but have to wait for the next time.

Write soon to  
Susan

A dozen kisses to Grace the same to Guy.

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1838 1/8/1863

*From:* Susan M Key

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1786

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[292]

Phila January 8th 1863

Dear Mrs Howard

I return you my sincere thanks for the likenesses. I received both and feasted my eyes on them for a considerable length of time. I think there is a greater change in Grace than in Guy at least I fancy so. She looks as beautiful as ever in my eyes but much larger. I think she has grown more rapidly than Guy but I suppose I cannot tell very well from the likenesses.

I am very happy to learn that the Genl and brother are well. I trust that Almighty God will protect them and keep them from all harm. When looking over the news paper daily I try to see if it contains any news about Mr Howard and I dont think there ever has been a piece on the paper & here that I did not see and cut out.

Hoping always to have an opportunity of hearing occasionally from you.

I remain  
very thankfully yours  
Susan W Key

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1839 1/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1787

Head Quarters &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[293]

Head Quarters &c  
Near Falmouth Va  
Jan. 10 1863

Dearest

The express box came this evening with our warm dressing gowns all safe. I did'nt find you inside but found an expression of your love in this good coat which cost you so much work & perhaps pain; and is so peculiarly nice and acceptable that I long to pay you in the usual coin. I mean that which dont go by mail or telegraph. You can hardly tell how comfortable we are this rainy night. Chas. is writing on a box: you can see the relative positions thus, [Sketch of the positions with annotations by Otis of the ] fire, Chas, Capt W, carpet, box with candles &c and your spouse [within Otis' tent.] Capt W. has now taken his departure with the remark I doubt if I make my appearance in this quarter again tonight. It was so very much work to put on his rubber coat & boots. He said when I told him you wished the box was bigger so you could get in: Tell her I hope she will not come in a box, it takes so long for it get here. I like to hear him say these things his eyes twinkle so good humoredly. Who put in the nuts that we have been enjoying and the figs? What a "petite boite [small box]" that of the figs.

F - I wrote that F & then my attention was called away for a half hour. Now I cannot find in all the corners of my brain what letters were to follow the F.

Charlie says if he had not volunteered to write to Prof Smyth an answer to a letter in behalf of his son William, I should not have written you this. Mr. Alvord is now here just came from Washington. He has taken Mr Whittlesey's relative position as to fire & box &c.

Gen Sumner went to Washington for four days two days since putting Gen. Sedgwick in command of the Grand Corps & me in command of the Corps. I go down to Corps Head Quarters twice a day & settle all business & then return to enjoy the more congenial atmosphere of my own staff. Capt. Owen has sprained his ankle & cannot step. I fear it will hold him on his bed a long time. My horse Charlie fell with me the other day while crossing a corduroy bridge, so as to strike his fore top, but he came up again and I remained fast in the saddle as if I was a part of the horse & did'nt get hurt. Mr Stinson looked happy in his gown & found his handkerchief.

Give much love to all the little ones. Remember me to Mrs Stinson. I consider Gov. Coburn as my friend. I hope God will prosper him. Much love & God bless you all.

Yrs lovingly  
Otis

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1840 1/11/1863     *From:* Sarah B. F. Greble

*To:* My very dear Friend  
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1788

19th above Walnut  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[294]

Philadelphia January 11th 1863

My very dear Friend

I feel almost ashamed to reducing my promises to your noble brave Husband that I must write to you, but better late than never. So I will write to-night.

I have been waiting to have a little carte of baby Clara taken to send to you. I wanted to send Edwin's picture too but have not yet had it taken. The children frequently speak of Genl Howard, and every night his little God daughter prays for him. Dear good man, how proud you must feel of him, and how thankful you must be that you have such a Husband & that your little ones have such a Father.

He did enjoy his visit to us so thoroughly. He told us of you and the little ones. I can only think of you as my sweet little friend in the cottage next door to us at West Point. We did not realize how truly happy we were then, & yet I am never sad & even the memory of those days makes me feel happy.

Mama Greble is just going off to bed and says send my warmest love & tell Mrs H that her good Husband promised that she should send me one of his cartes de visite.

Mr Howard (Genl ought to say but Mr seems like old times & my dear husband's friend) brought me a sweet book with a beautiful & touching title "The pleasures of Memory <-> pleasures of Hope" & in it he placed my name & two texts of scripture - "The Lord gave & the Lord hath taken away blessed by the name of the Lord" & "Come unto me all ye that labor & are heavy laden & I will give you rest ". He also gave each of the little ones a book & a Toy. I have the things put away most carefully as they will appreciate them much more when older. I have read their books to them however.

I think it is wonderful how well he writes & how handy he is, and how patient & full of trust in God. Dear good man. I loved him better than ever & felt so thankful that he had been kind enough to stand sponsor for our little one. I think having so good a Godfather will make it easier for her to take those solemn vows upon herself from his example. She is the liveliest gayest & brightest little thing I ever saw & very active. Edwin is much more sedate. She has a cheerful happy bright disposition & sings all days, but Edwin often frets.

Mr Howard said you wanted one of dear Papa French's cartes & I have promised to send one to you as soon as I can obtain one. Unfortunately the plate is broken & he will have to sit again. I can scarcely realize that Guy can go to school.

Do my dear friend write to me when you have time and tell me all about yourself and your dear little ones. I was glad to know that you were at housekeeping for I know just how you enjoy it. I heard from Mrs Vaughn that your brother Charlie had returned to Mr Howard. Johnnie Weir has his studio in New York this winter. Mrs Mendall at West Point has a little daughter & Mr Blunt is at home. I am so glad for Maggie. Sister Clara had a Christmas present of a nice saddle horse from Mr Pennington. He bought a Wheeler & Wilson machine last week. It had a glass foot, brush pad, a hammer which slips in without unscrewing anything & a glass foot with which you can embroider braiding without basting. My children have still in wear some of the things which you so kindly allowed me to stitch upon your machine.

I hope I have not tired you my dear friend, by this long egotistical epistle. Clara Paige comes to stay with me tomorrow. Goodnight & good bye. With every wish for your happiness & welfare, with a "Happy New Year" to you & the little ones believe me ever

Sincerely your attached friend  
Sarah B. F. Greble

19th above Walnut  
Philadelphia

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1841 1/11/1863 *From:* Geo Osgood

*To:* Mrs Sarah Woodman

OOH-1789

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[295]

Boston Janry 11 1863

Mrs Sarah Woodman

Madam

I have sent you this day a sett of nice Hudson Bay Sable Furs and put the price as near the limit, as possible viz \$225.00 for the sett which is really verry cheap for the quality and much lower than the usual price. Also a dark American Sable Muff @ \$20.00 which we think can not fail to please you. These furs are sent at the request of Mr Homer Rice, with the understanding that if not satisfactory they shall be returned immediately at your expense.

Yours Resptly  
Geo Osgood

P.S.

The price of the cape alone is \$170.- and the muff \$55.-

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1842 1/13/1863 *From:* Isabella Curtis

*To:* Dear Mrs [Lizzie] Howard

OOH-1790

Curtis Corner

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[296]

Curtis Corner Jan. 13th /63

Dear Mrs Howard

It was with great pleasure that I received your kind letter and I thank you much for your kindness in remembering me and for the present you was pleased to make me.

I am much better than I was though still very weak. Dr Lorin was here yesterday. He said I was getting along well and if nothing new happens I shall soon get better. Perhaps you would like to hear from Brother. He has not yet got home but has got as far as Boston. He has been there about three weeks. Since he has been there he has had the ball cut out of his foot. He hopes to be able to come home by the last of this week. I do hope he may.

I would like to see you all very much especialy Jamie. I did not know how much I did love him untill he went away. Please give him many kisses from me. Mother sends an especial kiss for him too. Give much love to Guy and Grace and tell them I want to see them very much. I hope they have fine times attending school this winter.

Please excuse this poor writing for I can scarcely hold my pen. I hope you have very good meetings there.

Accept this with much love from  
Isabella Curtis



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1843 1/15/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1791

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[207]

Head Quarters 2nd  
Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Jan. 15 1863

Dearest

I hear that Uncle Hicks has started to come out here, & will probably be here by Thursday night. I got the paper you sent with the Governors message contained. I read it all through aloud and was glad I did. For good wholesome common sense and for good taste the message is not surpassed by any similar documents. And I agree with it without reservation. Capt. Whittlesey thinks our Insane Asylum hardly up to those in Massachusetts. Otherwise he expressed his warm concurrence.

We have had a terrible thing occur here that has cast a shade over our life at Head Quarters. One of the colored boys, Andrew, who worked for Lieut Steel, Ord. Officer, and who waited on all of us at table every day was sent by Mr Steel to get a washing at Falmouth Va. He was returning with the clothes on horseback when he was accosted by a soldier, one of several stragglers from the Irish brigade picket guard on their way to Camp. The soldier said – dismount and give me your horse. He said I cannot, I am taking clothes to Gen. Howard. The man cursed him & told him, he'd fix him, raised his gun & shot him. Andrew rode clear up here about a mile & told me the story. Yesterday, the next day after the outrage, the doctors took his arm off at the shoulder. The wound was so bad that he has since died. He was a good boy, kind and thoughtful at all times & I believe a follower of Christ. He was very much beloved at these Head Quarters by every-body. He has gone to his God, but the murderer has not yet been found. In the Irish brigade they are so clannish that they will screen each other from all deserved punishment. The good boys blood is upon them, and God will require it at their hands.

Col. Sewall writes that he will start back tomorrow, I hope his health is completely restored. I received a letter which I will enclose from O.A. Mack's clergiman. I wrote a letter of sympathy to Mrs Mack. I wish we had known her personally. I think of Mrs Greble & of Mrs Mack & now of poor Mrs <Sinead> and how many more. Shant we say, Lord how long? O, how long?

I hear there is a notice of Gen. Gill in the paper, N.Y. Tribune, but I have not yet seen one. Charles is well. He has just written to Rothery. Rothery's time is out. He has a good place under Major Breck and is thankful for it, asks for Mrs Howard & the children. Mrs Rothery is with him there. Seville met me the other day an officer & A. D. Camp on somebody's staff. He appeared well. Robinson has got his commission. About all my soldier boys have done well. Mr Benjamin comes to see us occasionally. Sunday evening last we had a good service in my tent. Mr <Gokhill>, Father of commissary of 2nd Brigade, came & spoke to us. Mr Alvord was present. Capt W. and the rest – Guard & orderlies &c.

I dont think you can have such good times, but you know you have the children which are such a bothersome comfort. I would'nt mind the bother much if Jamie would'nt tumble down those long stairs. Much love to them all. God bless you all.

With affection  
Otis

Harry Stinson is always well. Tell Mrs S. & happy as I am over his new gown. I have got mine on. Every one exclaims what a nice coat!

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1844 1/16/1863     *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1792

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

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[298]

Head Quarters  
2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth, Va.  
January 16, 1863

Dearest,

The order has come to be ready to march an an early hour tomorrow morning, but I have no idea yet where we are going. I do not think to Washington, & I must say that I do not wish to take my family to that place to stay any length of time. My services, if worth anything, are for the field. The experience of the last year & a half has been in field service, but I do want the work to be over that I may rejoin my beautiful little family in the quietude of home. Such may be the will of God. It will doubtless be the case if he has any more work for me to do.

Mrs John Harris has just sent me some cards and books. The first one reads, "the spirit and the bride say come! And let him that heareth say come! And let him that is atheist come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely", Rev. 22.27. When Mr Alvord brought in the cards and bundles and I took up this one, it touched me and slightly disturbed my equanimity. Am I ready? Christ can make me so. How beautiful, how sweet the welcome! Come & partake of the water of life freely.

Dearest, I covet for you a very strong faith. God has imposed on you a heavy burden at the best but only what He will give you the Grace and Strength to bear. There is so much of earthly joy in the possessions with which I have been blessed, that I hardly can feel as if it were gain to die, but we will leave all this with God. God grant that you & I and our precious little flock may do His holy will.

We are all very well.

The Rev. Mr. Childs Baptist from Boston, one of the Secretaries of the Tract Society is with us, on a short visit. A very pleasant and intelligent gentleman. Mr Alvord comes & goes, we like him much.

I had in mind when I began my letter what I did not write you that I received two letters – one written the 30th ult. & the other the 12th inst. The former told me about the little box containing this nice dressing gown and the latter was in good season & told you about receiving the box in a former letter. My gown or coat is splendid, warm, & pretty.

Guy's letter came last night with yours. He said mamma had a tooth ache. I hope it does'nt ache often, nor long. Guy did not misspell a word, nor make any bad grammar. I am glad Uncle Hicks is coming out, but feel sorry he is going to sell because there is so little permanency to this business. I think Charles Mulliken would make a good commissary of subsistence, if he could get the appointment. I will write him on the subject.

[Missing closing]

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1845 1/16/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1793

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no stamp]

Portland Jany 16 1863

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I wrote you about the 20th of Decmr (I think), enclosing certificate for two shares of Bank Stock, also a letter enclosing the two dollars you gave me to exchange, and a Bill from Lowell & Center for \$10 – paid. I have not heard whether you Recvd the letters. In looking over my Memo Book since, I think I made a mistake in giving you the amt due.

I enclose a Memorandum of the items of account. Please let me know if you recvd the letters &c, and if I shall send you the \$25.

We are all quite well – hope this will find you & children the same. Where is your Good Husband Stationed - is he well?

With much love, your uncle

E. Waite

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1847 1/17/1863 *From:* Paul Babcock

*To:* Brig. Gen. V. Howard

OOH-1794

New York

In the Field Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209?]

New York Jany 17/63

Dear Sir

"The critical state of our country induces me to risk being misinterpreted & to take leave to set before you the feelings & thoughts", of a simple citizen: who with you "yearns for the welfare of his country".

You who have (as I think from your letter to the Times fortunately for that country) attained a high military position if misinterpreted risk much, while I personally a stranger will suffer nothing if you throw this aside unnoticed. At any rate I intend anything but an improper familiarity, my heart beats responsively to every word you have written – my children are now close by your side as ready with their weapons to sustain you as is their father by his voice.

He is chagrined & mortified to confirm Sir, what you have heard it is indeed true too true that "there is apathy at home amongst a large class". "The disloyal are gaining them over" some too many I fear "rejoice at your failures" and "thousands are crying peace peace at all events" - and the "portent" is chaos, dissolution, despotism, the despotism of a Barbarian fear over a pusillanimous many; before that day comes I pray God to give me strength & courage to die like a man in defence of the right & the truth – nothing can be clearer I think than that God will no longer permit a nation to use its power to sustain slavery & do so with impunity.

The guilt & turpitude of this is just equal at the north & at the south, but the meanness & degradation is much greater with ourselves. I can conceive that a slaveholder or his ignorant non-slaveholding neighbour may reason himself into the belief that he is justified possibly he may not despise himself.

But a northern proslavery democrat, who opposes & frustrates the government cannot be in that category. His lust for power cannot obscure all his faculties he must feel the same contempt for himself that all mankind feel for him.

Doubtless General there is much to discourage much to dishearten but you who are constantly exposed to peril from battle & from the elements & we who know not when we go to bed whether anarchy & confusion may not meet us in the morning and yet there are not wanting some hopeful signs. Occasionally a democratic leader lifts himself above party like Butler in the field & camp, & like Randolph in the New Jersey Legislature. Would that all such might be duly honored & exalted. Again the late address of the Lancashire working men to the President is much more signifiant for good than at first sight appears. The Press ought to make much more of it than they have done.

I have been too tedious already. Allow me but to say that if a majority of our Army agree with you in sentiment & will avow it, the people will back you & the partisan leaders will be crushed & the Rebellion with them.

With very great Respect  
&c much prayers for  
Your protection. I am your Servt

Paul Babcock

Brig. Gen. V.V. Howard  
In the Field Va.

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1848 1/20/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1796

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters 2nd  
Brigade  
2nd Div. Near  
Falmouth, Va.

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[301]

Head Quarters 2nd Brigade  
2nd Div. Near Falmouth, Va.  
January 20th 1863

Dearest,

I wrote so much early this morning and was then interrupted, and have been kept busy. We have just received an order to move tomorrow morning which will probably not be far from this place. I believe the Army is already in motion & I think it will be likely to turn on us, as a pivot; though I have received no instruction yet as to the plan of Campaign. God grant us success, if it be his Divine will. I hope the time has now come when he will so bless our Army.

Uncle Hicks came last night. He looks well, but a little sober. He has gone to work to supply us. I will try to keep him contented, so will all of us.

Capt Hayes a.k Quartermaster has come for one of my brigades. I feel very hopeful now about everything. I shall not go to Phila at present. I want to see you and hope by the blessing of God to be with you in May, Middle or all.

Give much love to Guy. Tell him he could not help loving the Saviour if he only knew Him well enough. Give much love to my little daughter. She must be a real lady and Jamie papa wants to be home much on his account so as to know him better, sweet faced black eyed little boy as he is. We had a nice day here Sunday; a good prayer meeting in my tent of the evening. Mr Alvord was here. He has given me the pictures of his wife and daughter to send you, so has Capt. W. sent you these two for photo album, himself & wife. I want just such a photograph of you as Mrs Whittleseys. Is'nt it a good one.

I send you my pay for my horses just obtained, \$337.38. Do what you think best with it. You will want to pay your current expenses out of it, for I hav'nt drawn my pay for December & Jan'y.

I must now stop. I am in the hands of God. I trust you are quietly resting in him. May He give you a rich abundance of his Grace.

Lovingly your husband  
Otis

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1849 1/23/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs OO Howard

OOH-1797

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[no stamp]

Portland Jany 23d 1863

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 21st by which I learn that you have sickness in your Family. Hope that Grace has got better of the Measels, and that you are all comfortable. We see by the papers that the Army of the Potomac has not moved forward by last accounts. I think it now doubtfull whether they move immediately in the direction first contemplated as the enemy have had time to prepare. I trust the Lord will over Rule for the best. I now enclose \$25 dollars which is the amt due. With Love to all.

Acknowledge recpt if convenient.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1850 1/24/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1799

Head Quarters 2nd Div  
2nd Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[303]

Head Quarters 2nd Div 2nd Corps  
January 24 1863

Dearest,

Our movement was vetoed by a kind Providence for His own wise purposes. I think I can see good reasons why we were not allowed to cross the river. Army officers have to a great extent, talked against Gen. Burnside and the men have caught the spirit of it till there is an almost universal pulling back, no <lurnistures>, no enthusiasm. And I fear that had we crossed the river with this spirit we should have been again defeated.

I am thinking much about the children Gracie with the measles. I am afraid she will have a hard time before she gets through with them. Then Guy with his sore throat & fever turns. I hope you will not have to over work. It may be that the widely circulated rumors of a move reached you, and that you have had to suffer with anxiety on that account.

I asked a gentleman Mr Richardson, Tribune reporter who makes his room with us, to telegraph you from Washington (whither he is going today) of the news of the abandonment of the design of an immediate forward movement.

I am inspecting my Division, their books, papers &c. now. Last night I wanted to write you, but I was so completely stupid and tired that I gave it up till this morning. I think I got a little cold, have a little canker in my mouth and probably internally affected by it. But this morning I am nicely. The terrible storm has now given way and pleasant weather again smiles upon us. Applications for furloughs & leaves of absence come in – papers in abundance. It would be very pleasant to be home now but I think I shall put off trying to get away unless some important change takes place. I am in hopes this Army will be broken up & distributed to the other Armies in the field. There is too much croaking too much self-seeking. We are too near Washington.

I do hope the children are better. Mr Hicks has gone to Washington to get supplies. He will be back today. He will be much liked I think, though I fear it may not be very profitable for him. We give him 5 dolls per week & <> for servants.

Give much love to Guy. Tell him he is fortunate to be sick at home, also Grace. Papa had his measles in the <chest> in great part. And Jamie I expect he will have his turn at them.

Mr Stinson is well, but his poor horse is not.

Much kind regard to all friends.

Will write you more at length soon. God bless you all.

Affectionately  
Yr husband  
Otis

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1851 1/25/1863 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* My dear mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1800

H'd Q's 2nd Division &c  
Near Falmouth Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[304]

H'd Q's 2nd Division &c  
Near Falmouth Va  
Jan. 25 1863

My dear mother -

I will write a few words before going to bed. It has been a warm pleasant day like May – somewhat muddy from the recent storm which lasted just long enough to put a stop to the plan of attack upon the Enemy. If you saw my letter in the Press & another to Rowland you will know about the plan - and its failure.

Today has been a Sabbath to a part of the Division – with one Brigade we held services this forenoon. Heard a portion of a sermon by a Methodist Clergyman from the West who is staying with his son. He asked the General “to make some remarks” and Otis gave them an earnest & impressive talk.

Tonight we have had a good Prayer-meeting. Rev. Mr. Means of Boston son of Dea. Means of Augusta is here, took dinner & tea, helped much and very interestingly in the meeting. Mr. Hicks got back from Washington tonight. He was much disappointed that he did not get here early enough for the meeting. I will tell you of his perplexities on the route when I resume my letter. I must soon be in my bed as the Capt. has “turned in” & he cannot get to sleep well with the candle burning. Two ladies were at our meeting. We had a long sing afterwards in my tent but the ladies did not stay for this.

The idea that became most strongly impressed upon me tonight is the good amount of prayer that is going up for the Army & the results we are to expect therefrom in the awakening & conversion of souls.

Good night dear mother. Hope you are in as good health as both your sons. I was weighed today – found that I reach the remarkable (for me) figure of 162 ½ lbs!

I have been in Otis' tent to family prayers with Mr. Hicks & Capt Balloch. The latter is going home to N.H. tomorrow on a Leave of twenty days.

Monday – 2 P.M.

I have been riding all the morning with Rev. Mr. Means & Dea. Ropes who came on with him from Roxbury. We went along the river where we could see the Rebel Pickets along the other bank. They were digging in some places as though making Artillery Redoubts. I pointed out the place of crossing – the manner of taking Fredericksburg &c., all the points of interest, the distant battle field. We went to the Lacey House – saw there Mrs. Harris who was here last eve. She is cooking & caring for the sick. That is opposite the city and we heard a Rebel band discoursing sweet music in a most jubilant manner. The first Rebel music I have heard since in front of Yorktown.

Mrs Harris told me first the news of Burnside's removal with Sumner & Franklin. Soon after I rode to Gen. Sumner's & found Otis there. I feel very sad. Hooker is not a pure man I fear. He is intemperate & profane. I know not what will become of us. Wish we might go West with Sumner; if he is <to [CHECK ORIGINAL – right edge of page 4 glued]> go West to St. Louis as is the rumor.

I rode with the gentlemen to the 2nd Div. 9th Corps to visit the 35th Mass which had a company from Roxbury thence home.

Mr. Hicks got his supplies from the depot this morning. He had come down to Aquia Creek on Sat. & gone back again on finding that the officers of the boat had left a part of his things. When he got down there yesterday he could not get his things upon the train until coming so it <> his arrival late & after the wagon <> went for him had returned. So he had to walk up in the darkness & <>. I believe he is well as usual now. He is very cheerful & it



does us good to see his good natured face about. He said 4 months ago, had he had the same perplexities & ungentlemanly treatment of R.R. & boat employees, there would have been some tall "swearing". It was a new way of spending the Sabbath to him.

Gen. Howard now commands the Corps & Gen. Couch the Grand Divn, but there is a prospect of the Grand Divisions being abolished as Gen. Hooker is said not to believe in them. We saw in papers yesterday that Gen. Howard is appointed a Maj. Gen. to date from 29th of Nov. If the Grand Divn arrangement had been continued Gen. Howard would have had a Corps permanently & his staff would have been promoted.

But all will work out right & for the best to those that love God. There was a want of heartiness in the support of Burnside & perhaps his removal has saved him from a more disastrous & disgraceful defeat by the Rebels on this account.

You know it is a principle with your sons to be hopeful & stouthearted in the darkest times because there is so much need of such a spirit when all around are cast down. Lord give us strength to stand up firmly & press forward boldly in the line of duty!

Mr. Alvord is having today a meeting of Chaplains of this Corps. They are in his tent just behind mine & I just heard the grand harmony of their weird mole services in a good old tune & hymn.

Col. Sewall came back in better health. Had seen Lizzie, called on her in Augusta. He now commands the Brigade as the ranking Colonel. Gen. Pully is away on Leave for 20 days & several other Colonels are absent.

I came near going down to the 1st Brigade as Assist. Adjutant General yesterday for Col. Sewall but he got some one at last & I am very glad now as we may possibly go to the Corps.

I hope the people are not ceasing or falling off in any respect in their prayers for this army & for our Country. It is time we all began to call upon the Lord, & it is strange the whole nation cannot see it in this light.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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1852 1/27/1863

*From:* Adonis Howard

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-1801

Joppa Village, East  
Bridgewater,  
Mass.

Second Division of the  
Second Army Corps. Va

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[430]

Gen. O.O. Howard, of the Second Division of the Second Army Corps. Va.  
Dear Sir,

Having just read in the "Boston Semi-Weekly Journal" of this morning, words in which you address the editor of the New York Times, I venture to indulge a desire I have felt for some time to ask of you a line or two of information upon a less public topic. First, however, allow me to thank you with all my heart for the monitory and brave and patriotic accents of the address above adverted to. We need such notes sounded among us here at the Eastward, and when they come to us from the tried, good and brave Generals of our army, they surely must be hearkened to and will do us good.

The information I would ask, dear Sir, is simply a matter of genealogy. You are, if I am right in my supposition, a descendant of an Old West Bridgewater Stock, of the fifth or sixth generation from John Howard an original proprietor and First Settler of ancient Bridgewater, Mass., and, if I rightly conjecture, you derive descent from him through the late Lieut. Jesse Howard of West Bridgewater, and through his son the late Capt. Seth Howard of Leeds, Maine.

If I am not asking too much, and your more important cares and labors will allow you to favor me with information, at least so much as to name to me your father and grandfather on the paternal side, you will greatly oblige me thereby.

I have endeavored to keep some record of the descendants of John Howard above named, rather additional to that given by the late Judge Mitchell in his "History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater," and am therefore the more solicitous for the information. In my possession is a printed copy of a letter written to the above named John Howard and his brother George after they came to New England, by their mother, dated: London, August 16th, 1652. Should you desire it, I will with pleasure give you an accurate transcript of the letter.

I am of the fifth generation from said John Howard, and a grandson of the late Capt. Eliakim Howard of (West) Bridgewater, who deceased in 1827 in the 88th year of his age, was town clerk of (ancient) Bridgewater from 1779 to 1822 when the town was divided or 43 years, and whose wife was Mary H. a sister of the late Lieut Jesse Howard above named. My father, Capt Amasa Howard, deceased in 1797, when I was two years old. He was in the American Revolutionary Army and stationed in New York a while, then was an orderly sergeant, I think. Lieut. Jesse Howard was, on the side of my mother, my great uncle.

I have made mention of the foregoing things, only because they may serve to show why I may feel interest in the information asked of you, dear Sir. If you indulge me with it, please direct to Rev. A. Howard, Joppa Village, Mass.

I am with great respect,  
Your Obedt Servnt  
Adonis Howard

Joppa Village, East Bridgewater,  
Mass. Jan. 27th, 1863.

Above and beside the noble consolation of serving well and faithfully our beloved country, may our Heavenly Father compensate you, for the loss of your right arm, with a heavenly, supernal reward!

I should like much to have your signature in full, and more especially, if instead of employing an amanuensis, you manage to write with your left hand.

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1853 1/27/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1802

Head Quarters 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[305]

Head Quarters 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va. Jan. 27 1863

Dearest,

I am today at Corps Head Quarters. The changes of which you will be apprised before you get this have brought me for the present in command of the Corps. Gens Burnside, Sumner and Franklin have gone and Gen. Hooker has the command. Hooker is not believed to be so good a man morally as either of the others, but if God is proposing to use him as his fit instrument, we will work on & wait for His will. It is thought that Grand Divisions will be broken up and that Corps will remain as they were under McClellan. I think I shall be satisfied either way.

It is not desirable to increase ones command, because ones responsibility is increased therewith. Enough is enough. Gen Couch said his wife wished him a General, when he was Col., a Maj. Gen when he commanded a Brigade and after he got a Divn she thought he ought to have a Corps and now she wants him to have a Grand Division. He has just got that & writes her to stop wishing. I believe your ambition was satisfied when I was 1st Lt. of Ordnance & Asst. Professor of Mathematics. But I think if I could now be honorably promoted to civil life, according to your last letter which I got Sunday night you would feel quite satisfied, n'est ce-pas? Perhaps you have a small spark of patriotism, and will be willing for me to stay for the good of my country. I do feel almost startled at my own littleness, but I hope for the sake of my own command I am held in higher esteem by others than I hold myself.

How are my precious little children today. Guy, I hope he is better. Col Sewall says he wanted to come out with him. Tell Guy, it is hard enough to send Uncle Charlie of errands under fire, and would be a little too tough to risk Guy too. Perhaps that would be a little too much for Mamma's patriotism to stand. How is Gracie & the measles? Did she have a red flag as Guy & I did? Has Jamie surely got them? I suppose he could'nt be kept out of any particular room.

Uncle Hicks got back from Washington after much difficulty. Quartermasters & officials both need him exceedingly but he says he did not swear as he might have done 16 months ago! He did not sell out.

I have drawn my pay & enclose you a hundred dollars.

Give much love to all. How are Mrs Clark and Lottie.

Your loving husband  
Otis

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1854 1/29/1863 *From:* J W Patterson

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1803

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[306]

Augusta Jany 29/63

Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

I send herewith a triweekly Age edited as a <review> by D. T. Pike that you may see for yourself the course he is pursuing in relation to the rebellion. He and most of the leading democrats in this vicinity are more in favor of the rebels than the government. Daniel Williams, Allen Lauchon, L W Lithgow, G.N. Stanley, Benj Davis, W R Smith, Thos Lamberd, and many others are as bitter as they can be and will all rejoice to read Pikes comments on your communication to the people, but you may rest assured that all loyal people agree with you and that you will be sustained. It is the common remark of all loyal men that Gen'l Howard is honest true and brave, and if all our officers were like him, we should do much better than we do.

Pikes son as you are aware lost a leg in battle. He came home, and the people gave quite a sum of money to help him, and I believe he has been since commissioned as a Lieut, and it is well known to all of his acquaintances that he is wholly unfit for any office whatever and I have no doubt but that his sentiments and his fathers agree. It is such appointments that hurt us more than any thing else. We have lots of traitors holding commissions. It has been frequently reported here that Seth Williams, son of Daniel Williams one of the traitors herein named has written home frequently that he has no heart in this war. He was on Gen'l McLellans staff, and is yet in the army I suppose. But wherever he is, if he has written home as reported, he needs <rodtaking> in fact he ought to out of the army or placed where he cant do any harm.

It is hard that our soldiers are deprived of their votes. They ought to be allowed to vote by proxy. I fear that the traitors may get control of the northern states, in consequence of the absence of our voters. It is the most we have to fear now, and the hope that they may succeed is the greatest comfort the rebels in arms now have. They say that if they can prevent the rebellion from being crushed, till this congress adjourns, they can force the President to call an extra session and then they will stop the war. But I am one that believes we never can have peace until slavery is abolished. In fact it is useless to expect it or think of it, for it cannot be.

Please excuse the liberty I have taken of writing you at this time. I felt so vexed to read such an article as Pikes, such a slander upon the acts of a faithful officer I could not keep silent. And with much regard for your success and welfare I will close.

Yours <truly>  
J W Patterson

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1855 1/30/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1804

Head Quarters 2nd  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[307]

Head Quarters 2nd Corps  
Jan 30, 1863

Dearest,

I received your letter referring to Capt W's Photographs & the check for horses, night before last. I am glad the children are able to go to church. Gracie gets better very quickly. She could'nt have had so hard a time I think as Guy & papa. And I am glad Jamie runs so fast the measles cannot catch him.

I am still commanding the Corps without being aware whether I am to continue this sort of business or not. I went to Head Quarters to call upon Gen. Hooker yesterday - met a very warm reception. Gen Hooker has always been very friendly to me. You probably have an interest to know how he looks & what he will do. I think you have his photograph. He is a handsome manly looking man, quite affable in his manners, self-confident, strong in his expressions of loyalty and determined with reference to home traitors, "Not even lukewarmness is to be tolerated here".

Saturday morning. Jan 31

I expected to finish your letter yesterday morning but breakfast came a little too soon. This morning I am up with the light. I am living at my old Quarters. Chas. is now acting Assistant Adjutant General for me at Corps Head Quarters and is working pretty hard for him, but he likes it.

I got my promotion to Maj General day before yesterday and now I want some clothes. Please go to Chisum & Cobb's and tell them to make me a dress coat out of just such cloth as the last. The size around the waist wants to be one inch larger, across the breast about 2 inches larger. The back is just right according to the old measure. I want also a good set of Maj Genls shoulder straps, not too large but neat. Let them make me a pair of pants of stout dark blue cloth. The Tailors are apt to put on the buttons thus [sketch of three groups of three buttons uniformly placed from the straight edge of the coat], but I want the coat to bulge out a little across the breast thus [sketch showing a curved edge, with the buttons following the curve]. They must consult the Regulations. The distance apart of the two rows of buttons at top 5 ½ in. at bottom 3 ½ [sketch showing these distances]. I enclose you a hundred dollars (100).

My ink blots badly this morning. John says "Breakfast is ready". Uncle Hicks has been in. He keeps us almost too well. It does me good to see his sweet face around.

Give much love to the children. I am anxious to hear from them & you often. When they get all well I may ask you to take a trip to Phila if the journey will not be too much for you. Let my new clothes be sent to Washington with request to be forwarded by express - pay expressage & let me know date of leaving.

Harry Stinson is well. Capt W. says you cant fail to send your Photograph now. My kind regards to all my friends. I hope Mrs Clark and Lottie are well.

Lovingly  
Otis