
1874 3/11/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1815

Head Qrs 2 nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[318]

Head Qrs 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.

[ca. February 20, 1863] [The date was written in pencil. See Note.]

Dearest,

I wanted to write you last night but I got a little too tired yesterday as Charlie & I inspected a good many regimental Camps after the usual morning work. That beautiful Pitcher that you will receive by express, I found to my surprise on the table, the very day I was confirmed by the Senate as Maj. General. The remarks were in it with the names. I send also a copy of my reply. How nicely correspondent this pitcher is to our little set. Charlie says, voluntarily: "It cost 125 dollars." I should not have asked & wd not have known, for money cannot value a token of affection & good will.

I find my command in very good condition indeed. Two or three regiments lost their furloughs by not being up to the mark on inspection and two or three have an increased number of furloughs on account of remarkable cleanliness, &c. The ban has since been removed from a part of the deficient ones. All are taking great pains to do well.

Papa thinks a good deal about his little children since he came back and one thing only makes him feel bad, that is from all he saw he was led to fear that Guy & Gracie did not love each other as much as they ought. Now, Papa does'nt expect impossibilities, he expects little grievances 'Fallings out' and such like, but he does expect Guy should be tender, loving and obliging to his sister – and Gracie should be proud of her brother, and make his life happy. How glad they will be wont they Mamma, when they are grown up to be a man & woman, that they were happy together in childhood. They must both write papa & tell him: "I do love my sister, papa." & "I do love my brother, papa".

Charles is now acting as Asst. Adjt. Genl during Capt Whittlesey's absence. I find my arm of some use but it tires me and as I have to take off my outside shirt every time I put it on, it is a little troublesome. It is of use in riding, particularly in keeping me properly balanced.

I sent some old clothes on by Capt. W. thinking you & Guy might make some important use of them. Chas. wants his coat kept for him as it went thro' 1st battle B.R. & several other battles. I sent also a poor picture of Capt. Mack and one of his wife, also one of my staunch Scottish friend Capt Balloch. It seems hardly possible that Mack is still living. I may see his face again. He seems to have been wounded badly in three different places and his wife so sick she could not get to him. I believe she never has had any child.

You hoped John joined me. He did at Brunswick, but I sent him on ahead from Phila, and lost him in Washington. He went to the Sec. Of War, got a pass & came on the next day. He had to change from Ebbitt house where he could sleep for 50 cts and have another 50 for something to eat. Chas. missed me in N.Y. as I did not stop. He joined me in Phila with only 10 cts left. Charlie says Mrs Gray & Miss Jeannie want you to come & bring your whole family and make them a visit. Every body buys & reads Miss Jeannie's book. Chas. has a copy, but I have not yet had time to read it.

Much love to all the children. Papa would like to play with Jamie today.

We have some rumors of attempted raids. Harry Stinson is well.

Lovingly yr husband
Otis

[Note. The date must be later than Feb. 20 1863. In the letter of Feb 19, Otis was planning to leave on Feb 23, 1863 for a 10 day leave. He has gone to Philadelphia for a prosthetic arm and home to Augusta, returning through Brunswick. So he did take the leave, but the start date is not certain. He wrote a letter on Mar 9 from

1867 3/5/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1817

Phila. Conti'l [Hotel
Continental]

Source: Bowdoin

[320]

Phila. Conti'l [Hotel Continental]

March 5 1863

1 ½ P.M. (Thurs)

Dearest,

I pursued my journey very pleasantly as we planned and without interruption or accident. I have been to try on my arm. It fits me well, but my coat-sleeve is a little too long & I fear it will not be quite as good as the old one after all. It is covered with flesh-colored buckskin and the gloved hand looks as well as anybody's. I think I felt a little disappointed in its working.

Charles has not joined me. Saw Mrs Whittlesey. She is like some other wives, likes to have husbands at home.

Much love to all our little flock.

Lovingly

Otis

1868 3/5/1863

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear dear Brother
[OO Howard]

OOH-1818

Dellies Room
Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[319]

Dellies Room
Brunswick Mch 5, 63 [1863]

My dear dear Brother

I came down today (Thursday) in the hope of seeing you. The men in the Farmington train all assured me that you did not go yesterday & as I had not heard from you directly, I thought possibly you might wait till today. Our association met at New Sharon yesterday or I would have been in Augusta. I could not feel that it was right for me to neglect that meeting for anything hardly. But I have not seen you & at first I felt it, but God does all things well. Your letter from Boston to mother (I saw no other) said you would return on Tues., so I came down with Ella & David as far as here on their way to Bath, thinking there might be a chance that you would go notwithstanding your message to me by our Academy Teacher Mr Kelsey.

I am glad to see by his letter to Del, that Charley is having a good time at West Point and that you both became acquainted with our new & most worthy cousin Lizzie Lee. I hear that you are to have some pleasant Surprises on your return. May God bless you, especially in granting you meekness, humility & Divine Trust, amid all the temptations to the contrary that you are called to contend with.

I have been reading "Adjutant Stearns" in the Cars, & tears have often filled my eyes involuntarily as I have reflected, how many of those touching expressions of "last words" &c might have been & may yet be our own. Somehow eternity has seemed very near to me today and as I have anticipated this meeting as possibly the last, I have tried to commend you unto God. But my prayers seem to me ineffectual & unfervent, yet amid the thousands others that pray for you, there must be many real prayers. How much of the encircling power of prayer Satan must have to break thro' to trouble you!

Ella wrote to Charles, care of W.H. Merrick I hope he will get her letter. Dellie will send this West Point letter to her. Dellie sends a great deal love.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

1869 3/6/1863

From: Thomazine M.
Potter
Bellefonte [Pa.]

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-1819

Source: Bowdoin

[321]

Bellefonte [Pa.] March 6 1863

Gen Howard
Sir,

Excuse the liberty an entire stranger takes in addressing you, but I was led to do so from a desire to obtain your kindly interest and Christian friendship for my husband Dr Potter of the 145th Penna Vol.

From the manner in which he has spoken of you to me, I know he has felt the power of your earnest, consistent, Christian life, and respects you as a true Christian. I say not this to flatter you, but in the hope that you may have an influence over him to lead him away from the associations and temptations, that must beset the pathway of every unconverted man in the army, and you know yourself how a word in season, or a slight influence used for good often changes the whole tenour of a man's life.

He is very quick to see the inconsistencies of those who follow Jesus afar off, and ready to admire His image in those who live near to Him, but, alas, as yet he, himself, cares for none of these things. Many years have I prayed and looked for his conversion, and I still hope and strive "quietly to wait for the salvation of the Lord" trusting my prayers will yet be granted.

I hope it was the Lord that has put it into my heart to write to you thus, and that you may be the means in His hand of doing him good. I would also speak of Col. Beaver of the 148th P.V. who is a friend of mine, in whom I take much interest, and who also in a letter to me mentioned the influence of your life upon my husband.

He is a young disciple, but was an earnest, consistent Christian before entering the army, and I hope continues so. No doubt the counsel and sympathy of an older and more experienced Christian will be useful and acceptable to him. I would desire that you would not speak to my husband of this letter, not that I consider it improper, but that I remember before becoming a Christian myself I did not feel so thankful as I should have done often, for such interference on the part of my friends, and judge that he might not either.

May God prosper you in your endeavors to promote His cause, and give you many souls which shall shine as stars in your crown of rejoicing forever, is the prayer of

Your friend in Christ Jesus.
Thomazine M. Potter

1870 3/9/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1820

Head Quarters 2nd Div
2nd Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[322]

Head Quarters 2nd Div
2nd Corps Mar 9, 1863

Dearest

I left Phila at 12 midnight Friday. Chas & I left in a "sleeping car" till 7 a.m. when we found ourselves in Washington. I sent Chas to look for John whom I had sent ahead from Phila to look up some express matter. He was to stop at the Ebbitt House. I went directly to the boat. Charles joined me before the boat left but had not found John. Poor John had tried to get on the boat but had given up in despair as he had no pass and he didn't know what had become of me. I Telegraphed him last night and shall expect him today. I met Uncle Hicks on the boat. He still has great difficulty in getting his things through.

We were fortunate in getting aboard of the 12m train at Aquia, and unfortunate in getting twice set off on the way, the last time at Stonemans crossing, where Chas. & I left baggage & started to walk, but we called in at the old Head Qrs. of Gen. Carroll. Carroll is no longer here, is or has been in St. Louis. His successor furnished us with horses & we came over home, found Capt Whittlesey quite well, but hoarse from a cold. All the rest quite well.

In Phila by a little contrivance on the part of the President of the Christian Commission, I was announced without my consent, to speak at the Academy of Music, in an introductory manner for Mr Goff. I heard Mr Goff the night before on subject 'Eloquence' and was much delighted with both his eloquence & his patriotism. As the work was in behalf of the soldiers and as all the hospital soldiers in town were to be turned out and as I could go on at 12 midnight, I did stop and did try to speak. I dont think I made a complete failure as I did at Brunswick Commencement (?) but Chas didn't think I spoke as easily as at some other times. Mr Goff's voice was husky so that it is said he did not do as well as usual, but he had his favorite subject, temperance, and couldn't help doing well and as on the previous evening his patriotic digressions were most excellent.

I rather think Charles has got smitten with Miss Jeannie Grey. He enjoyed her society wonderfully and acts like a young man in love. I told him Miss Jeannie was altogether too smart for him. What's your opinion. Poor Smith has almost lost his heart to Cindy Reed. He had better have made a strike for Miss Jeannie.

I called to see Maria. She looked nicely. She has a fine boy with eyes open, though only 7 days old, born thursday a week ago. I do hope you are happy & "know what to do" Did'nt Jamie & Papa have a good time. Much love to them all.

My arm does pretty well. I have written my name with it, carried a lantern, held my paper, brushed my hat, assisted the other hand at table by having held a knife, held a book, newspaper, a candle with it. The arm is about an inch shorter than the other, the right hand always wears a kid glove on it.

I saw Gov. Washburn in the cars on my return between Portland & Exeter N.H. where he was to speak, that (Wednesday) night. The Governor & I made all up.

I saw Mrs Greble, though not the first time I called. The second time, she was gone to Church, but Eddie & Clara were there, also Mrs Greble the Elder & daughter, Mrs Col Leach. Chas & I were there & waited for Mrs Sally's return. She looked very well & seemed to be enjoying the meetings she was attending during lent. Capt Whittlesey says "Give my love and say that I will go & see her, if I resign & go home." I hope he will not do it and yet he may if I should be sent elsewhere. I think he will take a short leave and go home to see what arrangements can be made at the College. Charlie is quite well with the above exception as to Jeannie Grey.

Oscar A. Mack is not dead, Mrs Mack writes me. She has sent me his & her photograph. It looks a little like him though a very poor one, taken from a picture. She has been too sick to go to him & he too low to be moved. Her father though is with him. He was dreadfully wounded in three places.

God bless you my darling.
Yr husband
Otis

The box has come with all the nice things for me & Harry; are'nt we happy boys. The pillow case is splendid, the coat fits well, the socks are nice.

1871 3/9/1863

From: O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl

To: Capt. E. Whittlesey
A.A.Gen

OOH-1821

Head Quarters 2d Div.
2d Corps
Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[317]

Head Quarters 2d Div. 2d Corps
Near Falmouth Va. March 9, 1863

Messrs. of the Staff

I do accept your beautiful present & most heartily thank you for this additional expression of affectionate regard. We shall never be likely to forget our association in this trying season in the history of our Country, but it will be indeed pleasant to look back upon these scenes fraught with so much interest & danger from the quiet of home, after the war shall be over, & it will then as now ever fill me with thankfulness to the Giver of all perfect gifts, that he permitted me to have so noble, able & generous a Staff to help me on. Asking for you His blessing & protection

I am
affectionately yours
O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl

To:
Capt. E. Whittlesey
A.A. Gen

1873 3/10/1863 *From:* F.D. Sewall

To: My dear Genl [OO
Howard]

OOH-1822

Court Room
Bath

Source: Bowdoin

[323]

Court Room
Bath March 10 1863

My dear Genl,

Let me congratulate you on assuming command of the 11th Corps. May God give you the grace and strength to enable you to do for your Country what you so much desire. I hope this new command may be agreeable to you, I know that you will carry to it a heart devoted to the cause and the zeal of a Christian patriot. To me our cause never seemed to demand greater sacrifice. I feel that I ought to be in the field. I am not contented to remain inactive. I am satisfied that the morning is breaking. If we are true God will help us. His hand will soon be seen. "The clouds are big with mercy."

There is a change of sentiment here. The Copperheads are falling back in confusion. We shall turn their flanks and break their center, and completely rout them. We are to have a large meeting next week. The call is headed by Geo. F. Patten and is generally signed by our best citizens. We mean to sustain our brave men in the field.

You know I always am interested in your movements. I will not ask you to write me, for I know that your time must be much occupied, but I wish Chas. would tell me all about your present situation. Who is on your staff, &c.

My health is not quite established yet, but I am anxious again to return to the service. I can not feel that it is right for me to remain quiet. Could I obtain a staff appointment of sufficient rank, I think I should accept it.

I do not know who of my old friends are with you . Remember me to Chas & others who I may know.

Mrs. Sewall desires to be kindly remembered to you.

May God bless you and cover you
I am dear Genl very
truly Yrs
F.D. Sewall

1875 3/15/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1823

Head Quarters 2nd
Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.

Source: Bowdoin

[321]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c
Near Falmouth Va.
Mar. 15th 1863

Dearest,

I have just reread your good long letter written a week ago today, but mailed tuesday morning. I feel badly about our little boy's burns and shall be glad to hear that his hands are entirely well. I find a kind congratulatory letter from Mr Blaine, which I hav'nt answered, but shall as soon as I can answer some of his inquiries intelligibly. Charles says he saw Mrs. Blunt at her father's and that she sent lots of love to you. We seem to be appreciated, so Chas reports, now that we are away. It is'nt meant for an uncharitable or unkind remark, but my subsequent publicity has of course a reflex influence. I received and answered a curious letter from Aunt Emily Morse. I thought by its tone her husband might be inclined to be a copperhead. Sam thinks he is. Those trips he used to take down south prevent him from seeing in the rebels, enemies of the Country (most probably).

Major Whittlesey must now be at home. I expect he will run up to Augusta some day during his stay. I have got some of the best photographs I have ever had. They were taken in Phila. I made an exchange with Gen. Couch, so as to send you his, with his autograph on the back. You have so many of mine you dont need anymore, but I will send you one with which you can replace that wild one from New York. I will also enclose you a hundred dollars as I have drawn my pay and paid most of my debts.

Yesterday Mrs Harris and Mrs Buck called here. They had been carrying jellies around to the sick and the traveling being so bad and the mud deep, they had upset. Ambulance ladies & jellies were mixed with mud.

In the evening Charlie & I went down to the Lacy house where they stop and attended a meeting. Their room was crowded full of soldiers. Mrs Harris had been talking to them. She stopped when we entered and asked me to say something to them. After I had urged them to look to Christ, Charles followed with an earnest prayer. With Singing, repeating the Lord's prayer in unison & another prayer we closed. Nearly all seemed more or less affected. Those ladies hold a short meeting there every evening.

On Friday Chas. & I went to the 3d Me., called on Gen Ward found his Spanish wife at his quarters. He has built quite a nice little log hut for himself & her. He married her during the Mexican Campaign. She was 15 when married now 30 with six children. She has just accent enough.

On the way back we called on Col. Ames, found Mrs. Chamberlain there in a neighboring tent. Charles was talking to me during the last sentence. The box with the coat, pants, pillow case &c came safely. I gave to Mr Stinson his sham, who thanked me with his usual blush of gratitude.

Give much love to Guy. Papa thinks a good deal about him. And also much love to Gracie. Let us know how she does. Papa read a story today about Grace, which he thinks he must send her. And Jamie – ask him if he can keep out of fire and water and kiss them all.

Good night. May God bless you darling and Give you Strength.

Lovingly
Otis

1876 3/18/1863 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear nephew Guy
[Howard]

OOH-1824

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[327]

Farmington Mch. 18/1863

My dear nephew Guy

Grandmother Gilmore came up last evening and we heard all about you & Grace & Jamie & your mamma. We had not heard for a long time before and were glad that Jamie has got over his cough, that Guy can read in the Bible as well as any body & that Grace has improved very much. I went to Brunswick after your Papa went back, to see him! But he went the day before.

What a good time you must have had going to meet him!

Horace & his mother have been here over a week making a visit. Horace had a boys & girls party yesterday afternoon. There were 23 children beside David & me! We had a real good time – played lots of plays, like “Blind man's buff”, “Button”, “The needles Eye”, “Hot & Cold” “Roll the plate”&c, &c. But the best thing we had was an “old folks concert” I appointed two door keepers – one at each parlor door. The performers were admitted by black “tickets”- the Audience by white ones thro' the other door. The performers were two boys & four girls dressed up, in old folks things. One boy had a fiddle made of my whip & a broom stick.

Aunt Ella played the piano, & I rang a tin-bell. When we (the performers) were all ready, the audience were admitted through the other door & when I pushed the sofa away from the singers & players and when we all struck up, each singing & playing a different tune they all burst out laughing and I guess you would, if you had been there!

At 5 oclock, we all sat down round the Sitting Room, and each of us had a buttered biscuit. A cookie all covered with little sugar plums. Each a fruit cake frosted white & each a cup custard. David wouldn't sit down but kept running about eating his cake & made sport for us. After Supper we had some more plays and the children all went home before dark. I forgot to say that I talked to them & prayed with them before Supper & they were all very still and attentive. Nobody was over 10, or under three, except me & David. Cousins Frankie Sargent & Etta Otis were here.

Nobody knows I am writing but if they knew it, all would send a great deal of love to you & Grace & Jamie & your mother. I do now. Remember me to Mrs Clark also. Please ask your Mother when it will be convenient for you to come & see us.

I wish you & Grace could have been at the party. I mean to ask Aunt Ella to make one for you when you come to see us.

Do write me a letter. I heard Grace had a Doll. Did Papa buy you anything?

Your loving uncle
Rowland

1877 3/18/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1825

Head Quarters 2nd Div
&c.

Source: Bowdoin

[335]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn &c.
Mar. 18th 1863

Dearest,

I received your letter of Mar. 12 last night and was happy as I always am to see the familiar superscription; and as you probably imagine, not less so, to get inside and find what is there. I am glad Jamie is doing so well. I feared he would be very much troubled and that the burns might leave sad scars. As to business, I rely upon Uncle Edward's judgement, but just at this time incline very much to state & city bonds or script, to anything that gives evidence of permanence. I dont know how bank stock will be affected by the new finance bill. I do not think unfavorably but for your sake I wish to be a little on my guard.

As to Jeannie, I did'nt dare to let Charlie see what you had written, tho I told him part, as to age and the books. Charlie is corresponding with Miss Jeannie and as I told you quite in love. Now I believe I know Jeannie Gray very well, know her faults, her pride, her lightness and also her good points. Chas. has been bothered by his friends a good deal and I want to urge you and Rowland & Ella to be very charitable. Jeannie has shown a great deal of energy. She has bought a piece of land, built a cottage, supported herself & mother, with little if any aid and with hard criticism to bear. With such a peculiar odity for a father & such a simple-hearted, doting mother, she has come up to be a good deal of a woman. The speech that annoyed you & me, was not well considered, but darling, how very natural. She had been petted & exalted by the West Point great ones with such attention as few ladies are impervious to and it was more than she could bear, for them to think and say, that she & <hers> were supported by Mr Howard's charity. Her father took no pains to relieve her while he, poor man, was living and after he had died she was struggling with poverty. Taking all things into the account and considering the peculiar influence of West Point life on a young lady I am much inclined to overlook every foible. Charles sent Miss Jeannie one of my Photographs.

As I am upon this subject I have read Miss J's book very carefully. It is an inimitable portraiture of West Point life, I mean, gay life. The selections of poetry are apt & in good taste. The references to the present struggle are pointed, truthful & high-toned; but withal, the book to be appreciated must be read by people acquainted with the butterfly society that flits up & down annually in that beautiful region. I think the work ingenious and not "without value".

Now darling, the prospect is Jeannie may become a sister; my heart rebelled a little at first, but Charles has good taste, & good sense and may like things different from you & me and he will say "Non interference". The exact status between them I do not understand, have not been told.

Maj. Whittlesey has been gone a week. Gen. Hooker told me he should assign me to a Corps, probably the 11th, if Gen Siegel does not come back.

We are all very well. I am on a Court Martial. We are now waiting for Col Ward to join us before proceeding – at my Hd Qrs.

Much love to Guy, Grace & Jamie. My kind remembrances to Mrs Clark & Lottie. I hope you are nicely.

Lovingly yr husband
Otis

1878 3/20/1863 *From:* Papa [OO Howard]

To: My dearest Children
[Guy, Grace, Jamie
Howard]

OOH-1826

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

Source: Bowdoin

[361]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps
Near Falmouth Va.
Mar. 20, 1863

My dearest Children

I want to tell you about a little boy about the age of Grace. The other night just at evening, I was sitting before the fire, a knock at my tent door: "Come in", when in bounced a little black eyed boy. He looked some-thing like this little fellow [sketch of a little boy] with his pants rolled up near the tops of his little boots. A large man followed him, "Well, where did you come from!" No answer, only eyes sparkle. Then, "What's your name". Willie. Willie's uncle had been traveling around with Willie, trying to find his father in the 98 Penn. Regiment, all that afternoon. It was in Gen. Sedgwick's Corps & people had sent him to Gen. Sedgwick's old Division. I was delighted. He looked at my tongs, handled my shovel - called for my poker and insisted that that was not a poker but a cane. [Sketches of tongs, shovel and poker.] He got hold of the black end of the tongs and I had to wash his hands. He next had my photographs & in an instant was out begging for a ride on a horse. Uncle Charlie gave him one. It was near night and the boy & Uncle had as much as five miles to go. I kissed the little boy and sent him off in an ambulance. I asked him while here where his mother was. He said in her grave. His uncle said he was an only son, and his father was a Lieutenant in the Army.

Now I will tell you a little about Uncle Charlie's colored boy Tom or as John calls him, Tomie. Mr Sypher, the correspondent, Uncle Charlie & Tomie were sleeping in the same tent. Some little animals made a scratching and Mr Sypher called out "Tomie, Tomie". "How about the rats". Tomie rubs his eyes and says, "I thinks the one with the shortest tail will get into his hole first."

Speaking of rats makes me think last night. John was sound asleep when a rat undertook to run up the side of the tent, when down he fell on John's head. John sprang from his couch as quickly as if the rebels had seized him. The rats then went to sleep so did John & I with heads well covered.

Much love to Momma, And be good and loving children,

Affectionately
Papa

1879 3/21/1863 *From:* O.A. Mack

To: Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1827

Spencer House, Cinn

Source: Bowdoin

[326]

Spencer House, Cinn.
March 21st 1863.

Dear Howard:

I have heard of the kind sympathy you extended to my poor wife in her days of physical & mental distress, and now that she is no more of this life, the knowledge of the consolation you gave her, awakens emotions of gratitude in my own breast which I would convey to you.

I have not seen the letter you sent to my dear Fanny, but I know it breathed the pure spirits of Christian love & charity, and declared the unspeakable riches of Christ Jesus, and the glory of those who enter into his rest; and she has testified, in her letters to me, the great comfort she derived from its perusal.

My wife had been in feeble health for some years, and the news of my dangerous wounds being announced abruptly in her presence produced so great a shock upon her nervous system that she never recovered from it. She was a sincere and earnest Christian, and through all her sufferings testified to the Lord Jesus, and partook of the consolations of His Holy Spirits. Her last words were - "What a strange morning is this. How many there are about me. Who are these clothed in bright array" - and soon after peacefully breathed her last and passed to the bosom of her God.

She died on the 10th. I left Nashville on the 8th & reached here on the 14th and learned my melancholy loss.

God has been very merciful and gracious to me. I was at death's door - no human skill could save me, but He, in answer to the fervent prayers of my devoted wife, and my Christian friends, extended His loving hand & drew me back. My wife has been exchanged for me - preferred before me. She was prepared for the translation, and my great loss is her incalculable gain.

God's will be done. My burdens are heavy but I know in whom to trust, and I pray that these visitations may draw me nearer to the Lord Jesus, and that I, too, may be a partaker of his Heavenly Spirit.

I am recovering slowly. I am not able to travel on the cars yet, and shall remain here for some time.

I shall be very glad to hear from you if you have time to write. Again expressing to you the deep gratitude I feel for your considerate kindness to my lamented wife. I remain your sincere friend,
and brother in Christ,
O.A. Mack

1880 3/22/1863 *From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

To: My very dear Friend
[Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1828

Philadelphia

Source: Bowdoin

[435]

Philadelphia March 22nd 1863

My very dear Friend

I really did not intend to allow your very kind letter to remain, so long unanswered, for I was so glad to receive it, that I felt just like sitting down & writing immediately, but when one has much to do, the moments (in fact the weeks) glide so swiftly by, that one cannot realize how the time flies without our doing half we intended to.

I did enjoy seeing your good Husband most truly. He does seem very near & dear to me now. Little Clara seems fully to realize that he is some one who loves her, & one whom she cannot help loving. A day or two since he kindly sent both Edwin & Clara a little child's paper, which they have enjoyed having had read to them. Please thank him for me & them. I was much touched by his thoughtful kindness.

Last Sunday I spent with Mrs William Merrick, whom I do really like very much indeed. She has a new little baby boy three weeks old last Thursday [Feb 26, 1863], to be called William Henry. I went to church both morning & afternoon to her church in the morning. Bishop Potter assisted by Bishop Stevens confirmed many candidates & ordained a deacon. They have a delightful clergyman – Rev Mr Chas. H. L. Richards. I have promised to spend a day with Mrs. Merrick before leaving for West Point. Miss Clara Davis is staying with her – she has been off nursing the soldiers for about a year & her whole heart is with “the boys” as she terms our noble soldiers.

I spent an hour with Mrs Vaughn last week taking little Clara with me - to me it is very wonderful to see one who suffers so intensely & incessantly, so bright and cheerful. I received a very sweet <yearningly> <glad> letter from Mrs. Thomas Williams a few weeks since. She is living with her mother near Fishkill, but is to go to Detroit in June to live. I hope to see her before she leaves.

I do wish you could have managed to have met your dear good Husband here in this city & give us all the pleasure of seeing you & the children. We would all have given you a warm welcome. I hope the next leave Genl Howard gets you will come to us & meet him here.

Since I wrote to you last I have been on to dear old West Point to see Sister Clara married. It was very unexpected altho' Mr Pennington & Clara have been engaged a long time. The wedding with all its arrangements went off delightful. Mrs Simpson fortunately did all that was needed before she committed the fearful deed of trying to take her husband's life. Can you think of Mrs S as attempting to do anything so dreadful. Sister received many beautiful gifts – a camel hair shawl, black lace one. <> bonnet, sett of <bemime>, Six setts of jewelry, one of pearl & one of solid coral – exceedingly pretty & between twenty five & thirty presents in silver - and many pretty little ornaments for the toilet - <etager> &c Alex Pennington sent her a little Mare for a Christmas present & Johnnie sent her a saddle, bridle &c for a wedding gift. So you see she fared finely.

They were married at home in the back parlor by Papa. Mamie was first bridesmaid, Mary Pennington 2nd & Clara Paige. It was intensely cold, the thermometer five below zero. Still most of the people of the Post were present. The bridal couple had a nice reception at Mr Pennington Senior's in New York on Monday the 9th, then they <> Boston for a few days & now both are home <> each other. Clara is at W.P. & Alex with his battery at the Potomac. These separations are terrible. I left my little ones here while I went on to the Point. I saw the Church's, Mrs Blunt, many of your friends.

I have sent for Papa's carte for you but there seems a fatality about your ever getting it. Your good Husbands address was very highly spoken of here. I would have liked very much to have heard him, but I never go out to any such places. Brother Johnnie is still in Chicago on recruiting service. Father has not been at all well this winter. Mama Greble always speaks of you with much affection & sends her warmest love to you. I should

dearly love to see your dear little ones. Clara baby said – to her Godfather - take me to see little Jamie. You must kiss them all that is each for me. I hope to be able to do so for myself some of these days.

Have you seen Jeannie Greys book - "Tactics or Cupid in shoulder straps". It is well received - the third edition is already out. Mama is delighted with the carte of the Genl which you sent her. I intend getting one of his from Gutekunst, where I think he had <it taken>.

Poor Mrs. Mendalls little baby was very ill & they did not think until very lately that it would be spared to her. Mrs Wheeler has a nice little baby. My letter I fear is very stupid for letter writing is not my forte, but my dear friend you must overlook all its faults, and let me assure you that it is freighted with much love, for I cling to those friends who were with me during those happy, happy days at West Point. Dear Mr Greble seems so very near to me very often, but when I want to tell him of the little ones, & realize that I can neither write or ever tell him then I feel almost overcome, but when I look round & realize my many blessings of home, children, friends, and all needs quickly supplied, I feel I cannot be too thankful.

Goodnight my dear friend. That our Heavenly Father may keep you, your dear children, & your noble Husband in health, happiness & restore you all to each other is the sincere wish & prayer of your loving

Friend

Sarah B.F. Greble

South 19th

Write when you can but I shall always feel that you love me even can you not write – for with your little ones, duties, & letters to your Husband you must be very busy, but I shall always be charmed to hear from you. After the 1st of June (D.V. [Deo Volente, God willing]) I shall be at West Point.

<[CHECK ORIGINAL. There is faint writing on the last page.]>

1881 3/22/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1829

Head Quarters 2nd Div
2nd Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[328]

Head Quarters 2nd Div
2nd Corps Mar. 22nd 1863

Dearest,

I have not received a letter from you since I wrote you, then you wrote Monday morning all well - Jamie's hand doing well. It is now Sunday morning. Yesterday & day before we had a snow-storm. Now it is misty and warm and the snow is fast leaving, but at the very best it will be a week before the roads will become reasonably passable. No more news about a Corps.

Mr Hicks got a letter from his wife stating that he must go home, if he had to return, that she was alone and would have to shut up the shop at the end of last week, and that she was sick. He will probably go home next week.

Charles gets good letters from Miss Jeannie and is well. He has all the duties of Adjutant Genl to do in the absence of Major Whittlesey. Harry Stinson is well and apparently well & happy. Col. Wilde has written me requesting permission to go on my staff and shewing an earnest desire to go into service again. But I have already applied for the son of Professor Smyth, Bowdoin, for aide in place of Mr. Atwood, who has been promoted to Capt. in the Qr. Master's department.

I hope you are quite well this morning and are able to go to Church with the children. I saw Mr McKenzie at the depot after I left home that Wednesday morning. I told him he must drop in often. Perhaps it is as well that he is careful in his preaching, but I am glad of his earnest prayers in behalf of his country and I hope all his hearers join in them. It is perhaps too much to say all even in this cause.

I have got my arm on this morning, but do not use it much. I find it tires me to wear it all day, so we have fixed it that I may put it on and take it off without removing my shirt, collar &c.

The remarks I made in the House of Representatives at Washington are published in the Sunday school Times of Phila. Charles proposes sending you a copy. It is reported almost word for word as it was spoken. So are the other lectures published in the same paper.

I had a letter from Mrs. O.A. Mack's clergyman saying that he "buried her last Thursday" (a week ago). She wrote me the last lines she ever penned. Her husband has been brought as far as Cincinnati. His wounds were healing.

Just before I wrote the last sentence the sad intelligence of the death of Gen. Sumner was received by telegraph. He died at home at Syracuse N.Y. The cause of his death is not stated. Another aged patriot, faithful earnest and devoted, has gone. He was a warm friend of mine. He always welcomed me with a pleasant greeting and gave me his confidence. God has taken him away and has permitted a loving family to have him at home. Brave, even to rashness, he wonderfully escaped every shaft, because there is a Providence in all things. When I can hear that he was at peace with his God before he passed away, I shall be satisfied. Four weeks ago today I was with him for quite a little time, when he read me his testimony before the War Committee of Congress. He seemed very glad to see me and said I must make my friends work for my promotion.

Give much love to our precious little flock. How dependant we are on God. When we are in Heaven & look back we may understand all God's dealings with us, and see how those many tears were all for our best good. I believe I have an abiding faith that, "He doeth all things well". My daily prayer for you is that He may allay all unnecessary anxiety in your heart. Give my regards to all inquiring friends.

Affectionately your husband

Otis

1882 3/28/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1831

Head Quarters 2nd Div
Near Falmouth Va

Source: Bowdoin

[331]

Head Quarters 2nd Div
Near Falmouth Va
March 28, 1863

Dearest,

I wrote you a head ache'y letter yesterday and omitted many items. Capt Wiggin, discharged from 3d Me on disability certificate was going home to Bath, so I sent by him a bundle, containing one or two books I did not need, my Brigadier Straps, a glove and two photographs in one of the books, one of our friend & Ord. Off. Lt. Steel and the other to replace the soiled one of Capt. Owen which you have. I should like to buy a special album to put our friends in, both family and military family & intimates as well as others for whom we entertain a very great regard. I have sent a little wooden book to 'Jamie Howard' and Miss Jeannie's to you to keep. A soldier of the 7th Mich. made the wooden book and sent it to me with an anonymous note telling me how hard it I to live as a christian. Commodore Foot has sent me his Photograph and I will send it to you for safe keeping.

Charlie and I have had a long talk. I asked how far he had gone, if he was engaged and he said no, that they were simply attached without promises and corresponding. He says that there is so much opposition that he will probably cease to write. Rowlands criticism was severe. Yours ditto. Mothers discouraging. He says moreover that his past is unhappy in the extreme, unhappy in the retrospect. But he thinks this is providential, teaching him to look beyond this world. Now I feel as I said in all such matters like non-interference. Netty M with her poor little body, I would have welcomed or Miss Jeannie Gray with all her faults. I believe Jeannie has been guilty of indiscretions and of playing a part, but she has her good points and would make a good wife if people would let her. She has been too forward, has written notes and letters to unmarried gentlemen, but Chas. assures me she never undertook to "catch" him. He went thither of his own accord, and conversed & shewed her attentions. Her letters to him are reserved so far as he has confided in me by reading selections. But enough of Charlie's love.

True love never did run smooth did it, darling - except ours since we were married? I hope you are very well today. O.A. Mack (Major) has written me a good long letter from Cincinnati. He had heard of the death of his beloved wife. She was so suddenly apprized of his being mortally wounded that it broke her down. She was weakly and never recovered from the shock.

I had what people call "sick-headache" yesterday, but I went to bed "with the chickens" and slept it off and began today more reasonably by drinking a good cup of coffee instead of cocoa.

Harry Stinson is well & apparently happy. I have just read another from Rowland to Chas, just received. He and Ella are undertaking a visit to you. From 20 Aug to 20 May - do I know how to reckon.

I wish you had good rosy cheeks as you had when you came to the Arsenal over the river - not for youth - not for me to love better, but you know Prof. Cleaveland traced health & strength in rosy cheeks which took their hue from salts of iron &c.

Much love to the "good little stock" Guy, Gracie & Jamie and trust much & strongly in God, so as to fear nothing - no evil.

Lovingly
Otis

Charlie sends his love.

1883 3/31/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1832

Head Quarters 2nd
Divn 2nd Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[329]

Head Quarters 2nd Divn 2nd Corps
March 31st 1863

Dearest,

I received a good letter from you this afternoon and was glad to hear that you all are so well & Jamie so much restored. This afternoon a little while before your letter came I got the order assigning me to the 11th Corps – Gen. Siegel's. The order reads temporarily, but it will doubtless be permanent, as Gen Gibbon is ordered to replace me here. Chas. Harry Stinson & myself break away from the rest of the staff. Maj. Whittlesey, Capts Owen, & Bulloch, Dr. Dyer & Lt. Steel have to remain here, all for the present at least.

Give much love to the children. Did you ever get the one hundred dolls of February's pay I sent enclosed with two photographs? I recd the Book Szabad, the one bought in Boston.

Much love to yourself. May God bless you & our dear ones.

Lovingly
Otis