

At the Corps

May 1st 1863

Near Shenandoah Va

Darwin.

After crossing the
two Rivers we have marched to
this place with no loss thus far.
We are now South west of Frederick-
burg & on a plank road. 4 Corps
are here. Monday & Tuesday I
moved my Corps 30 miles & crossed
the river Tuesday night. Wednesday
night we crossed the Rapidan.
The water of the Ford was more than
3 feet deep. Yet many of the Steamer
were forced. A bridge was made
under the river crossed on it -

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Dear much love & many
 kisses to the children
 May God bless & strengthen
 you - Mary has come.

Love & affectionately
 your mother

John is well. Mary is
 also well with more of good

you from me and your
 affectionate father - ever yours

John & Mary

2000

more affectionately

1893

1893

even if I could obtain an official
 diploma - Now an by education a soldier
 and I am not - I may be something of
 a Lawyer, but I have no doubt I should be
 a very poor general, or even Colonel, at least
 until after years of study & experience - and I
 hope that this war would be over in a shorter
 time than it would require to make me of much
 advantage to the service - Now my Dr. friend,
 of the physical recovery of your wound, which I
 expect much to hear of, and your pressing
 duties will prevent you to give me any account
 of present matters, I shall be exceedingly gratified.
 If not, please consider me as condoling with
 you in a misfortune, which no one will
 appreciate more than you - and still hopeful
 of better things, and interested in your success -
 And believe me, friend,

Yours friend &c
Geo. W. Smith

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Chicago May 7 1863
My friend O. C. Howard.

Dr. friend,

It is scarcely a time
 now for congratulation. If it were I
 would congratulate you upon your
 elevation, undoubtedly deserved, to the
 highest military rank. Let this from
 today be but a sad one for the country
 as the news has been coming in over
 the wire - I confess 't is such as I
 am not prepared for, and in the general
 storm, I decidedly participate - in fact
 as it seems to me, from the accounts
 that have reached us, how lost, if not
 another battle, at least another victory -
 For myself, wholly without military
 knowledge or experience, I do not and
 never have felt inclined to criticize the
 movements and conduct of our Gen-
 erals in the field - The taste of fault

finding I leave to them alone separate
with our difficulties are
less action than mine. Especially
now I sorry to hear that your own
particular Army Corps should have
so behaved as to ~~have~~ come to say
that the result is owing to them.
Everybody knows a great deal of any
responsibility for what is generally believed
to be a cowardly abandonment of their
position by the soldiers under your
immediate command. No one, who
knows you, at any rate, will make any
question of your action in so critical
a crisis. But it is now quite circum-
stanced by what particular accident or
series of accidents, the result was
reached. Our Army is again on the
North Bank of the Rappahannock, and
as it must be there, I hope, in the
absence of information, that the letter
was successfully made. Is the advantage
lost? How nothing has gained by

another desperate Battle of 3 or 4 days?
Shall we have nothing for the next
three months, & after that our Army is
terribly demoralized, and therefore unfit
for any further service? I assure you
I do not make these inquiries in any spirit
of detraction; but, hoping that in the arduous
labors now imposed upon you, you may
yet, for old acquaintance sake, find time
to give me, so much of a statement of
the condition of affairs, as is consistent
with your position, and for the purpose
of ascertaining reliably, what our con-
dition is, what we have to expect in
the future. It would be a natural enough
inquiry for you to make. "Why are you not
in your country's service?" Not to mention
others. I have four nephews, a wife and two
daughters, all of them of them. The ground is
the particular in which I differ from you.
viz. I am disqualified and unfit for a
Common Soldier, and wholly incompetent
from Education and habit for an officer

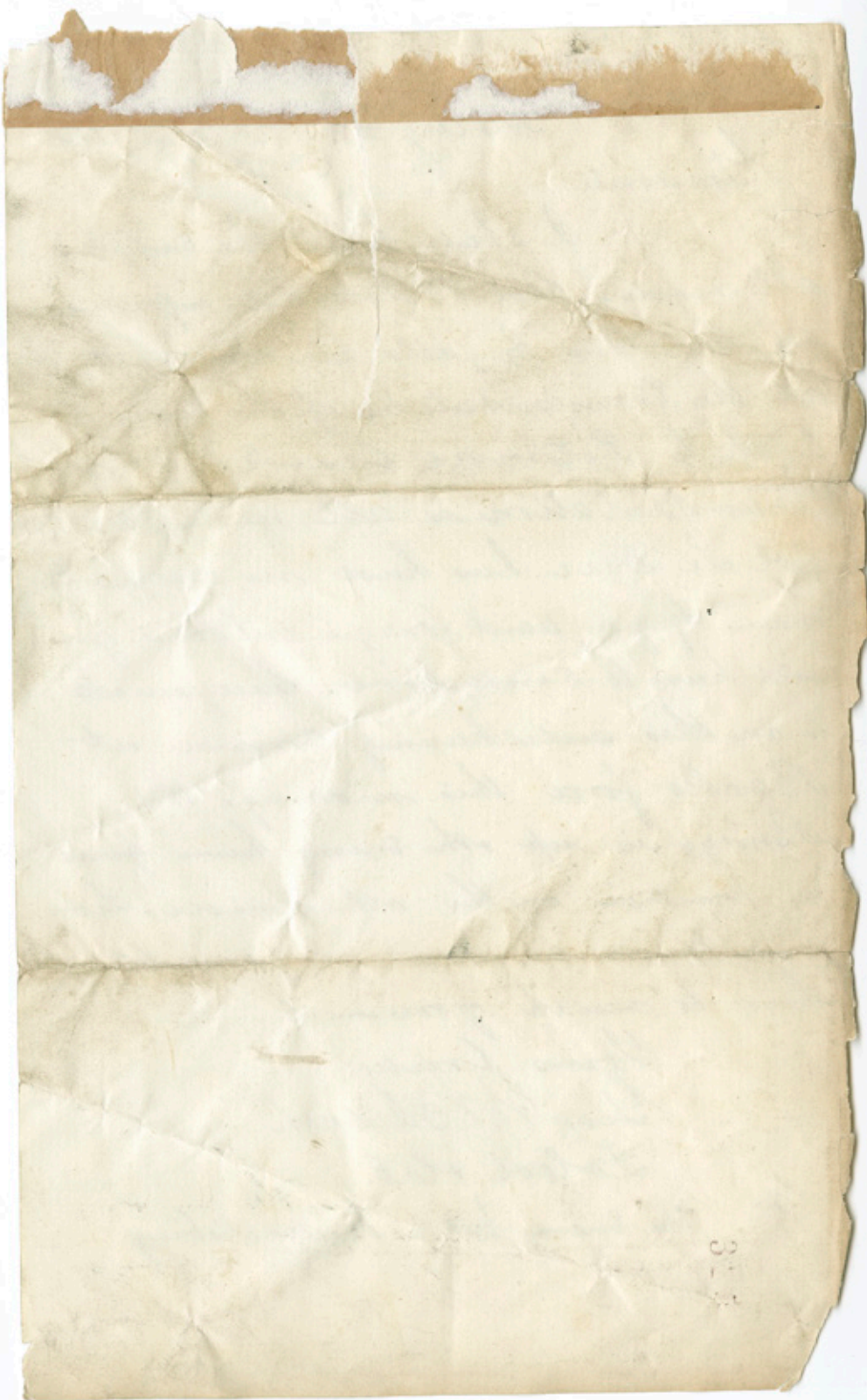
General

May 5. 3.30 P.M.
[1863]

I shall have the supplies all ready. Col Batchelder informs me that Gen Ingalls has ordered all the transportation of the Army back to Potomac Creek. Our transportation is all here, as Col Le Duc. has had no orders to move. If you want forage or tools, you will have to send here. Seugemik is on this side having crossed at Banks force this morning. The Bridge is up & the enemy have guns in position on the other side. Let me know as soon as possible how to reach you —

Yours Truly
Geo. W. Balloch
Lt Col & Co.

P.S. The enemy hold Fredericksburg



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May 6. 1863

218637

Circulars
 Genl. H. P. 2nd Corps. Tonight will
 be at the old camp near Flomston.
 Corps Commanders will send a
 Staff officer for orders at 6 p.m. to
 report their locations for the night
 as fixed on the old map of the
 camp of occupation. For the
 present the 6th Corps will continue
 to cover the river as ordered & the
 11th Corps will camp temporarily
 in the vicinity of the old camp of
 the 6th Corps between the left
 of the old camp of the 2nd Corps
 & the right of the 6th Corps.

" By Command of Genl. Butler
 Special
 Assistant Lawrence Dan E. Butterfield
 Major V. A. S. C. May 6th of Staff

Inches

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Brook's Station

May 6th 1863.

My Whittier

You may be
part to the Council Hall
that the O'Brien 1st Div
is in on its former
Camp

Coated
and can be

Inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

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Love to the children and do ever
wish to play & sweetly
in God's love.

Dear Sir,
I have been very busy
with the children and do ever
wish to play & sweetly
in God's love.

I have been very busy
with the children and do ever
wish to play & sweetly
in God's love.

Head Quarter 11th Corps near
Brookline Station
May 9th 1863

Dearest;

It has been some days
since I have written you and just
at a time when I am very anxious
on your account; but the expense
& inconvenience of our marches &
battles for the last ten days are
beyond description. We have been
without wagons & without beds &
much of the time in forests.

The papers report so many things
that are false that I am very
anxious that you should know
the truth. I heard that I was re-
ported killed, wounded and missing -
but, except in spirit, I assure you
I was neither. On last Saturday Thom-
wall Jackson attacked my right, with
a solid column & with great force
but Von Gibris Brigade occupied the

point of attack and immediately gave
way, broke up & ran upon the
other troops with such momentum
that they gave way too. Such
a man of fighting I have not seen
since the first battle of Bull Run.
Some of Col. Bushbeck's brigade stood
and for some fifteen minutes held
the enemy in check. The batteries
were used. My staff myself
worked as hard as men could to
arrest the tide. Sometimes we
would get a line behind a fence
or in the woods, but to little purpose.
The most trying and dangerous
position a commander can be in
is when his troops have got a panic
and are flying. Poor Capt. Dossant
was killed not far from me, Chas.
Saw him after he had fallen. His
wife brought him to camp
just before the march. To please
her he did so, but I disapproved

and. He worked hard, generally &
constantly to make everything ~~work~~^{go}
well. He was rallying broken troops
when he fell. I presume I have never
been more exposed than in the
last battle, but a kind Providence has
succeeded me. Charles & Stinson were
in the thickest of the hail. I had
sent Miss Whittelsey to bring up
a train of forage and so he was
not there during the disaster. Gen.
Baylor with his brigade had been
sent away just before the engage-
ment - by Gen. Hooker's order.
Now after several successive engage-
ments the Army has resumed nearly
its old position. How are my
lives & family & how is Lizzie. I
am very afraid of these shocks &
anxieties upon you, darling. I
got a short letter from you Saturday
before the encounter, but I want
to hear again. Give much

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

New Brock's Station Va.,

May 9th

1863.

Dearest.

I got Mary's letter last night and was delighted. Only I fear you made too much exertion to write so much that day May 3rd. That was Sunday, the day of the most terrific battle I ever witnessed. We are now in the old camp. God is indeed good to us, my precious wife. I hope by this time you are getting strong. I

am longing for the work to
be over, that I may go
home in peace. Poor Ben.
Berry has gone - Kirby has
been severely wounded &
will lose his leg. He behaved
with his usual gallantry -
But there is perhaps yet
too much excitement in
these events for you to hear -
Remember we are all quiet
and safe now & in the
hands of God. The battle was
chained with. Shall we call the
little boy - Chancellor & dub
him Chauncy - Is he as big a

boy as Guy was? How does Jamie take
the little rivals coming?

My next write again - till
Mamma is able - so as
to keep you informed.
God bless & strengthen you &
me.
Sincerely
Otis.

Charlie sends love. He
has don't the Major's stripes -
he is Major Howard.

good followers. We are having
lonely winter now. Though on
our return to this place we had
to wade through deep clay mud.
Now must not allow the
news papers to excite you.
I must expect a few hits
as my corps did not do well -
thus far I have escaped
wonderfully. But when the
body suffers the heart
suffers with it. Kiss all the
little ones for Papa & tell
me if you accept my last
proffer of a name -
Loveably
Your brother
Otho

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

Newbrook Station ^{N.Y.}

May 10th

1863.

Dear Sir,

Since I wrote you I have
received a long letter from you contain-
ing a look of the baby's hair: it is a
little brown boy like the rest of us.
Of course he looks wise. ^{mother} His form is
a good name but not one for an
affectionate abbreviation - Poor little
Dennis was killed in that battle - a
noble, generous, bearded young man
with a wife & one child in Brooklyn
I would like to name no 4 for

mine either Dessau Howard or
Frederick Dessau Howard. It would
be a monument to my faithful
young friend. I would not accept
his resignation when his wife
urged him to resign and Mary
Robb has protected her. Does the baby
even cry? When then are to rock
him, how when he can find time
when she feels like it and
grieve for fear. This assistance will
combine and arranged ought to
take much of the rocking time -
but perhaps there is no end.
Are you not getting along well?
Do not write me more than four

lines until you are fully able.
So then thank the men, and my
good friend Abby still with you?
I do not tell you much of the
news. I have been through with
a good deal in the last ten
days, but as I am well &
and ready for action, the least
said about all the disasters the
better. I will enclose you an
order I published this morning
which will show you my feeling
and hopefulness. I believe my
heart will never flag. God is
good to us & bless us. I long
for my children to be his faith-

A Nation is to be raised
up on fields that have
been desolated - to show
forth Gods glory - These are
great things - Heaven blest
to contribute a dollar - a
drop of blood - a life - a friend
a prayer - a word - that
will be used by God to
extend the Kingdom of Jesus:
"It is a good thing to both
hope & quietly wait for the
Salvation of the Lord" - "We
gain in prayer by every defeat
also in humiliat - also in
genuine faith in God - "Be
of good courage. I will
strengthen thy heart - Wait. I
say. Owe the Lord - A very
Prophet keep near to God -
He will bless & will use you -
Rowland

Harmonia May 12/68.
Dear Brother Otis
The papers are so
full of lies that I am tired
of reading them. but I do
wish we could get some au-
thentic news from you & Charles.
I am anxious to know of
your morale as well as
your pliancy. Allow me
to congratulate you & join
in your thanksgiving over
the birth of a 2^d daughter.
We hear indirectly that
she is a week old & the mother
comfortable so all is not
dark. Indeed if you are
well & have not lost heart
nor faith under your reverse
& the disgraceful conduct of
your troops all is well - All
we get from you is by the
papers - Lizzie being too sick

I expect to preach in Newell over Sabbath & see Lizzie

the

conduct

all

and

my

dear

and

Cal

To send us any news
he may get - We have
had a rumor, never author-
itied that you were wounded -
but we don't believe it as
the Boston Journal Correspondent
speaks of your appearance at
the meeting with the President
& Gen. Halleck - and also
gives a quotation from your
letter to Gen. Thurg - Some
of Sigels friends evidently
think that his cause will
be advanced by throwing some
blame on you tho: they
hardly dare to do it - I do
hope Charles will get time
to write to the Boston or American
Journal a truthful statement
of the affair of Sat. & the
subsequent events - A man
might as well not be
a Christian if reverses can

dishearten him utterly, &
the only reason that we ever
feel like giving up, is because
we are afflicted in an
unexpected & particularly
grievous way - "He scourgeth
every Son whom he receiveth"
Papa calmly bequeatheth
the care of his family to posterity -
we can safely leave ours with
God - Men are liars, cowards,
etc. - God is not - Truth is for ever.
The Heaven & Earth pass, not
one jot or tittle will pass from
Gods Law. (will. pleasure. character.
holiness. purpose) - The Army of
the Potomac must look
small to God & its annihilation
no great thing - But a proud
selfish people are to be humbled
& brought to Christ - A
wicked system of Oppression
& Bondage is to be ended -

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

Near Brook's Station } 1863.
May 12th }

Dear -

We are still here. I hope you are still doing well and are not "too smart"

My corps is much abused but I think in a high degree unjustly. I trust the future may relieve us from obloquy. I am conscious of having neglected due precaution and yet our right was turned in the thick woods and an overwhelming force hurled upon the flank & rear.

For your sake I hope it is not quite so warm at Augusta as it is here today as I know you do not like warm weather very well.

My's letter written Apr 25 was beautifully written. The letters were, all the words spelt correctly and what he said natural. The last one was like a field

report written under the pressure
of excitement and in haste.

My dear must feel very proud
of their two little brothers. Maria
remains the undisturbed possessor
of her rights as an only daughter.
I am hoping that you have not
been allowed to read the papers
lately. For they have contained
all sorts of false reports. I have
been reported as wounded and killed.
but I believe not as missing. When
the battle first struck us I was
trying to replace a regiment. My
black horse stood so straightly
on his hind legs. that I had to
come down. but I was soon
up again. I got my hand scratch-
ed. my leg a little bruised but
no wound. Charlie & Stinson
are well. The Unit is
waiting. Goodbye you all
Sincerely Ois

Inches

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New York, May 14. 1863

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 10th, in answer to my inquiry after the late Capt. Dessauer, is received, for which you will please accept my thanks. I have already written to Lt. Col. Asmussen in relation to his effects. If you wish to keep his horse you will please send the value of it to my daughter, Mrs. Dessauer, 127 Amity St. Brooklyn, or to me.

Very respectfully yours

G. J. Craft.

New York, May 1864

Major Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir,

Your letter

of the 10th, in answer to my inquiry
after the late Capt. Doremus, is re-
ceived, for which you will please
accept my thanks. I have already
written to Lt. Col. Doremus in
relation to his effects. If you wish
to keep his papers you will please
send the value of it to my daughter
the Doremus, 127 Smith St. Brooklyn
or to me.

Very respectfully yours

J. O. Pugh

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

May 16 / New Brooklyn 1863.

Dear Sir,

I must write you this morning. It is now 14 days since the advent of our little stranger and I hope you have been so wise as to get very much settled by this time. Mrs. Barlow came to see her husband yesterday & I to him in her presence & I visited him. I have almost a family yesterday. The man has a wife & 7 boys. He had a farm & was well off. Now he has nothing & starvation stares him in the face. He is almost crazy. His wife has a little one 6 weeks old in her arms. She is a nice looking woman & keeps up pretty good courage. They want to go to the West. Nobody can realize the misery this

John & Thomas
with -
John

rebellion has caused this in
Suey. Would had we might
help it in some way.

Much love to Amy Anne
Janice and Shale & son
Freddie. Give him a kiss
for his paper & commit
him by prayer into the
hands of God.

My kindest regards & warmest
gratitude is to Dr. Abby -
Mrs Clark & all who have
been kind to attention to
you -

Love
Ethel

My dear mother
I have just received your
letter of the 10th inst. & am
glad to hear from you.
I am well & hope this
letter finds you the same.
I have not much news to
write at present. I am
still in the hospital & am
not yet able to go out.
I am, however, getting
stronger & hope to be
able to go home soon.
I am, dear mother, ever
your affectionate daughter,
Ethel

to look for heat. It seems
as though sometimes that
I was not able to do any good.
But I feel cheerful & contented
at all times. Lizzie appears to be doing
nicely. She has written me twice since
the advent of "No 4" besides a few
lines added to Guy's letter on
the very day of the good tidings.
I have not written much about
the battle, for Charles has told
you the whole story. Besides he
has written to the Portland Press.
There have been indications of
movements, but I do not think
much will be attempted in this quarter
right away. However it may be so.
How much love to Ella. Lizzie has
got some "olive branches". Ella must make
haste - kiss the boy - "I do wish you
could come only & bring Lucy or Grace.
You could have many opportunities
for doing good in the various hospitals
and no of our mission affectionately
this

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

May 16th New Market Va. 1863.

My dear Brother.

I have just received
your kind letter of the 12th Inst. I am sur-
prised at the information you have received
and more particularly at that you have
not received. The 2nd Daughter was a 3^d.
Boy. Was born on May 3^d the day of the
terrible battle of Chancellorsville. I have
asked Lizzie to name him for a
dear young man, Capt. Dossan, who
was on my staff & killed while
vallying the men. His name was Fred-
erick. All the rest of this family were
spared. I cannot say anything that
will be of service to you in allaying yr.
anxiety. We made a campaign
of ten days, and have returned
to the place of starting. The
injuries inflicted on both sides are

great. Both of us are boasting - but
here we are & daily 9 months with
52 yrs. Right on having the same.
"Well." "Does your courage play?" No.
I've not passed through the fiercest
battles of Bull Run, and was not
I near the 2nd. If my truck was
in mine, I could be an armistice
& should have played long
ago. But you know I trust in
God. I believe He means something
by this revolution. I believe I am
right in standing by the govern-
ment and that Stonewall Jackson
was on the wrong side, but would
to God our kind Father, that he
might give us more men & more
leaders than we now have, who
possess the virtues of that man.
The hand of God seems against me,
I know I am weak & unworthy, but I
do trust in that strong arm. Alas
if we will let him he will

help us. But we have a strange
people. Mercenary. Boasting, ungodly.
Gen. Hooker is said to be infidel.
He swears. Gen. Sickles is known -
He had given us Sickles to lead
so I shall cry with vexation Theron
and plead to be delivered. Would
that you would plead with our
Father to convert the soul of Gen.
Hooker. It is just what we need.
The Rebels are raising God &
appealing to Him. We are
despising God & trusting in fine
looking soldiers. But His arm
is not shortened that it cannot
save. We have not the rebel
hate in our hearts and this makes
us think we are braver than they - for
while they hate us they cannot love
really love God. My heart bleeds for
the poor people who are impoverished
by this rebellion & the war entailed by
it. Large families know not when

know what we shall try next. but
since the two years & 4 months
were an going out or are already
gone our numbers will be very
much reduced - I hope the draft
will be applied as soon as possible.
for I am anxious to get this
work done. How is everything
about home. I can hardly think
of Jane Bates as gone - I have ^{not}
heard from George & Kate.
Give my love to all our
friends. I hope Roland, Cynthia &
and the children are well. Give
love to father. Mother & you
all. Please for me -- affection
of son
Otis

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

May 17 New Brooker Pa,
Station

1863.

My dear Mother

I received a letter from
Farmington from Rowland yesterday.
He speaks of your visit and of your
health. He thinks you feel that your
work is too hard for you. I think some-
times that I do very little for your com-
fort, but I know that you enjoy as much
as anything the good name of your
children and their real welfare. but if
I can do anything to make life pleasant
for you & father I am anxious to do
it. I presume father's mind must

be interested in public affairs just now. My own thoughts lie in that direction so much & with so much attendant anxiety that I am ~~apt~~ apt to avoid the subject in all private letters. We all have felt badly that my ~~self~~ did not do better, but that is past. If men were not afraid to die it would simplify matters very much. They are afraid of fear makes them run. I should certainly despair of my country, did I not know that there is an over-riding power & that He will guide even amid the turbulent passions of men. If fear there is something very wrong, perhaps radically wrong among us. ~~He~~ We must yet be much humbled before we come any where near a dependence on God. We look to President to lead us but not to God. I know as well as anybody the value of instruments, but they are not the main thing. We will have to suffer. become poor & starving. Learn to appreciate our blessings by the loss of them. before we can come up to the spirit weeping for us in this terrible crisis. Some of our country ~~must~~ take the place of love of money. I don't

Good bye - God bless you
& the baby & the
little ones - I shall
write you soon again
Sincerely
Otis

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

May 22nd

N.Y.,

New Brook's Station 1863.

Dear Sir,

At the request of Genl.
Hooker, I went up to Washington two
nights before last. I spent one day
& one night in Washington & returned
yesterday. Day before yesterday I
spent in running about with the Ochs-
ford of the time & part of the time
with our friend Sen. Dean. Charles &
I went the President in his grounds
before breakfast. He appointed a meeting
with me after breakfast. The other men

Then we visit Mr. Farwell at his
office. After about half an hour
Chas. & I visited the President. He
had a good deal to say about the
campaign of nine days & a good
many questions to ask. We saw then
nearly all the Secretaries. Of whom
Secretary Chase is my friend & favorite.
Then we called on the Sec. of War
at his office. After that visited
Admiral Foster, Smith, Davis & the
Secretary of the Navy. I was very
warmly received at Washington.
Drew took me to call on Mrs. &
Miss & Mrs. Davis where I had
a very pleasant call & many


questions about your health &c.
Miss Davis is about the age of
I much like Miss Blanche Bond
and wants to know you. Drew has
been sick & the Davis ladies have
taken so much care of him there
so kind that he is filled with gratitude
towards them. I am writing this
time down in haste that I
like but the time for the
mail has come & I have lost
another day very cheap &
you not get a letter. We
found Mary Lee & wife in Washing-
ton. She came down
with us. All well -

the Army is now doing well. but
grant us success in that quarter.
I think we are to be led to a
gradual sweep so that we shall
not be carried away by pride
and arrogance and annihilate all
the good points intended for us in
this great revenge operation. I got
led from promotion to a Brigadier
General & have assigned him to a brigade
in this Corps. Gen. McLean has gone to
Gen. Burnside. We are going to have
service this morning. How very warm it is -
no rain for many days. Much
love to the children. and many kisses &
with love to your Mother Lovingly
Daddy

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Near Brooke's Station Va.,
May 23^d 1863.

Dearest.

I told you in yesterday's letter
that Miss Lizzie Lee came from Washington
with us. Yesterday Charles took her to Mal-
vergn, to see Fredericksburg & the troops
on the way thither. She thinks she
had a fine time notwithstanding the
roughness of the roads & of the carriage.
Last night we gave her a tea party inviting
all the ladies & a few gentlemen - i.e. Mrs
Barlow, Mrs St. Parker (a wife regular)
Mrs Hovey & Dr. Mrs Steinwer & the Gen.

Mr Schurz & Col Don Wilson - All
the ladies did not come viz Mrs B.
& Mrs P absent. Only the Band of
the 33^d Mass. came & played during
the evening. While I was gone our kitchen
was nearly filled with sharks. Now
the Germans are making me a porch of
of boardwalks. They have already made
two long & rustic seats on the
right side of my door.  a
wonderful way & I have found a
fine place to play if they were
with paper. All is very pleasant
but it is not home is it Darling -

Howard writes me a most excellent
description of our little 'Branch' - Very

fine boy. quite advanced for a lady.
Gannie is happy, fresh & handsome
than ever. Now if Mamma is only
all well we have reason to be
very, very happy & thankful.
Sunday morning. We are all very well this
morning. Mrs Perry Lee is still here. Perry
has tendered his resignation and has an
appointment in the Navy. His resignation
has not yet been accepted as he put it in
yesterday. Charles continues well & so
does Capt. Stinson. I have thought
some about leaving the service, but I do
not think it the proper time now. I
cannot make up my mind to it. The
work is not yet done. On the Mississippi

think of. Gen Howard has come out
for the morning. But as I saw him sitting
you yesterday. his letters would give you all news
of himself. Cousin Charles came in to sit down
and write his speech before but something
has taken him away. I hope your only son baby
& children are well. I thought often how anxious
you must have been during those fearful days.

In going to a hospital tent & seeing the hot
sun beating down on the poor men. I felt I could
not be very thankful enough that all clear to me
was spared. My husband was sent up his
regiment. If it is not accepted today I shall
go and remain with him a while. It is not
as pleasant in a house even I think as a good
tent. as things are not kept so tidy about.

Yesterday came the good news "that Vicksburg
is ours." We had service and Mrs Sampson
was here it is a long way to the
hospital. I shall hope to have the pleasure
of having a visit from you sometime &
will do all in my power to try and make
it pass pleasantly. My home is but two

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

Bricks Station May 26 1863.

My dear Mrs Howard.

Though I have
not yet had the pleasure of meeting you I
hope some day to claim a cousinship. And
being a guest here I thought it might be
pleasant for you to have a lady description of
your husband's present camp home which is
very pretty and comfortable. My visit here was
so unexpected that I can say it all the more.
My dear took a flying trip to Brooklyn and
brought me to Washington last Sunday.

The next day I was most happily surprised
by a call from Gen Howard and father. Perry
spoke very feelingly of bringing me down. when your
husband really gave me an invitation which at
first I could hardly realize could be possible
As I now thought I could come.

But Thursday noon I found myself at
Head Quarters and after a spate of of a

coat of dust. I looked up & saw a beautiful
little encampment. Enclosed with a thick
hedge of cactus in the form of a square. Enter-
ing the opening it looked like a fairy's woodland
each side the white tents were partly screened
by rows of pine and cactus. In the center
stood a flag staff. Opposite the gate way is
the g. General's tent which is of course the
finest of any, being twice as large and containing
some luxuries. All the tents were very nice &
bare floors and are very comfortable and pretty.
You will be most interested to hear of the
tent I am now sitting in. The walls about
six feet high of hem logs, above which is stretched
the tent making it quite high and as it
consists of two a goodly sized apartment.

The floor is of hem logs - and half of it boasts
of a bright carpet of which the legend is it came
from the city over the great river. A comfortable
bed covered with a robe. A writing desk & table,
and quilted hat, & small stands, a stove & bed.
pretty camp chairs complete the picture. I
was surprised to find everything so nice, here.

But I find all Head Quarters are not
kept quite so neatly. I've seen a dinner
serving. And we adjourned to a side tent.

The latter really said and plates for eight
when seated a colored woman if any stood
suddenly in the back ground & a little girl of
about twelve whose comical gravity in watching
me is amusing - Her eyes are like some pictures
where ever you turn they follow you. I feel that I
have given you but a poor description of this
place. but I heard some one speaking of having
a picture taken of it. which I hope you will
see. I have forgotten to speak of an cactus
screen just by the tent door covered at the sides
& top by weaving the branches thick with poles.
each side is a rustic seat or bench.

Spickly & rode to St Albans and
every mile had much to interest. That evening
Mr & Mrs Maj Tom Hinckley & Mr & Mrs Dr
Hoy were at tea and the 33rd Band played
for us that evening. I have enjoyed every
moment I have been here. and it will be
one of the brightest spots in future for me

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
New Market Station

May 26th 1863.

Dearest,

I received a letter from you
sunday afternoon, and felt sorry indeed
that seeing your friends had proved so
bad for you - but I hope after a little
quiet you are yourself again. I am not
so sure that my coming might not excite
you even though I belong there. I do not think
I can go home now. I will tell you my
reasons. My Corps did not do very well
at Shmuckville, now every body who
is to blame tries to shift the responsi-
bilty upon somebody's else shoulders.

The Germans and the Americans are many
of them against me. It was my first
trial with them. Now I must drill &
discipline my command & get it in hand
I must work to get good officers in
the command of Brigades and Regiments

I must be here to head off reinforcements. I want the command to leave me and I wish to leave it. Again I rather apprehend an attack here after the affair at Dickburg which is so disastrous to the rebels. They will try some game to retrieve their losses. Most probably will accumulate a very large force against Rosecrans. In that case we should not be attacked but perhaps now something desperate will be attempted and we will crop them as I attack us hoping to crush them. I am sure now that we have lost so many two year & nine month regiments. I have substituted recruiting (a little) but do not think this a proper time. The Christian people who look to me as a sort of representative, would be disappointed if I deserted my colors now. Then I am under a little cloud - tenderly excused but yet unsuccessful and I have not been accustomed to success under

difficulties. Mrs Lee is still here. I have not quite given my consent that she may go to her sister's. I go so very soon unless at night I go back in the morning. She says she wants to write you & tell you she did yesterday. She would tell you so very many interesting details that I have thought it would be a relief to you. Ballou thinks I must be going home to see that little boy. I think we might make the name Chancery Howard. It is pleasantly sounding but I am afraid he will be a little odd. I could always see you all as Rowland described the home scenes when he was with you.

Much love & many kisses - but then you are lovingly
Otho

and true soldier, and a good man.
I told you I called to see him (I think)
when in Washington. This evening
Miss Whittier & I went to the
153 Penn. St. to a Freys meeting.
They have picked up some seats of
split logs out of doors, and had their
prayer-meeting by moon light. They
sung in English & in German -
they sang in English & then in
German. I wish I could see you this
quiet Sabbath evening. My dear
family & Whittier are all asleep
would we have a good time ram-
bling, prospecting & chatting - I
hope this will find you quite well.
Much love from father to my dear
and sister for James & the baby -
I think my dear has a great many
studies. Her & Mary are very
dear & very lovely little family.
Remember me kindly to Mrs. A. &
Lottie. I am your true friend Mother & the

Heat Quarters 11th Corps
May 31st 1863. (Near Brooke's Stn.)

Dearest,

Your last letter received was written on
the 22nd inst. It is now nine days since that &
I am hoping to hear from you today. I have been
hoping that you would not read the News Paper much, till
the public mind had been turned to other
topics than our defeat. I cannot escape censure
in reference to that unfortunate affair of May 2nd.
and it is impossible to get along without sneering.
If my incompetency can be established the 11th
Corps throw a load of obloquy from its own
shoulders on me. If the President will retain
Gen. Sigel, superseding me or sending me
elsewhere, the Germans have gained their
point and can abuse me with impunity.
Again some of my friends have thought I
would be an available candidate for
the Governorship of Maine and though I
have already declined, still this gets round
and makes for me political enemies; and the
disaster gives a handle against me. Then

my little wife when she is not very strong ought not
allow herself to read newspapers much. The
Boston Journal & the Liberator are friendly &
leave. General Hooker is a very politic man &
I think will sacrifice me the moment he
thinks it necessary. If I could quietly go
home when I am laid the quiet I should like
it, but one becomes so involved. My staff are dependent
on me. The Christian element in the Army &
out of it expects much of me as a Christian.
My sense of duty in this crisis would keep
me in the service. I said nothing to the
President. Sec. of War & to Gen. Hooker.
If you have anybody else whom you
deem better able under the circumstances to
command this Corps you must not hesitate
on any account to give him the command.
Major Whittelsey has put in his resignation.
It is hard to lose such a fast friend from the military
family and one with such good sound
practical sense. We have hardly had
a rainy day since the 1st of May &
the dust is everywhere abundant. Almost

as much so as in Florida. Since I began my letter
we have had a preacher who came originally
from the North of Ireland but is now located
in Pennsylvania, discourse to us. Having he
might not come as he belonged to the Christian
communion and stopped at Nahant, so Maj
Whittelsey invited another a chaplain of the 153^d
Regt. They both came strangers to each other
the former Mr. Mr. Stevens preached a most
excellent helpful sermon from the text
There is joy in the presence of the angels
of God now our Saviour that repenteth..
~~There is a~~ After he closed, the Chap-
lain said he had selected the same
text for us & prayed over it, expecting
to preach from it. It was a singular coin-
cidence and I hope it was the means of
bringing some one to the truth. This
afternoon Mrs Lee & Mary called. They
have a room in a house now. Mr.
Lewis came back from Washington today
He attended Kirk's funeral. Poor
Kirkley was gone. He was a brave