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1956 8/3/1863

*From:* Sarah E. Sargent.

*To:* Dear Cousin Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1906

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[303]

Leeds Aug 3d 1863

Dear Cousin Lizzie

Aunt Eliza is very much engaged this morning, and has requested me to write you, as she is preparing for commencement. She will go to Brunswick tomorrow, and return on Friday. I came to Leeds last Thursday, and made a little visit at Uncle Ensign's and came here Saturday evening, intend to return to Farmington tomorrow, unless I shall conclude to attend commencement, which is very doubtful, as I do not like to leave my little boys, and it would be quite impossible to take them with me. Frank is anticipating a great deal of pleasure, from Guy's visit at Farmington, and I hope you will be able to make us a visit there at the same time. It would give us much pleasure to see you, and the other children, and it is not a long, or tiresome journey from here. I want to see the little one, very much, what is his name to be?

Letters came from Charles on Saturday eve, dated Warrenton Junction July 29th. They were resting there for a few days waiting for horses for the Artillery. They were all well. How thankful we should be that their lives, and health, have been so mercifully preserved, amid so many dangers, and hardships, and I trust their precious lives may be spared for many long years of usefulness, and Influence.

You have doubtless heard of dear Perry's terrible wound, his right arm was amputated at the shoulder joint. I have not heard for a week from him, but hope that "no news is good news". His Wife is with him at Gettysburg, and he has every comfort and attention possible. We feel that he is still in much danger, but he seems hopeful and cheerful, and says "he is glad he has still one arm left, to defend his Country's flag, and that arm is ever ready when needed." I am glad he feels so resigned, but it is a terrible loss, and I fear it will be a long time before he fully recovers his health.

Mr and Mrs Oscar Turner will go to Augusta, as soon as "haying is over", sooner if convenient, and Aunt Eliza says they will bring Grace up with them, and she shall be very glad to receive a visit from her, and from you, and the little ones, when you can make it convenient. Her health is about as usual, and she has a good girl, now with her. Uncle Gilmore's finger is still very sore, but they hope it is improving. It is not as painful, but it looks terribly. He endures it with great patience. Many of the people here oppose the draft, and nearly all, "hope to be excused", on account of physical disability. It is too bad we have so little Patriotism among us, and very discouraging.

We are having very warm and sultry weather. I shall be glad when "dog days" are over. How uncomfortable it is for the sick and wounded. Capt. Keens funeral sermon was preached here yesterday by Mr Holt. It was very Patriotic, and we hope may have a good influence on the People here. A great many attended.

Aunt Eliza joins me in much love to yourself and Children. Give much love to Otis, when you write to him, and if you can find a spare moment, it would give me much pleasure to receive a letter from you, and hoping that you will visit us at Farmington soon, believe me as ever

Affectionately your cousin  
Sarah E. Sargent.

Aunt Eliza is very anxious to see Grace, and thinks Mr Turner will go down in a few days. Her lameness is quite well, and she wants very much to see you all. She is very much obliged for the Photographs, and thinks that they are "pretty good, but not quite handsome enough". I wish you would send me a Carte de Visite of yourself, as I have one of Otis, in my Album, and the Picture is not complete without yours on the opposite page. I have one of Rowland and Ella and Charlie.

Sarah.

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1957 8/4/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1907

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Catlett's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[391]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Near Catlett's Station Aug 4, 1863

Dearest,

I have been trying to get a leave of absence for several days but have'nt yet succeeded. I tho't Gen Meade disposed to grant the indulgence the other day. He said he would let me know. I may get home as soon as this letter. I have tried for a leave of 20 days and will (if I can) take Chas. & Harry Stinson along with me. No leaves except on Surgeon's certificate have been granted yet, and I am neither sick nor wounded.

Yesterday I moved to this place - Mr Catlett's about a mile from the Depot. It is a beautiful place. Mr & Mrs Catlett about our age & time of life. Mrs C has two little children, has recently lost her youngest. Though evidently southern in sympathy, yet she is a perfect lady - servants gone, milks her cow, makes her own bread. The little boy is gone on a visit, the little girl Lottie is a sweet little one, about 4 years old, wants me to bring her a doll, which I have promised when I go on home. She cant get Dolls nor even shoes. You can hardly realize the misery of living in this region with a family, where the people can go, neither this way nor that.

The breaking up my Corps has been given up - surely until a complete reorganization of this army takes place.

Give much love to the children. Perhaps papa will see the baby before long. God bless you all.

Lovingly,  
Otis

P.S. I hear Mother is quite well.

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1958 8/6/1863

*From:* O.O. Howard  
M.G.

*To:* Gen'l [Unknown]

OOH-1908

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[395]

United States Military Telegraph  
1 A.M.  
Dated Aug 6th 1863

Genl

Your message was sent promptly to Hd Qrs. The operator there (H.Q) told me both Gen Ingalls & Gen Williams had gone to bed. I will send your answer over immediately on its arrival (probably in morning).

Respy

This little is all the answer I could get.

Respy  
O.O. Howard  
M.G.

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1959 8/9/1863

*From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1909

Depot Camp 8th Corps  
Hartford Conn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[396]

Depot Camp 8th Corps  
Hartford Conn. Aug 9th 1863

My dear Genl,

My thots often turn toward you, especially on the Sabbath. And to-day the past came up to my mind. I have been reflecting on the scenes of the last two years. How changed. How many of troops whom we met at Bladensburg one Sabbath in September are gone, Rodman and Curtis, Miller and Conner, and now Cross. And how varied have been our lives. How little we knew of the future. How good has God been to me. I was inclined to these tho'ts from a sermon which I heard this a.m. from the text "They are new every morning" Lamentations 3d.23d. And as I sat alone in my tent this afternoon, and the past crowded upon me I could but add, "Great is Thy faithfulness." How little I have tho't of His daily mercies, Oh what an ungrateful child I have been. May I be more faithful and may grace abound more in my heart.

I wonder where you are to-day? Are you in the enjoyment of a quiet Sabbath? Or is the holy day broken and disturbed by the necessities of the Campaign.

I was suddenly ordered from Mass. to report in Washington for nurse, from there I was sent here with seven companies. I have sent three under Maj. Wardwell to N.H. and have four at this Camp. We were sent to aid in the draft, but we have had not the slightest trouble. Everything is quiet. I can not say that I fancy this service, it is not at all pleasing to me, and I hope soon to be relieved from it. If my health was good, I would at once ask to be sent to the army. I have been quite unwell for the last fortnight. I am living in Camp, and enjoying the luxury of a pole bed stead. My wife was with me at Minha, but I do not expect her to join me again until I am located for the winter. I have not a religious acquaintance here, all around me are profane. Maj. D. D. Perkins, Capt. 4th Artillery is Provost Marshall Genl here, and Capt. Owens of the 5th Cavalry is Inspector.

The people have not manifested the least interest in the spiritual welfare of the soldiers. Yesterday I addressed a note to the City Missionary asking him to visit the Camp to-day, and I am to have service at 5 this evening. I wish you were here to talk to the men. They are a hard set, taken from all the Hospitals. Some of the Officers are fair, and some "utterly worthless".

I can hardly keep the Army of the Potomac in view. I suppose you are on the banks of the Rappahannoc, perhaps have advanced. May God go with you, as he did with his people of old, and especially may he keep and preserve you, my dear friend. I am confident of the result, but there is to be fighting yet. Oh that the north was more loyal. I see that my old friends in Me. (the Democracy) have "rolled in the dirt" again.

I should be very glad to hear from you, but your time is occupied. Give my kindest regards to Charles, & ask him to write me. Remember me to Lt. Col. Balloch, & tell him that I am ashamed that I had to send my men to New Hampshire to take care of his boys.

May the love of our Saviour abound in your heart.

Yrs. Truly  
F.D. Sewall [Frederick]

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1960 8/14/1863 *From:* Jeanie H Grey

*To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-1910

Buttermilk Falls [NY]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[397]

Buttermilk Falls  
14 Aug 1863

Dear General Howard,

I hasten to copy a letter I received this morning from I.F. Headley written Saturday, and please answer as soon as possible as I would not send him one word that you had not seen. He need not know or any one on earth that I wrote to you, but I want it well authenticated before he gets any thing.

“Dear Jeanie

Can't you furnish me some facts about Gen. Howard which will help me in making up a biographical sketch of him. 1st Was he a professing Christian when he came to West Point or became one while there. 2nd Was he a teacher in the Sabbath school, & what he did in it - the part he took in meetings &c. 3rd Any anecdotes or facts in relation to his religious life at West Point – his companions &c – recall some of the things he has said to you. Now if you will thump your noodle a little & give me a few scraps right away, I shall feel much obliged.

Yours truly

Any thing about his family – their position occupation &c. Didnt you tell me he prayed with his regiment the first time he met it. Tell me all the anecdotes you ever heard of him.

I.F. Headley”

Now I humbly opine that this is the one to do you justice, dear General Howard, & as I have had so few opportunities of seeing papers & have never corresponded with any one near you & am most anxious to see you done justice to, as our much loved friend I write at once, and beg you will promptly send me some thing of your life that you would most like to come from the historians' pen!

Our best & kindest love  
Jeanie H Grey

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1961 8/17/1863

*From:* A.M. Carter

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1911

Bank of Baltimore

USA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[308]

Bank of Baltimore  
Aug 17th 1863

Major Genl Howard  
USA  
My Dear Sir,

I was one of the few who helped to refresh your first regiment during its passage thro' our city, since which time I have watched your course with no small degree of interest, if your course as a soldier of our beloved union has not failed to challenge my love & admiration you may be sure that your career as a soldier of the Cross has bound me to you as with hooks of steel & has led me to pray God to bless you & to prosper you in the great work to which in his providence he has called you.

I daily realize the fact that our country needs Christian patriots both in the field & in the cabinet & halls of legislation as well as in the private walks of life – men who fear God & eschew evil.

In my humble position as a bank teller & an Elder in the church & a Sab School Supt. it is my earnest desire to do what I can to better the condition of things in our unhappy land, to “fear God & honor the King “ & to teach this by precept & example to do likewise.

About a year ago while confined to a sick room I wrote the enclosed little tract “Watch” after earnestly seeking the Divine blessing upon the feeble & imperfect effort.

The gallant & christian Genl Burnside & others – chaplains &c, commended it . The American Tract Society & Presbytn Boardd adopted it among their soldiers series, various religious papers copied it & it has gone forth by 1000s in the name of Him who has said “My word shall not return unto me void &”.

And may he bless it to the Salvation of souls to the glory of his own great name.

I also enclose 3 little hand bills which are pages in my own life - should you think favorably of any of the enclosed I will be glad to forward some to your address.

Very resply yr Obt svt  
A.M. Carter

Care of  
<?? [Frayed bottom of page]> Baltimore

I send you also <> mail  
“Show your colors”  
“Matt the idiot boy”  
“Something for boys “  
“God will shew me the way”  
“The child angel”

[Written across the top of the first page by Lizzie Howard]  
I have taken out the tracts mentioned on last page. Lizzie

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1962 8/20/1863

*From:* C. Schurz  
Maj. Gen.  
Head Quarters  
3rd Division

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
  
Cmdg 11th Corps.

OOH-1912

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[No number stamp]

"Extract"  
Head Quarters 3rd  
Division August 20th 1863

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Comd'g 11th Corps.

General:

On the part taken by my division in the actions of July 2d & 3rd I have the honor to submit the following report.

x x x x x x x x x x x x

Extract:

Between 6 & 7 o'clock P.M. July 2d the enemy made a demonstration upon our right wing. As soon as the firing commenced, you ordered me to send one of my brigades to the support of Gen. Ames, Comd'g 1st Division.

I took the first Brigade, Col. von Amesberg comd'g, out of its position filling its place behind the stone wall with the reserve Regiments of the 2d Brigade. One of the 5 Regiments of the 1st Brigade the 44th Penn. was left with Gen. Ames to strengthen his right wing. The remaining four were directed toward a strip of wood, on the right of the 1st Division, in which the firing had become very heavy, and where, according to a report of some staff officer of the 1st Corps, immediate aid was needed. Two Regiments the 157th N.Y and the 61st Ohio were guided by one of these officers, while the two others the 45th New York and the 82d Illinois under the command of Col. Salomon were directed by my Chief of Staff Lieut Col. Otto.

It had meanwhile become quite dark, the direction of the fight being indicated by nothing, but the sound of musketry. The Regts entered the woods with the greatest determination, and drove the enemy from our rifle pits, of which at several points he had already gained possession.

It is my pleasant duty to mention as especially deserving the names of Lieut. Col. Otto who showed great judgment and courage and of Colonel Edward J. Salomon of the 82d Illinois who displayed the highest order of coolness and determination under very trying circumstances. At 9 o'clock the enemy was repulsed at that point and no further demonstrations made.

x x x x x x x x x x x x

I am general very respectfully yours  
(sig) C. Schurz  
Maj. Gen. comd'g Division

[written in pencil at the bottom of the last page] w/ letter #16.

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1963 8/22/1863

*From:* Chas. R Custer

*To:* Maj Genl O. Howard

Col. 134th Rgt.

OOH-1913

No 18 University Place

Rikers Island

*Source:* Bowdoin

New York

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[399]

Rikers Island  
Aug 22d 1863

To  
Maj Genl O. Howard  
General

I have the honor to address you to request a favor for myself, if the granting of it is found consistent with your opinion on the subject. My request is if you think my past services and present capability entitle me to hold the rank of Brig. Genl. of Vols. that you recommend me for that promotion.

I know that you have already recommended three officers of the Corps for promotion, and therefore do not desire to interfere with the claims of others doubtless more deserving and meritorious than myself; but, if my request is consistent with your views I most earnestly solicit your help.

I have made this request - believing that the 11th Corps is to be broken up and yourself receive some other and higher command under which circumstance I would be forced perhaps to undergo another long campaign before gaining the confidence of my new commander. If you have already made the official report of your recommendation I sincerely trust that you will unofficially give me a recommendation in the reply with which I hope your valuable time will allow you to honor me.

I am General  
Very respectfully  
Your obdt. Servt.  
Chas. R Custer  
Col. 134th Rgt.

Letter Address  
No 18 University Place  
New York



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1964 8/29/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1914

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[401]

Washington D.C.  
Aug 29 1863

Dearest,

After leaving you & my dear Children, I talked pretty steadily till we got beyond Portland. Our train was delayed by so many Camp meeting people so that we did not reach Boston till 10 ½ P.M. Staid all night at the American. Lt. George Hunton joined us at Livermore Falls, also Maj. Hall from Damariscotta and a Lt Donnel going to join the 20th so that we had quite a party. Early friday morning we left Boston by the Worcester route, reached New York by 5 P.M. had just time to ride through the city to the Jersey City Ferry & cross when the train was ready to leave. At Phila, we all got into a sleeping car & had a good nights rest. Yesterday I had a head ache, but today I am nicely. We got here before 7 a.m. I visited the Sec. of War. He was sorry I came back, said nothing was to be done here right away, wished I would see the President. I went to the Whitehouse saw the President. The President agreed with me that I had better go back to the Army. Called upon Gen. Halleck, met a cordial reception from his Adj. Gen. & himself. Everybody here seems hopeful for a speedy settlement of our difficulties. I shall leave at 2 P.M. in about half an hour for the Army. The Army is where I left it. Give much love to all the children from Papa. May God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Your husband  
Otis

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1965 8/30/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1915

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catletts Sta. Va,

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[402]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catletts Sta. Va,  
Aug 30th 1863

Dearest,

We arrived safely at 7 ½ P.M. last night, found my staff waiting for me at the Depot, with the Cavalry body guard, received a very warm reception. Mr Catletts house was illuminated. My Corps is reduced to a mere handful of men. We are all well. Give much love to the children, to Mother & father. I feel troubled about your cough & your own-working. It seems to me as if I neglected you when at home, but you know I would'nt willingly do it, since you are my dearest earthly treasure. You must take good care of yourself. The mail must go now. Everything is very quiet here just now.

Very affectionately  
Your own husband  
Otis