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1966 9/1/1863

*From:* Sarah B.F. Greble

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

OOH-1916

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[403]

West Point Sep. 1st 1863

My very dear Friend -

Yesterday's mail brought a letter box directed to me but in taking off the outer covering little Clara met my eye, and on opening the box, I found it contained, an exquisite little gold chain, with locket attached, within which were two dear faces, which I love dearly to see together. Clara immediately exclaimed, "Mine own Papa and mine God father." Now I can attribute this kind token to no other hand, than that of your own brave Husband, whose love for my dear Husband and his little God daughter prompted him to send his own face to her, who shall daily learn to love and appreciate one whom we all, as well as our country, value most truly. Clara is a dear little treasure, full of life, impulse & gushing love for everyone. She wins all hearts, but such temperaments as hers need very careful watchful rearing, and I am always so truly thankful that Genl Howard <is her> God-father <[bottom line of page 1 torn off]> her will help me.

I commenced writing in time for to-days mail, but with thousands of interruptions, it is now two oclock and I am just trying to commence again.

Mother returned to us to-night after having been absent from us for ten days. We have missed her sadly but she seems much benefitted by her trip, and I am very thankful she is once more safely at home again. Father has been at the sea-shore for several weeks & has returned to us looking & seeming very much better and stronger. Did you get your picture of Father? We cannot get any of those first best pictures, but we have some now though not nearly so good, and I will send you one if you wish it. Sister Clara has been off for six weeks at Rockaway, the White Mountains, Lake George, Saratoga two weeks, and Catskill with Mr Penningtons parents, who are devoted to Sister Clara. They have been spending this week at Cozzens, while his sisters are with us. Clara is less anxious than she was, hears regularly from Alex, who is spoken of very well indeed by all his brother officers. Brother Johnnie is in New York with the eighth Infantry (regulars) at Governors Island. Marnie is much as you saw her last, gentle & very sweet looking. My little ones are well – bright & happy & the greatest possible comforts to me – in fact to all of us in both homes. I am perfectly well & strong. Clara has the <> pony which I ride almost daily & <[last line page 2 torn off]> expecting to have the pleasure of having dear Papa & Mama Greble with us very soon on their way to Vermont.

I regret very much that you could not have been with Genl Howard in Phila. I long to see you again & live in the hope that some day we may be nearer to each other.

Mr Blunt has been ordered to Fort Hamilton. Maggie is delighted, they intend going to housekeeping there. I went up to Newburg a week ago, to see poor Mrs Williams who has just returned from Detroit, where her little darling baby boy was taken away after only a few hours illness. She left him to sleep upon the bosom of his brave Father, who had never seen this little one. She is gentle, quiet, resigned & truly christian-like. I think her very lovely in character. Mrs Wheeler leaves us tomorrow. She intends staying in Newburg until after a frost, then returning to Washington. Mrs Mendall with her baby are boarding at Mrs Berards at Buttermilk, until she knows where she can pitch her tent for the winter. How sad for her to have no home, no relatives to be with. The Weirs are all well. Robert & his wife have been staying here. Genl & Mrs Seymour have been at home – the Genl was wounded in his foot. <?larck> is to be married in a week or so. John <Weir> I see several times a day. Charlie Bartlett <is> at home, a very shadow of himself. His little <> is with him. She looks a perfect child. <> <?field> has lost her little baby, a fine <[last line page 3 torn off]> other day. He is stationed at Louisville and told me they had lost their eldest child but have two others. Mrs Andy Webb spent Saturday with us. Tell Genl Howard that Mr McCook now Genl has become a member of the church, & has married a lovely little christian lady, who has transformed him. The Berards all seem well. Miss Blanche has gone to stay with Minnie – Mrs Reed - they say is to be married to Smith (Jared I think is his name) in the Spring. Mrs Henry & her daughters were here a week or so ago. They have opened a school in Reading Pennsylvania, where Mr Terrill is buried. Guy is doing finely in Charleston Harbor. There are few families here whom you would know

beside the Professors' families. Everything seems so changed to me.

Do write to me my dear Friend, and tell me all about yourself and all about the dear little ones, giving them each a kiss for me, and please send me Genl Howard's address. I often see little bits about the good he is doing. How proud of and thankful for such a Husband you must be, and that God may spare you to each other and for your little ones is my sincere prayer. All at home here send you dearest love. The Sunday School has been closed for a month, so has the chapel for repairs. Mother has two little <> boys whom she teaches every Sunday. <Ever> my friend you will think I have <[bottom line page 4 torn off]> <[left edge of page 1 torn off -missing top line of sideways writing] those I loved or liked of whom I can hear nothing. The Delafields have been staying at the Hotel & many others whom I ought to tell you, but it is very late and I am very weary & sleepy. Good-night my dear friend, send my best & warmest thanks & love to your husband. Love to your brother Charles also and for yourself.

Heavens choicest blessings with much love believe me to be ever your sincere friend  
Sarah B.F. Greble

It is many months since I have heard from you. I wrote to Genl H in April.

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1967 9/4/1863

*From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1917

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[402]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Va  
Sept 4 1863

Dearest,

I wonder how you are & where you are this morning. I felt quite homesick for a day or two, but begin to get accustomed to the old life. I found my Adj. Gen. Lt. Col. Niezenburg away on a sick leave. Col. Balloch is now gone. I went to Hd. Qrs. yesterday saw Gens. Meade, Williams & Humphreys – all looking well. Gen Williams says, I told them at home he might have a leave as well as not and he never has been able to get away a moment. He says he will have to write in order to explain away my impression. He is a hard working man and perhaps has more to do than any other officer and undoubtedly Gen. Meade does not wish to spare him. Gen. Meade had made the rule that only one Corps Comdr should be absent at the same time. He was a little miffed that the Secretary of War granted me an extension without consulting him, this I think was the ground of his recall. He was very cordial and friendly, shewed me his new sword, with its two dugout scabbards. You never saw anything richer. Garrets, diamonds, gold in profusion. The Gen's initials G.G.M. The coat of arms of the State of Penn. in one place, and the eagle with "E Pluribus Unum" in another. The Gen. says it is too rich, a waste, but he prizes it highly. I feel glad I did not speak any more in Maine. I said what I believed and that is enough. I will enclose you a piece from the Argus which will amuse you.

How is the cough and how is the baby? Tell Guy I found the pony in good condition, a little cross with his ears & frisky when I got on. I shall keep sending to Leeds till I hear from you. Tell Gracie I found little Lottie Catlett very happy with the doll I sent her and shod with some good shoes with brass toes. Does Jamie miss papa as a play fellow? The dear little fellow, his papa would like to have the privilege of playing with him & talking with him every day; and it would be very pleasant to play with the baby, who is given to pulling whiskers. Home is very sweet, very inviting and always longed for, I trust it is not very far off, for many a weary & waiting heart. Yet we will cheerfully endure all this for the blessings that shall follow. The weather is again warm, the ground parched. We have a fly spread over our mess table and you can tell Guy [Missing page, missing ending]

[From OO Howard]

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1968 9/7/1863

*From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-1918

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Near Catletts Stn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[405]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Sept. 7th 1863  
Near Catletts Stn.

My dear Guy

Papa begins to wonder why he does not get a letter from Mamma. Is Mamma sick so that she cannot write? Is her cough bad? Are any of the children ill? How is that sweet little baby, who talked in his own way & pulled his father's whiskers? How is Jamie with his keen, black eyes & his quiet face? How is sister Gracie, with her loving heart? And how is our manly boy Guy? Did you have a happy time at uncle Rowland's? And how is papa's mother, who used to have him, not many years ago as her little boy? Has Grandpa's finger got well? I want to know all these things and whatever else you can tell me about your visit.

Yesterday we had the 33d Massachusetts band come down from Bristow's Station and play for us at an evening service. I didn't understand the sermon much better than you & Grace understand Mr McKenzie's sermons when you don't pay attention, for the minister preached in the German language and papa understood only a few words. But one prayer was in English and the band played sweet hymns. This band staid here all this day (Monday) and have been playing delightfully all the evening.

Little Lottie Catletts has been quite happy. She is the principal reminder of our little household at home. I think of you all every day and try to ask God to bless, direct & preserve you all. Give much love from papa to everyone of the family & write papa a good letter.

Uncle Charles has been in my tent since I began to write; he is very well. He went with Capt. Stinson to inspect the camps of some regiments of this corps. It has been a very warm day today. At midday the heat was oppressive, but now it is comfortable and the katydids are singing their never-ending songs in the trees; the tree toads & crickets mingle their voices. Guy, Grace, Jamie, & the baby asleep – are Mamma & papa awake & thinking? Good night all.

Most lovingly your father  
O. O. Howard

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1969 9/8/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1919

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Sept 8th 1863

Dearest,

I get more and more frightened every day. I think you must be still visiting and cannot write. I think you must be sick and cannot. I remember that naughty cough and am afraid it has holden on. I did not write you at Farmington for you intended to go to Leeds' so shortly, I sent my first letters there – one from Washington with a check & two or three since I returned. Day before yesterday I wrote Guy a letter & directed it to Augusta.

The days are now quite warm and considerably monotonous. I have been reading Fanny Kemble's account of her life as Mrs Pearce Butler on a Georgia plantation for a or two I have stuck pretty closely to the book.

This morning by the help of Major Howard I made out the rest of my report. Gen. Meade required a report of the whole campaign after he took command until he arrived in his present camp. I am now glad it is made.

Did I tell you that after I had returned from reviewing some of my troops at Manassas Junction last Saturday, who should I find here but Genl Meade, Gen Humphrey's Chf. Of Staff and Genl Pleasanton. The latter is one of my old friends in Florida. He was then the handsome Adj. General of General Harney. He used to be the brains of that General. You notice his name doubtless as commanding the Cavalry Corps of this Army. Gen. Meade took dinner with me under our fly; he admired the ability of our cook in making strange devices upon an admirable cake. Our cooks ability of the German cast exceeds anything you find in cities. We have everything – duck, chickens, pies, cakes &c. Dont pity us on account of the poverty of our diet.

We had a little a little episode yesterday to relieve the general monotony – brisk artillery firing was heard about 11 A.M. Charles & I mounted and rode to Warrenton Junction, 3 miles, and found at the telegraph office that it was only artillery practice. It does not do to get excited here, till you are sure.

On friday last I made a very pleasant trip to Greenwich. I have a regiment there. A Mr Green is the principal resident. How glad he was to see me, had often heard of me, and indeed his grounds & buildings are as splendid as J.R. Brown's and his hospitality without stint. He feasted me & my staff. In a solemn manner he craved a blessing at the table and when I afterwards heard Mrs Catletts speak of his benevolence, his character has much impressed me. An Englishman – "British Property" is posted on his gate posts. He has even large stacks of good hay untouched and bee-hives filled with honey in this country of war & theft. His wife is a Virginia lady – rather large, rather masculine, evidently rebel in sympathy.

Our Hd. Qrs. are still at Mr Catletts. No rain has yet fallen since my return & if you have been astonished at our cries of mud, mud in the spring, you would be now at the cry of dust, dust. The ground is parched by the continued heat & drought. I propose to take ride to Hd. Qrs. tomorrow.

Good night darling. I am almost homesick. Much love to the children. Papa dont forget the baby. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1971 9/12/1863     *From:* O.O. Howard

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

OOH-1920

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[408]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
September 12th 1863

My dear little daughter

I wrote Guy a few days ago and now think it is your turn to have a letter. When I began to write I remembered that Mamma said in her last letter that Grace wanted to stay a few days with Grandmother, so I must write to you at Leeds.

Papa has changed his Head Quarters from the pleasant grove at Mr Catlett's house into the open fields on the same farm. Now we are encamped in a semi-circle as you will see by the drawing which I enclose. Little Lottie Catlett who looks something like yourself, gave me a good hearty welcome when I returned and shewed me her nice new doll that she knew I sent her from Washington. One time she understood somebody to say I had been killed and she cried about it very heartily.

How is Grandma? Did you ever think that I was once Grandma's little boy? It does not seem many years ago, when I used to drive up the cows, rake the hay & help husk the corn. Perhaps you may be helping Grandpa pick up apples or be doing something. Grandma never had any little girls. Her children were always noisy bothersome little boys. She must be much pleased to have you to chat with and has, I have no doubt, told you many things about your papa, and uncles, Rowland & Charles.

Some troops went out from this army early this morning to try and see what the rebel General Lee is doing. This is called making a reconnoissance. I have heard firing all day with cannon. I am sorry this work had to be done today, for it is Sunday. For the commandment is, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy"&c.

Gracie will learn that there are two kinds of work that may be done – one, where it is necessary, as to eat your breakfast feed your pig or milk your cow – and the other, where you can be merciful, as to help the sick, or relieve pain. Our Saviour allowed his friends to pluck the ears of corn & eat when they were hungry. He told others, that it was right to pull out an ox or ass which had fallen into a pit on the Sabbath day. You read about it in 14th Chapter of St. Luke.

Give much love to Grandma & Grandpa. I am glad to hear they are so well. Poor Jamie is not quite well. Pray for you papa, and be a very good little girl.

Very affectionately  
O.O. Howard

Uncle Charles is very well and so am I.

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1972 9/12/1863 *From:* [Grace Howard]

*To:* My Dear Mama [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1921

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[407]

Leeds Sept. 12, 1863

My Dear Mama

I hope you are very well. I am getting along nicely. How is the baby. I am having a nice time but some times I wish the baby was here. I now eat but three apples a day. This morning is the sabbath. We went to Mises Lothrope's Friday. How is Jamie is he pretty well. How are you and Guy, and Lott getting along. How does the baby go. Does he go the way he did here. Gran-ma went to metting to-day and I staid at home with grandpa. The package came saturday. But has not come yet to-day is saturday.

Monday. It is in the morn-ing now. I staid in bed

[Grace Howard]

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1973 9/13/1863    *From:* [Eliza Gilmore]

*To:* My dear daughter [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1922

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[409]

Leeds Sept 13, 1863

My dear daughter

You cannot tell how very glad I was to hear from you, and that you reached your home so favorably. I am still feeling badly about Jamie, what does Doct Briggs say about him. I hope he is much better ere this, but still I have my fears that is not the case. Hope Guy and baby are well. How is your cough. Do take care of yourself. Gracie was delighted with her letter and seems to enjoy herself wonderfully. She stays with me more since you went away. Mrs Lothrop invited Mr. Gilmore and I to tea and I took Gracie with me. I told her she might select a dress to suit herself to were, and she chose her green and white plaid and Jack like it. She looked very sweet and pretty and was very lady-like all the time. Her pleasant face is a real comfort.

I found a letter at the P.O. from Dellie on my return home after I left you, written monday morning saying if we wished him to return home to vote we might send for him, but unless we had written at the office that night and left it to go the next morning, it could not have reached him in time for him to come home saturday. I am realy sorry. I thought him more patriotic than he actually proves to be. He wrote from North Easton and is now probably at Westborou. Gracie has been printing a letter to you. She will do some more to it in the morning. The package came safely to Mr Lothrop's. Mr Gilmore came away without it last evening. Gracie was quite disappointed when he told her of it.

I attended the quarterly Methodist meeting on the ridge today. Gracie did not care to go, and I was satisfied to have her stay with her grandpa. There is always such a crowd at those meetings.

[Missing closing, from Eliza Gilmore]



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1970 9/11/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1923

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Catletts Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[410]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Sept 11th 1863  
Catletts Station

Dearest,

I received your bundles of letters with two most welcome ones from yourself. I had already begun one to Grace & intended to send it to Leeds as you said in the letter from Leeds that you would probably leave her there for awhile. I am sorry to hear that our little Jamie is so unwell, but am in hopes that you & Dr Briggs by the divine blessing will soon cure him.

Yesterday a reconaissance was made by quite a large body of our Cavalry, supported by the 2nd Corps. They found only a small force in front and pushed on as far as the Rapidan yesterday taking a few prisoners & three heavy guns. Some change will be likely to take place in our position before this reaches you. We dont know yet where Lee has gone. Gen. Meade may by this time.

Much love to Guy, Jamie & the baby - & not a little to your own self.

Mrs Greble wrote a letter much like herself. She seems to have liked little Clara's present. "Papa and John must come home again before long." John takes a great deal of pleasure in bringing in good letters. He says, "it is not a good one General" frequently. The other day, he came with one to my tent & said, he believed it was a good one, but was'nt very sure. The envelope was from Leeds and was'nt white.

May God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

Charlie & Harry both well.

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1974 9/18/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1924

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Station

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[411]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Station Sept. 18, 1863

Dearest,

I received a letter from you yesterday, mailed monday morning. "Jamie was better but very weak and low." I immediately telegraphed you "How is Jamie?" but do not get an answer. I do hope God will spare us, but when I think of my sins I dont feel that He can. You did right in bringing him home, please dont think of blaming yourself for want of care. "Whom He loveth He chasteneth and scourgeth every son that he receiveth". He is indeed a beautiful boy, graceful, noble, may we not bring him up to love and be loved to do good! Our own little links darling are yet all on the earth. Oh, how many beloved boys, this year, God has called away.

It rains very hard, it pours, and a very sad, sad, thing is to be done today. A poor German soldier is to be shot this afternoon in my command. He deserted in a passion; was a good soldier but he deserted, was caught, courtmartialled and sentenced to be shot. After it was settled, then calls came for pardon or mitigation. I recommended that he be pardoned on account of past good conduct, present repentance & promises of future good behaviour, but General Meade decided that he must die and I think the General is right. This poor misguided man must suffer, but thousands will probably be saved by it, still it is very sad. He has a wife and four children at home. His wife was a widow with three and he married her and has had one child. I sent for a German priest to Alexandria. He seems an excellent man, came and breakfasted with me this morning. He wanted to have the man saved. He has gone to him again to say that there is no hope.

I wonder why you do not reply to my dispatch - it is so short: he is well, he is better. Where are you today. You & the baby and poor little Jamie in "Mamma's room". I do feel cheerful and hopeful but, as you must sometimes, in suspense.

Charles has just come in to read over some letters that a lady of this country wishes to send north. These ladies cannot put many secrets in their letters. I should'nt like to write that way, should you? One of our officers was shot at from the bushes, just outside of our outposts or rather not far from Greenwich. We had all the citizens in that vicinity apprehended and brought in. One old gentleman and his daughter (the Marstella's) were among them. I released them all as there was no proof against them, but I hope I frightened them sufficiently, so that they will exert themselves to prevent such unpleasant occurrences. I have written Gracie. God bless you all and save us from Sorrow if it be his holy will.

Your Loving husband  
Otis.

p.m. Friday

Have got no answer yet to my messages to you, but I find there is no communication with Washington on account of the storm, probably telegraph poles have blown down. It has now cleared off and the weather is fair indeed. A letter was received from mother today and I will copy what she says about you and Jamie. "Lizzie was happy here and spoke of what a relief it was to be so quiet, ... but after Jamie lost his health she was anxious to go home. She went two days sooner than we anticipated. Dr Loring said it would not hurt him to go. He, Jamie, asked a number of times to go to Ja's home. I went with her to Brunswick... Grace seems happy, was delighted to have a whole letter of her own printed, from her mother." She says, near the close of her letter: "I am afraid Lizzie will wear herself out if Jamie should remain sick long." I have quoted this because I thought you feared mother would blame you for taking Jamie home from what you said in your letter.

I am not depressed & feel that all will be well. Tell Guy papa thinks much about him, hopes he enjoys his school. Kiss the baby & Jamie for papa and may Our precious Saviour be very nigh you till we meet again. I am guarding the communications with my reduced Corps. I was'nt quite reconciled but I know this is right.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1975 9/18/1863      *From:* John S. Sewall

*To:* My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1925

Wenham Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[412]

Wenham Mass.  
Sep. 18, 1863

My dear Howard -

Will you recognize my handwriting? I have taken out paper many a time to write you, since you went out in Command of the 3d Maine, but have as often concluded th. you already had so much correspondence, & probably too so much official business to attend to besides, th. it w'd be really more friendly to let you alone. But I met yr. brother Rowland at Commence't last August, & he assured me it was not so.

I cannot tell you how my heart has been with you & with all our brave boys thro' this terrible struggle, & how much I have wanted to be on the spot with you to share the labor & danger. We are all in for the Union & for the war with all our hearts. I am rejoiced to see such a triumph in Maine. Its moral influence will equal I hope a victory in the field, & will encourage our friends & defenders in the army.

It has been a source of great pleasure to me to find th. among all the turmoil of active service yr. heart holds itself true to the higher Cause of Christ. You may be sure there are multitudes of Christian men & women all thro' N. England, who sympathise with you & pray for you. They have rejoiced in yr. constancy & christian consistency. And I doubt not th. many a time when in the midst of difficulties & temptations yr. weak heart has felt strengthened – that invigorating influence fr. above may have been drawn down upon you by the prayers of many whom you never saw. I trust you will be enabled to “endure to the end” & th. your influence over the troops may be blessed to many conversions among them.

You will ask me to tell you something abt. myself. I am settled over the Ch. in this town – have been since Apr. '57. My relations to my people are of the pleasantest sort. I love them & they love me. We get along as happily as 2 peas in a pod. I endeavor to preach to them the whole truth - “the truth as it is in Jesus” - & sometimes feel encouraged by their interest, & by an occasional conversion. I visit them considerable, & endeavor to talk with them personally; & tho' I find it a laborious life, it is yet I hope a useful life, & one in wh. I take a deal of comfort. A few of my “spare hours” (& they are very few I assure you) I occupy with writing for some of our religious quarterlies; & this is a sort of labor for wh. I have quite a fancy.

I am married – to the eldest daughter of S.P. Benson of Winthrop – M.C. For Kennebec 1852-56 - & we have 2 little children - Julia 3 ½ years old & Benson, 1 1/6. We are a happy family, & all the more so th. Mr. B. lives with us (has an office in Boston), - & Lillie, his youngest & only surviving daughter.

So much for my history. If I c'd have got anything like a consent fr. my family or my parish, I should have been able to add to it a chapter of the war, for I have longed to be there, personally engaged, either with bible or Sword.

I have often recalled the pleasant hours we spent together in the North end of Maine Hall - the battles we used to fight with Jack Bulfinch & Sam Buck on the old green lounge, the pages of calculus we used to puzzle over, & the walks we used to take down among the “whispering pines”. Life did not look so sober to us th. as it does now, but doubtless God was preparing us then for the fields we are working in now. May we both be enabled to accomplish much for Him.

We have rejoiced at every mention of yr. gallantry in action. It did my heart good to find so much of the credit of the affair at Gettysburg ascribed to you. I talked with men wounded in that battle, & they all spoke in the highest terms of yr skill. So did Jack [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain - whom I met in Brunswick at commence't.

What a blessing th. so many Christian men are in our army & navy. God bless you my dear Howard, & help you to “keep yr. lamp trimmed & burning” - is the prayer of yr. classmate & friend.

John S. Sewall [Bowdoin class of 1850]

If you can spare a leisure moment, I sh'd be greatly pleased to hear from you.

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1976 9/20/1863     *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1926

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[413]

Farmington Sept. 20, 1863

My dear Brother

We have had a stormy Sabbath, but the rain did not come down freely till Evening and we have had a medium sized meeting tonight. I preached A.M. on Deut. XXXII. 31. "Their Rock is not as our rock even our Enemies themselves being judges," trying to prove the inferiority of worldly sources of trust & joy to those of Christians from the testimony of the Enemies of Christianity. This P.M. I preached on Heb. III 7,8. "Today if ye will hear his voice harden not your hearts." Enforcing the (1) fact of hard hearts, (2) the methods of hardening & the (3) dangers consequent. Tonight we have been dwelling on the parable of the 10 Virgins. O God, may I be prepared to die, tho' but just awakened from a sound sleep as were those virgins, when Jesus calls. How many a "midnight cry" the poor Soldiers hears!

Warren Woodman sent us word Friday as he came from Augusta that Jamie was better. Ella wrote Lizzie by him Tuesday, & I will write soon & will go down any time that I can do any good.

Rev. Mr. Adams & I spoke for Ch. Com. in Wilton Tuesday & got 25\$. We speak in the same cause at Phillips next Tuesday Evening D.V.

I think what you said before the Election did good, in allaying a party spirit, in developing a deeper patriotism, and in rebuking meanness, sneaking & cowardice which are our yankee besetting Sins. So far as I know the Election was carried on noble, manly principles & every man who contributed to the result has good reason to rejoice & thank God. The Republican party lost some by the influence of the Draft & (gained) others here to the union cause by disgust at Smith & other copperhead leaders. I don't know whether Dellie got home to vote or not. I notice the death of Oliver Ames, his great uncle, on Tuesday of last week. No news from Leeds.

David goes to sleep just before dark alone in his crib and says his prayer quite distinctly after his mother, & gives us some new words & sentences every day. He often speaks of "Unc'a"Otis, & "Tarley" Perry arrived at Sarahs with his wife last Evening. He looks quite well and appears very cheerful. They were kept from meeting by the rain, but Sarah was out all day. Perry seems to walk eat, & sleep as well as ever & looks about as fleshy. I only called a few moments last Evening.

I sent your miserable Chancellorville pamphlet to Prof Whittlesey & he returned it with some "marginal <readings"> & "scholia" & the enclosed note. From extreme hot weather, when we have pitied you & the soldiers very much, our days have become uncomfortably cold & a fire is necessary again.

I often find myself wondering at the way in which the Providence of God has led you, & almost fear any change in your position lest it be for the worse, but if you live a life of faith, faith kept alive by constant prayer, you will be led, guided, upheld & blessed of God & I know that that is your highest ambition. I hope you will never forget your obligation to labor personally for Christ. O that the soul of President Lincoln might be converted to God!

Rev. Charles Beecher lately stated in a Conference that the thing that impressed him most with the need of Christ was the fact that one day his parents were so anxious for his conversion that they could not "eat a meal". How seldom are our spiritual exercises strong enough to interrupt our daily habits! Do we feel enough for the conversion of our children! How anxious for their health, their morality, their respectability. How little anxiety for their conversion. I wonder if her sons would ever have been converted if our mother had never wept & prayed in secret places for that very object when we were little! I sometimes fear that dear little Guy would not go to Heaven if he should die now. I speak not of this to arouse your parental tenderness and make you anxious to be with your family but to "provoke" you to the "good work" of prayer, for which I feel that I need every stimulus that the very strongest motives often & pointedly presented, can afford.

Ella & David are sleeping sweetly and I must say good night. May God give you richly of his Holy Spirit & enable you fully to open your heart to his providences. Love to Charley.

Rowland

Charles letters &c are all recv'd & will be duly answered.

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1977 9/20/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1927

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Catlett's Station

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[414]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Catlett's Station September 20th 1863

Dearest,

I received Mrs Stinson's letter yesterday & began to realize how sick our poor little Jamie is. The dispatch of the 18th was two days later. The at present makes me fear he is yet no better; but I can not yet realize we shall lose him. I say & try to feel as you do "Thy will be done". God has been truly gracious, long-suffering and of tender kindness to us. Mrs Stinson says you look pale & worn. I hope you will not over-work but I know you cannot spare yourself. She said Mother had come, but did not say whether Gracie had come home. Jamie said in his little room: "God loves Jamie" and I feel sure, papa loves Jamie. When he is delirious he does not realize his suffering.

I wrote very slowly, because I keep stopping. It is sabbath morning about 10 A.M. the weather has become very cold. I am left 25 miles in the rear of the rest of the army to guard the communications; this is a mercy now for I can hear from home with more regularity, than if I was on the front line.

John says I have but ten minutes more. I can think only of home. God be near to you in Christ, strengthen and bless you all. I do earnestly pray that he may spare us our dear little boy. We will try to do well by him. Oh, how many poor afflicted parents in our country did feel just as we do. Yet He loveth mercy and not sacrifice. I am a sinful man. I feel that I do not keep the honor & Glory of God constantly before my eyes, and cannot without the help of my Saviour.

The tablet of yesterday (it has not been turned) says - "To me to live is Christ, to die is gain". It is hard to feel that to die is gain - good bye darling, much love to them all. God bless you.

Lovingly  
Otis



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1982 9/27/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1928

Piedmont, Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[415]

Piedmont, Va. Sept. 27 1863

Dearest – I am on the way. My infantry is on trains ahead and my artillery behind. This is the celebrated Baltimore and Ohio R.R. which the rebels break up and which the energetic company immediately repair. I have a good car for me and my staff, in which I now am writing. I have a little board on my knee and a piece of paper on it. A candle on Col Meysunburg's little desk, stood up without a candle stick. We are now going to ascend the mountain at the rate of 116 feet to the mile. I wish it was day – (it is 7 P.M. sunday evening) I felt very happy to get a few lines from you, giving me news up to tuesday night. I feel so anxious about our little boy that I dont like to write of anything else.

Chas is well. The cars have started. Good night. Harry is well. God bless & strengthen you. I have a swollen face from my newly filled tooth. I wish I could help you. Guy must pray much for papa & mamma & for himself. Does he feel sure that he loves the Saviour.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1978 9/23/1863

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1929

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Catletts

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[416]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Sept. 23d Catletts 1863

Dearest,

Generals & Colonels sometimes come to see me during those few moments set apart to write to you. Gen Schurz & Col. Bushbeck have just gone leaving me 15 minutes. I asked Charles to write for fear I would not get a moment. I have heard from you up to thursday last and I am hoping that the darling little boy is improving, and that you are not worn out. I am hoping to get a letter from you today. I try to pray for you and all the loved ones daily.

I am now having some defensive works constructed to keep the men busy & shew that I have some plan. I am still guarding the rail road & bridges. Gen. Meade told me that he regarded it as a most important duty.

I visited Culpepper day before yesterday saw Gen Williams. He is well, would like to have things so that he could make a visit home.

Poor Jamie, papa wishes he could help take care of him. Much love to Guy. Kisses for the baby. Is mother well and still with you. Give her my love. May God have you in his Holy Keeping. Charlie & Harry are well.

Lovingly  
Otis

I dont forget Grace, think she is at Leeds.

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1979 9/23/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1930

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[417]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Sept. 23 1863

My dear Sister Lizzie

Otis just came in and said as he had two officers Gen. Schurz and Col Buschbeck in his tent he feared he would not be able to write you and wished I would do so – said that he was very anxious still about Jamie – that he had rec'd nothing later than the Telegram and your note in pencil of the same day. Mrs. Stinson's also was of the same date. Says that he is well.

I never knew him to show so much anxiety as he has about dear little Jamie & I do trust we will get some cheering news from you soon.

I suppose mother is with you. It is a clear cold morning but the sun is so bright – we can easily get warm. In fact we keep very comfortable. The army may move to the attack any day but it is doubtful if we get to the front at all.

Ever your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

Love to Mother, to Guy and as much as you can communicate to the other two – not forgetting Grace also at Leeds.

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1980 9/25/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1931

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Alexandria Va.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[418]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Alexandria Va. Sept. 25th 1863

Dearest,

I have been ordered to the West with the 11th Corps and am now on the way. It will be further from home and perhaps have hard work. I trust our darling boy is growing better. Give him papa's love & papa's kiss when he, poor boy, is able to hear it. Send your next letter darling, to Nashville Tenn. I feel that I am a sinner before God. I do wrong every day and my heart is burdened.

Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & the baby and God bless you and them and me.

I am stopping tonight at the City Hotel Alexandria. I drew Sept's pay today & enclose you a check of \$250, please acknowledge. Chas & I & Harry are well. Sending troops by cars is troublesome work.

Lovingly,  
Otis

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1981 9/26/1863 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Dear brother & sister  
[Rowland and Ella  
Howard]

OOH-1932a

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[208]

Augusta, Sept. 26th 1863

Dear brother & sister

I received your letter this evening and will answer to-night as I have the time. Dear little Jamie has been gaining for the last four days and we think now that he will recover – that God will spare him longer to us. He has had a hard time, is a mere shadow of himself. I do not think his limbs any larger than Davie's. His head looks as if it was on a pivot. I do not think he realized all his sufferings because he was so delirious. I am thankful he suffered no more, and was sick no longer. One night we thought he could not live 24 hours, and he would not had there not been a change for the better. I gave him up. I dont know as I had a wish to keep him longer for I felt it God's will to take him, and it was so hard to see him suffer. His little mind was very active when awake – and himself – he told me everything he ever knew – among other things that “God had flowers for Jamie – all tied” an original thought with him and very comforting to me.

Mother I sent for and Grace – she was with me a week. Mrs Clark was sick in bed three days soon after I came home, then Charlotte, and when Mother came Mrs Clark was crawling about the house. Everybody near was very kind and I am through it all. I am well but very much worn and need much rest, which I do not get as yet. If I have no company, and can keep the house quiet a few weeks longer I hope Jamie will be quite well, and myself well rested. Jamie cannot even stand, or rest on his feet when I take him out of bed now. It is a great deal of work to take care of him now, but I have no anxiety with the labor. Grace is at Leeds and I wish her to remain some time longer if she is contented. Guy goes to school – baby is very well.

Last letters from Otis to-night dated Sept. 23d Catletts. He is guarding the communications. Was 25 miles in rear of the army the 20th. They were all very well.

Jamie is sleeping very sweetly now. I hope and trust I will not have to get up with him to-night. I didnt last night – only gave him drink as he called for it. I hav'nt had baby in the room yet to sleep, but think I shall to-night.

I hope you are all well. Give love to Sarah, Perry and wife.

Your loving sister  
Lizzie

I have written very hastily but hope you will be able to read it.

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1983 9/27/1863     *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My Dear Mama [Lizzie  
Gilmore]

OOH-1933a

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[419]

[Leeds] Sep. 27, 1863

My Dear Mama,

My uncle dellie has come home. I am very sorry that I have not written you a letter but I cannot help it. Mrs Turner and ellen were here the next day after your first letter came. the next day we prepared for a apple bee but they did not come because it rained and so we had it all to our selves. I strung twelve strings of apples in all. How is the baby getting along without me. how are you and Guy and lottie getting along. I have not got cold yet. I had both of your letters and have them now. Laura and her baby and uncle ensign were here today. The baby does not cry as much as it did. It is monday morning now. Tonight we are going to have the apple bee tonight.

From your loving dauter  
Grace.

Grandma and betsey have a cold.

[The following letter from Dellie to Lizzie dated Sep 28, 1863 was written on the same paper as the letter from Grace to Lizzie.]

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1985 9/28/1863      *From:* Dell [RH Gilmore]      *To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-1933b                      Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[419. This letter was written on the same paper as the letter from Grace to her mother dated Sep 27, 1863.]

Leeds Sept 28, 1863

My dear Sister:

My return to Leeds on Saturday night has been duly chronicled by Grace. Mother's letter written at Augusta to me never reached me or Cousin Olive as far as I know. Did it get into the office. I learned through Cousin Warren Woodman that Mother was at your house and that Jamie was sick. We were very glad to hear from you on Saturday evening and that Jamie was getting better. We hope to hear soon of his recovery. Had it not been for Jamies illness I think I should have gone up to your house Saturday instead of going home.

My health is improved though I am far from being well.

I propose to commence my Law studies about the first of Nov. The place has not yet been decided upon. You may remember that I mentioned studying in Augusta, when I was with you last. It may be that in the course of a few weeks I shall go down to Augusta with the view of informing myself concerning the Law advantages there.

I left Cousin Warren & wife at Boston on Wednesday last. They were nicely.

Grace is very well and appears to be pretty well contented. I made her a swing this morning. She was also made very much pleased by the presentation on my part of two little bird's nests. At present she is entertaining Lizzie Gilmore who is "making a call".

Father's hand seems to be improving and he is about his "farm duties".

Grace was anxious that I should write upon the same sheet that she did, which will partly explain the lack of neatness.

My love to Guy and Jamie.

Your aff. Brother  
Dell.

Mrs. O.O. Howard

[The following letter from Eliza to Lizzie, undated but probably 9/28/1863, was written following the letter from Dellie to Lizzie.]

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1987 9/28/1863    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1934

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[420]

Farmington Sept. 28/63

Dear Sister Lizzie

We have been made very anxious by hearing thro Col Woodman that Jamie was dangerously sick. Ella says if she can be any use to you, she will leave any Day & send Davie to Bath from Brunswick & go to you. And I will come too, if I can do anything.

Abby felt very badly that she had made such positive engagements & could not go to you. Mrs Patten came up last night & will return tomorrow.

Perry & wife are at Sarahs. He walked up here twice yesterday & seems nicely.

May God grant dear little Jamie "recovering grace" and support you under the great weight of care.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland

P.S. If darling Jamie should not live I must come.



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1988 9/28/1863 *From:* B. D. Godfrey

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-1935

Milford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[334]

Milford Sept. 28 ,1863

Maj Gen O O Howard  
Dear Sir,

I thank you for your kindness in sending me the measure of your foot, and for the pleasure I have derived in making a pr of Boots, for a Kinsman of my new relative, Maj Lee, who with Libby is now down East visiting his friends in Maine.

Pardon me the liberty of casting any reflections upon "your understanding" but I must say that for a "big General" you certainly have a very small foot. All I trust is that my boots may not detract from its grace, nor prove detrimental to my skill as a New England Manufacturer. Hoping you may find the boots to fit and that they may contribute to your comfort.

Believe me with much Respect  
Your Obt Servt  
B. D. Godfrey

P.S. The Fur insoles you will find are adjustable and you can easily take them out should the boots prove too tight. Should the boots not fit, please present them to some "hail well met fellow Officer" who is perrelling his life in the cause of his country and who they may fit and inform me of the necessary alterations you want made in the boots and I will get done up another pr.

I have forwarded the Boots to your address via Adms Express. The box is marked Maj. Gen O. O. Howard, Headquarters 11th Corps c/o Main State Agency. Washington.

[Written on the back side in another hand (not Otis').]

Mr. B. D. Godfrey  
Mass  
Sept 28/63  
Answered <Are> 19 1863

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1989 9/30/1863     *From:* B. D. Godfrey

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-1936

Milford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[335]

Milford Sept 30, 1863

Maj Gen O O Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I have forwarded to your address this morning, via Adms Express a Box Containing a pr of Boots I have had the pleasure of making for you and an accompanying note. The more I see of my new relative "Maj Lee" the more I am pleased to say I find cause to love and admire in him and as there is a strain of blood the same flowing in your veins as his, I cannot help feeling a little interest in your welfare as well as Perry's. I hope the Boots may fit you and if I can be the humble means of adding in the least to your comfort it will afford me a high gratification.

Maj Lee has been getting along finely of late; he and Libby are at present absent from Milford visiting Mr Lees friends in Maine. Adieu! May God bless protect and aid you in all your efforts, until peace shall be restored with the union maintained in all its integrity; is the humble prayer of

Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
B.D. Godfrey

[Written on the back in another hand, possibly CH Howard.]  
Letter from Mr. Godfrey  
Milford Mass  
(Boots)