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1990 10/1/1863    *From:* Ella [Patten Howard]    *To:* My dear sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1937                      Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[421]

Farmington Oct 1st 1863

My dear sister Lizzie,

I dont know as I have very much to say but I feel like writing you tonight.

We were very glad to hear from you, that dear little Jamie was getting well again. We were feeling very anxious about him. I have since heard a rumor that he was not so well again – but trust it is without foundation. I have feared you would give out yourself, with so many cares. I wish you could have some good strong woman to depend upon. I have an excellent girl now, and I wish you had a mate to her – though she isn't equal to Mrs. Clark, except in health & strength.

We have been feeling very sad for two or three days, on acct of the sudden sickness, and death of Mrs. Hamilton Abbott. I know you will be shocked to hear it, it was so recently that we saw her, full of life, and apparently of health. A week ago today, one of the boys was taken down with Diphtheria & died Sabbath evening. Mrs. Abbott took nearly all the care of him, & after he died, she was obliged to give up, herself, and ever since, that dreadful disease has been making progress upon her, & this afternoon, at about five o'clock, she went Home. Rowland has been there since yesterday morning all the time, except about two hours last night. She wanted him there all the time & Mr. Abbott isn't willing for him to come away yet, so he is going to stay there tonight. She will be a great loss to this whole community - and to us very great - for she loved Rowland, as only a few, here & there, ever love their Pastor. And as for her husband, I dont know what he will do without her.

Perry & his wife are here, but I think are not to remain much longer. Miss Kearney had made her visit at Hallowell, & is now here again. Dont know how long she intends to stay this time, but thinks she rather enjoys Farmington. Perry seems quite nicely, and it doesn't look at all strange, to see him with but one arm. He seems in very good spirits. I like his wife very much.

Uncle Ensign & Laura & the baby spent last night with me. They have a nice baby, & it is very good now, too. Laura seems as motherly as possible.

Dadie has had a bad cold, but is otherwise quite well. It is late, and I must bid you goodnight. With Love to yourself & children.

Your sister  
Ella

How do you like Otis' going West? It seems so far away.

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1991 10/1/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1938

Louisville Ky.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[213]

Louisville Ky.  
Oct 1, 1863

My dear Mother,

I have left Charles behind at Indianapolis with Uncle Henry. He is going back to Richmond, Ind. I could spare him to stop as we passed thro that place. I staid there the last half of the night (tuesday) and Uncle Henry came on with me to Indianapolis. Aunt Martha J. to my great disappoinment, was away at Cincinnati with cousin Lizzie. Freddie, Carrie & the little one were there. They have a beautiful place at Richmond. The town seems larger than Augusta & everybody wide awake. Freddie is gentlemanly in his deportment, so much so as to be remarked by a stranger. Henry had family prayers and very happy & orderly household.

He seems much respected by his neighbors. I like the deportment of the western gentlemen, I hav'nt seen much of the ladies. You would enjoy a visit to Aunt Martha very much. Henry spoke of it two or three times and wished me to urge you to come. He said you promised to do so, after Dellie graduated. Now your boys are this way perhaps you may take a notion to come. I told him I hardly thought father would be willing for you to go without him.

It is a little more than a week since I heard from Jamie. He was a little better. How is my precious little daughter Gracie? I hope a very good girl with Grandma. Give her much love from papa & tell her she must think about her saviour, and pray for her father.

I enclose you two twenty dollar bills as a small present towards your Western visit should you decide to make one. It will cost about \$18. from Boston to Richmond Ind.

Give my love to father. I hope his finger is better. I am quite well and not tired, though I have ridden in the cars since last Saturday day & night. I was in bed for a few hours at Uncle Henry's. Charles looked very tired. I hope he will have a pleasant visit.

My kind regards to the neighbors.

Your ever affectionate Son  
Otis

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1992 10/1/1863    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1939

Louisville Ky.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[422]

Louisville Ky.  
Oct 1 1863 Wed

Dearest,

I have just arrived at this point, my infantry is ahead of me & some of my artillery. It has been quite a long journey. I stopped a part of a night with Uncle Henry as we passed thro his place. Aunt & Lizzie were gone to Cincinatti. Uncle accompanied us as far as Indianapolis, & took Charles back with him to make a short visit. Chas will stay till Monday.

How much I wish I could know just how you & our dear little boy are today. I hope you will have written to Nashville, Tenn. the moment you have learned we have come this way. I had no idea of the beauty & fertility of Ohio & Indiana till I came through. Richmond is a gem of a place. If little Jamie gets better we must talk about a visit to the West. It is singular how suddenly river & sun changes the scene. I feel now very far separated from you and shall do so till the letters begin to find their way thro. I have traveled every night since last saturday, but have slept quite comfortably. My neuralgy & tooth ulceration is most well. The swelling has subsided. I had a fall at Grafton Va, while running from the telegraph office to the train, bruised my knee, but it too is well.

I feel that I am sent out here for some wise and good purpose. I believe my Corps will be better appreciated. Already the good conduct of the soldiers excites wonder – so good in contrast with the Indiana wilderness.

My heart rests on home. I see you moving up and down and nursing our darling little sick boy.

Papa & John are in the Galt House in a fine large room. I miss Charles. I disappointed him so much in not letting him stop at Richmond Ind; and he worked so hard transferring troops & property at Indianapolis, that I thought I would give him a rest & let him go back with Uncle Henry and stay till Monday with instructions to bring up all stragglers.

Harry Stinson has just come in and is now writing at my table. I expect you & Mrs Stinson will be affected alike with surprise at our move. We shall go straight on to Chattanooga.

God grant us success and a speedy close to the war. I must try to lean upon him more and more. Jamie's sickness has had the effect to quicken my conscience and I believe make me fear God, fear to offend him. I try to say not my will but thine be done, but I do love that little boy and trust he may be spared to us, but I know how much better God sees my necessities than I myself can & how kindly He will provide. "Jehovah Jireh": you remember.

Good bye my love. Pray for me that I may do right.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1993 10/2/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1940

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[423]

Portland Oct 2d 1863

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recv'd your letter yesterday with the Checks and have just purchased for you U.S. Bond \$500 including interest & Brokerage. Amt in all to \$506 dollars. This is as good investment as I know of at present. The first interest will be due in Novm'r on which you will get a premium as the interest is payable in Gold. I can get a premium on your other Coupons if due.

The banks will pay dividends next week – if you wish any further investment, please let me know. There is \$24.45 left in my hands from this.

In haste,

Your affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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1994 10/4/1863    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1941

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[421]

Leeds, Oct. 4th 1863

Dear daughter,

It seems a long time, since we heard from you but trust you are doing well. Hope Jamie is doing well, if so that you are resting and Guy is well, and that baby is well and happy. Grace is well and happy apparently. We attended Church today. She seemed happy all day. She misses Uncle Dellie somewhat, does not seem quite as happy and gay since he left. He went to Farmington Friday evening. Mrs Hamilton Abbot died Thursday eve with Dyptheria. All of F-ton is in grief. Brother Ensign and wife have been there from Tuesday to Thursday. She was thought to be dying before they left. Laura told me today that they would say we cannot give her up, but oh our father in heaven has some wise purpose in removing that good and useful woman from among us.

Dear Lizzie, we have had a new trial in having our dear ones removed to so great a distance from us, but we must trust them in the hands of our heavenly father. Gracie prays for you all at night, and so do I, in poor way. God is my helper in this time of need. Rowland wrote to me to come to F-ton, and bring Grace, the first of last week and see Perry and wife, but Mr Gilmore has had a Nephew here on a visit from Mass, left here Friday.

Grace is good, is a good girl, and a great deal of company for me. I think she has grown fleshy since she came back this time. She thinks it long time since she heard from home. Mrs Lothrop has filled your <jar> and Mrs Sumner has taken one to fill for Mrs Stinson, and I shall have one to spare. You may have the one I laid down in June or the one I have nearly full at this time.

Dellie says he will come to Augusta the last of this month or before if necessary.

Last night's mail brought us a letter from Charles written in Ohio at Bellaire at a Hotel. He said Otis had had a bad tooth but was better. He Charles was well, spoke of receiving your letter in the Cars when leaving and the pleasure it gave them to hear from you before they left.

Mention me kindly to Guy and Jamie, and a good sweet kiss to baby. Hope Mrs Clark as she grows stronger in health will grow happier, in temper.

Grace and I had a very pleasant time from Augusta home. Heard in the cars that Hellen Sands, that was Mrs Otis, was at her fathers. Grace and I went there, was introduced to Capt Otis, had a very pleasant call. Never saw Hellen look in so good health as now. She was delighted to see Grace and spoke of her remarkable intelligence, and I am astonished some times myself at it. Either I have forgotten or she is more intelligent than common for her age.

Ella has obtained a good strong girl. Mr Goff told me Friday Perry was sick with a cold, I hope he will escape without a hard sickness. Ensign says his wound is nearly healed. Laura was at church both services and looked very happy. We had our paring bee and it passed off very nicely. We had 145 strings to hang out the next day and had the pleasure of seeing our friends and Neighbors and think they enjoy'd it.

Saw Mrs Joshua Turner at church today but did not speak to her. Mrs Sands and Mary were gone away, and Hellen was the house keeper for a week or two. I paid the man 15 cents that carried our valices to the Depot and one dollar for my ticket. They said nothing about Grace. Neither did I so I have quite a lot of your money left.

My paper is full. I think of you very often, hoping always that your health will hold out.

From you ever affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

Mrs Lizzie Howard

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1995 10/5/1863 *From:* Grace [Howard]

*To:* My dear mama [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1942a [Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[426]

[Leeds] Oct. 5 1863

My dear mama

I want to get a letter from you very much. I hope you are very well. Betsey has gone home to see her mother. Joshua turner is coming next Thurs and I wish you would send me my tea-sette and doll and her things when he comes. I have been thinking I will get one tonight from you. How is the baby and Guy and Jamie getting along. I would write more but I cant think of eny now. Dinner is on the table and grandma is just sitting down.

From your loving dauter Grac.

Grandma is very well and so am I.

[The following letter was written on the same sheet as the preceding letter from Grace to Lizzie. Assume the same date.]

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1996 10/5/1863 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mrs. Lizzie Howard

OOH-1942b

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[The following letter was written on the same sheet as the preceding letter from Grace to Lizzie. Assume the same date.]

[426 Leeds Oct. 5 1863]

Dear Lizzie

Grace has been trying to write. Please send her buff tire if you make up a parcel for her, to send by Mr Turner. You can do as you think best. I sent off a letter to you this morning. Mentioned the butter in that.

In haste

Eliza Gilmore

Mrs. Lizzie Howard



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1997 10/5/1863     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1943

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Bridgeport Ala.

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[425]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Oct. 5th Bridgeport Ala. 1863

Dearest

On Saturday evening about 9 P.M. I arrived at a place called Stevenson's, a dirty little town with some half dozen miserable houses. Here is quite an accumulation of supplies for Gen Rosencrans Army – a depot. He has to transport everything in wagons from that point by the northern bank of the Tenn. River to Chattanooga.

In the morning I took a train of Cars with one of my batteries to this place Bridgeport. It is on the Tenn. River and full as far south as Chattanooga on the R.R. thither. The bridge across the Tennessee is destroyed (excepting the piers). I am about 50 miles from Gen. Rosencrans by the wagon Road and about 30 by the R.R. with no wagons. The Artillery is here but the horses have not arrived.

How much I wish I could hear from Jamie today & from yourself.

I think you must have been a good deal astonished at our sudden start Westward. Charlie leaves Richmond Ind. for this place today. It will take him at least three days to get through. I shall be glad to see him. This is a singular rough, mountainous country - nothing but mountains - except the River & the Railroad. I do not think it will be very hard to campaign in after we get accustomed to new features.

I met Thompson (Tompie as the Madam used to call him). He looked well. Mrs Thompson with two children is in Nashville, Tenn. Where we are now there is'nt a house in sight. Woods, woods, woods: more than Chancelorville in that respect.

I hope Guy, baby & yourself keep well and that our poor little Jamie is able to run about by this time. I shall look for a letter by every mail. I am afraid my letters will be carried by as they may be directed to Rosencrans Army. Direct to me - Comdg 11th Corps via Nashville (Army of the Cumberland).

Give much love to all the children. Guy owes me a letter. Gracie too. God bless you darling & hasten the close of this war – for home is far away.

Lovingly  
Otis

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1999 10/6/1863

*From:* Rick Long  
Lt Col & <Piw Mail>  
11th Corps  
Kellys Ferry Tenn

*To:* Lt. Col. C.W. Ansmussen

OOH-1944

Chief of Staff  
11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[336]

Kellys Ferry, Tenn  
Oct 6th 1863

Colonel.

Upon arrival here this morning I found quite a number of wounded men mostly belonging to our Corps, lying in the Ambulances waiting the departure of the boat for Bridgport.

These men have been in the Ambulances since yesterday P.M. the ambulances having camped in the woods last night.

Most of them are severely wounded – some with amputated limbs - and no arrangements have been made for their reception here or for their departure. I have succeeded in getting a few beds for the worst cases - the others will have to lie upon the floor of the Boat without proper covering.

I deem it my duty to report the facts as I found them so as to effect a change if possible.

The Boat seldom leaves here until the Afternoon.

I remain  
Yours Truly  
Rick Long  
Lt Col & <Piw Mail> 11th Corps

Lt. Col. C.W. Assmussen  
Chief of Staff  
11th Corps

[Attached]

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Med. Director's Office  
Nov. 6, 1863

General:

In explanation of the Report of Lieut Col. Long representing the wounded at Kellys' Ferry as in a neglected condition as to supplies & medical attendance I beg leave respectfully to represent that having been committed to Hospital by order of Surgeon G. Perrie Med. Director of the department they were under the Control of Surgeon Cooke, Surgeon in charge of the Hospital and that in order to effect their removal the only instructions I received were "to report as many ambulances as possible to the Hospital" for that purpose. As their removal was pre-arranged I had reason to believe that they had been promptly sent down the river on their arrival at the Ferry until the receipt of this report. I immediately sent a Lieut. of the ambulance Corps to ascertain & report their condition; and he informs me that they are provided with food, shelter and medical attendance. This is confirmed also by the Rev. Mr. Sewell who very kindly came to Hd. Qrs. this P.M. in order to report these facts to the Commanding General.

Very respectfully  
Your Obedt. Servt  
R Hubbard Actng  
Med. Director 11th Corps

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

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2000 10/7/1863 *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs O O Howard

OOH-1945

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[427]

Portland Oct 7, 1863

Mrs O O Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your kind letter of 1st inst also one yesterday enclosing coupons of Treasury notes – interest \$14.60 which I sold at premium of \$6 dollars making \$20.60. The dividends from the Banks are 117 dollars (137.60 total) but the City tax on Stock 18.25 they kept back which leaves on hand \$119.35 and the amt on hand from Checks 24.45 which leaves to your Credit in all 143.80. Perhaps I may find opportunity to invest unless you prefer to let it remain untill convenient to add more to it. The tax on your Bank Stock is something new. It was pased by a law of the last legeslator that unless the residence of Stock holders was known tax should be retained by the Bank. The Banks will probably make return of your Stock to Augusta to be taxed next year. Your Treasury Notes and Bonds will not be taxed.

I am glad you wrote about the location of your Husband. I shall now feel more interested to hear all the news from that quarter. I have not only a hope but a Strong Faith that he will be preserved from harm – and my prayer is – that he may be kept in Safety. Hope little Jamie has got quite well. You have not told us the name of the little one.

Much love to yourself and Children with kind Regards to Your dear Husband.

From Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

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2001 10/8/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1946

Nashville Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[428]

Nashville Tenn.  
Oct. 8 1863 Thursday

Dear Sister Lizzie

I reached this place Tuesday night having stopped back five days with Uncle Henry at Richmond Ind.

I found that a Rebel Cavalry raid had destroyed several bridges below here & I could not go on and join the Corps and the General who had already reached Bridgeport on the Tennessee River, his destination for the present.

I found Asmussen Chief of Staff and other officers here. Some trains of our freight and our artillery horses had not yet passed this place. The rear of the Corps is all up now and we will march by land on Saturday morning, in order that the Rail Road may be free for supplies as soon as open. It is 120 miles to Bridgeport. Chattanooga is up the Tennessee some 30 miles (i.e. East) from Bridgeport.

So you perceive our duty for the present is as before to protect the line of communication, and depot of supplies.

Slocum is still in this city. One of his Divns having gone down before the breakage, the other being now at Murfreesboro about 30 miles from here. I hope to get telegraphic communication with the General today. I intend to go down to Murfreesboro tomorrow & if I can get a train on the other side of the break I will go on, if not come back & wait till the R.R. is repaired.

Our Corps is well supplied with rations for ten days more so they will not suffer. Our own Hd. Qrs. mess furniture however is all here and I guess the General & Staff have to go a begging for their food.

I was cheered with a sight of your familiar hand-writing upon a letter for Otis at the Post Office this morning. It was written 30th Sept – after you got his letter from Alex'a. I shall carry the letter forward if I go.

Otis will be happy to learn as soon as we can telegraph that Col. Asmussen has succeeded in getting all the wagons we needed and they will go forward with everything else of our Corps next Saturday morning. Otis left here last Friday Evening. I parted from him at Indianapolis Ind. Wednesday evening. He had a special car to Louisville and no one to share it except Cpts. Stinson & Powers and some orderlies & John.

I returned with Uncle Henry to his home. Aunt Martha & Lizzie were making a visit to Cincinnati. They returned Saturday. My visit was most agreeable by all bonds. They are all hoping to have a visit from you now that Otis is West. It is about the same distance from Richmond here as from Augusta to Washington, so if we have but fifteen days leaves of absence I dont know but we will have to ask our friends to meet us at Uncle Henry's. It is a delightful Country & I liked the people whom I saw much.

Today besides attending to business, I have found time to visit the State Capitol in this City, a magnificent structure built of a kind of lime-stone resembling marble, being capable of a fine finish and of a greyish white color. I went to the summit from which I got an extended view. Could take in the entire city and the Cumberland River as it winds almost in folds around it. No high mountains visible but a varied country. The residence of James K. Polk is still an imposing and pleasing structure – a monument to his memory in the garden. But this is already a prolonged letter & I will close with good love to all your dear family. Hope Jamie is trotting about at his play before this.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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2002 10/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1947

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Bridgeport, Ala.

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[433?] [CHECK ORIGINAL, edge of paper folded over the number]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Bridgeport, Ala.  
Oct 10th 1863

Dearest,

I have by a telegram from Charles at Nashville (120 miles from here) that there is a letter for me on the way and up to Sept 30th Jamie was improving, but now it is the 10th of October. We have been cut off from Nashville for several days by a body of Rebel raiders. They burnt 400 of Gen. Rosencrans wagons between here and Chattanooga, burnt a train of cars near McMinville and captured some 6 companies of Cavalry. Then our communications were cut and we dont know what they have done. We heard yesterday that our troops had beaten them & were in pursuit. About 9 last night I got orders to send a thousand men under resolute officers some 35 or 40 miles back towards Nashville. A train of cars came for them between 11 & 12 last night & I hope got them to the threatened points before dailight. At Stevenson Gen. Rosencrans has accumulated some fifteen days supply, but already the ration has been reduced and we are obliged to send out foraging parties to get something for the subsistence of the animals.

I did expect Charlie last night. I hope he has had a pleasant visit at Richmond Ind. I am having this place cleaned up. Every <training> imaginable seems to be here. Bridge builders, pontoneers, sutters, quartermasters, engineers &c. They have set down in confused order & made much dirt. We begin to look a little better. The nights are quite cold, but the days are very warm. I am building a sort of house at the back of my tent – boards on the sides, fly on top, chimney & fireplace to the rear. My fireplace is built of stone. I shall be quite comfortable. The nights are very cold and I have taken cold and cough some.

I feel interested to hear how Guy is getting along with his studies. What is he learning now? I suppose Gracie must be at home by this time. John thinks Jamie must be running up & down stairs by this time: the dear little fellow I hope he may be able. How has the baby, Chancey, stood it since little brother has been sick? And yourself I trust you have been well.

Oct 12. Sunday

Charlie arrived this morning with your letter. I am really glad to hear from you and glad & I hope thankful for the good news. John was much pleased at Jamie's recollection of him and at the "up high." Aunt Martha trusts now, that you will come & see her (Chas. says). He thinks Aunt is just as young & much improved. Says Henry seems another man, takes a christian stand in the community. The children read around and he repeated an excellent prayer the morning I was there.

I am really glad to see Charles. He calls this a splendid place. The scenery is rugged, mountainous – the river beautiful – but of all the accumulation of filth I never saw the like. We begin to see our way clear thro. it.

This is a beautiful day. I do hope you are enjoying it. Capt. Harry Stinson is well – just returned from his night expedition.

Give much love to all our little flock and all pray for me & for peace. God bless, protect, strengthen & preserve you.

Most lovingly Your husband  
Otis

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2003 10/13/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1948

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[429]

Head Quarters 11th Corps Oct. 13, 1863

Dearest

We are seeing Bridgeport under a new phase today. It began to rain last night and has continued most of the time since. The soil does not materially differ from that of Virginia, so that we have but exchanged one muddy place for another. My house leaks pretty badly, both on top, on the end & on the sides, but my fireplace draws well and when the rain stops will soon dry up the surroundings.

I went to Stevenson yesterday to see General Hooker, and Maj [Wright] Rives of [Adelbert] Ames' class [USMA 1861] returned with me last evening & staid all night. This morning he went with me to inspect the defences. I find the pioneers or pontoniers who have been here sometime afflicted with chills & fever. I have been able to escape this troublesome disease thus far & I hope I may even here.

A part of my force is engaged in making corduroy roads between this and Chattanooga. Just think of hauling all the supplies for an army over fifty miles of road, over mountains & through muddy valleys. It is easy to wonder why our army dont go on & do this or that but when you come here and find us as far from Nashville as Portland is from Boston and that every article must come by a single poor rail road running over a high mountain ridge with difficult grades at best and that the main army is forty or fifty miles further on, and that the country is too impoverished to support the inhabitants, the wonder is how the army can remain, & sustain itself.

From some indications I get I am inclined to think the enemy is falling back on this line, & perhaps about to change its programme. I think if he has transportation, he will try & get between Rosencrans & Burnside.

I wish you had a good map so that you could see where we are more accurately. I went to see Mr Lincoln the day I left Washington and he gave me a very nice coast survey map. He had a kind of music stand with two maps just alike one over the other. One was mounted. He gave me that, said the other would do for him.

I hav'nt said a word about the children. I look to him that Jamie has found his feet. Does Guy know enough of Geography to find this place – away down in Alabama. How does the baby do. Does he talk & laugh any yet.

God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

I wonder if Gracie has got home yet. I wrote her a letter describing my camp at Catletts and intended to enclose a sketch but did'nt make it. Give her & all papa's love. I told John, my house looked quite comfortable. Ah, says he, it is'nt home though. I have so much to think of and to attend to that I get along very well with few comforts. Chas & Harry S. are well. My cold is better.

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2004 10/16/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1949

Hd Qrs near Bridgeport  
Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[431]

Hd. Qrs. near Bridgeport  
Ala. Oct. 16 1863

Dearest,

I met a Lieut Alden from Me. on his way from Chattanooga home for a visit. He will pass through Augusta.

We are all well, except I have quite a cold & cough some. We have had a terrible rain.

Good news from Ohio & Penn and Ind.

Much love to all Guy, Grace, Jamie, Chancey & Mamma.

Your loving husband  
Otis



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1998 10/5/1863 *From:* Daniel Hall

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1950

Bennington, N.H.

Cmdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[337]

[<Bennington N.H.> CHECK ORIGINAL –faint writing on the top of the first page for the return address and date.]

[ca. Oct. 18, 1863] [This date was added by someone. I have used the date written at the end of the letter, Oct 5, 1863.]

My dear General:

I have been at my father's house now nearly a week during which time I have scarcely been out of doors. You remember that I left you at Catlett's Station just before the order came for the movement of the Corps. When you were afterwards in Washington I hesitated long whether to accompany you to your probable destination in Tennessee, or avail myself of my leave of absence and come home. I am now glad that I chose the latter course, inasmuch as I have been in a condition that requires the comforts and cares of home rather than the scantier accommodations afforded by the march and the camp. My head is much affected by some kind of disease of a cutaneous or other nature, which is a perpetual discomfort and heaviness – and when to that is added a return of a rheumatism which troubled me last winter, and a severe cough and hoarseness, I am for the time a useless piece of machinery.

I have regretted very much, General, that I have been able to do so little for the Service and for you since I have had the honor of a place on your staff. I am quite aware that I have been an incubus rather than a help. No language can express the interest I feel in the Great Cause for which we are contending, and I have been proud and satisfied to serve it under the orders of a man, like yourself, distinguished alike for military genius, patriotic devotion, and a moral height and excellence admirable in the last degree. Content with my position, nothing but weakened health admonishing me of my unfitness for hard service could induce me to take the step I now do. I am satisfied that I should be unable to do any effective service this fall and winter, and I am apprehensive of one of my troubles, the rheumatism, becoming fixed and chronic, if I suffer longer exposure in the field.

I therefore accompany this with the tender of my resignation, which is addressed to the Adjutant General of the Army, as I believe it should be inasmuch as I hold my commission from the President. I suppose it should however go through the regular channels. I shall be greatly obliged if you will have the Kindness to forward it, and, if you think proper, give it your approval. I do not wish to be under the pay of the government (much as my circumstances require it) longer than I can render a fair equivalent.

What I have already said comprises the main object of this letter; but I can scarcely forbear telling you how much satisfaction your course as a soldier and a citizen has given to the loyal people of this vicinity. According you praise as a soldier and credit particularly (which many of us know to be so eminently your due) for the battle of Gettysburg, and the subsequent effort to take advantage of the victory – they also acknowledge and feel especially grateful for the services you have just rendered Maine by helping to an initial Union Victory in the Fall Campaign. This is expressed by men who have called on me not in the spirit of mere partisan rejoicing and complacency either: on the contrary I believe, as I believe I live, that the loyal people, the controlling minds of them I mean, have risen in the course of this Convulsion far above the influence of such considerations merely. Even to the plane of patriotism a lofty spirit of nationality, love of liberty, and all those great ideas which make for the elevation of the race and the Glory of God. There is something in a great crisis and peril like this that is separative in the last degree – it is a discernor of men's spirits – and while it reveals the weakness and darkness in the characters of some men, it also lifts up, purifies and awakens others to the higher possibilities of thought and deed which their lives unfold. If there is Copperheadism at the nadir, there is also Loyalty, pure, spotless, unselfish, self-sacrificing, ready to do and dare all for Truth, at the zenith. If there are here now meaner traitors, there are also intenser Patriots than ever before. Of the plaudits of this latter class any man might well be found even if he had no higher reward satisfaction for having done his duty. You have emphatically then “well done, good and faithful” - and while the remark is one perhaps of no consequence, I may truly say that my humble efforts, wherever I may be, will not be wanting to give you that place in the national regard, which you are entitled to.

And now, General, regretting that I shall leave you, if my resignation is accepted, and begging your pardon for taking your time as much as I have done.

With warmest wishes for your happiness and success

I am, very truly,  
Your obdt Servt  
Daniel Hall Capt. &c

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Cmdg 11th Corps

[Written on the back page in an unknown hand:]  
Capt Hall  
A.D.C.  
Oct 5 1863

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2005 10/19/1863 *From:* Maj Genl J. Hooker

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-1951

Head Quarters 11th &  
12th Corps  
Stevenson

Comdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[339]

Head Quarters Army of the Cumberland  
Chattanooga Oct 18th 1863  
12:45 P.M.

Maj Genl J. Hooker  
Stevenson

It will be necessary to make extraordinary efforts to get the road passable from Bridgeport to Jasper – also to have rations thrown into Stevenson as rapidly as possible.

It will require almost superhuman efforts to sustain us here. That steamboat must be got ready, so that we can freight to Shellmound and thus shorten our wagon transportation. This will require us to hold both sides of the river and fortify, but to make our depots on the North side. I must confide the pushing up of the repairs of the wagon roads, and seeing that our supplies are brought forward to your care, as the remoteness of our position and the necessity for the active Authority and intervention of an Officer of high rank, is absolutely necessary to the preservation of our army.

Signed (W. S. Rosecrans, Maj. Genl.)

To:  
Maj. Genl Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps

Head Quarters 11th & 12th Corps  
Stevenson Oct 19, 1863  
Official  
H W Perkins  
A.A.A.G.

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2006 10/19/1863 *From:* H. W. Perkins

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

A.A.A.G.

OOH-1952

Head-Quarters,  
Eleventh and Twelfth  
Corps,

Comdg 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

Army of the Cumberland  
Stevenson

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[157]

Head-Quarters, Eleventh and Twelfth Corps,  
Army of the Cumberland  
Stevenson Oct 19th 1863

Maj Genl Howard  
Comdg 11th Corps  
Genl,

I am directed by the Maj Genl Comdg to Enclose you a copy of a letter from the Maj Genl Comdg Dept to show you how deep is his anxiety and how necessary it is to push the repairs on the roads and urge on the completion of the Steamers. As the Genl will not be able to give it his personal supervision he begs that you will spare no means to have the comdg General's desires fully carried out.

Your Brigade that is here will have to march back as I am informed tonight that cars cannot be spared for that purpose, owing to the press of business.

Very respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
H. W. Perkins  
A.A.A.G.

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2007 10/19/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1953

Bridgeport Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[432]

Bridgeport Ala. Oct 19, 1863

Dearest,

Yesterday I was lucky enough to get a letter dated the 9th. It was nine days on the way. Your last said Jamie had begun to recover, but he hadn't got the full use of his feet yet. This one didn't say one word about him and so I must infer that the little fellow is well. I was sorry to find Guy feverish again. How poor his digestion has always been – nuts, acorns and such like he will have to forego. I suspect he is like his father.

My cold holds on unaccountably. I cough pretty hard & raise -. The climate is peculiar – fogs on the mountains & along the Tenn. River, always chilly mornings and in the night.

We have heard that Gen. Rosencrans has been relieved and ordered to Cincinnati and that Gen. Thomas is in Command of this Army, that the three Depts. of Tennessee, Ohio & Cumberland are consolidated and Gen. Grant assigned to the command. I feel sorry about Rosencrans, I thought I should like him. I have not seen him. His Chief of Staff Gen. Garfield was here day before yesterday & I rode with him to Stevenson returning by the R.R.

Charles & I had an interesting ride on the engine after night. Dellie writes that Gracie is well and much interested in learning to knit. She <will> probably be at home when this reaches you. She must knit papa some socks one of these days. John persists in asking "how is Jimmie" when he sees me get a letter. John had a bad cold and it came out on his nose in bad sores, but they are mostly well.

My wagons which started from Nashville a week ago yesterday hav'nt got here yet. My horses (Artillery & for Officers) arrived today, a good many some 70 died on the way, so bad are the mountain roads.

We hear that Mrs Abbot of the Abbot school is dead. I suppose it is Mrs Hamilton Abbot and that Rowland was feeling it much.

We hear that a severe battle was fought nearby Catletts where we staid so long. I wonder if poor Mrs Catlett & little Lottie were not pretty badly frightened. I had just begun some works there and I presume they were made use of. Back & forth, back and forth, goes that Army. When will it end? This is a long war & I now feel that I am far, far, from home.

Chancey is well and happy so I hope his mother may be and Guy too when this gets to you. If you could see this country, the bad roads, the difficulty of hauling supplies, you would think that not much will be done. I believe Gen Thomas will try to get such points as will make Chattanooga secure & if this doesn't bring on a general engagement there will not much else be done here this season.

Give much love to all. Harry & Ch. are well. May God bless and keep you .

Lovingly  
Otis

Direct  
11th Corps  
Army of Cumberland  
Via Nashville Tenn.

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2008 10/20/1863 *From:* Geo. Suckley  
Surgeon U.S. Vols  
OOH-1954  
*Source:* Bowdoin  
Medical Director's  
Office, Middle  
Department, 8th Army  
Corps.  
Baltimore, Md.

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commdg 11th Army Corps  
Burnside's Army  
Deptmt. Of Ohio

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[18]

Medical Director's Office, Middle Department, 8th Army Corps.  
Baltimore, Md., Oct. 20th 1863

PRIVATE

General:

I have long thought of writing you a private letr, thanking you for your kindness to me, and for your official support while I was under your command. No better opportunity presenting itself, I now fulfill my promise to myself.

Poor Griffith as I expected, died, peritonitis, & probably internal hemorrhage, having set in.

After about a months attendance on Gen. Barlow I succeeded in finding the ball, and extracting it. I fear very much that one of the spinal vertebrae has been so much injured as to render him more or less of a cripple for life.

A matter which has presented itself to my notice I think may interest you and call for action on your part. A "Chaplain" named Ferdinand Sarnier belonging to some New York Regt. in your Corps, - I think the 54th or 58th N.Y., seemed to me while he was here under Medical treatment to be a Jew, and I understood boarded while here at a Jew boarding house. If a Jew, & not a Rabbi, he, I should think is not entitled to such a sacred position, & the matter should be investigated. As he was appointed during the palmy days of Blenker, the probabilities are that some rascality was at the bottom, & I accordingly give you these hints for whatever they are worth.

My health is now quite good, & I often think of my friends at your Head Quarters. Had I known of your early transfer to another Army, I do not think I should have pushed for a transfer. My official relations with the Med. Director of the A. of P. were very unpleasant.

My dear General please give my best regards to your brother the Major & to Lt. Cols. Asmussen & Meysenberg, & believe me

Always your friend  
and Obt. Servant  
Geo. Suckley  
Surgeon U.S. Vols

P.S. I am now performing the duties of Medical Director of this Military Department. G.S.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commdg 11th Army Corps  
Burnside's Army  
Deptmt. Of Ohio.

[Written on the back sheet, in an unknown hand.]  
Surg. Suckley  
Oct 20 1863

Letter from Dr. Suckley

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2009 10/21/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-1955

Bridgeport Ala  
Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[399?]

Bridgeport Ala.  
Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Oct 21 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

Lt. Gilbreth is going to start for home on Leave this morning and Otis intended to write you a long letter to send by him but as usual he has so many callers on business that he will not be able, I fear, to write. I just went into his tent and found Col. Buschbeck commanding one of our Brigades and another officer probably of the Army of the Cumberland as he was a stranger.

I told Otis that Lt. G. must go pretty soon and asked him whether he had written any letter. He said no and when I enquired if he wished me to write he said "I think you better Charlie". So I judge that he intends to write if he can get a little time.

It is raining. We began to hear thunder about Daylight and at first were not certain that it might not be artillery firing in the distance. Capt. Stinson got up and went out to listen. We concluded it was thunder. At Breakfast when the thunder had sounded nearer and nearer it began to rain a pouring shower – then it ceased and we hoped would "break away" but the rain is renewed again.

Yesterday the removal of Rosecrans was confirmed. Every body expresses regret & disappointment, but nobody doubts that Thomas will be an excellent Commander, perhaps superior in many respects to Gen. Rosecrans. The latter is expected here this morning & perhaps Lt. Gilbreth will go upon the same train with him to Nashville.

We get fearfully few letters here and "far between". Cant you do a little for us in that direction. Guy too must write. Dell has written one letter since I have been here which we were glad to get. He said Gracie seemed contented & happy and this pleased Otis – said, also, that she was learning to Knit.

We have had a little addition to the Corps – two Illinois Regts, but hope for more unless Otis is to be relieved and sent elsewhere, which we sometimes anticipate. The scenery in this region continues to be a source of pleasure. Last evening – before sunset – Otis & I had quite a social ride up along the bank of the River, being alone except orderlies. It is not a disagreeable post here to me or to the General, I think. His bad cold is improving. Our diet is also improving which probably interests me more than Otis or you. We find that some of our old friends fell in Meade's recent fight.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard



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2010 10/21/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1956

Bridgeport Ala.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[439]

Bridgeport Ala. Oct 21 / 63

Dearest,

Mr Gilbreth is going home for twenty days & will take a message from me to you. We are all well & doing well just at present. Gen Thomas is comdg Army of Cumberland. He is forty miles from us by an open road. We are making roads, bridges, forts, scouting &c but not moving very fast.

I trust Mr Gilbreth will find you all well & happy. Much love & many kisses to all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2011 10/24/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1957

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Bridgeport

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[434]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Army of the Cumberland  
Bridgeport  
Oct 24th 1863 8.25 P.M.

Dearest,

We received a letter written to Chas. and mailed Oct. 16. It has reached here in eight days. I am glad to hear Jamie is so well and you say nothing of Guy's illness, so I presume his fever turn was soon over. "Baby has a little cough" to keep company with papa. I hope neither will last long. This is a cold damp place, more so than Augusta it seems to me. You want me impressed with the necessity of writing often. I ought to write more, but with a multiplicity of things to think of I am apt to procrastinate. I think in the morning I shall have a clearer time at night and vice versa, but I suspect the rebel raid must have hindered some letters I did write from going thro in very good season.

Gen Rosencrans called to see me as he came through & I accompanied him to Stevenson. There I met Gen. Grant who had telegraphed that he would be at this place that night. The telegram came after I left. I returned immediately in his train. He, Gen Meigs and Mr Dana an Asst Secretary of War took tea with me. Gen. Grant was on crutches still. I gave him up my bed and tent, because he was lame & not wholly because he was Gen. U.S. Grant. I liked his appearance better than that of any Major General I have seen. He is modest, quiet and thoughtful. He looks the picture of firmness. He does not drink liquor and never swears. A member of his staff told me he never had used a profane oath. How different from what we had imagined when those stories of Shiloh were being circulated. I rode with him Thursday morning as far as Jasper, giving me a ride of about 24 miles.

I sent out three Regts. To rescue & bring in a Locomotive and two or three cars about ten or eleven miles on the other side the Tenn. and nearer Chattanooga. The regts brought down the engine yesterday on a rough branch road to Shellmound. Just this side a bridge had to be built. This is going to take at least three days. I am feeling a little disappointed for I expected them in tonight and they are so near the rebels that it is rather risky staying out so far. These kind of anxieties are peculiar to the military profession and are sometimes intense. I think sometimes a battle is a relief, for then you know somewhere near where the enemy is & what he is doing.

I am glad Perry Lee & his wife came to visit you. She is very pleasant & I think good. How does Perry get along with one arm? My boots hav'nt come. I heard through Col. Underwood of the 33d Mass that they were done & en route toward Washington. My mended ones do very well and John keeps them bright.

I have a good bright fire in my fireplace and wish you could enjoy it with me. My tablets are before me up high, under them a map of this section with an R.R. map to its right and a R.R. time table to its left. My desk with books & papers to the left of the fire & John's wood pile to the right. I am writing on my knee with clasp to hold my sheet. John is sitting on my bed near the front waiting patiently for me to go to bed.

Give much love to Guy, Grace, Jamie & Chancy – quite a host of little olive branches. I hope they are well and sweetly sleeping tonight. I try to pray for you all, but I feel as though my heart was not as near the Saviour as it once was. "A Father's hand" is on the tablets tonight - passages are Heb. XII 5,6; Ps. CXIX, 75 and Ps. XXXI, 15. The last one - "My times are in thy hands." So they are – God knoweth the future & controleth it.

Harry Stinson is well, goes to carry some rations to hungry men at Shellmound. Chas. is quite well and delighted to get your letter. I expect some changes of organization will take place soon as Gen. Grant has taken hold. I am glad Warren Woodman has got the Cavalry regiment, should like him & it very much out here, but fear it cannot be had. You must write Mrs Woodman & ask her to take up her abode with you. I may do it

yet myself, though home seems pretty far away just now.

God bless you darling & keep you. I hear from Mother thro Dellie's letters. Many kisses to the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

Send me by Lt. Gilbreth a pair of shirts (flannel) 14  $\frac{3}{4}$  in neck and pretty long – a rubber coat (Chas Mulliken's size) and oblige your most loving husband  
Otis

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2012 10/26/1863 *From:* M C Meigs

*To:* Major Gn [OO] Howard

OOH-1958

Chattanooga

Comdg 11th Army Corps  
Bridgeport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[342]

Chattanooga 26 Oct 1863

Major Gn Howard  
Comdg 11th Army Corps  
Bridgeport

General,

I learned that the pontoons were taken for another use. I regret that this help to our transportation had to be denied us.

If the boat is furnished as promised we may certainly use it for a part of the distance at least to Battle Creek if not to the Signal Hill & thus in some degree relieve our overworked & starving mules. The weather the mud & the rocks have nearly taken all the strength out of them. I have sent all the horses of my party except one back to Bridgeport to be fed until better roads enable us to feed them here.

I do not think that Capt Edward's visit to Cincinnati would be of as much service to the U.S. as his remaining at his post. I have telegraphed to Col Swords at Cincinnati to engage at any necessary time & said to <Bucelepus> 25 to 30 carpenters & Boat builders and the general commanding has ordered detail of such mechanics to be made at once for the same work. It is important that the engines be <?aited> by a <> screw & pipe is ready! I understand that the boat launched is to be detained for want of a "piece of pipe" which may have been broken or stolen to serve as stove pipe to some tent.

I congratulate you upon the capture of locomotive & cars. They will be useful before the Bridge is completed & will aid us.

You have no idea of the destruction of the animals in this army. They die daily & few of the horses can move with any vigor. The men are in short rations but have enough for sustenance for the present.

Hoping that you may be successful in every operation against this rebellious horde now beleaguering Chattanooga.

I am truly yours  
M.C. Meigs  
<>

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2013 10/30/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1959

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
General's Office

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[436]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
General's Office  
October 30th 1863

Dearest,

We have passed through another encounter with the enemy and providentially have escaped unharmed. My Corps left Bridgeport, on tuesday the 27th and marched some fifteen or sixteen miles encamped at a place called Whitesides. You can hardly imagine a rougher country – rocks, hills and mountains with deep valleys. We met with coal mines on the top of the high peaks with an arrangement of a car, tramway & rope to let down the coal. Whitesides had a log-house filled one large woman & several children. How poor, how filthy, how ignorant all the people are. You would be horrified at the poverty & dirt. One abandoned house at the Depot was pretty fair. It had two rooms. We had them swept and fires built. With pickets well out and some misgivings about the enemy we had a fair night. The enemy's cavalry were chased as we advanced – took two prisoners.

The next day at daylight we pressed on toward Chattanooga, had to halt to get everything across the mountain into Lookout Valley. Then we marched on, met the enemy's scouts who fled as we drew near. Just after passing Wauhatchee Station the enemy headed us off by an ambush in a thick wood near the base of a mountain spur. Firing was hard on our scouts & pickets. After a short skirmish, in which we had one killed and a few wounded we cleared the wood & marched on. The rebels meanwhile shelling us from Lookout mountain. They fired over & under but they wounded but one man. We went into camp. Gen. Geary of the 12th Corps encamped about 3 ½ miles back.

A little after midnight terrific firing was heard near Gen. Geary and I got my command under arms with instructions to go to the relief of Geary. It was clear & there was a bright moon. We had hardly got the Corps under way before we were fired on from a range of hills or spurs on our left as we marched along. My troops drove the rebels from these hills and opened communication. The rebels were driven from rifle-pits and by the 11th Corps, and we have received high commendation. Col Underwood 33d Mass, Mrs Perry Lee's friend was most seriously wounded. I have seen his beautiful & resolute little wife & daughter, when she visited him at Brooks Station. He has a clear & decided Christian faith. He is a temperate & healthy man & may get well. We had some 15 or 20 killed and 125 wounded. Gen Geary had a hard time, lost his only son & some 300 killed & wounded. God has been good & sparing and given us the victory & we have opened the river from Bridgeport almost to Chattanooga.

Give much love to the children. I have been too hard at work to write you since the battle before this. I have just received two letters written while Jamie was so sick. Via Washington, I got a nice letter from home just before the battle. God bless you & the children.

Lovingly  
Otis

The battle was from 1 a.m. to 3 ½ a.m, Oct. 29, 1863