
2076 2/2/1864

From: J.W. Chickering

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2029

No 1 Bulfinch Place
Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[13]

No 1 Bulfinch Place
Boston, Feb. 2d [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

Dear General and brother,

I did not try to crowd up and tell you how happy, & (evangelically) proud we of Maine, & of America, were last evening.

I send you the "Advertiser" notice, & shall make one for the N. York Observer.

Now a word of my work, and the important aid I desire in it, which no one can give as well as yourself. So thought more than one of our Board, who said, last ev'g "Can we not have an address from him?"

Our movement, as you will see from our Circular, is moral, and especially Christian – not ignoring still less opposing the law work on the various "Orders", but yet striving to bring in the respectable religious people, who are tired of Temperance (joking) – afraid of "Secret Societies" - and doubtful about "Prohibition".

We use the Sabbath freely and without reproach for Gospel temperance, sermons, & hold prayer-meetings Sabbath evenings at which thousands of pledges have been taken.

Now we are about commencing a course of discourses Sabbath ev'gs, from our ablest pastors, and it will encourage them, & give us prestige before the people to precede them by an address from one who the people so much delight to honor.

It need not be elaborate, or a lecture at all, but such remarks and illustrations can convey <> versus abstinence & safety, as you could give by the hour.

You shall not do it "for naught", in any sense.

Will you be kind enough to send me at once the dates of your engagements home, & mention one or more evening Sabbaths or others from which we may select, so as to plan in season?

I also wish to arrange for my son to come from Exeter, N.H. while you are here.

I remain, dear Sir, with best regards to you & all yours.
Truly yr friend & brother in our Lord.
J.W. Chickering

2078 2/4/1864

From: J.A. Anderson

To: Maj. Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2030

Source: Bowdoin

Belvidere Delaware
and Flemington
Railroads
Office of the Engineer
and Superintendent
Lambertville, N.J.

[485]

[Letterhead]

Belvidere Delaware and Flemington Railroads
Office of the Engineer and Superintendent,
Lambertville, N.J.
Feb. 4th 1864

Maj. Gen Howard
Dear Sir

Pardon a Stranger for expressing to you the very great satisfaction felt in listening to your address at the Academy of Music in Phila. last week, and my sympathy with one who is standing up so faithfully in Our Master's service. My wife, who also heard you, has had full liberty to adore the defenders of our flag, ever since it was assailed, and therefore the enclosed will not perhaps seem out of place to one of its Christian defenders.

You may possibly remember my introducing myself to you as a "Jersey man" before the meeting in Phila. I recall the circumstance in order to refer again to my brother-in-law Surgeon Riley of the 33rd N.J.V. He is the husband of a beloved and praying Sister, and is himself a professor of religion, but I fear has not mastered fully the idea of honoring God in all his ways, and is not very spiritual in his religion. As he has expressed to me a special respect for yourself, you will pardon me, I think, for stating these facts, and suggesting that possibly it may fall in your way to bring to bear upon him the influence of your character, and thus benefit his own soul as well as those under him. It would be a great source of thankfulness to me if he should be led to see his duty and to work for the Savior in the position he holds, which gives him many opportunities of doing good.

Please, Sir, accept the assurance that our prayers shall ascend to our Heavenly Father for his blessing upon you and upon your efforts to honor him.

Your Respectfully
J.A. Anderson

I may add that possibly Surgeon Riley might not be pleased to know that I have communicated with you in his behalf.

2079 2/4/1864

From: F. D. Sewall

To: General [OO Howard]

OOH-2031

Source: Bowdoin

Board of Examinations
for Officers
of Invalid Corps Cor.
18th St. & Pa. Av.
Washington D.C.

[53]

Board of Examination for Officers
of Invalid Corps Cor. 18th St. & Pa. Av.
Washington D.C. Feb'y. 4th 1864

General

Mr. Haskell Adj. of the 19th Me, is desirous of obtaining a position on your staff. I cheerfully recommend him as an excellent officer for staff duty. He is intelligent, industrious and brave. He was of great assistance to me while I commanded that Regmt. and during the short time I was in command of the Brigade, he was my A.A. Adj. Gen'l. and served me very acceptably. He was subsequently with Col. Heath at Brigade Hd Qrs. Col. Heath speaks of him in high terms.

I know that Mr. Haskell has a strong personal attachment for you, and I am confident he would serve faithfully on your staff.

If you have a position for him I hope that it may agreeable for you to select him. For the interest I have always felt in Mr. H. I would like to have him under your influence as a personal benefit to him.

I am Gen'l. very respectfully
Yr Obt. Servt.
F. D. Sewall
Col. 3d. Regt. Inv. Corps.

2080 2/6/1864

From: J.S. Sewall

To: My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-2032

Wenham, Mass.

Source: Bowdoin

[489]

Wenham, Mass.

Feb. 6, 1864

My dear Howard

I see by the papers th. you are home on a short furlough among yr. friends. I w'd like very much to see you. We have not met since the war began. We c'd have lots of talk abt. old college days, as well as abt. the affairs of the times. I cannot get to Maine, now, & so why can't you stop here overnight (& day too) on yr. return to Tennessee? I do not know at what time you go back, but if you come to Boston over the Eastern R.R. you come thro' our place, & we shd. give you a hearty welcome. Wenham is 20 miles out of Boston, a quiet village, where you c'd. take a day of rest before returning to the field. I will meet you at any train you mention. If you c'd. only spare a single night you c'd. get here in the eve'g train fr. Portland, & then reach Boston at 9 3/4 the next morning, so as to have the whole day before you there. If Mrs. Howard returns with you any part of the way, we sh'd be right glad to welcome her with you, & will make you both comfortable.

I feel rejoiced at yr. success with the Eleventh Corps, & I doubt not you will always look back with pleasure to the part you took in these struggles.

Jack [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain you know has long been in the army. I met him, last Commence't & all my old fever for the army revived. I have wanted to go ever since the 12th April '61, but my parish & family have prevented.

If you can possibly spare the time, I hope you can stop with me before you leave N. England, & my wife, & father in law (Mr. Benson of Winthrop, whom you know) join me most heartily in the request.

With respects to yr. family

Affectionately Yr. Friend & Classmate

J.S. Sewall [John Smith Sewall, Bowdon Class of 1850]

2081 2/9/1864

From: Francis W. Hasbee
Lt. & Adj. 19th
Maine Vols

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2033

Hd Qrs 19th Maine Vols
(near) Stevensburg, Va

Augusta, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[54]

Hd. Qrs. 19th Maine Vols
(near) Stevensburg, Va
February 9th 1864

General:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from Col. Sewall.

I have made this application with hesitation not knowing your wishes in such matters but trust that I may not be misunderstood.

I shall be glad to be with you in any position, General, that you may wish. I have tried to do my duty faithfully and to honor the commission that you gave me.

I also enclose a statement from Capt. Fogler, Comd'g. The three Field officers are now in Maine on Conscript and recruiting service. I hope I may yet be with you, if not, I shall try General, to be ever worthy of your former kindness to me.

I am General, Very Respectfully
Your ob't Serv't.
Francis W. Haskell
Lt. & Adj. 19th Maine Vols

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Augusta, Maine

2082 2/9/1864

From: Jn B Bachelder

To: Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2034

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[470]

Washington D.C. Feb. 9, 1864

Maj. Genl. Howard

Dear Sir

I am engaged in preparing a large general view of the "Gettysburg Battlefield". The scenery, representing some twenty five square miles is completed. I am now engaged in locating the position of the troops. I returned yesterday from the Army of the Potomac, every Regt of which I have now located on my drawing. I should like very much to see you before I pronounce it completed and will visit you a week from today, or any other day near that date if you will write me when you can be seen. As I do not know your address I send this to the care of your State Adj. General.

I am Sir

Yours with Respect

Jn B Bachelder

address

125 Washington St

Boston Mass

2083 2/10/1864 *From:* Geo Shepard

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2035

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

[CHECK ORIGINAL Number stamp hidden in fold at bottom of page.]

Bangor Feb 10, 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard
My Dear Sir,

Will you excuse me if I state to you in general the facts about the endowing of our Theol. Seminary. I have been here, connected with it, twenty seven years, in all that time struggling with poverty.

Nineteen years ago, I was called to a pulpit in Brooklyn N.Y. where my salary would have been \$5000. I remained here on \$1000 for the sake of the good cause in Maine.

But now there has come some success to the Seminary in getting funds to live on. The greatest success has been in connexion with this war. In returning from the West last fall, where I went to lecture <two ? [CHECK ORIGINAL –fold at bottom of page]> subscribed, each \$10,000 - another gave \$10,000 in his will - another \$3000 - another gentleman in NY \$6000. All this in large sums with the year; then a great many smaller gifts, from \$500 down to \$100. The result is that we are getting toward the end of a complete endowment.

I state this to you, knowing you will rejoice in it, and that you may communicate the facts to your brother Charles, and still further, that if you or he would, at any time, deem it a privilege, to drive in a nail, or lay a stone in our foundation, you might know the state of the case, and be assured it would do good.

I have had to stoop to the humiliation of begging for this object the last year – a sort of crucifixion it has been to me – but some duties not pleasant have to be done.

I hardly know that I proceed with propriety in at all bringing this matter before your mind – as you and your brother have the higher sacrifices to make; if not, you will pardon me.

I regret that I failed to see you on Monday when I called at your house, and I intended to call again.

I have followed you in your course with admiration at the moral courage, as well as the other you have shown – have thanked God for the preeminent service He has enabled you to render your country.

May his power still protect you, and his counsel guide you, and the comforts of his spirit be with you. Make my kindest regards to your Brother when you see him.

With great respect
Your Most Truly
Geo Shepard

2089 2/19/1864

From: Wm. H. Fogler

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2036

Head Qrs. 19th Maine
Vols.

Comdg. 11th Army Corps.

Source: Bowdoin

Near Stevensburg, Va.

[55]

Head Qrs. 19th Maine Vols.
Near Stevensburg, Va.
February 19th, 1864

General,

The object of this note is to call your attention to the merits of Lt. F.W. Haskell, Adj't. of this regiment who is desirous of securing a position on your staff whenever a vacancy occurs.

Lt. Haskell has been Adj't. of this regiment since its organization and has been a most efficient officer in that capacity. He was for some time A.A.A. Gen. at Brigade Head Qrs. and earned a fine reputation for his efficiency in that position. He is a prompt, able and energetic officer, perfectly conversant with his duties and faithful in their discharge.

Should you appoint him as a member of your staff it will be very gratifying to him as well as his friends who know his worth and his wishes in this respect, and will secure for yourself the services of a most valuable officer.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
Wm. H. Fogler
Capt. Com'dg. 19th Maine Vols.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Com'dg. 11th Army Corps.

2084 2/10/1864 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Rev. J. S. Sewall

OOH-2037

Augusta, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta, Me. Feb. 10th 1864

My dear Sewall

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to comply with your kind invitation, but I cannot this time. I have accepted a pressing invitation from the Christian Commission to stop in Boston friday night next and speak somewhere, but at what place I do not know.

My mother is going to Indiana with me and we have agreed to stay over night with a near relative.

Just as soon as I can do so, if God spares my life, I shall do myself the pleasure of visiting you. Give my kindest remembrances to Mrs Sewall & her father.

May God bless & keep you.

Affectionately
O.O. Howard

Rev. J. S. Sewall

2085 2/13/1864 *From:* E.D. Townsend

To: Major General Oliver O.
Howard

OOH-2038
Source: Bowdoin

War Department
Adjutant General's
Office
Washington

U.S. Volunteers,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

[57]

[Letterhead]
War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington
February 13, 1864

Major General Oliver O. Howard,
U.S. Volunteers,
Chattanooga, Tennessee

General,

The Secretary of War takes great pleasure in transmitting to you General Orders, No. 41, promulgating a Joint Resolution tendering the thanks of Congress to yourself and the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac.

I have the honor to be, General,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servant,
E.D. Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General

Joint Resolution

Expressive of the thanks of Congress to Major General Joseph Hooker, Major General George G. Meade, Major General Oliver O. Howard and the officers and soldiers of the army of the Potomac.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the gratitude of the American people, and the thanks of their representatives are due, and are hereby tendered, to Major General Joseph Hooker and the officers and soldiers of the army of the Potomac, for the skill energy and endurance which first covered Washington and Baltimore from the meditated blow of the advancing and powerful army of rebels led by General Robert E. Lee; and to Major General George G. Meade, Major General Oliver O. Howard and the officers and soldiers of that army, for the skill and heroic valor which at Gettysburg repulsed, defeated and drove back, broken and dispirited, beyond the Rappahannock, the veteran army of the rebellion.

[Written on the back of the Resolution]
Resolutions of Congress respecting certain Officers and Army of Potomac

[CHECK ORIGINAL –Line difficult to read]
A.G. O.
Washington D.C.
Feby. 13th, '64

Townsend E.D.
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Copy of letter transmitting Genl. Orders No 41, promulgating a Joint Resolution of Congress thank Genls.

Hooker, Meade and Howard, for bravery &c.

Recd Feby 18th 1864

2086 2/13/1864

From: Orland Smith
Col. 73d Ohio Vols.
Chillicothe Ohio

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard
Comdg 11th Corps
Chattanooga.

OOH-2039

Source: Bowdoin

[56]

Private

Chillicothe Ohio, Feb. 13, 1864

General:

I have been impelled by, what I regard, justifiable circumstances to tender my resignation, and I take the liberty to address you privately on the subject.

The communication was forwarded to the Superintendent of recruiting for Ohio, and by him transmitted to the Adjt. Gen. of the Army at Washington. I think it probable, the document will be referred to you for your opinion, and I desire to ask your favorable consideration. I trust you know me well enough to need no assurance, that the step was not taken without careful deliberation, and a conscientious inquiry touching my obligations to my country. The leading reason set forth in my resignation would have induced me to retire from the service months ago had we not been in the midst of activities which rendered it improper and impracticable.

I was unwilling to disregard the claims of the Service when circumstances seemed to render them paramount to other considerations. I now believe I can retire without prejudice to my regiment. You are well aware that Lt. Col. Long and his associates are abundantly capable of directing its operations without impairing its efficiency. Moreover, should its numbers reach the requirement, I think him, as well as Major Hurst and Capt. Higgins justly entitled to promotion. If I have succeeded, in the two years service already rendered, in promoting the efficiency of the regiment, and in any manner contributed towards the success of our arms and the crippling of the rebellion, I shall feel fully compensated for my efforts, and were I convinced that my regiment must suffer by my withdrawal I should still feel under obligations to remain with it. Having satisfied myself to the contrary of this, I do not recognize any legal or moral obligation of a higher Command. I therefore must earnestly repeat my desire that you should make such endorsements as will secure the object, which I seek, viz: my retirement, to private life.

With assurance of the highest esteem and profoundest wishes for your continued safety and success.

I am, Dear General,
Very Truly Yours,
Orland Smith
Col. 73d Ohio Vols.

Major Gen. O.O. Howard
Comdg 11th Corps
Chattanooga.

2087 2/14/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear father [John
Gilmore]

OOH-2040

Richmond Ind.

Source: Bowdoin

[47]

Richmond Ind.
Feb. 14th 1864

Dear father,

We had quite a pleasant journey, stopped in Buffalo over Sunday, got here yesterday tuesday morning. Mother not only stood the journey well, but I think has been decidedly benefitted by it. She became quite active & is very happy & cheerful. I do hope you are getting on well & so does she. Henry is well & seems to be doing well. All the family are well. Chas. has got perfectly well.

Remember me Roland & Cynthia.

Your affectionate Son
Otis

Aunt Martha says you must come west if you want a new lease of life. She and Henry send their thanks for Mother's coming.

2088 2/17/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2041

Richmond Indiana

Source: Bowdoin

[48]

Richmond Indiana
February 17th 1864

Dearest,

Mr. Dimond met us at the Depot in Boston. Mr Hazard was there and took mother to Cambridge and I was taken to the Tremont and washed also took tea Then went with Mr D. to Mr Tobey the Pres. Of the Boston board of trade whom I knew having met him in Phila.

Some three hundred of the principal men, merchants, statesmen, lawyers Drs. &c were introduced to me and conversed for a minute or two. I think this cordial reception in Boston did me good. Mrs T. and daughters & mother very fine ladies. At 11 I went thence to Mr Hazard's, had a good sleep, so did Mother. Left 8 ½ a.m. next day, via Albany, arrived in Albany 5 P.M. took tea at Delaware. Entered car at 6 P.M., arrived in Rochester at 4 A.M. Sunday slept in Lawrence Hotel till 7, breakfasted and then went on to Buffalo, went to American House, dined, went to a Mil. Funeral & thence to St. Paul's Epis. evening service – services very pleasant to me & Mother also. Music not to be surpassed.

At night I found Dr Hill, Christian physician that I had traveled with from Phila to New York. We went to Presbyterian Church, heard Dr. Hickock preach on Sin. Met Col Dandy an old army officer & acquaintance. A Mr Howard prominent citizen, Pres. of the bank came to call on me. Next day (Monday) we left for Cleaveland at 7, arrived 3 P.M., train waiting for Columbus. Mother had grown so young that she ran from train to train faster than I could, reached Columbus 9-30 P.M.

Met with the brothers of Commodore Foot - one quite elderly probably 65 yrs, shewed great attention. We went with him to Exchange Hotel near depot, slept till after 1, went on at 2 & reached Richmond about 9 a.m. tuesday.

We anticipated all expectation, found a warm welcome. Chas. was gone to Chicago, to see the place, has just returned bringing back Cousin Lizzie Strickland. She is a lady now, one that you and I would commend, no affectation and very cheerful and good looking. Henry is proud of her.

I told Aunt Martha what you said about Mother's bonnet. She will attend to it. She sends warmest love to you – wishes me to press you to make her a visit & bring all the children. I told her you had <6>, 4 white & two blk. She says bring me one blk. She has a colored girl, very dark and one who can do three times the work of a white one (ordinaire) – take courage, darling, & be patient, wont you?

I concluded to get a small insurance policy. They wont insure me for but 2000. It isnt enough to render it dangerous.

Love from all to you. Chas is in clover. I shall leave tomorrow at 10 1/2 a.m.

I am anxious about Guy. I do hope his attack was temporary, and Jamie I cant feel that he is quite well, and yourself I feel sure you will break down unless you can live a little more easily. My insurance will cover the mortgage if Mr Hall takes up with the offer. I dont think I would sell a great deal of R.R. Bonds. They must be good for the present. When you can get time I want you, Lizzie, to send me a list of stocks and cash on deposit. I shall send you the Insurance policy or rather Uncle Henry will. Much love to your dear self, and to the children. Tell Gracie papa dont want her to read story books much. Miss Woodard will make other selection for her. Papa wants her to learn everything as her Mamma did, i.e. to knit, and sew & cut & fit – a sweet kiss for precious baby.

God keep you.

Lovingly
Otis

2091 2/19/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2043

Louisville Ky

Source: Bowdoin

[490]

Louisville Ky
Friday Feb 19th 1864

Dearest,

When Chas. Came back from Chicago, he brought a letter from you, commencing "My dear husband". I could'nt account for the formation and hope I may now return to be your "Dearest" again.

I consented to stop two days at Henry's and now I think it well as I avoided a collision on the Indianapolis and Louisville R.R. Yesterday on reaching the former place I expected to leave in the 9 P.M. train but I found it was not to go, and so I took a "oldier train" and was from 8 ¼ P.M. until 2 P.M. today in getting to this place.

I made the acquaintance of Major Saml. Moody commdg a newly organized detachment of the 27th Mich. On his way to join the regt. At Knoxville. He went from Falmouth, Me. Thinks he met you, years ago when you were a young lady at somebody's house at Falmouth. He was then about starting for California. He said he thought you a very beautiful and amiable girl and that his mother who never would consent to himself or his brother marrying, was willing he should make an offer to you. So we chatted. His brother's name is Glendy Moody I believe.

I have met here at the Galt House Gen. McCook & his wife also Mrs Crittenden. Mrs McCook is about your size. She is fresh & young & pretty. Mrs. C. is of a lovely spirit. Gen W. F. Smith "Baldie" as we call him is here with his wife and baby of 14 months, taken ill en route from New York to Nashville. The little one is just hanging by a thread between life and death. Mrs Smith is as beautiful a lady, my own wife excepted, as I have seen. She is very cheerful, but she can scarcely keep the tears back. God grant they may be spared the great sorrow of losing him.

I wish I could hear from Guy & Jamie, as well as from the rest. I am sitting in the office of the Galt house at a desk for Guests to write on, chairs fastened in position, an old man of 70 in next chair, in a troublesome, drunken sleep, dreams aloud now & then.

I called on Mrs Jenkins tonight. She sends her love to you, has a baby of 16 months, fine little girl, just running alone. Thro some misrepresentation, Capt Jenkins A.Q.M. was suddenly relieved from duty and has long waited for an assignment. She thinks he will go with Schofield in East Tenn. Mr. Jenkins was out during the evening. I fear he is drinking some. She is unchanged.

Give papa's love to each bunny and may God bless you & them. Remember me kindly to the girls - Julia & hers. I leave for Nashville at 7 in the morning.

Lovingly
Otis

Uncle Henry evaporates much water with his furnace daily. I think it unsafe not to do so, don't you?

2093 2/22/1864 *From:* David Preston

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2044

Banking House of
David Preston & Co.
Established May, 1852
Detroit

Chattanooga Tenn

Source: Bowdoin

[58]

[Letterhead]

Banking House of David Preston & Co.
Established May, 1852
Detroit

Feb 22 1864

Major General Howard
Chattanooga Tenn
My Dear Sir:

I yesterdy read with great pleasure the proceedings of the 2nd Aniversay of the U S Christian Com at Phil 28th ult.

I am glad General Howard, that we have at Least one Maj Genrl. (I hope we have many) who Love the Lord Jesus Christ. One who amid the noise, and, amid the dangers of Battles Can exclaim, "I fear no evil, Thy Rod and thy staff they comfort & support me." One who can affectionately kneel by the side of the Dying Soldier and whisper in his ear "Let not your heart be troubled. Ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Fathers' house are many mansions &c". I am glad my Dear Bro that you, not only believe in God, but that you believe in Jesus in the Savior of the world. O "How Sweet the name of Jesus Sounds in the Christians ear. It soothes his sorrows, Heals his wounds, and drives away his Fear". O how many Christian Hearts will gladly embrace the invitation to "pray for you".

Yours truly
David Preston

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

David Preston
Chicago
Feby 22, 1864
Letter

2094 2/23/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2045

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,

Source: Bowdoin

[492]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Feb 23 1864

Dearest,

I arrived at "Lookout" Depot yesterday morning, found my staff waiting for me, breakfasted at my old place or rather in a new mess tent that had been put up, an improvement. Went to see Gen. Thomas in the afternoon. He has been & is suffering from rheumatism.

The weather is lovely beyond description, warm as May, birds singing. I am hardly comfortable with a coat on. I have hired a colored "boy" (man) by the name of "Sam". He says his wife is Julia's sister. He appears to be a fine man, and takes hold well. I mean to begin back at Louisville and give you a bit of history of the journey, which was a very pleasant one. I got your letter on my arrival & was glad to find Guy was so well & sorry for Jamie. I think the furnace is the cause of sore throats. My cold is nearly well.

I have just snatched a few moments to say I am here and all is well. Gen Palmer with 14th Corps is making a reconnaissance towards Dalton. My command is a little scattered, but I hope to bring it forward before long.

Much love to all the children and a prayer for your keeping. Am sorry for the little one to lose Isabella. Some kind words to Julia.

Lovingly
Otis

2095 2/24/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2046

Head Qrs. 11th Corps
Lookout Valley

Source: Bowdoin

[493]

Head Qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley
Feb 24th 1864

Dearest,

I wrote you a hasty letter yesterday with the promise of beginning back. After I closed my letter at Louisville I went to bed & had a good sleep till about 5 am, when I was awakened with a similar sound from door to door of "Breakfast". I met a good many officers at the Hotel on account of the Court of Inquiry in session on McCook, Crittenden and Negley. Gens Hunter, Wadsworth, Van Cleve, Smith (i.e. Baldie) also Col. Schriver, Gen. Meade's Inspector General who is the judge advocate of the Court.

Capt. Tilford of the 3d Cavalry was there with his bride, brought from St. Louis and en route to Huntsville Ala. where he was stationed. Tilford graduated three years before me. His wife was not handsome but seems to exercise a good deal of influence over him. She is a "Romanist". Gen Davis, the Tilfords & myself got seats together for Nashville.

There was a great rush at the Depot as much as at Augusta. Everybody who wants to is not allowed to go, and it is quite a feat to get a seat amongst those who are allowed to go. Gen. Davis (Jeff C.) is the General who shot Gen Nelson at the Galt House. He is a pleasant, quiet gentleman, but quick tempered. He was in the old army and is still a Captain in the first Artillery. He commands a Divn in the 14th Corps – was associated with me in the pursuit of the enemy after the battle of Chattanooga. We had a pleasant day and no accident.

We had 20 minutes for dinner at Cave City. In this town is the celebrated Mammoth cave – the one "that every American ought to see", yet it has been my fortune to pass through three times without that pleasure. You and I will stop there when we visit Lookout Mountain – wont we?

At Nashville we found charming May weather, drove to the St. Cloud where I left valise and robe and walked to Gen. Underwoods. He is improving, able to move his leg a little and begins to feel out of danger. I was again invited to come over & stay with them. Mrs Harris of the ladies Aid Society, my particular friend - dont be jealous for she is considerably passed fifty – to whom this house is assigned, was gone to St. Louis. I occupied her room at the request she left behind on leaving. Here I staid very pleasantly.

Mrs Underwood accompanied me to Church, at the Presbyterian, College St. The house was almost filled with Soldiers from the hospitals. The interstices were filled, with citizens & strangers. We had a good sermon, convincing us of sin, but the coughing was so marked that it interrupted the service. I helped a little, in spite of good resolutions to the contrary. I met at Mrs Underwoods two Surgeons & their wives, a friend lady & two others. They bound together occupying this palatial residence, that Mrs Harris, rescued from secesh sympathizers who were trying to keep it for the rebel family which had abandoned it and fled on the approach of the Union forces. The scenery & the residences in and about Nashville are magnificent. At 4 ½ P.M. I joined Gen Davis, Capt & Mrs Tilford at the depot.

But I forgot to tell of my interview with Gen. Grant. Sat. evening I went in to see him. He appears to a stranger very much as Shunk used to at Watervliet. He talked with me very freely –thinks with me that the coming campaign will be likely to settle the difficulties and end the war. After talking a while - about Sherman's expedition – he spoke of his visit to Missouri, of his son who was sick and of his wife. She took cold when at Nashville and it settled in her eyes and she was still suffering sadly from it. The sick son was the one who had been so long with him in the Mississippi Campaign and acted as aid – about 13 yrs. old. Young was'nt it? The father spoke with pride of his fearlessness under fire.

The Gen. accompanied me to the St. Cloud to call on Mrs Tilford. In the parlor of the Hotel we found an elegant & accomplished lady. I was introduced by Gen Grant – Mrs Hough. She knew everything, everybody - interested with Mrs. Seward and others. I noticed in talking with Gen. Grant she was intensely union and laid

great stress on the word rebel. She wanted a pass to Huntsville, Ala. I think: as she said she proposed going there. Afterwards I asked Gen. Grant who she was. He said she had been recommended to him by some of his friends as an actress who moved in the best society of the land.

While on the way hither Gen. Davis told me of a conversation he overheard with some cotton speculators. They represented that some Jew, whose mistress this woman was, was using her to circumvent an Order of Gen Logan at Huntsville expelling all cotton speculators from his lines. I wrote the facts or hypotheses to Gen. Grant. It seems almost impossible that so elegant, so beautiful a lady, with every accomplishment could be bad.

Gen Davis & myself fixed us a bed by turning two seats together & putting the bottoms across, opening my robe blanket & pillow. We had a very good sleep, thru Tullahoma, over the mountains – thru Stevenson, where Capt & Mrs Tilford waked me to say good bye. At daylight we looked out upon Bridgeport. It is now quite a place – buildings have sprung up. Steamboats are building. The gigantic bridge is complete. My arrival was welcomed in a quiet way. Everybody seemed real glad to see me. Harry & Gilbreth are well. I like my Sam, getting less homesick, cough scarcely any. Much love to all the children. My pants were not in the valise. Did the Tailor bring them up.

God bless you all. I hope Jamie is well.

Lovingly
Otis

2096 2/25/1864 *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2047

Source: Bowdoin

U.S. Christian
Commission,
11 Bank Street
Philadelphia

[59]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,
11 Bank Street
Philadelphia
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank St.
Jos. Patterson, Treas., Western Bank.
Rev. W. E. Boardman, Sec'y, 11 Bank St.

February 25 1864

My dear Friend:

We have received a number of letters from clergymen and others, urging us to publish your speech, delivered at our meeting in the Academy of Music, this city, in pamphlet form, for general, gratuitous distribution. The general opinion is that it would greatly promote the cause of Christ and of our country, and we have concluded to comply with the request, which comes from so many and such influential sources.

Before publishing it, we thought best to send you a copy, that you may have an opportunity of making any alterations you think proper, though we are of opinion it is all right as it is. When you have made the alterations, if you should think of any, please return it to us, that it may go direct to the printer. We propose printing a very large number of copies, and will be happy to send you as many as you may order.

Yours very truly,
Geo. H. Stuart
per. J.M.

Major General O.O. Howard

2097 2/25/1864 *From:* O.A. Black

To: Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2048

1st Presb Church
Tawanda, Pa

Source: Bowdoin

[65]

Tawanda Feb 25 / 64

Genl. Howard

Dear Sir

Allow me to inform you of your election as an Honorary Member of our S.S. Miss. Soc, per the contribution & voice of Mr Bulls class of our S.S. (Boy). Hoping to hear from you of your willingness to have your name enrolled on our list of worthies as a friend of the SS & Miss. cause.

I remain yours
O.A. Black
Sec of S S Miss Soc
1st Presb Church
Tawanda, Pa

P.S. Genl if not asking to much we would like a letter to read to our S.S. At our monthly concert.

[written on the back]
Answered
Black, O.A.
Secy. S.S. Miss. Soc'y
1st Pres. Church
Tawanda, Pa.
Feb. 25th, 1864

2098 2/26/1864 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dearest Daughter
[Grace Howard]

OOH-2049

Head Quarters 11th
Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[479]

Head Quarters 11th Corps
February 26th 1864

My dearest Daughter,

I received your letter with mammas good long post script today. I did have a pleasant ride after I went from home, but I dont think it was so interesting to me as it would have been to you, had you accompanied me. Grandma, who met me at Brunswick, had a very pleasant journey. We staid at Letty's House the first night, rode almost all night the second, stopping at the Lawrence Hotel at Rochester N.Y. from 4 a.m. till about 8. The next night we slept in Buffalo N.Y. The next from 10 P.M. till 1 A.M. at Columbus, Ohio.

The next at Richmond Indiana, where you have one little cousin and three big ones. The little one they call Annie. She cannot speak plainly. You can scarcely understand her, but she is very animated and loves her sisters and cousins very much. Uncle Charles & cousin Lizzie Strickland met us the next day after our arrival - came down on the cars from Chicago.

Thursday night Papa was on a Soldiers train, slept in the cars - Friday night at the Galt House Louisville, Ky. The next night at Nashville, Tenn. The next on the cars, and the others up to now in Lookout Valley.

I hope you will not whisper and you will not have the unpleasant duty of telling that others whisper. I hope you will be able to draw a good map of Maine. There are three rivers you must not forget – the Androscoggin, near which you & papa were born, the Kennebec, near which Guy was born and the Penobscot, near which mamma was born. Ask mamma if she was not born at Bangor, or if she only went there when a little girl?

You said “Good by” papa – so good bye daughter. Give much love to dearest Mamma, to Guy, Jamie & Chancy. My love also to Col & Mrs Woodman. I hope you are all very well. Remember me kindly to Ebell, to Julia and “Jamie's little girls”.

May our blessed Heavenly Father keep you all in his love and fear. He says: “I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee”. See if you can find those words in the Bible.

Papa coughs scarcely any, and is quite well, expects Uncle Charlie tomorrow or next day morning.

Your affectionate father
O.O. Howard

P.S. I sent a (\$90) check on the U.S. Louisville Depositor to Mamma's Order in my last letter.
O.O.H.

2099 2/26/1864 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-2050

Bath

Source: Bowdoin

[494]

Bath Feb. 26, 1864 [Friday]

Dear Sister Lizzie

Poor Hattie [Anna Harriet Patten] died Wednesday [Feb 24, 1864] morning after untold suffering. She bore a consistent & clear testimony to the Love of Jesus to the last. The family seem calm, except when some haze of sorrow sweeps over them. She besought them each by name to meet her in Heaven. The funeral is Sat. at 3. P.M. and I will not go home till Monday. Ella & Dadie are here & pretty well.

I have not heard a word yet from Otis & Mother. Charles went up to Chicago for Lizzie Strickland & wrote me from there. Sarah got home last Sat. Evening & enjoyed her visit very much.

Give much love to my little nephews & niece & to Cousins Warren & Sarah W. [Woodman]

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

Ella sends much love.

2100 2/26/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-2051

Head Quarters 11th
Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[232]

Head Quarters 11th Corps
Feb. 26th 1864.

My dear Mother -

I wrote you at Louisville and Charles a short note from Nashville but I believe I have said nothing to you since. I went to the Presbyterian Church in the forenoon. The Church was filled with soldiers apparently the convalescents from the hospitals in the city & many of them seemed to have a bad cough, worse than mine, so that the services were much interrupted. The coughing was only drowned by the doxology.

At 4 ½ P.M. I left for Chattanooga in the regular passenger train. Gen. Jeff. C. Davis was with me and we managed to make us two very comfortable beds. At about 8 A.M. Monday I got off at Lookout Switch, where all my staff were waiting to receive me. I found everything quiet here, called on Gen Hooker and Gen. Thomas that day. Gen. Thomas had dispatched the greater part of his force on a reconnaissance towards Dalton and it has not returned yet. He himself went yesterday. There has been some little firing in that direction. My scouts can find no enemy withing forty miles of this place.

My new Divn is to come forward soon from Nashville & vicinity. I wanted to see Col. Coburn but have not yet been able to. I find my regiments that are here in prime condition with beautiful camps. We have a nice bakery near the RR station and gives the men soft bread constantly. The Christian Commission have a stand near there. I will enclose one of Mr Douglass' circulars.

The weather is beautiful, has been as warm as May at home. Have not had on an overcoat since my return. It seems like another world compared with Richmond Indiana, where you can scarcely keep your ears from freezing. I shall expect Charles a little tomorrow morning, but more Sunday, for he cannot get here easily till the latter since the trains do not connect at Nashville.

My health is very good, cough a very little in the morning and take a little cold by the change from close houses, but feel quite well. I have ridden every day, inspecting camps, hospitals, pickets &c. beginning at 4 P.M.

Tomorrow I have engaged to go to Chatt'a with Gen Hooker. He is unusually cordial since my return.

Give my love to Uncle, Aunt & Cousins. I hear from Lizzie & Children up to 19th inst, all well. Isabella & Etta were both away, Isabella on a visit. Julia & "Jamies little girls" were doing nicely. I have got a check for the Policy tell Uncle Henry. I hope you are very well & happy.

Yr. aff. Son
Otis

2101 2/28/1864 *From:* Hugo Jacoby

To: Maj. Gen. O. Howard

OOH-2052

Camp Lookout Valley

Cmg 11th Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

Camp Lookout Valley Feb. 28/1864

Maj. Gen. O. Howard
Cmg 11th Corps
Sir,

As the critical condition of my adopted but affectionately beloved country at the time of the evacuation of Harrisons Landing and the 2nd battle of Bull Run I abandoned a lucrative position as Salesman with the house of Thomas Mellor & Co in Phila to enlist with the 27th Rgt P.V. having previously refused the tender of a commission as 2nd Lieut. by the now Gen. Schimmelpfennig and Col. Bushbeck. I did then not hesitate to enter as Private, although brought up in comparative refinement and educated at the University of Berlin Prussia. The allusion to such matters, indifferent though they be in themselves and indiscreet their recital, will explain my perhaps too fastidious sensitiveness upon the point of honor, the unrestricted cultivation of which sense had heretofore attended my whole life. The keener the conception of the disgrace, inflicted upon me, the more humiliating was therefore a Regimental order, a copy of which I would have enclosed, had it not been refused to me, reducing me in due form to the ranks, for leaving Camp without permission.

It is hard, General, after laboring with religious punctuality and faithfulness to discharge all, even the most onerous duties on marches and pickets as well as in battles, especially since my promotion to Corporal in Dec. 1862, never having been guilty of any neglect of duties, not even happily on account of sickness, when the terms of enlistment of our Regt are nearly expired, to be yet subjected to disgrace. The passport, which I have the liberty to include, does not in my opinion, sustain the charge of said order.

You will, therefore pardon, General, if I briefly state my offence. On the 22nd inst. I received in the afternoon, together with Serg Naar permission to go to Lookout Point. We met there some old friends of the 78th Rgt P.V. and remained longer than we intended, trusting in the then full moon to be our safe guide after sunset. Our friends however bade us to desist from the very perilous undertaking, to descend the steep mountain at night, and as neither the passport nor any remarks of ours had specified the time of our return, we stayed there overnight.

Next morning I reported myself to Capt. v. Seidlitz, Comdg my Co., and offered my apology, which was not accepted. I was then recommended for degradation, while Serg. Naar received arrest of 24 hours as punishment. I have some reason to believe, General, that I am a victim to partiality. Yet my urgent appeal for an interview with Maj. Priedt Cmdg our Rgt as well as my humble prayer for redress of Col. Bushbeck have so far been ignored. I owe it to my family and friends at home, who have faith in the integrity of my character, to remove by yet another effort, the stigma, which the excess of punishment has lastingly imposed upon it, (as degradation is generally accepted as a punishment for disgraceful actions) and I implore you, General, with all the fervor, with which the conviction of an undeserved stain upon my honor, inspires me, to assist me in in having the order revoked and substitute, if must be, a less degrading punishment. I allow myself to suggest, that the ends of justice will not suffer thereby, and I will not cease to submissively confront hardships, exposures and even death, although not prepared for disgrace.

I may have, General, transgressed in this intrusive communication the routine of military discipline, but believe me, that my reverential faith in your justice and my filial regard for your own individuality have ever proved effective equivalent and powerful incentives for adequating myself to all essential requirements of the service.

I have the honor to sign myself
with the highest regard
General
Your humble servant
Hugo Jacoby
Corp. Co. A 27th Rgt P.V.

1st Brig. 2nd Div. 11th Corps

2102 2/29/1864 *From:* James Wood Jr Col *To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2053

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 136th
Regt N.Y.V.I. 2d Brig
2d Div. 11th A.C.
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

Comdg 11th Corps A.C

[62]

Head Quarters 2d Brig 2d Div. 11th A.C.
Lookout Valley, Tenn. Febr 29th 1864

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

General

It is to me a humiliating position to ask for, and canvass my own claims for office. It was always so in civil life; and hence I never was a successful politician; particularly in the proposition true in matters military. But I observe that those who are successful in obtaining military office and promotion, use those who put forth and press their own claims, and that the management of the politician is adopted in military life, and is, I regret to say, too often successful over justice, rank & merit. Self-defence, therefore, compels me, to a certain extent, to adopt the same course, even at the expense of some self-respect.

I was very highly gratified and flattered by the favourable consideration with which you received my application for promotion, in the interview I had with you on the subject. I resolved to have an interview with Maj. Genl Hooker on the same subject. Accordingly I called on him the next day. This to me was a sure cross, for beside the self-abasement of presenting my own claims, I was but slightly acquainted with him. The interview however was a very pleasant one, and Genl Hooker did me the honor to say that he would do all in his power to procure my promotion. He said that in his judgment, the true course to pursue, was for the Corps Commander to give me a recommendation in writing, asking my promotion upon such grounds as he might think proper to present, which recommendation he (Genl Hooker) would favourably endorse.

I beg leave therefore, in presenting my request for such a recommendation, to lay before you in writing, the grounds upon which, in my judgment, it is right and proper for me to ask for promotion.

I. A consciousness of an ability to discharge the duties which the advanced grade will devolve upon me, with credit to myself, and benefit to the service. I am aware, that no opinion is more likely to be erroneous, than a favourable opinion of one's self. As a general rule, men are apt to over estimate their own abilities, their own relative positions, their own importance. Yet I am constrained to believe that I can do justice to the office I seek. In comparing myself with those officers around me, with whom I come in contact, holding or discharging the duties of the advanced grade, I see nothing which should deter me from asking for the position; on the contrary, it seems to me that I could discharge the duties, with more energy, more efficiency, and more profitably to the Government than, at least some of them.

II. I humbly submit, with all due deference, that my services since I have been in the Military service of the U.S. authorise me to ask for promotion as a favor, if it does not entitle me to demand it as a right.

I have now been in the service nineteen months. I entered the army as Colonel of the 136th Regt. N.Y.V.I. made up entirely of raw recruits. Not an officer in the Regt. had received a military education, or had any military experience. The arduous nature of the undertaking to work this material into a well disciplined, efficient, reliable regiment, will be readily appreciated. Within a week after I reached Washington, when arms were first put into the hands of the men, I was ordered to join the 11th Corps, Army of the Potomac, for active duties in the field. I was put under Commanders from whom I received no advice, no instruction, no encouragement, up to the time Genl Barlen took command of the Brigade, so far as drill, discipline and the internal government of the Regt was concerned. I had an isolated Command. Our Camp of instruction was in front of the Enemy, our time for drill when resting from long marches. Under these discouraging circumstances I labored arduously & industriously, to drill & discipline my Regt, & make it efficient & reliable. In my judgment, it did make rapid proficiency in acquiring the drill, and a knowledge of all the duties it was called upon to discharge. In long and many marches, on the picket line, and on the battle field, its character & efficiency has frequently been put to a

practical test. At Chancellorsville, at Gettysburgh, at Lookout Valley, at Chattanooga, and the marches which preceded and succeeded the battles designated by these names, it made a record, of which, to say the least, it need not be ashamed. In military as in morals, the same rule, I suppose obtains. You discern a good officer by the same criterion that you do a righteous man "By their fruits ye shall know them". By this rule I am willing my merits should be tested.

III. It seems to me that the sacrifices to which I was subjected, and to which I was compelled to submit, when I entered the military service of the U.S. entitles me to some compensations, and other things being equal, ought to be taken into consideration, in determining the question of promotion.

When the rebellion broke out which was the cause of the present war, I was engaged in the practice of the law, at Geneseo, Livingston Co. State of N.Y. where I commenced my professional career. I had an established reputation, and a large and lucrative practice. Under the Presidents first call for troops, I was actually engaged in raising & forwarding volunteers to the defence of Washington. I did not then take a regiment, because there seemed to be no lack of regimental Commanders; and because I had not sufficient confidence in my military knowledge & capacity, to justify myself in assuming the responsible position of the command of an undisciplined regt. I doubted my ability to meet the exigencies of the service, as I then understood it. It is true, that in my younger days I had dabbled in military affairs, had succeeded with others in remodeling, not to say reforming, the militia system of our state; had organized volunteer militia regts, had drilled and maneuvered them on field days and in encampments; but for ten years next preceding the commencement of the war, I had devoted myself exclusively to my profession. I knew just enough of military, to cause me to shrink from the responsibility of command.

After the disastrous result of the peninsular campaign and the defeat of our armies at the second battle of Bull run, the President issued another call for volunteers, and ordered a draft of the militia. The stability of the Government seemed to be imperilled, and the people of the north were gloomy & despondent. Under these circumstances, I was called upon to raise and take command of a Regt. to meet the emergency that was upon us. A sense of duty, the promptings of patriotism, and public sentiment induced me to respond to the call. It is true, I had many clients who had entrusted their business to me and where rights & interests required protection. But the time had come when I thought the Government had a paramount claim to my services. I dropped my pen, laid aside my briefs, and abandoned my clients. I accepted the Colonelcy in a volunteer Regt. to be raised in the 30th Senate Dist of the State of N.Y. Within two weeks from the time I accepted the commission, the men to compose the Regt. were enlisted, within four weeks they were organized into a reg't. and mustered into the U.S. service, and within six weeks I was with my Regt, on the South bank of the Potomac, in the state of Virginia. At the same time that I was commissioned, my law partner, and the clerk in our office, were appointed & commissioned as officers in the same Regt.; thus stopping my law office of every person connected with it, leaving no one to take care of my business interest in my absence. The pay and emoluments of the office of Colonel are much less than the income from my professional business; and it will readily be seen, that I could not thus suddenly and unexpectedly abandon my business, without sustaining a large pecuniary loss.

But the pecuniary considerations and loss is of small account, and does not weigh much in my mind, in estimating the value of the sacrifice, which I laid upon the altar of my country. I was ambitious in my profession. I determined to occupy no second places. After a long, arduous, and almost exhausting struggle, I reached the point for which I started. I trust I may be allowed to state without subjecting myself to the charge of self-laudation or egotism, what was a conceded fact, namely, that at the time I entered the service, I stood at the head of the bar with which I was connected. It was a position which I had acquired by hard study, close & long continued application to business, and many a hard fought engagement in the forensic battle field. Here I was securely entrenched, and could not be dislodged until life's forces should fail by natural decay, or be weakened by disease.

For a professional man to satisfy himself, that it is his duty, voluntarily, to abandon such a position "Hic opus, hic labor est." [this is the hard work, this is the toil.] But I arrived at the conclusion that such was my duty. Guided by what I supposed to be patriotic motives, humbly asking from "Our Father which art in Heaven" light from above to direct me in the right path, and lead me in the right way, I did abandon my professional business, its names, its distractions, its advantages and its benefits, (not however without casting many "longing, lingering looks behind") to risk my reputation in a new and untried profession, and my life on the battle field.

IV. An attempt has been made to deprive my Regt of the credit to which it is entitled, for the part it took in the night action of Lookout Valley, and to have it believed that the Regt did not participate in the engagement. As near as I can ascertain, outside of this Division, it is understood that the assault on the hill was made by the 73d O & 33d Mass, and that the 136th N.Y. was not engaged. The facts are that the first two regts named, made an

attack upon the enemy posted on the hill. They were repulsed and retreated to foot of the hill. It was in this repulse, that the casualties occurred which those regiments sustained. Col Underwood was wounded, as it was then thought mortally, and several other officers were killed and wounded. At this juncture my Regt was ordered up, and I was directed to attack the enemy. I charged up the hill in the face of a steady musketry fire, without firing a gun I out-flanked the enemies line of battle, drove that part of his forces in my front in confusion from the hill. This exposed his right flank and carried a retreat of the whole line. The 33d Mass, after the repulse reformed at the foot of the hill, renewed the attack and when I arrived on the hill, it was in contact with the enemy, with both flanks exposed, and but for timely reinforcement would have been cut off or repulsed. The 73d O. did not attack the second time, but threw out skirmishers and took shelter by getting into a depression in the surface of the ground, a short distance from the road. It was not till sometime after the engagement was over that the 73d O. was moved up the hill and formed connections with the 33d Mass, on its right. The evidences of confusion and precipitancy of retreat, were found only in front of my Regt. I refer to the guns, swords, hats, caps &c, with which the ground was strewn.

This is a plain unvarnished statement of the facts, in regard to this fight. I claim that the success of the attack, and the victory, was due to the vigorous charge of the 136th N.Y. That is to say, the attack could have been repulsed, and the enemy held the hill if that charge had not been made. Far be it from me to impeach, or in any way detract from the valor & bravery of the other regts engaged. All I ask is even handed justice. I have, perhaps, been too indifferent in regard to this matter & have not taken sufficient pains to correct the erroneous impressions, that have gone abroad. That, it seemed to me, was the duty of the Brigade Commander. It is due to the 136th, that it should have all the credit to which it is justly entitled. If it is withheld, it takes away that ambition which would otherwise impel the men to display similar valor & bravery under similar circumstances. Col Underwood has already been promoted for gallantry in that action. Col Smith, for the same reason, was recommended for promotion by the corps Commander and the Commander of the 11th & 12th Corps. Col Underwood was my junior in rank. His promotion, is due in part, perhaps, to the severe wound he received; and for that reason, I suppose, I ought not to complain that he is promoted over my head. Col Smith was in Command of the brigade, and it may be claimed, that the credit of the operation of the brigade, legitimately belonged to him, and that his promotion is a commendation of the whole brigade. But Col Smith has resigned & left the Service, without waiting for his promotion as recommended. That secures to the 33d Mass. all the honors of the engagement, and I submit, bears the inference firmly deduceable, that this Regt. exhibited more valor & bravery & performed more brilliant & deserving services than the other Regts engaged; particularly is this so, when it is observed that the promotion of its Colonel, puts him near his Senior in rank & supports the impression which prevails that 136th N.Y.V.I. did not take part in a charge which has been specially noticed by the Maj. Genl commanding the Department, as being one "of the most distinguished feats of arms of this war".

In view of the considerations herein presented, and such other courses and considerations as may occur to you, I respectfully request, that by a communication in writing, you recommend me for promotion to the office of Brig. General, putting it in such terms as will bring it within the provisions of General Order No. 111. War Department. (Aug 18th 1862).

I should be highly gratified, if in the recommendation reference could be made to the night action of the 29th of October 1863 in such terms, as would induce the appointing person to date the Commission (if one was granted) and the rank under the same on that day, that it might be to me and those who come after me, a memento that I participated in that action.

I have the honor to be
General
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt.
James Wood Jr Col
136th Regt N.Y.V.I. Comdg
2d Brig 2d Div 11th A.C.