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2103 3/1/1864

*From:* Albert B. Otis

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2054

Belfast,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[63]

P&C

Belfast,  
March 1st 1864

Maj Gen. Howard:

I am about to write a letter which may seem absurd and quixotic, but it has the old apology of good intention.

I desire a position as Private Sec'y to some Maj. Gen. Commanding, in particular to you.

I ask no compensation beyond my most necessary expenses.

To such a situation, I can bring the medium of education in one of our best New England colleges, sufficient literary skill to have won a prize for an essay on an historical theme, correct habits, and a knowledge of the usages of good society.

(I should like opportunity to write out the annals of a campaign.)

I am at present in the Law Office of the Hon. N. Abbott of this city; but it seems rather shabby at such a time to be pursuing a selfish course of ease and profit, and it would gratify me to contribute a little to the aid of the country, if not directly, at least by serving those who are giving so largely.

I am too well aware of my inability to command in the field to accept any one of the commissions that have been within my control.

I have written to you as the representative man of our state in the Army, and I have written with entire frankness, well-knowing that you would treat the communication as strictly confidential.

I can adduce recommendations from any persons in this vicinity whom you may be pleased to designate.

With much respect,  
Yr obdt servt  
Albert B. Otis  
Belfast,  
Maine

[Written on back}  
Albert B. Otis Letter  
Mch 1, 1864

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2104 3/4/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2055

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley  
Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[486]

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley Tenn.  
Mar 4, 1864

Dearest -

The Post Master gives me about 15 minutes before this morning's mail must leave, and I wish to write you just enough to let you know that we are all well. Chas. & myself went on the mountain (Lookout) yesterday – had a pleasant day, warm as summer. Mrs Dr Hovey of 136 N.Y. with her husband & son accompanied us. Capt. Pearson completed the party. Mrs Hovey's only son has grown up, is about 15 & so she can go about with him for a beau. We stood on the projecting rocks on the pinnacle for the ambrotypist to take our pictures. If any photographs are taken from these ambrotypes I will send you one. I never go on the mountain but I long to have you with me.

I enclose two laurel leaves from the tip top point. Give much love to all. You hav'nt got your full share of the 15 minutes.

The veteran regiments are coming back, quite full, three have arrived.

God bless you darling & the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2105 3/5/1864

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear daughter [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2056

Richmond

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[487]

Richmond, March 5th 1864

My dear daughter,

Yours of 22 ult. came safely to hand, in due time, and indeed was very satisfactory to me in every particular and indeed my journey through with Otis was very pleasant. We arrived in Boston about eight o'clock the day after leaving Maine. I will here say when I stepped into the cars at Leeds I found Ella, David and the coullared girl Alice in the cars, on the way to Bath. My husband went with me to Brunswick. There I parted with all the above mentioned. It is now three weeks since my arrival, very near the time I was to have started for home. Martha says if I will stay one week more with her she will not say one word about my going home, although she veryly thought I would stay six weeks.

Now I will say more of my journey. When we stepped out of the cars in Boston, Mr Hazzard and Mr Demond were both standing at the foot of the steps. Mr Demond claimed Otis and Mr Hazzard me. Otis asked Mr Demond what he would do with him. He said, take you to the Fremont house and brush you up a little and then to Mr Toby, who has invited 350 gentlemen to meet you and be introduced. He did not require him to speak at all.

I went to Mr Hazzards and had a very pleasant reception, felt very little fatigue from my first days ride in the Cars, sat with Mr Hazzard and wife [see Note 1] until nearly Eleven, had nicely laid down for the night, when Otis came, and I think we were both of us well cared for. Mrs Hazzard slept with me. At half past eight in the morning, we found ourselves, at the depot where we leave for the West accompanied by Mr Hazzard who did all in his power for our convenience.

We said good bye to him and were soon on our way to Albany. That day was very pleasantly spent in Otis' company. In other respects nearly like many others nothing worthy of remark.

The sun was an hour high or more when we approached Albany. As we passed Kinderhook and viewed its surroundings the Cars were going slow and all the way to Albany, it was very interesting to me for many reasons. My mind was redily carried back to my husband's admiration of all those scenes in his youth, and now at my advanced age my mind was taking in the same pleasure from those same views, and all the changes, which have been made since. It was nearly sunset when we struck the shore on the other side of the river, and we were actually in Albany. A few steps brought us to the Hotell where we had a supper, and left that city for the West at 6 o'clock P.M. That night past about as you would expect Otis slept some, I think after midnight the most of the time, I slept some. We arrived at Syricuse at 5 o'clock where we had 4 hours to rest and wait, or soon to get into a train loaded with a Regiment of Soldiers. We decided to stop until 8 o'clock. Then we had a good wash, and rested until we were called to breakfast, and soon we were away to Buffalo where we arrived 11 o'clock Sabbath morning.

By the way at Albany Otis could not obtain any sleeping cars, so he was near me all night. It being saturday night was the reason given, but it did not discommode me in the least.

At Buffalo we must lay over until Monday, as there was no train for the west until seven o'clock on Monday A.M.

I felt very little fatigue and prepared for Church, an P.M. Service of the Presbyterian. It was a public funeral service of an officer brought home from the war, a free Mason I should judge from the appearance. From there we went to the Episcal service. It was all interesting but the singing was beautiful. After that I staid at the Hotel, but Otis went to a prayer meeting. I wrote to my husband, and mailed it there. We were called according to arrangement at six in the morning, and made every necessary arrangement for taking our departure for the west at seven o'clock in the morning.

The Lake shore route was ours. The Cars were very much crowded but we continued to enjoy ourselves pretty well. Some of the passengers were with us all the way from Albany. Some of the soldiers were rude, drank whisky and boxed each others ears, &c, but that soon wore off. I had some beautiful views of Lake Erie. It was a pleasant day, and we arrived in Cleaveland just in time to hurry into the Cars (<[Missing Line?]> <inland> and said he was well, the Bath liner) for Columbus where Otis found some very congenial friends to talk with, two Mr Foote's, brothers of Commodore Foote. At Sunset we stoped at a place for refreshments, rather a course place. When we entered some one sang out General Howard, and at the table several recognized him and he found nearly the whole of a regiment were there, which had been in his command when he was Brigadier. We reached Columbus, at ten and a half o'clock. Mr Foote went to the Hotel to get us well cared for, or to show his politeness. He said it was not the best Hotel in Columbus but as we were to stop only a few hours that was near the depot it was more convenient. We had a nice slice of toast and a cup of tea, and were called at two o'clock to pursue and close our journey to Richmond.

Monday was a fine day, the weather very mild and before we reached Columbus the Cars were cramed to suffocation, but when we went from the Hotel, the weather had changed, heavy winds attended with snow and rain. It grew cold all the way. About nine, in the morning we stept from the Cars at Richmond we looked for a welcome reception but no one was there not even Charles. So Otis and I (with the Thermometer below Zero) trudged along through the streets and enquired the way, and found uncle Henries House. Martha was filled with consternation. We were real cold. It never occurred to her we should come that way. They expected us to arrive in the P.M. from Philidelphia so we took her by surprise. Charles was gone to Chicago. Henry at his Mill, Freddie was at the house and Carrie was at school. Little Anna was delighted to see us. I had written Martha the day we should leave home, and they did not dream of any other route but New York City, and Philidelphia.

Otis stopt two days. It was bitter cold, the thermometer 10 degrees below zero. He seemed to enjoy his visit and I could not help thinking he dreaded his journey and felt more regret than usual in leaving civilized life. He had some callers here and rested somewhat. Charles returned from Chicago the following morning accompanied by Lizzie Strickland an accomplished young lady of nearly seventeen. She had been in Chicago since last October. She is fine looking but not handsome, Her fathers pride she plays well on the piano and sings pretty well. She is always pleasant and happy, is a member of the Episcopal Church. Henry is every day at his mill and seems a good husband, has prayers in his family in the morning. He and Otis had some talk on subject of religion. Martha is a member of the Episcopal Church. Finally I do think there has been a great improvement in Henry's and Martha's domestic affairs, since I have seen them before. Carrie is a nice girl of thirteen, attends a good school in Richmond. Freddie is in Business here and very much confined to his business. Henry obtained a free pass for Charles to go to Chicago and back. Since I have been here Henry and Martha and all the family have showed me every attention necessary to my comfort. Martha has collored help very good.

Mrs Schyler lives near, a few doors from Henry's. I have seen her often. She was in since I have been writing , says give my love to Otis' wife. She has a little girl two and a half years old, quite a nice little girl. You will recollect she is a widow. She is left in comfortable circumstances. She still gives lessons in music. Martha and all Henrie's family send love to you. Otis wrote from Louisville and from Nashville and since his arrival has written quite a long letter date 26 February said he had heard from Augusta and all was in health. Charles stopt until the 25 of Feb and arrived at Lookout Valley the 28th. Had a prosperous journey wrote me in two hours after he arrived, said Otis and Mr Stinson were well. That was our latest news from them. None of Otis command have been on the move yet. I have nearly covered my second sheet. The mail has arrived and I hear Henry reading a letter in the other room. The letter I heard them reading was from Mrs Hazzard. She mentions a letter from Warren to her saying you had not heard from Otis. I know he wrote you here, and has no doubt written you many times since and you have received them. I was very glad to hear from Leeds through you. I have had no direct connection.

[sideways on page 1]

has arrived here bringing the intelligence that Hattie [Patten] had passed away to her last home. We cannot regret she has done suffering but the tenderness of our feelings are to attend us through all these scenes.

Tell the children they cannot tell how much I love them. Much love and many kisses to them. Give much love to Warren and Mrs Woodman and accept a large lot yourself.

From your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

[Note 1. Mrs Hazzard was Olive B. Woodman, the daughter of Eliza's sister Sally Otis and her husband Ephraim Woodman. A brother of Olive's was Col. Ephraim Warren Woodman.]

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2106 3/6/1864

*From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard]

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-2057

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[406]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Mar. 6th 1864

My dear Guy

I have promised you a letter in two or three of mine written home of late. Now I will make a beginning. I had hardly begun when our dinner bell rang calling Uncle Charlie, Capt. Stinson, Capt. Pearson and myself. Mr Gilbreth has gone on duty up to McMinnville for a day or two. I hope you are very well this Sabbath day. It is a beautiful day indeed here. The atmosphere is very clear and warm, very much like May and June in Maine.

I wrote Mamma about a trip the officers and myself took to the top of Lookout mountain. Yesterday afternoon uncle Charlie and I (followed by the good McDonald) on "Charlie" and "Jack" started to ascend the Racoon mountain that hunches up its bristly back just behind us so that we can never see the sun set. I streamed away closely followed down hill, passed the 33d Mass. Camp - across the hospital bridge, by the hospital tents up the narrow path, under limbs of trees, over lopped branches, over logs & stones, up steep declivities, up into the gap, itself two thirds as high as the top of the mountain, now to the right up a steeper slope. Here uncle C & McDonald dismount and papa goes on, resting black "Charlie" about every ten steps. "Jack" pulls away alone, trots by me and takes the lead till he gets tired and then he drops back a little. Up! Up, we go over round stones & flat ones till "Jack" and I and the other nags get well on the summit. Then we wait for uncle Charles & McDonald to toil up and mount.

Oh, what a magnificent picture is before us as we stand facing eastward on the edge of the perpendicular side. There is Lookout Creek, Lookout Mountain, the Tennessee river, Chattanooga, the wide valley, Missionary ridge and ridge after ridge as far as the Great mountains in North Carolina called the Blue ridge. I said to uncle Charles, how Guy would enjoy this and thought how much I would give to have Mamma there with me to see the indescribable beauty and grandeur, that God had fashioned. I could'nt help praying to Him up there. Jesus went up into a mountain to pray. We could'nt stay long. We rode almost to the river on the mountain top & then followed down a road that was less steep, winding slowly and at length almost up to our camp.

Uncle Charles wanted me to describe a chair I have, made of red cedar by the pioneers. I dont think I could. I think I will bring it home as a keep sake and to remind us of Lookout Valley.

Give much love to all. Tell Julia, I hav'nt seen her uncle. The cavalry is away somewhere doing duty. Sam is a good man and takes good care of papa. Uncle Charles sends his love, and says he wishes you were with us on Racoon yesterday. The band is playing. God bless you, my son.

Yr father with love  
O.O.H.

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2107 3/8/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2058

Head Quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[437]

Head Quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley March 8, 1864

Dearest

I received your note and the photographs, but one or two preceding letters I must have missed. The photographs are good. Charles says: "a little sober". I don't think they could be improved as photographs, where you lose all the effect of color and everything is set down in black and white.

You have gone back to the good old way and I am your 'dearest' again. When I am only your dear husband I am quite jealous a thousand of things might come between us – honor, riches, learning, children, amusements, society and what not? But when I am your dearest and you are mine, that settles everything and this love is not inconsistent with religion but fostered by it, for together and for each other we will go to the Lord. If I came between you and Christ or if you came between me and Christ in any way to hinder the one or the other from being his children, duty would constrain the putting away of the idol, but knowing that God has given each to the other to be one in love, in sympathy, in joy, in sorrow it may be, and enabled me to be one in his love and worship. I conclude you may be my 'dearest' and if possible I yours without any <species> of idolatry. It is not often that we renew our youth by love letters, technically so called, yet all letters between those that love are love letters. I am sure my precious wife that you are far dearer to me now that we have grown into the completest sympathy in all things.

<(Morning) [? torn page]>. This morning Mr Reynolds a young man you will remember who came to see me while I was wounded and whose father gave me the Herald to read - arrived by cars to take the place of Clerk to Col. Hayes. He rode with Charles & me over Raccoon Mountain to the rough, stony valley beyond.

We visited the people living there – one family consisting of an old man by the name of Scott a second wife & little daughter presented a picture of wretched desolation very painful indeed. As I entered his log hut, just opposite the door, lay what looked to me like a corpse, the head bound up, the arms thin, the eyes closed, the face deadly pale and no perceptible breathing. I asked Mr Scott if his wife was sick and he said yes. The little child was dirty & pale as nearly all the poor children are here. I still thought the woman must be dead, but suddenly a coughing fit came on. She opened her black eyes and looked if anything more miserable than before. She said she could'n't cough many more times like that. When I spoke of the better land, at first neither understood me, but when I said beyond the grave, the old man brightened up and said it was a good thing if he was only prepared. He had a hope in Christ but didn't think he was holy enough. I asked how is it, with you madam!! she said she had had a 'hope' for many years and then wanted to know if I was a "professor". Yes. What'd you belong to - a branch of the presbyterian. Her friends were presbyterians - that seemed to please her. As soon as they found my name was Howard, they seemed like new people. Charles had been there before, had spoken kindly & protected their corn when we first came to the Valley, but oh, the poverty, the misery of these poor people - no clothes but rags, no bedding but filthy, old coverlids, no sheets, no cleanliness, living on mush & hard bread. "Oh, I can't eat that", she said. He has money but nothing else and cannot buy. The old man was quite familiar with scripture. Thousands will die from want of vegetable diet. All the people look thin and haggard with a sort of chap-fallen expression of countenance. We have to feed every family within five miles of us out of the common crib.

We turned homeward, up the steep paths, over the clean running brooks. My gray horse "Dan" is allowed to drink just a little. We walk up the steepest, ruggedest slopes. Now on top & now wind slowly and gently down the mountain by a pathway almost but not quite parallel with the crest. It was dark as a pocket when we reached this place and began to rain just as I entered the tent door.

We found some peach trees in blossom today. I never take these rides without thinking how much you would enjoy them with me. You must not burden yourself with, or I mus'nt over-lade you with "olive branches" to bear and to train, for I shall want you to roam with me.

The thin shoes & no rubbers to parties, and the sitting up nightly till eleven and twelve will never do. A rested body and a healthy look & feeling are so much better for you, for the children and for your loving husband. I am anxious to get your last letter – only the note with the photographs has come since you heard from me. My Richmond, Louisville and several Lookout Valley letters have not been acknowledged as received. Your letter regarding Gen. Burnside's visit I got.

Maj. Osborne my Adj. of Artillery broke his leg, jumping from a train of cars during a R.R. Accident. Mr Gilbreth was aboard but escaped unhurt. My Medical Director Dr. Brinton has been ordered away. Mother seems to enjoy her visit, spoke of your letter. It pleased her I know. I did the bonnet business up all right. Give my love to each of our precious little flock.

You met me in a lovely dream the other night, with so much <archness> and joyous reciprocity that it was quite real and in a way that only a little wife can. You may so come often dearest, for begun I am not easily weaned from home.

I commit you all into the kind keeping of Him who makes all things so happy for us. Tell Julia Sam is always pleased to hear from her. He is real good & capable.

From your loving husband  
Otis

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2108 3/8/1864

*From:* A. E. Church

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2059

West Point N.Y.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[495]

West Point N.Y.  
March 8th 1864

My Dear Genl

Your letter of the 25th ult enclosing \$27. subn to the Battle Monument is received. We thank you not only for the amount subscribed but for the expression of your warm sympathy in our project.

It originated from the fact that the remains of several officers were brought here for burial, one a son of the South who by his loyalty to the flag was alienated from relatives and friends at home and had no resting place save under the shadow of the hills which surround his "alma mater".

To the old friends and companions in arms of these officers the question is presented shall their graves remain unmarked and the names of the brave spirits unhonored or shall we from our private means cast a memorial which shall tell to coming ages of their sacrifice and patriotism as well as that of others resting on every battle field of the war.

We know well that every state will raise a memorial, distinctive and in detail to its own volunteers – that the nation ought to erect one to all her sons fallen in this deadly struggle for national life. But who but their own brethren shall do this for the officers and men of the Regulars, who from their organization knew no state or city – but the Nation. These questions have suggested the Battle Monument. We raise no question of relative merit between volunteer and regular. We rejoice in every effort to honor the former and believe that he will rejoice in our efforts to do like honor to the latter.

We have nothing new here. We look for stirring news from your quarter soon.

Your friends here, the few that are left are all well. We all rejoice in your success and pray that a kind Providence will spare you in the coming battles.

Mrs C joins me in kind regards to yourself.

Very truly your friend

A. E. Church [Albert E. Church, USMA Class of 1828. Professor of Mathematics, USMA, 1837-1878.]

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

[Note. The book "History of the Battle Monument at West Point" prepared by Charles W. Larned and published in 1898 by USMA, gives the history, the addresses during the dedication the names of the original donors, the construction and a number of pictures.]



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2109 3/10/1864 *From:* M. Jacobs

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2060

Gettysburg Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[64]

Gettysburg Pa. March 10/64

Major Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Your kind letter of the 2nd inst. has been received. Accept of my thanks for your frankness in communicating to me the points in which my "Notes on the Battle of Gettysburg" [Note 1] require correction. So soon as an Edition shall be called for I will make the changes requisite in the Book.

The "Notes" were prepared soon after the Battle, not for publication, but for the purpose of preserving for myself & family, a lively remembrance of those terrible scenes which transpired around us. Solicited, however, by many of my friends to give them to the public, I yielded to their solicitations. I am sorry that I had not then the means of accurate information in every case. Still, having aimed at presenting a truthful history, I think I have succeeded in the main.

With sentiments of high regard, I am yours very respectfully,

M. Jacobs [Rev. Michael Jacobs, Prof of Mathematics, Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, Pa.]

[Note 1: These notes entitled "Later Rambles over the field of Gettysburg", were published by M. Jacobs in the January, 1864 issue of the United States Service Magazine, Volume 1, pp 66-76 and continued on pp 158-168. An expanded, and corrected, version was published (J.P. Lippincott: Philadelphia) in 1864 as a book entitled "Notes on the Rebel invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania : and the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1st, 2d and 3d, 1863".]

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2110 3/14/1864    *From:* Otis [OO Howard]    *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2061                      Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[498]

Hd. Qrs. Lookout Valley March 14, 1864

Dearest,

I wish to write you a few lines before the mail leaves this morning. I have received two letters from you since I wrote, but one of your letters and perhaps more has never come. I asked about the pants, if they really started with me and were lost on the way. I have not yet found them.

A man is coming in and I fear I shall lose the opportunity of finishing my letter for this morning.

Yesterday we had a very pleasant sabbath. In the morning, Chas, Capt Stinson, Mr Reynolds & I went over to Chr. Com. [Christian Commission] Chapel for teachers in a Sunday School for the poor children of the Valley. We had a very good attendance – a large class of little boys, another of little girls and another small one of larger girls. The grown women constituted still another. Besides we had two classes of soldiers.

I am sorry Mr Blaine is ill - give him my sympathy & sorrow. I am glad Mr Hall did not take up with the offer. I expect it is providential. No one knows what is God's will concerning us.

Give much love to each one. I write you this in haste as Mr Palmer & another officer are waiting for me with a bundle of papers. Sam has dictated a letter to Julia. You will probably have to read it to her as I wrote it. Sam is a real good man, just as capable as can be. He is learning to read & write & takes much interest in Scripture readings. Many kisses to yourself and the children. Mr Gilbreth & Capt Stinson are well. We still have beautiful weather. Love to Col & Mrs Woodman. May God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2111 3/14/1864      *From:* Winfield S. Hancock      *To:* Maj General O.O. Howard  
OOH-2062                      Philadelphia Pa.                      Comd'g 11th Corps US Army  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

(Copy) [This is a nearly completely faithful copy of OOH\_2063.]

Philadelphia Pa.  
March 14 1864

My dear General,

Your letter of Feby 25 was received a few days since while in New York, but to this time I have not had time to reply to it.

In reply to the subject of your letter I can state that I have not written anything for the press concerning the battle of Gettysburg, nor am I responsible for anything that has been written. As to the article in the Evening Bulletin concerning which you make reference in your letter, I can state that I never saw it, nor was I aware of its publication until a week afterwards. I then only learned the author. I have my views concerning the battle of Gettysburg, but I have not yet put them in print, nor shall I do so, so far as I know now. I have seen many things in print which I consider unjust, but I do not think it wise to reply to them.

I do consider that an act of injustice was done by Congress, in singling out any Corps Commander at Gettysburg for his services there, and I do not consider that any one receiving the thanks of Congress was impelled by any motive to decline such honor, even were it proper for him to do so. I thought, myself the act of Congress might have been induced by a desire on the part of the Administration to make you prominent, to have an effect in case it should be thought wise or advisable to use your name and reputation in the coming Presidential or Vice Presidential Campaign. It was a thought of mine, and has not been borne out by anything I have heard since from people who ought to know. I have always done justice to your gallantry on the field of battle, on every occasion when it was proper for a friend to do so.

My temperament is such that the fact that Congress chose to thank you for services in a battle where I had a like command, and did not do the same for me, could not cause me to cease speaking of your gallantry, nor would I consider it a matter personal between ourselves, should I think my services had been overlooked by any tribunal having the authority to judge, and that yours had not been.

I consider your note to me, private of course.

I am very truly yours  
Winfield S. Hancock

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comd'g 11th Corps U.S. Army

[The following was written sideways on the last page.]

Maj Genl Hancock  
Phila Mch 14/64  
Letter concerning "Gettysburg & Congress"

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2112 3/14/1864     *From:* Winfield S. Hancock

*To:* Maj General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2063

Philadelphia Pa.

Comd'g 11th Corps US Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[66]

Philadelphia Pa.  
March 14/1864

My Dear General

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I consider your note to me, private of course.

I am very truly yours  
Winfield S. Hancock

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Comd'g 11th Corps U.S. Army

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2113 3/15/1864    *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2064

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[67]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston March 15, 1864

My Dear Brother

I recd your welcome letter with grateful & lively emotions. I am glad you cl'd commemorate the Lord's death in the Camp – glad that Douglass is with you & that you like him. He is a good fellow. Am glad for the minute description of your life. We remember you quite frequently at the family altar.

But now as to your confession, as to a priest. Well you know, my dear Genl, that I love you well eno' to tell you the truth. You do love applause. So does every man who is fit to love – i.e. the commendation of wise, discreet, godly men. You do not covet the applause of the wicked, nor the senseless babble of the fickle mass, who shant because the sign is given. And to add, I think your love of approbation is under christian control, isn't it? All is done, all is accepted as Christ w'd have it, that is your prayer Genl. Now dont be troubled, dont be over nice in your introspection.

The truth is you are entitled to great praise for what you have done. Your host of friends see & appreciate this. And your name associated by Congress in a vote of thanks with the highest officers in the Army, will of course provoke criticism & carping, & jealousy, & envy. Keep your christian simplicity, read your Bible, & say your prayers.

I have just seen Blaine. He told me of Sherman's most flattering & fraternal letter of commendation. How glad I am. I hope you will be at him again, on the march & in the fight. I wish you & he cl'd be more directly & closely associated. Keep that letter to be published after you are dead.

Blaine & Hamlin are going to get you restored as a Brigadier in the regular army if possible, & the old Prest – Abe – is well disposed. I have talked with Blaine before about the matter. The army is your place, dont mention the matter from me until you are in some other way informed of it.

Now you will put before all these telegraphic sentences “please”, & “I sh'd say if asked” &c &c or you may say this is a brother's direct, free, honest utterance.

Can I do anything for you here? I shall look with interest for my monthly letter. The more of a diary, the more personal the better.

My love to your Brother, Maj. H. & to the other members of your family. Mrs Webb joins me in sentiments of esteem & love for yrself. We are nicely in the new Ch'h – all paid for. I think of running on to Washington about the 10th of Apl.

Fraternally  
E.B. Webb

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2114 3/15/1864     *From:* M. Jacobs

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2065

Gettysburg Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[68]

Gettysburg Pa. March 15th 1864

Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir:

Yours (To Prof. H Coppee) of March 4th came to hand last evg. I read it & the accompanying letters from Maj. Howard & Capt Hall, & immediately determined to assure you & your friend Prof Coppee of my sorrow that I should have been innocently led to deprive you of any credit which may justly be due to you.

The following is a copy of the letter I addressed to him. I hope it will at least satisfactorily explain the manner in which I was led to write as I did in the Jan. No of the U.S.S.M. [United States Service Magazine]

(Copy)  
Prof H. Coppee,  
Dear Sir,

I am really sorry that the reference I made to Gen. Howard, in the Jan. No. of your Magazine has not given entire satisfaction. I regret this the more, because all that I have learned to know of him has been calculated to impress me with a high regard of him as a man, as a christian, & as a soldier.

In my "Notes on the Rebel Inv. & battle of Gettysburg" I had given him the credit of having, on account of a just appreciation of its strategic value, selected Cemetery Hill, &, prompted by his own judgment & foresight, taken all the requisite steps for its occupation by our men. This was my first impression. I knew that he had arrived in Gettysburg in advance of his corps (the 11th); that he could scarcely have seen Gen. Reynolds before his death & have learned from him the intended details of the day & the mode of meeting its contingencies, that he had visited the observatory of Mr S. Fahnestock & other localities with the view of acquainting himself with the surroundings of the town, & that the command of the field, for the day, had devolved upon him. Hence I supposed that he alone deserved the credit of selecting that position.

But when I was informed by one of Gen. Reynold's staff officers that he (Gen R.) understood & appreciated the ground referred to, that he had ordered up all his troops for the express purpose of holding the town & C. Hill; & that he had sent a staff officer to Gen Meade, informing him of the steps he meant to take to carry out this design, & when I remembered conversing with one of his signal officers, (Lieut. -) as early as 8 o'clock of that morning, concerning that locality, it was easy for me to come to the conclusion, that he, being thus informed, would have provided against the contingencies of meeting a heavy force of the enemy by ordering so eligible a position to be occupied as a place to fall back upon & to hold against the rebels. That has been the impression made on more minds than mine by the information referred to, & I presented the matter in that light in your Magazine, believing I was thus doing justice to the "living & the dead".

It appears, however, that whatever the intentions of Gen. Reynolds may have been in regard to this subject, he communicated no order, directly or indirectly, to Gen. Howard for the occupation of Cem. Hill, but a more general one for the bringing up of his corps to the town. Immediately upon the receipt of the melancholy intelligence of Gen. R's death, Gen Howard began to arrange a plan for the occasion, one feature of which was the occupation of the hill by one division of his corps & 3 batteries of artillery, as a reserve or as a place to fall back to if necessary.

His corps was two hours & a half later in coming to the field of battle than the 1st corps, because they left Emmitsburg that morning at 8 o'clock, & two divisions were marched 12 or 13 miles by a circuitous route in order to avoid crowding on Gen R's rear. When they passed through our town we noticed how much fatigued they were, & yet how eager they were for the fight.

Both officers, Gens R. & H., must therefore, independently of each other, have been impressed with the great

importance of occupying that position which afterwards under the Providence of God, proved the salvation of our noble army & of our country, but the early death of the former prevented him from communicating his convictions & wishes to the latter. These facts should be made known to the public & to posterity as an act of justice to two highly deserving generals.

Yours very truly  
M. Jacobs

P.S. Should the above be satisfactory, you are at liberty to use it as you see best. Perhaps Prof. Coppee would publish it in his magazine if you desire him to do so.

I am very thankful to you & Maj. Howard for the valuable facts stated in your letters. Should opportunity offer, I will gladly avail myself of them in giving a more detailed history of the battle of G.

With sentiments of high esteem I am yours  
M. Jacobs

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2115 3/19/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2066

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[499]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps  
Lookout Valley March 19th 1864

Dearest,

I hav'nt received a letter from you since Wednesday and I think not since tuesday last and the last I wrote was written very hurriedly. I am anxious to get a letter. You had received the 90 dollars, but feared you might have to send it to Louisville Ky. I should have supposed that some Bank of Augusta would have cashed any U.S. Draft.

I was glad you took the ground you did about the house. I would on no account consent to giving Capt. Hall a cent more than my offer. In fact the thousands of cases of extreme want, that constantly present themselves to me, make me feel that we ought to court simplicity now and I rather regretted that our minds had fallen on so costly a place.

On Wednesday a half hour before sunrise myself and staff set out for Wenton, Ga. We took an escort from Gen. Ward's command of two hundred mounted infantry. The road lies between Lookout and Raccoon all the way - Lookout Creek about sixty feet wide winds its way through the whole distance for twenty miles, like this [sketch of a winding line]. The crookedest stream, you ever saw. The Valley is no where level but full of ridges and knolls. We came past many fine farms. One large one pleasurable at this time & place seen on our return between the Creek and Lookout, where the depredation have not been - the Owners name was Brock (reminding me of West Point). He had a fine two story brick house, almost hidden, it being on that by road - fences all up. Sheep in this pasture, negroes all at home &c. Two or three ladies appeared in sight as we passed. They looked bitter - as in rebel, down in the heyday of its prosperity. Trenton is a little village of some half a dozen houses, a church & a "Village Inn". We stopped at the latter. Widow Gardenhive who lives there has an aged mother in bed and a "little son", some ten or twelve yrs old. We ate our own lunch here and were permitted to put it on her table. All the people of this village are secesh and impoverished. It is a mistery when they get enough food to eat.

In returning we crossed the Lookout Creek, skirted the mountain, passed Mr Brock's & other farms hidden away behind the ridges & woods. Some three or four miles this side of Trenton, we ascended Lookout, walking and leading our horses up the Nickajack trace. This rough, steep mountain path was obstructed by the rebels near the top by felled trees. They are now partially cut away and a gateway is made through their breastwork-wall which did completely close the road at the top. We now look along the crest of the mountain so as to take in the whole valley at a glance. The top of Lookout is rather rough and for the most part covered with forest. One pretty good road runs lengthwise along its back. We came this side of Summertown and then descended by a new & steep path, very difficult. I plucked the epigia or may flower on the side of that path (see inscription on accompanying sheet). We reached camp a little after dark having made about forty miles in one day besides ascending & descending the mountain. The next day Charles & I rode to Rossville and accompanied by Gen. Davis and Capt Digley his Aid de Camp, went over the battle field of Chicamauga. We found on reckoning up that we had ridden that day about twenty eight miles. And I was tired as you are sometimes, when I got into a chair in my own tent.

The first day the weather was cold & raw and this took much from our pleasure. We are waiting to see what Gen. Grant is going to do. We believe he proposes to try his hand at Richmond! Last night, Mrs Hovey (wife of Surgeon) the only lady in the Camp invited Chas. & me "out to tea" Gen Steinwehr was there. We had good things - a pheasant, talk & then back to tents. Today we have had a review of Gen Ward's first Brigade. After which the Gen & four of his Colonels, two Lieut. Cols & two Chaplains dined with me. I did'nt tell "Aunt Ann" tell Julia till I brought them home at 12 m. A fair dinner was served up at one P.M. Sam is a good Carver and a tailor by trade. Col. Meysenburg has asked to go back to Gen. Sigle (Sigel) and I have applied for Mr Whittlesey to be Lieutenant Colonel & A.A.G. in his place. Chas. sighs a little over it. Stinson & Gilbreth will be a little disappointed, for if I promoted Chas, Stinson would be Major & Gilbreth Captain. But I want to get Maj



Whittlesey back if I can.

Kiss the dear little ones and accept much love for your own dear self. God bless you all.

Lovingly  
Otis

My kind regards to Isabella. Remember me kindly to Julia & her sister.

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2116 3/21/1864 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2067

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[71 or 79]

Brunswick March 21st [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

Dear General

A bright cool morning after a dark, snow-squally Sunday, makes one feel like settling up old accounts. And here lies your letter (which came about a week after you went) giving an outline of the expected Spring campaign, which first demands my attention – the letter I mean not the Campaign. When the latter takes place we shall be sure to give it our attention. But where are you & Charles & all the rest? I have not seen your name or that of your command, nor heard one word about you since we parted in the Depot. So I suppose you are all quietly awaiting orders in Lookout valley. Now that Sherman is safe in Vicksburg, I do not anticipate any general movement for some weeks.

With a new head, new combinations & plans will be necessary. There is much rejoicing over Grant's promotion, & the announcement that his Hd. Qrs. will be in the field with the Army of the Potomac. But I confess that I rejoice with trembling. I fear the promotion was unwise & premature. Still we will pray & hope for the best. A desperate struggle seems to be at hand. The President's call for 200 000 more men will be cheerfully responded to, & the forces furnished, even if a draft shall be necessary to raise them.

You will have heard before this reaches you of the release & return of Gen. Neal Dow. Butler is managing to continue the exchange of prisoners, in spite of all the growling at Richmond.

Isn't the death of Col. Dahlgren a sad Event? I remember him well, having seen him at Gen. Hooker's Hd. Qrs. I think I have heard you speak of knowing him.

Gen. S. Williams has been at Augusta. I saw him on his return to duty, & had an hour's conversation with him. He made many inquiries about you, & spoke of you in the kindest terms. I wanted to ask him some questions about the Report of the Gettysburg battle, but feared I might seem to be meddlesome.

By the way, that order to retreat has been making a great fuss in Congress, & it is likely to throw Gen Meade overboard. It seems to me that they are making more of the matter than it deserves. If he had selected another position for a general action, & supposed Reynolds to have made only a reconnoissance, what blame can be imputed to him for giving the order? It was simply a mistake arising from his ignorance of the position of affairs at the front. Fortunately for the Country the order was not obeyed.

I do not think of anything specially interesting that has occurred here. Some of our students have lately tried to make beasts of themselves, & we have sent three home, to return no more. A little military discipline in this College would do it good.

I still preach at Waterville & there are some indications of an awakened interest in religion there. In many places revivals are in progress, & we hear very good news from some portions of the Army.

Please present my respect & best wishes to Chas., Stinson, Ballock, Asmussen, Meysenberg & all the good friends about you. And for yourself accept my assurance of unchanged regard & love.

May you live to see the end of Rebellion & Slavery, & to enjoy many years the fruits of this wearisome struggle, is the prayer of

Your friend & brother  
E. Whittlesey

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2117 3/22/1864 *From:* S. D. Dana

*To:* My dear Gen [Henry Prince]

OOH-2068

1339 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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1339 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia Mar 22 [1864] [The year was written in pencil.]

My dear Gen [Henry Prince]

I am getting up an Album for the "Sanitary Fair" containing the photographs of all the Generals whom I like best & I hope to have yours. Will you send me a good vignette of yourself with your autograph on it written so as to be seen when in the book, & please send me a half dozen extra autographs.

I must tell you that I think you are a right mean fellow, & you may as well plead guilty, for I heard, through Mrs Meade you had very recently been in Philadelphia & I do not believe you even thought of us. Now this is a nice way to treat old friends - never would.

Mamie has just had a long letter from our old friend Maj Nelson; he writes that some of the young Ladies you used to admire so much will soon be married – Alice Patterson & a Mr Mann of N. Y. Emily Pope & Mr Litchfield of the Rail Road, Gerasie Sibley & Capt Pope, Lizzie Whipple & Mr Fanham of this Place – all to be married soon. Some talk too of Miss Emily Coleman & Mr Cathcart, so you see Cupid has been busy out there.

Were you not sorry to hear of poor Mollie <Sandeid's> affliction. She will be here this spring.

Now Gen goodbye & do not forget when you come to Phil. that you have friends who will give you a cordial welcome.

Truly & sincerely yours  
S. D. Dana

My dear Husband is still in Texas but has applied to be released. He is not a bit satisfied, thinks so much might have been done in Texas & has begged & plead in vain for cavalry.

Gen. if you can get for me a photograph of Gen. Howard & his autographs also I will be so much obliged to you. I admire him very much. My husband speaks in the most complimentary manner of him as well as the Public.

[Note. This letter was enclosed in a letter from General Prince to OO Howard, OOH-2081, dated 2 April 1864.]

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2118 3/23/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2069  
*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Head Quarters, 11th Army  
Corps

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[71]

[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.  
Philadelphia

March 23, 1864

Major General Howard  
Head Quarters, 11th Army Corps  
Dear Sir,

In answer to your welcome letter of the 8th inst. I need first to express the hearty satisfaction I felt on receiving it. The Christian sentiments contained in it and the hearty appreciation of the efforts of the Commission are, you may be sure, extremely pleasant to me. I must confess the gratification I feel at finding that you take such an interest in our station at your Head Quarters; and in the labors of the Rev. R.D. Douglass, our agent. I should have liked to have been with you on the Sabbath you describe in your letter. It must be an unusual thing to have such blessed privileges as the dispensation of the communion. God grant that soon the cloud of war may soon be rolled away and the soldier, at his quiet home, in peaceful contemplation, may be able to enjoy the ordinances of the church.

God seems to be opening up a grand and wide and glorious path. From every corner of the army come to us calls and at the same time thanks - calls for the gospel and for every kind of reading matter - and thanks for what we have been enabled to send. We humbly trust that God will enable us to reach the whole extent of the work before us.

Accounts of religious interest and even of revivals in the army of the Potomac - and elsewhere reach us nearly every day. Delegates are continually coming home, full themselves and filling us with the tale of what God is doing, and much more also of what might be done, if there was ability.

Your speech at the Anniversary meeting is now being got ready for the public eye: we hope to make a great deal of use of it. We have taken the liberty to fulfill my promise once made namely to send you samples of the various publications of the Commission; and hence have ordered a small box to be filled for distribution and use at your Head Quarters; although the corps is supplied from Nashville I have thought it best to send you this box, for which an invoice is enclosed. You can at any time get from our agent there, for your Head quarters, what ever you need and, if necessary, from the office here.

I met General Grant yesterday, during his stay while passing through the city and had a very pleasant conversation with him about the Commission. I was very favorably impressed with him.

I shall send papers which are published from time to time to your wife's address in Augusta, Maine.

Wishing you God's blessing and the confidence of your soldiers.

I am yours, very truly and sincerely  
Geo. H. Stuart

P.S. I need not say that I shall always be very glad to hear from you, especially any suggestions about Commission work, and so on.

G.H.S.

Per F.

[Written on the back page in another hand.]

Mr Geo H. Stuart

Philadelphia

Mch. 23/64

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2119 3/24/1864     *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2070

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn.

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[500]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Tenn. Mar. 24th 1864.

Dearest,

I received your kind letter mailed the 15th inst. day before yesterday and was quite happy to get it for owing to an irregularity in delivering mail matter I had been some days without a letter. I am rendered somewhat anxious about Jamie – am sorry at this “hurting him of food” . My weakness lies in a faulty digestion and so it is with all the family. I hope my children will never use tobacco to impair theirs as I foolishly did while I was growing, thus adding to natural weaknesses.

I dread my being away so long from our little ones, but it in a measure compensated for in the thought, that by doing my duty faithfully and conscientiously in these times, my character and influence will not be unfelt by them. I do not regard my military service as anything remarkable, but if I can live, a sincere follower of Christ, Guy, Jamie, and Chancy may imitate their father with profit, whatever be their profession in life, and I trust by the Divine blessing they may each be able to improve upon it. As it is a noble trait in a son 'never to be ashamed of his father', I would like to live so that my son should have no reason to be ashamed.

I know that Gracie improves. I do not fear for her studies. I want her not to get bent shoulders, nor inelastic limbs. One of these days she will read books to papa, but now papa thinks the number of story books should be limited, which for Guy it would'nt harm him to increase the number he reads. Jamies imitation powers are good. He talks well. There is no haste about his letters. The children will teach him when he gets a little bigger. The picture of Chancy in the cradle, his waking, his creeping, and pushing chairs are beautiful home pictures for his papa. He would like to speak to him, even if he did go to sleep jus as he was going to leave him.

Who should walk into my tent yesterday but Dr. G. [Gideon] S. Palmer, my old Regimental and Brigade Surgeon. He is to come to us temporarily as Medical Director to try the experiment whether or not he can stand the field service. Dr Brinton my Med. Director is sick and obliged to leave.

Frank Gilman is coming to us as my private Clerk besides what Col Balloch may require in the Commissary business. He has reached Louisville and probably will be here tomorrow morning. Young Reynolds is here and at work. Capt. Stinson is well and as good as ever, tell Mrs. Stinson – so also Charles.

We have had a very heavy snow storm, but yesterday's & today's sun has melted it. Tonight it began to blow furiously and finally to rain & hail. The Yankee's seem to have imported regular March weather.

Mr Gilbreth is well and acting in charge of all detachments at Head Quarters during the absence of Capt Cross who has gone home sick. Mr Gilbreth is building a structure for a school & Church – quite interested. The pioneers are getting out the lumber. Major Hoffman is drawing a plan. Our Sabbath school flourishing. They have done a great deal of good already, created an interest in cleaning up, washing faces if no more.

Sam is here. I have set him a task while I write you this letter, to read a couple of pages of a book, marking the words that he cannot make out. All my regiments are back but three & they are pretty well filled up some of them.

Give much love & many kisses from papa (though his lips are sore) to all the children. Many kind words for Julia and her children. I hope she is well & contented. Sam says: “he is in tolerable good health, bad cough (a cold) – sent a letter to her mother the other day, has not got an answer yet”. Good night darling. May God bless & protect you and the rest.

Lovingly  
Otis

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2120 3/24/1864 *From:* Margaretta L.

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

Meade

OOH-2071

2037 Pine St.  
Phil.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

Phil. March [24?, 1864] [The corner of the page had been torn off, and the date had been added in pencil.]

Maj. Genl. Howard

My dear General,

Will you be kind enough to send me your photo graph, with an autograph directly under it, to place in an album, which I intend to present to the Great Central Fair of the Sanitary Commission.

Hoping that you will excuse the liberty I take I remain

Very truly Yours

Margaretta L. Meade [wife of General George Meade]

2037 Pine St.

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2121 3/26/1864    *From:* Mrs G. H. Crosman    *To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2073

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73]

Philadelphia Mach 26, [1864]

Sir:

May I solicit the favor of half a dozen of your autographs. I am about preparing as many Photograph Albums for our "Great Sanitary Fair" and wish to place the autograph of each distinguished person underneath his Photograph.

Please direct care of "Col G. H. Crosman", U.S.A. Philadelphia

Yours Respectfully  
Mrs G. H. Crosman

[Written in another hand, at an angle.]

Complied with

Apr 16/64

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2122 3/29/1864

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2074

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley

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[501]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley Mar 29th 1864

Dearest,

I received your letter on returning from Chattanooga today. It was written just before Col Woodman was to leave, and at different sittings. I felt that you must have been tired and that you were doing too much, though you did not say that and I shall fear you will over-do and get ill. I feel too anxious about little Jamie. Charles thinks good wholesome food is better than wine of iron. When the spring weather is over and he can run out of doors and play he will be better. It would be a great relief if I could go home & help you. I couldnt help saying today how much less work it is to manage an army corp than a family of little children. Why cant you rest a little darling – play sick a few days before you really get so.

Gen Thomas said to me today, “That he always had to work. When he commanded a post, he had to stick by and attend to everything or else affairs went wrong. Other people did'nt seem to have to keep on it as he did.” So it is with you Lizzie, you always have to work. I told him he set his standard so high that it required his constant attention. You and he must lower your standards a little, and approximate perfection.

Frank Gilman has arrived and been with us four days. He is my private secretary. He is copying all my telegrams, orders, reports, letters &c, into a single blank book and very neatly for my own preservation, for your perusal and that of the children if they should ever desire to do so. We are trying to harden him into a soldier by short rides, daily.

The weather has been quite unpleasant for the past week and is still inclement.

Gen. Sherman went over to Chattanooga yesterday, but today proceeded to Knoxville. I shall expect to see him on his return. I do not expect we shall go back to Army of Potomac because I do not well see how we can be spared from this army. I am rather anticipating Johnson's undertaking some game before long. If he takes the initiative he may bother us considerably.

Sam continues the best man in the world. He begins to read quite well. He reads to me every night or morning and keeps up his interest in the Bible. Julia wants him to become a Christian? He is trying. I am glad Julia & Chr. are doing so well, and hope they do not burden you.

I am glad to hear Mother has got home. Did you hear that Oscar & Solomon Lothrop Jr had become Christians. Give much love to Guy, to Gracie and a sweet kiss apiece to Jamie and Chancy, and as many as you wish for your own precious self. I do hope you are well, and so also the children.

Mr Webb writes me a kind letter; so does Professor Whittlesey. He has'nt got any letter about his appointment. My kind regards to Isabella. Remember me kindly to Julia.

Good night Dearest  
Yours lovingly  
Otis

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2123 3/30/1864    *From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2075

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission,  
11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

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[74 ½]

[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.

March 30, 1864

My dear Brother,

The work of the Commission throughout the army is extending. The number of calls made upon us from every quarter is really astonishing. Unfortunately just at the present time in the midst of these continued demands upon us, we find ourselves cramped and crippled by the want of funds. The interest attaching to the Fairs in progress or in prospect throughout the country is telling severely upon our treasury. To extend our operations we are very anxious. In the Army of the Potomac we have covered and supplied fifty chapel tents and have erected fifteen stations - where religious services are regularly carried on; we cannot make less what we would rather make greater without injuring the cause of Christ in the army.

For some time we have had in contemplation sending two of our best speakers on an expedition to California for the purpose of representing the Commission to the people there. It is our wish to send with them a letter from one or more of our Union Generals, containing the appreciation they have for the Christian Commission operations in the army.

I send this to you with the request that you would write for us a letter of your own experience of our work; such as would be of use to us in the way we have said. The delegates who are going to California leave for their destination on the 13th of April, and hence it is necessary that we should have your letter very soon. Their objects would be to read it in meetings and to refer to it when needed. If it meets your approbation, you might send a friendly letter to me, something like your last, omitting of course personal allusions and, also, for the sake of Baptist brethren of the close-union belief, the church-union history, which was so exceedingly pleasant to myself, and many more who heard it read.

I am greatly delighted to hear of your efforts in organizing a Sabbath School. I trust it will be successful and the means of much good in the hands of God.

With my kindest regards  
I am yours very truly  
in Christian bonds.

/s/ Geo. H. Stuart

[Written in another hand on the back page.]  
Letter Geo. H. Stuart  
Philadelphia Mch 30/64

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2124 3/30/1864      *From:* Thorndike Saunders      *To:* General [OO] Howard

OOH-2076

16 Wall Street,  
New York

U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[74]

16 Wall St.  
New York Mar 30 '64

Sir

Mr Edward Steers the petitioner as within in order to preserve his rights and relieve his necessities finds it necessary to petition for compensation for injuries suffered by him while in Virginia. He informs me that you boarded with him for a time while certain regiments were encamped on some land that he had hired from Commodore Forrest and was then cultivating. The lease from the Commodore is now in evidence.

Under these facts you are one of his most necessary witnesses, therefore the herewith enclosed interrogatories.

The important points are Loyalty and the occupation of the fields called Clermont bottom which are so leased. It is not necessary that you should know the precise boundaries of his farm, because that and the character and amount of the injury can be proved by others. Still any knowledge you possess on those points would be valuable to Mr Steers, therefore the questions relating we base matters.

The terms of the "consqus" should be followed as closely as possible. The Interrogatories and answers should be enclosed and mailed to Samuel H Huntingdon Esq Clerk Court Claims Washington D.C. The fact of your having taken the oath referred to in the consent, to make true answers &c should be stated in writing previous to the answers.

Mr Steers begs that you will take an early occasion to attend to this matter.

There is one circumstance that I will mention to you. The whole damage to the farm is not included in his petition - for two reasons the first that by making the amount claimed \$3000, he escapes the expense of printing and the second is that the United States have a right to confiscate the rent of the farm due the Commodore.

I shall be obliged to you if you will notify me when you send the answers and of any expense that you incur herein that I may immediately remit the amount.

Very respectfully yr obt Svt  
Thorndike Saunders

General Howard U.S.A.

[Written on the second page of the letter]  
Thorndike Saunders  
New York Mch 30/64  
Respecting claim of Mr. Steers  
(Answered Apr 19/64)

[This letter was written on the back of a petition to the Court of Claims, which follows.]  
In the Court of Claims  
Edward Steers vs. The United States (Petition)

The petition of Edward Steers to the Honorable the Court of Claims of the United States, respectfully shows:

That he is a native born citizen of the United States and has at all times born true allegiance to the Government thereof; that he has not any way voluntary or involuntarily aided or abetted or given encouragement to rebellion against said Government.

That on or about the 19th September, 1860, he leased one hundred and fifty acres of land, being part of the Estate known as Clermont, and situated in Fairfax County and State of Virginia, for a term ending December 31, 1861, for which he engaged himself to pay a sum equal to one half of the proceeds of said lands for said term; and that he occupied said lands and planted and cultivated certain crops thereon.

That during said tenancy, and commencing in the latter part of the month of June, 1861, and continuing at intervals during the remainder of the whole time, a part of the United States forces, to wit; the 2d Vermont and 3d, 4th, and 5th Maine regiments, under and by command of Col. O.O. Howard, took possession of, occupied and fully controlled said premises.

That during, and by means of this occupation, he has been injured in his property to the amount of three thousand dollars in the following particulars, to wit:

65 acres Corn, 650 barrels at \$3 50 per bbl.....	\$2275 00
Corn Fodder, at least .....	70 00
20 acres Oats, 500 bushels at 50c, per bushel.....	250 00
Oat Straw .....	30 00
35 tons of Hay at \$15.....	525 00
	<hr/>
	\$3150 00

That of said sum he received from the Brig.-Quartermaster, one hundred and fifty dollars.

And your Petitioner further shows, That this claim has been submitted to the War Department of the United States and that the answer has been received: "That there is no appropriation from which claims of this character can be paid nor any law for their adjustment."

And your Petitioner further shows, That he is the only and sole owner of this claim, and the only one interested therein.

Your Petitioner therefore prays, that he be indemnified for the loss and injury aforesaid in the sum of three thousand dollars.

Thorndike Saunders,  
Attorney for Petitioner,  
16 Wall Street,  
New York City

Edward Steers,  
Care of Theodore Buckhout,  
Sing Sing,  
Westchester County,  
New York.

State of New York,  
City and County of New York,

Edward Steers, being duly sworn says, that he is the above Petitioner, and that no assignment or transfer of said claim or any part thereof, or any interest therein has been made, except as in said petition stated; that said claimant is justly entitled to the amount therein claimed from the United States after allowing all just credits and offsets; and that he believes the facts as stated in said petition are true.

Edward Steers

Sworn to before me, this Sixth day of October, 1863  
Horatio Dorr,  
Notary Public, New York.

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2125 3/31/1864 *From:* A.M. Carter

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2077

Bank of Baltimore  
Baltimore Md

US Army  
of the Cumberland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[75]

Bank of Baltimore  
Baltimore Md  
Mch 31st 1864

Major Genl Howard  
US Army  
of the Cumberland  
My Dear Sir

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a copy or two of a little tract "Watch" which I, a plain layman, have ventured to write & which has been published & widely circulated by the Am'n Tract So of New York & the Presbyt'n Board of Philada & which I pray God to bless to the good of some precious souls.

It has been copied in the "NYK Observer", the "Epis. Recorder", "The Pacipi" & other papers & I do hope is glorifying our blessed Master in the conversion of souls for whom he died.

In your excellent speech before the Christian Comm's at Philada you made a touching allusion to my old playmate (a native of Balt) Col Moorhead [See Note] of Philada you spoke of him as among the slain. This I was greatly pained to learn.

May I ask you to let me know when, where & how he died, was he a God-fearing man?

I wish to send a book of consolation to his widow.

I will be glad to send you some Sunday School papers for the children in your S School if you will favor me with your address.

May God bless you & keep you in His holy keeping.

And may he save our blessed land.

Very respy  
& truly yours  
A.M. Carter

[Summary written on the back, in a different hand.]

A.M. Carter  
Baltimore Md.  
Encloses Tract  
"Watch"  
Asks about Col. Morehead

[Note. Col. Turner Gustavus Morehead (1814–1892), born in Baltimore and moved to Philadelphia, was mustered out on April 5, 1864 due to disabilities caused by disease. He was promoted to Brevet Brig. General on March 13, 1865. He did not die in the civil war.]