
2165 4/19/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2107

Head. Qrs 4th Corps
Cleaveland Tenn.

Source: Bowdoin

[512]

Head Qrs. 4th Corps
Cleaveland Tenn.
Apr. 19th 1864

Dearest,

I will write you just a few words. I went to Loudon Saturday and relieved Gen. Granger - staid there over Sunday - went with Frank Gilman & Capt Stinson to Knoxville on Monday to see Gen Skofield. Mrs S. - was there with two children, but the latter were abed much to my sorrow. Kittie S. looks much handsomer and even younger than when she was a girl.

We came here yesterday - all well. Chas. sends love. Capt. Willard sends his regards. Much love to the Children. You will write soon. God bless & keep you.

Lovingly
Otis

2154 4/13/1864

From: G.S. Palmer

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2108

Lookout Valley Tenn.

4th AC

Source: Bowdoin

[88]

Lookout Valley Tenn.
April 13th 1864

General

I am exceedingly sorry that I am not able to go campaigning with you this summer, but I am not, and I must submit, I shall apply for hospital duty in some of the more Northern States, & if I cannot get that, I shall be obliged to offer my resignation.

A general letter from you, stating what you know of me as an officer, whether I have been faithful, careful &c, will help me very much, I think. If you see fit to write such a letter, please inclose it to me at Gardiner Maine. I shall probably be there soon, as I have received a leave of absence.

I hope you will not undertake to do too much work this summer, and thus break your own health and destroy or impair your usefulness. All depends upon having competent reliable and willing men on your staff. You must let them do all the hard work.

It is enough for you or any other man to have the responsibility of so large a command. You are well aware that care and anxiety wear upon the health as much as physical exposure. Excuse my freedom.

Very truly your Friend
G.S. Palmer

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
4th AC

[Written on the back page]
Surgeon G.S. Palmer
Lookout Valley
April 13 / 64

2155 4/13/1864 *From:* T. A. Meysenburg *To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard
Lt Col
OOH-2109 Headquarters Eleventh
Source: Bowdoin Corps

[90]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
April 13 1864

General,

Last night your telegram regarding the plan of the battle of Gettysburg reached me. I am very sorry that the information brought by Lieut Breckle of the position of the troops on the different days and in the different positions is not sufficient for the purpose mentioned in Mr Batchelder's letter.

The delay has been occasioned principally by the unacquaintance with the position of the 1st Division on the first day. Although I know the position by brigades pretty well, the information received from Col Gilsa & others appeared to me rather doubtful as instead of having the 1 & 2 Brig 1 Div in echelon. Gilsa gives the 2 Brig at right angles to the 1st with the front entirely in rear of the 1st Brigade.

This is said to have caused the confusion of the 1st Division and especially of Genl Ames' brigade of which there was scarcely a man before the retreat through the town. Undoubtedly Mr Batchelder will receive some information regarding this from Genl Barlow so that any errors may be corrected by him, if they should occur.

Genl Schurz is still here in command of the corps, the new organization not being ordered yet. It is expected to-day, at Genl Hooker's Headquarters. I sent to-day the copy of my diary by courier. The books, which are still in use will be sent just as soon as the business transactions with the Eleventh Corps have ceased.

Major Hoffmann is hard at work finishing the church. Genl von <Steinwehr> who takes great interest in the building expects to finish it shortly. They are now erecting the steeple. Nothing has been heard of the organization of the new corps. All that can be heard indicates that Genl Butterfield is to receive the 1st Division with four brigades. The Corps badge has not been determined upon, but it is to be hoped that the badges of the 11 & 12 Corps will be combined, the star in the center of the crescent, making one of the best or probably the finest badge in the army.

We have just received an order from Genl Hookers H.Q. directing that the Divisions of the Corps report directly to Headquarters 11 & 12 Corps until the organization of the 20th Corps is effected.

In hopes to hear from you General, and with my best wishes for your success,
I remain with great respect & sincerity
your obt srvt
T. [Theodore] A. Meysenburg
Lt Col

Maj Genl Howard

[written on the pack page]
Lieut. Col. Meysenburg
Lookout Valley
April 13 1864

2156 4/13/1864 *From:* Edw. P. Smith

To: O.O. Howard

Maj. Genl.

OOH-2110

U.S. Christian
Commission
Branch Office
Nashville Tenn.

Commanding 4th A.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[91]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission,
Branch Office
Nashville Tenn. April 13, 1864

O.O. Howard
Maj. Genl.
Commanding 4th A.C.

My dear Sir,

Your own kindness is my apology for troubling you with a statement of a new difficulty into which we have fallen.

Gen. Sherman has never met the Christian Com'n as an organized effort in the army & consequently holds our request for so much passing and transportation as a presumption to be denied & rebuked & says that nearly every regiment at the front has a chaplain.

This, of course, will make a speedy end of all our present plans of working in this Mil. Division. These plans require the passing, on an average, of one delegate per day from Nashville front. Perhaps for an army, so encompassed with difficulties of transportation, some change of plans will be best, that shall lessen the number of delegates to be passed, by increasing their term of service. But there are great advantages in these frequent reliefs. Each man brings a full, fresh invoice of home feeling & religion & carries back reliable information of the need & encouragement for benevolent & religious work in the army. If, however, the public service is more hindered than helped by this frequent passing then there must be a change.

Will you not give us your views on this matter as relates to this army.

I am waiting a suitable opportunity to lay before the General Commanding a statement of the object and plans of the Commission & ask his permission to go on.

A note of introduction - and yr endorsement of the two fold purpose of the Commission, bodily relief & moral reinforcement would be of great weight in our favor.

My full conviction after a year's experience is that an average delegate in his volunteer service reinforces the fighting ability of the army, by as much as one able bodied veteran.

Yr love for the Master & solicitude for the welfare of men in service & your well known appreciation of the endeavor of the Christian Commission lead me to ask this favor at yr hand. So that if, in my ignorance of the delicate nature of military relations, I have asked what you cannot grant, I shall have no difficulty in appreciating the ground of yr refusal.

With gratitude & unfeigned respect I am, General,
Yr obt Srvt
Edw. P. Smith
Genl Field Agt, U.S.C.C

[Written on the last page.]

Rev. E.P. Smith
U.S. Chr. Com.

Nashville Tenn.
Apl. 13/64

2157 4/14/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2111

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[24]

Augusta, April 14th 1864.

Dearest

I do very much wish I could find out where you are to go. I must wait to hear and learn it from you. I cannot think you have already left Lookout Valley. Your letter dated April 4th was the last received – got it this week. I was not intending to write you to-night, but after making all necessary arrangements, I concluded that twenty minutes past nine too early to retire. I will write till Chancy wakes. He and Jamie were vaccinated last week – is somewhat troublesome - Both are getting well now.

Sunday Evening

I have been so busy I have not finished this letter – sewing – housecleaning – and over seeing matters generally.

Guy did not come home Sat. as I expected. I dont know what to think is the reason – may not have reached the Depot in season – may be coming by the Stage. I will not think he is sick for they would have let me know.

Ella writes that Alice was far better than she dared to hope at first – slow but apt to learn anything but her books. I have tried to think that Julia was neat, but I almost despair of her ever being so, and so irregular in doing her work. I go down into the kitchen sometimes and then come back and say to myself, O dear, what shall I do, and again I come up and have a good laugh.

Martha and Fanny go to Sunday School regularly. Julia dont go to church as much as I wish she would. She needs as much instruction as a little child. She went out to go to church this afternoon but there was none at the Methodist, and so she came back. Sometimes she goes to the Baptist Church with old father Eason – colored man member of the church. She likes to hear of Sam's doing well.

Isabella comes in as I am writing, from prayer meeting at our vestry. She seems to have enjoyed it. I learned of the death of Parson Ingrahan one evening last week. He was buried this afternoon. He was the father of your class mate, Dan Ingrahan.

We have had a beautiful day. I went to Church this morning with Grace. Jamie thought the mud was dried up enough for him to go. He now will listen to stories read to him, was very much interested this afternoon in the story of David and Goliath. I made him a sling of thread and paper to show him how David did. Gracie reads as much as ever. I hope Guy will come home happy and contented. I see no chance of me moving this spring. Some talk of taking houses in Hallowell. I should prefer to remain here to going there. It is now little past nine. Jamie has waked, says his arm doesnt feel better. I know it must feel uncomfortable but he wont scratch it, likes to have me wet it. I will say you write good night, with love to you all.

Yours
Lizzie

2158 4/17/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2112

Head Quarters 4th
Corps
Cleaveland E. Tenn.

Source: Bowdoin

[513]

Head Quarters 4th Corps
Cleaveland E. Tenn.
Apr 17th 1864

Dearest,

This is sunday evening and it is now a quarter before ten. I did propose to write you a long letter this evening, but Gen. Newton from the Army of the Potomac has come having been assigned to my second Divn at my request. He is a fine man and I believe an excellent officer. Gen. Stanley, Gen. Newton and Gen. Wood are all graduates of West Point each commanding a division in this Corp. In getting started I have had a great deal to occupy my time & attention so that I have not been as faithful in writing as I ought.

I have a very very pleasant place for Head Quarters just in the out-skirts of Cleaveland. The house belonged to the company that owned the copper mills at this place. I am now living in State in a fine large room. Could you and the children be here during the next two or three weeks. I could make you quite comfortable. But Gen Sherman dont allow citizens to come over the road now this side of Nashville and by the time you should arrive the bird might be flown.

Monday morning.

Last night it was too late to finish your letter. Yesterday morning we went to Church at the Presbyterian. The house was filled mostly with soldiers and officers and we had a very good sermon from a Chaplain about the firmness of Daniel, urging us all to a like course of conduct.

This is quite a pleasant little village for the south and I really wish it were so <> that you and the children could be here for a while. Guy has gone to pay his uncle Rowland a visit. He must be back by this time. I think he ought to write papa a letter giving a description of his visit at Farmington. I shall have to take a ride of about 30 miles today 15 miles out and 15 back to review Gen. Crofts brigade of Stanley's division.

I am really glad to hear from you that you are all so well. Give much love to Grace, Jamie Chancy as well as Guy if he is back. Papa is very glad Chancy can speak – sorry he learns him by a picture, but the war will soon be over and then everybody expects a good time – home again. Charlie is well; is acting Inspector General and I have recommended his promotion. This will make Capt. Stinson Major and Lt. Gilbreth Captain. I shall probably lose Professor Whittlesey, as Col Fullerton is an excellent adjutant General & belongs here. I will try to do better next time. Sam is well tell Julia. Much love to all. God bless & preserve you.

Lovingly,
Otis

Enclosed please find a check for \$100 dollars.

Chas. wants to borrow 200 for a little while for investment, or I would send you more - Say if you are in want.

Rothery will forward you 30 dollars from Washington – please send him a receipt.

Your Otis

2159 4/17/1864

From: H. Boyd McKeen
Colonel

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2113

Head Quarters 81st 2D

Comandg 11th Corps.

Source: Bowdoin

[93]

Head Quarters 81st 2D
April 17th 1864

General

I take the liberty of asking a favor of you in behalf of Charles Miller son of James Miller Col 81st 2D who was killed at Fair Oaks Virginia. The widow of Col Miller is desirous that her son should enter West Point, and follow in the foot-steps of his gallant father. If you will be kind enough to use your influence to obtain his appointment you will be doing a great favor to the widow of one who has dearly bought the right of such an appointment for his son. By making me aware of your views upon this subject you will greatly oblige me.

I remain General
Your Obt Svt
H. Boyd McKeen
Colonel 81st 2D

Major General O.O. Howard
Comandg 11th Corps.

2161 4/18/1864 *From:* Ella [Patten Howard] *To:* My dear sister [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2114 [Farmington]

Source: Bowdoin

[514]

Mon. Morn. Apr. 18th [1864]

My dear sister -

I fear you have been anxious about Guy, since his non-appearance on Saturday, but for some reason your letter didn't reach here till Sat. evening, when of course it was too late for him to go. He has been a good boy & we have enjoyed his visit. He has chapped his hands badly, playing out of doors so much with Frankie, without his gloves. I have tried to cure them as much as possible with glycerine, and they are a great deal better, but look badly still. I am sorry also to have him take home dirty clothes, but as it is Monday morning, that could not be well avoided. We tried to get some maple candy to send to you but didn't succeed.

Rowland has gone out this morning, and perhaps may find a little. Guy went for it Saturday evening, & came home with the presents he has for you. He said he couldn't find any candy, & he thought he ought to carry home something! I didn't know how you would fancy such an expenditure, but he seemed so happy about his presents & altogether showed so good a taste in the selections, that I thought I wouldn't say any thing to damp his pleasure – so I just enjoyed them with him!

I am going to do something at house cleaning this week. We have already made a beginning. Alice washes paint nicely.

Rowland will go to Lewiston with Guy, & will see that he is placed under good care. I think there will be no trouble. I must be about my Monday duties, & will bid you good bye, with much love.

Ella

[Written on the back]
Mrs. O.O. Howard
Augusta (by Guy Howard)

2162 4/18/1864 *From:* Mrs J.B. Clark

To: Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2115

Allegheny Pa

Source: Bowdoin

[95]

Allegheny Pa, April 18, 1864

Major Gen O.O. Howard
My Dear Sir

Permit me to make this request of you, in the name of our common country that you will send a contribution to the "Post Office Department" of the Sanitary Fair to be held in this city 1st of June. Your Photograph, or Autograph if you do not see fit to send anything additional, will be highly prized by the Christian friends you have made, as a General in the Army. My sympathies are with the Army and its leaders. My husband though a minister, was at the head of the 123d Pa Vols., at Antietam, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, and would be yet in the Army but for his church here, and me, his sick wife, having been an invalid for years. I beg pardon for having thus spoken of myself.

May Goodness and mercy follow you, all the days of your life, and may your dwelling place be in Gods house forever more.

Yours very Respectfully
Mrs J.B. Clark
Chairman of Committee

[Written on the back page]
Mrs J.B. Clark
Allegheny Pa.
April 18/64

2163 4/18/1864 *From:* Hoffman

To: Major General O. O.
Howard

OOH-2116

Shellmount Tenn.

Comdg 4th Army Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[94]

Shellmount Tenn. April 18, 64

Major General O. O. Howard
Comdg 4th Army Corps
General:

I beg most respectfully to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter through Lt. Col. Meysenburg, for which please accept my profoundest thanks. Be assured, General, that I shall not forget the last conversation I had with you, - that I promise you.

Lt. Col. Meysenburg requested me to send you a map of Gettysburg, which I forward herewith; the position of the troops is marked down to the best of my knowledge.

A report of the late 11th Corps has to be forwarded yet to Washington, after receiving your signature. General Schurz refuses to sign it, as he was on leave of absence at the time the report was made out.

I have the honor to be General
Your most obdt servant
<Tuoffman>
Major and A.D.C.
Enclosed 1 Report and 1 Map

2164 4/18/1864 *From:* D.K. Cross

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2117

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[96]

[Embossed stamp]

Bigelow Bros. & Kennard
210 Washington St
Boston

Boston April 18th 1864

My dear General

This my first letter is to inform you that my resignation was forwarded Saturday last to Adj't. Genl. Thomas Washington D.C.

I did this General very reluctantly, but I was discouraged having been quite well at all times in Va. hardly sick a single day for more than two years, and in Tennessee four months - suffering all the time with Diarrhea. I could not believe my health would be good in that Climate, therefore decided to resign.

General, I am very sorry to be obliged to give up at the present time, having served two and a half years.

While with you General, I have done nothing to repay your kindness in honoring me so much by an appointment on your staff. This troubles me much, I assure you. Could I have served through one campaign even, through one battle with you General, I should have endeavored to earn this honor. To my past services in the Potomac Army, through all the campaigns, and in nearly every battle in which the 2nd Corps was engaged – to this I look back upon with satisfaction, having at all times performed my duties faithfully to my Commanding Officer as well as to my Country.

My connection with your staff will be remembered with pleasure, my admiration for yourself will never cease, and my constant desire will be that you may always be successful with your command, and wherever you meet the Enemy may the victory be yours.

My resignation was accompanied with Surgeons Certificate of Disability approved by Surgeon Genl Dale, as soon as heard from I will inform you.

I should be pleased to hear from you through the major – please address care Mssr Bigelow Bros & Kennard Boston Mass.

Please remember me kindly to your staff.

And believe me General
Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
D.K. Cross

To
Maj Genl O.O. Howard

[Written on the last page]
Capt. D.K. Cross
Boston Apr 18/64

2166 4/19/1864

From: Joseph Hooker
Major General
Com'dg.
Head Quarters 20th
Corps
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2118

Com'dg. 4th Corps.

Source: Bowdoin

[97]

Head Quarters 20th Corps
Lookout Valley, Tenn. April 19, 1864.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,
Com'dg. 4th Corps.
Dear General:

I enclose herewith a copy of a communication received this morning in regard to some public horses and arms belonging to the scouts of the 11th Corps, and represented to have been removed without authority on the consolidation of that Corps with the 12th.

On inquiry of the Inspector General I am led to believe that horses and arms have been improperly exchanged and taken away, and if this should be found to have been the case, I request that you will cause them all to be returned. I have been induced to appeal directly to you on this subject, feeling assured that no one will remark its impropriety sooner than yourself, and if as represented no one will be more willing to have it corrected. Lieut. Col. Asmussen is of the opinion that the horses were taken away under the impression that I had given my consent to it, which is a mistake – I did not know of it even.

I also enclose a communication regarding an orderly said to have been taken to the 4th Corps. If so, I request that he may be returned.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Joseph Hooker
Major General Com'dg.

[Note. The signature of Joseph Hooker was in a different hand than the rest of the letter. Neither of the two enclosures referred to in the letter were attached.]

2167 4/21/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2119

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
Cleaveland Tenn.

[515]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
Cleaveland, Tenn.
April 21st 1864

Dearest,

We are still "in status quo", and all well. My new Corps is gradually collating in this vicinity, though to review one brigade of it I have to ride fifteen miles. Gens. Wood, Stanley and Newton dined with me yesterday. I think they are all able men; they are graduates of West Point and every one ahead of me. Stanley was two years before me and the others graduated before I entered. Charlie is acting Inspector General and I have asked for his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel vice Lieut Col Selfridge removed, whom I am not inclined to retain. Today I am invited to dine at 3 P.M. with Capt. and Mrs Kniffin A.C.S. It may be because I have ordered all quartermasters and commissaries to remove from the town. This one having his wife here doubtless wishes to remain and how could you refuse after a good dinner! We shall see.

Probably Guy will have gotten back from his visit to Uncle Rowland before the arrival of this letter. I wonder if he enjoyed the visit as much as his papa used to enjoy his visits to Hallowell particularly in prospect. Grace I believe loves to go and see Grandma & I am very sure Grandma loves to have Grace visit her. But Jamie must be a homebody and Chancy is all right where Mamma and Isabella are. I suspect he will be walking as well as talking before we are aware of it.

I see some citizens coming and must shut up the book of home pictures. Good bye and God bless you all.

Lovingly,
Otis

2168 4/22/1864

From: J. D. Webster
Brig. Genl.

To: Major Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2120

Head-Quarters Military
Division of the
Mississippi
Nashville, Tenn.

Cleveland Tenn.

Source: Bowdoin

[98]

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi
Nashville, Tenn., 22d April 1864

Major Gen'l O.O. Howard
Cleveland Tenn.
General,

Your letter of the 16th inst introducing Rev. E.P. Smith, Agent of the Christian Commission, was presented by that gentleman yesterday, and Maj. Gen. Sherman instructs me to say that it would give him great pleasure to afford to the Commission the facilities asked, but that the exigencies of the public service, at this time, demand a rigorous enforcement of the rule, recently established, restricting transportation to army supplies & persons immediately connected with the Service. The General appreciates the high character and pure motives of the members of the Commission and on this account, as well as that of high personal regard for yourself, regrets that he must, for the present, continue the restrictions referred to.

I am, very respectfully,
General,

Yr. mo. obt. st.

J. D. Webster [Joseph Dana Webster]
Brig. Genl.

2169 4/24/1864 *From:* Grace [Howard]

To: Dear Papa [OO Howard]

OOH-2121

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[25]

Augusta, April 24, 1864

Dear Papa

I have not written you this long time but now I will begin. I am very well and go to school. Hattie Bardon Mrs Bosworths neice with her Mother came here on a visit but are going home now at Fall River. Hattie has a little sister 6 years old that she left behind. I am very sorry that Hattie is going home because for we used to play together almost all the time. Mother Jamie Hattie and I went down street yesterday although it was Friday I did not go to school and bought a pair of chairs one for me and one for Hattie. The chairs were for our dolls. Yesterday morning I went over to Mrs Bosworths and Hattie gave me a little book. And yesterday morning I went to school. Miss Woodward heard all of our lessons but our spelling then we chose sides and sung and read pieces and next week we are going to have 4 recesses in a day, 2 in the forenoon and 2 in the afternoon.

We like the cedar chair you sent us.

When are you coming home. Will you write me soon. Good bye Papa

From your affectionate daughter
Grace

PS The school is going to have a picnic next Mayday and Miss Woodward is going to take care of us.

2170 4/25/1864 *From:* E Waite

To: Mrs OO Howard

OOH-2122

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

[510

Portland April 25 1864

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Neice

I now enclose the U.S. 10-40 Bond. The bonds arrived at the Bank from Washington Saturday Evening. The \$2 10/100 is balance due you on account being for premium over what I first was offered on the 7-30 coupons.

Hopeing you may find this correct. I remain your
Affectionate Uncle
E Waite

P.S.

Should you at any time have occasion for my services in attending to any Business Matters, I will be pleased if you let me know. EW

NB

Please acknowledge the Recpt of Bonds - so that I may know they came safe. The twelve cents I still owe.
E.W.

2171 4/25/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2123

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
Cleaveland Tenn.

[516]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
Cleaveland Tenn. Apr 25th 1864

Dearest

It is monday morning and I feel as if I ought to write the children, but am more inclined to write you. Charles has concluded not to borrow the 200 dollars and I shall enclose it to you in this letter also an order to draw on the Washington Marine Co.

(Afternoon)

I was interrupted this morning and have had no time to resume till now. I feel in a measure emancipated now that the 11th Corps is no more yet I hav'nt things in so good working order as then. My staff is not yet so complete. After the reverse at Chancellorsville, it was hard for me to cherish a feeling of confidence in the whole of the old Corps, and after one division was removed to Charleston S.C. the Corps was for a long time very small. Sundry of our friends of other commands were accustomed to point the finger at us and laugh at our moans. I feel that the 11th Corps conquered all difficulties and ended with a fine record. I like this 4th Army Corps. It is much larger than any command I have ever had except during the first day of the battle of Gettysburg.

Yesterday I went to the Sabbath School and had a class of little girls, at the Presbyterian Church. The members of the Christian Commission and Chaplains keep the churches (edifices) in use. I have had the Provost Marshall put the churches in order, some three of them. Mr Nichols from Chicago preached yesterday morning and a Methodist Chaplain in the evening. After the evening discourse, three young soldiers stood up and waited standing asking for prayers for themselves. The Churches are full every evening and great religious interest is manifested. No matter if all leave to trust in God. It is earnestly to be desired.

Give papa's love to all the little ones. From Rowland and from Ella we have the best accounts of Guy, that he is a real good boy & is enjoying his visit.

Capt Stinson and Gilbreth are well. Charley & Frank also and all in good spirits. We are having beautiful summer weather.

Tuesday 26th

I never wrote a letter with more interruptions. All well but busy in making preparations for orders. It is like house cleaning. Sam is well, says Julia's friends are all well. Everybody (citizens) is rather short of rations in this region.

May our kind Father bless you and the little ones.

Lovingly your husband

Otis

2172 4/30/1864 *From:* D.K. Cross

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2124

Boston Mass

Comdg 4th Army Corps
Army of the Cumberland

Source: Bowdoin

[99]

[Emboss Stamp]

Bigelow Bros & Kennard
210 Washington St. Boston
Boston Mass
April 30th 1864

My dear General

I have this day recd information from the Adj. Genl Washington D.C. of the acceptance of my resignation by the President – to take effect from date – April 20th 1864, therefore I cease to be a member of your staff.

It is quite impossible for me to express with the pen my feelings at separating myself at the present time from the Army – withdrawing my services now, when everyone is needed, and again serving nearly three years I feel as though I should like to see the end - like to be with the Army when the last blow is struck, - the blow that is to end this wicked war.

I could not make myself believe that my health would be good in Tennessee, and my friends were quite unwilling for me to return to that climate.

I did hope, General, that you might be assigned to a command on the Potomac again and then I could retain my position, and remain in the service of my Country, but as no such change was made, and I did not choose to remain here idle at the expense of the Government, decided to resign.

Again will I express my regrets, not having an opportunity of serving you General through an active Campaign, - and I would also thank you again for the honor conferred in requesting my appointment.

I have always enjoyed camp life exceedingly. Now as I read of the progress of the war, my inclination will surely be to join again. My brothers-in-arms - should it become necessary I shall not be among the last to answer the call of my Country – my health permitting.

I am happy to say for the past week I have had but little of the old disease, am getting better with home nursing.

I should be pleased to hear from you General. My address is care Mess Bigelow Bros & Kennard, Boston Mass.

Please remember me kindly to your staff - accepting warm regards for yourself, mingled with gratitude for your kindness to me. Ah! This is a sad day for me!

With much respect
I am General
Your obt servt
D.K. Cross

To
Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Comdg 4th Army Corps
Army of the Cumberland