

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee.

1869

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee
57
1865

Dear Sir,
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the Regt. of Maine. I am sorry to hear that you have been thinking of me as in Maine raising the Regiment - but your kind application in our behalf did not result so favorably. The Gov^r was unwilling to com-
Capt. Beebe and seemed to feel rather reluctant to raise the Regt. for me at any rate on acct. of his having refused so many times to raise any more new organizations - He however would have done it for our accommodation had the Secy of War consented. I waited a week for this consent & then decided to return as my leave was about expiring - I did not feel inclined to take the Regt. without Beebe

especially as the Gov^t put it all
together on the ground of a favor
to you. I was in hopes to reach
you but not arriving here till
the 15th Feb^y or thereabouts, we were
of course too late. I regretted it
more than I can tell you - not
to be with you in this Campaign.
You know I have never been
absent a Campaign since the
War before - I know it is all
Providential, however, and trust
it will not be any detriment
to you in the end - if it be
somewhat unfortunate for me.

It has led to a new sphere of
action for me - Gen. Saxton in-
vited me to take command of a
Colored Regt. - At first I told him
I could not decide until I had
seen you but he urged me afterwards
a good deal - promised to give me
the first Regt of the Corps he was

To raise thus securing me the first
rank - to give me the privilege⁵⁸ of
selecting all my officers - and
finally going to Rochester with
him the other day I found that
recruiting was very easy & that
there would probably be a full Regt.
ready by the time the appointments
could be procured from Washington.

I thought you had about made up
your mind to part with Beebe &
me & the former consented to go in
as Lieutenant Colonel. Gen. Saxton
proposed that I go to Washington
to get the appointments & attend to
other business for him - connected
with the raising of the Corps. I pro-
-posed, (unsolicited by Gen. S.) to have
his youngest brother who is now
1st Lieut. in a Colored Regt. as one
of the Captains - intend to get some
officers from Army of the Potomac.

I think if I had rec'd the appointment

of Inspector as you requested I should
 probably not have taken the day.
 Still it opens a new field - will
 compel me to make new efforts.
 New Responsibility - Study - open
 a field for a work of humanity
 to which otherwise I would not
 have access. I think I am qual-
 -ified morally for such a position.
 better than most young men - having
 as you know no special prejudice against
 the black man and disposed to re-
 -gard all men as God's noblest
 work and to be treated as such.

Besides I have reasoned that this
 may open a life-work for me - that
 there will be at farthest but one more
 Campaign for you in the field and
 that then I should have to decide my
 profession - I doubt whether I am well
 equipped by the habits of four years to
 return with profit to the Ministry or the
 Providence designed I should do so - But
 if I should decide upon the latter course
 I can leave this service as well as as if
 meanwhile will have acquired valuable ex-
 -perience & knowledge - Another thought
 suggested by Gen. Saxton is very pleasant
 for me to contemplate - He desires much

that you be assigned to command
this Department - having it ex-
tended to embrace the whole of
North North Carolina, Georgia
& Florida - He says then some-
thing worth thinking of could
be accomplished for the negro.

Gillmore, he thinks, has no sym-
-pathy in the work - He (Gillmore)
does not seem to encourage or
cooperate with Gen. Saxton.

I thought it would be a plan
you would like after active com-
-paigning were over - such an
opportunity for enlarged benevolence,
humanity, & Christian endeavor -
not only in the matter of raising
troops & thus providing permanent
employment for the negroes - but
in the great educational movement,
which must be undertaken and
the providing of homes ^{for the blacks} - & anguishing
free labor in these States. - I be-

Dear I wrote you once or twice from
home. I never enjoyed the society
of your dear family so much before.

I hope Mother will remain always
with Sizzie so that my home
may be with you all - since my
heart is altogether bound up in the
little children. - And Sizzie seems
more like an own loving sister than
ever before. She seemed all goodness
& amiability and if there is any-
thing more expressed in the word
I would add that her character
seems to be a mirror of all
Christian virtues. I only wished you
could have been one of us - But
I trust you will soon have the joy of
not only meeting but abiding with
your darling family. I have some
little hope of hearing that you are
at Wilmington or perhaps Newbern
where I am North & in that case
I will try & visit you on my return
from Washington & then will not
be too late to renounce my new under-
taking - if you disapprove of it. I had
no one to consult for advice - but think my
motives was to do the will of God & that
He will add His blessings - I have had some
anxiety about you - a great deal at times.

(See margin Page 14)

Miss Boozer with her mother Mr. Foster
were entertained by Colonel Cocklin
Chf. W. M. I have mentioned them
because we have seen so much of them
on the last three weeks and I have
heard that ladies can campaign. Mrs
F. & daughter were benighted by that
terrible fire at Columbia and though
rich were suddenly reduced to poverty -
she went from Phila^a - I return neither.
I don't know where Charles is - If you are
at Leeds give much love to Mother - I am hoping
she is very well & very happy with the children.
If I get time I mean to go home if not you
must prepare to meet me somewhere. So get ready
with money for a campaign - God bless you
Sincerely
Chas

[C.A. March 6, 1865]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,

Fayetteville N.C. 1865

Dearest. I am so impatient to see you that
I hardly have the heart to write you a letter
A little boy Mr. made its way up the river ^(the coffee tree) &
and has then connected us by a slender thread with
the world again, for it seems as if we had
been out of it for some time. This no small
work we have done to accomplish a
march of four hundred miles through the
heart of the enemy's country without base
of supply, through rain, mud & snows.
not to be excelled, but no news, no letters
from home, no papers except the few
which reach us captive - This aggravates
anxious & lengthens the campaign. But
have much more anxious must you all be

at home. Because you do not know as
we do here the exact state of things. I haven't
told you that one of my sons Capt. Smith got through
to Wilmington. He had a telegram from
me to send you. Our success has been
very complete. My army has till lately
had to bear the brunt of the fighting -
We took Fort Mifflin, forced the Salubritas
the South & North Forks of the White-
the Saluda, the Broad, crossed the
Congaree, the Santee, the Santee &
are now crossing the Cape Fear. Gen.
Harris with 20,000 men gets out of
the way. We have taken Georgetown
Columbia, Cheraw & Fayetteville - so
much, darling, for ourselves & have missed
Abraham very much. She has missed
her link in history. Now, how is

my precious wife? It seems to ^{me} my heart is full
and that I should be very peaceful, quiet &
loving if I could get home. How are the
children. I am much afraid they will clean from
me, but they have your very loving wife & their
mother to remind them of papa from away.
This time we have not been altogether de-
spised of ladies society. We brought from
~~Salem~~ Columbia quite a number
of min. women & children, who have
traveled along in wagons, ambulances or on
mules, horses or on foot. We have had
two families at these head-quarters, who
have completely mastered all the discen-
sions of military life & enjoyed the novelty.
A gentleman by the name of Halpin, wife
& daughter and a Mr. Soule with his
wife were our guests. The birds of Colum-

Lewds. Mar. 12. 1866

[1865]

My Dear Papa

I wish to write
you a letter to day and
tell you what we are
doing. I went to Lewiston one
day last month with Mother
and Wash in a sleigh. I saw
Judge Morril and Jonny.
we went in to uncle Hicks
new store; they are all well and
glad to see us. Cousin Fanny
has a little girl named Grace.
She has black eyes and looks
like a little doll; cousin Adams
had part of his shop burnt
in a fire that was in
Lewiston this winter. The
Pony is getting along very
well; he had one cold this

winter but is all over it now
Wash has ridden her to
the Post Office a few times
I am beginning ^{to} ride the Pony
with out Wash leading him not
on the rode but to the spring under
the birch tree and back again.
he has a very pretty and
easy little trot; Wash was
going to ride her one day and
Jamie ran out one day and Wash
put him on; Jamie talks a great
deal about riding the Pony. Wash
would like you to give his love
to Sam. and tell him that he
is well. Jamie says that he wants
you to come home. Mother got
a letter from Uncle Rowland last
night. he says that they call the
baby Otis most of the time and is a
good baby. Chaney is a big big
boy, and puts three or four words
~~together~~ together if you ask him

who he loves he will say, "lon papa".
Papa when do you think you will
come home? We hear from Uncle
Charlie pretty often at Beaufort
Gen. Saxton offered him a neg-
ro regiment.

From your affectionate
Son, Guy

1
Major General Howard
General

Being one of
a committee of Ladies about to get up
a Fair to enable the Sisters of the Poor
to extend and enlarge their present
Hospital so as to accommodate the
numerous applicants chiefly Widows
and Orphans of those men who have
died in battle during the present war
I would therefore most respectfully solicit
your "Autograph" confident it would
enable us by the same to add consid-
-erably to the funds for this very charitable
purpose

Very Respectfully

Mrs. M. O'Neill

138 Atlantic Street

Brooklyn

New York

March 13/65

My dear General Sherman

Being in the
a committee of ladies and gentlemen
a letter to you the Vice President of the
to certain and enlarge the present
the subject is as to recommend the
numerous applications of the
our system of the new men who have
that is to say during the present war
to make the few men who are left
from the large number of men
out of the way of the war and as a
and the first for the new system

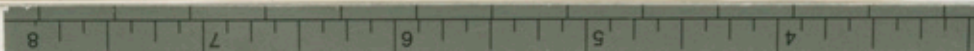
Very Respectfully

Wm. M. O'Neill

129 Atlantic Street

New York

Nov 11



P.S.

I hope I shall well & don't know
where he is. Joseph Gillette is well &
also Henry Whittelsey.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwriting throughout the page.]

Head Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee.

New Cayoteville N.C. 1865

Mar 16th

I wish, before I leave for the
 winter before I return tonight I will
 just write you a few lines. I am
 quite well. My command has already
 started & I will follow & soon
 get to the head of the column
 tomorrow. We will be at Fort A. in
 A.M. although not 3 P.M. - I am not sure.
 We do not generally start so early.
 But I must back today to look after
 the mail. I saw a hint of war in
 the air. I think we are near the
 point of departure for the future.

Today. Bunches on their heads. children
in cars. well on under. some in old
wagons. all poor, but I may write
little to you. They will do anything
except anything for freedom. They go
they know not where. I have only think
I say to myself God will care for them.
I hope to be in regular direct com-
munication with you in five
or six days at the furthest.
Give much love to my friends. I am
thinking and to Mother. I am
hoping she is enjoying the winter
with the children about her. I do
not feel the loneliness the winter of

you had not gone to Leeds. I doubt
very much whether expectations will cease
long enough to let me leave this
spring. Our work must be followed
up rapidly in order to save life. We
have just got word that Meriden
is expected through to join us in a
few days. When you next hear from
me we shall probably have shaken
hands with Schofield. As soon as
we have reached our base of supply
I can tell how long we may lie idle
and if I may get yoked. Many times
I absent full of love to yourself.
Diggie - Loving - Otis

itgharr

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Mar. 19th 1865

Galloups Isle March 19th 1865

Mr O O Howard

Dear Sir

I am in trouble and have no other
source than to appeal to you
some four weeks since I enlisted
in a company of infantry at Augusta
Capt Montgomery since that time
I have suffered more than all that I
ever endured before up to that time
we are now at Galloups Isle Boston
Harbor how long we shall remain here
is entirely unknown to me
but as a friend as well as connection
I intreat you by all the powers above
if it is possible to have me detailed
to some place different from this
any chance the most humble position
would be very thankfully excepted
I recd your very kind letter nearly a
year since from the reading of it

I thought it not adviseable for me
to go on please excuse me for not
answering it but now my prayer
is that you will give me some kind
of a chance and that as soon as
convenient I shall only have to
go to the hospital if I stay in the
company if we should leave here before
I can get an answer from you I
will write you again or your
ansaver may be forwarded to me
from here

please do something for me this
once we are supposed to go to the
me 12th now at Savannah

please direct in care of Capt Montgomery
Respectfully Yours
Everett P. Bridgman

Brunswick March 2/81
1845

Genl. C. S. Howard,

Dear Sir, I forwarded ^{to the Secy of War} your letter requesting that my son, Lieut Wm H. Smith of the 10th U. S. Infy, might be detailed for service on your staff, and was informed by the Adjut. Genl, that the request was not favorably considered. On inquiry, by Senator Henden, I learn that the request was not granted because, at the time, there were on your Staff as many officers as were allowed by the Rules and Regulations. I infer from Senator Henden's letter to me that the appointment would have readily been made, if there had been a vacancy known to the Department.

Contrary to all expectation, the exchange of my son has not yet been declared, though I think it cannot fail to be soon. His heart is much set upon seeing some service under you, and if there is now a vacancy, or one should occur soon, he would be much gratified to fill the place. And an application in such case, would, I think, be favorably received. I feel so confident that you would find him an efficient and acceptable aid, that I venture to renew the application in his behalf, while at the same I cheerfully submit to whatever your convenience, the necessity of the case, or the good of the service may require.

(over)

We are rejoicing exceedingly at the heavy blows your Army
is dealing at the very heart of the rebellion, and are look-
ing forward, hopefully, to the speedy and right termina-
tion of this terrible war. It may, perhaps, interest you to
know that my fourth son, Freeman, who graduated Com-
mencement before the last, entered the Service under the
last call for troops, and proved himself worthy the Lieuten-
ant's Commission received from the Governor, by good con-
duct in the two days fight at Hatcher's Run.

Thanking you, my dear Sir, for past acts of kindness,
I am most truly & respectfully

Yours
Wm Smyth

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

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Mar 26 7 1865

By Telegraph from Newbern 1865

To Maj Gen O S Howard

Comdg Rgt. Troop

I telegraphed again yesterday
that I sent for Capt Jaggen
immediately upon my
arrival at Morehead. I
cannot tell when they will
be here - he has the mail
with him.

J J Fontaine
Capt & Chf gm

New Brunswick

March 26th 1865

Conklin J. T.
Col. & Lieut. D. M.

Telegraphua for Capt.
Taggart.

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

S Mac 267 1865

By Telegraph from Newberne 26 1865

To Maj Gen O O Howard

Today Right Wing
 the camp to garrison
 equipage can come by
 Cars will send it at
 once as it arrives

J. L. Corbitt
 Col. 1st Regt. N.Y. Inf.

New Bern.

March 26th 1863

Couklui, J. S.
Col. & Chf. Dr. Mr.

Camp & Garrison equip-
age can come by Cass

Seeds. Maine. Mar. 26/65

Dearest

I have received one letter from you at Eggenville but and have looked for others but none as yet have arrived. I cannot say well keep track of the bag, and then the different things are not always mentioned. I keep wondering now when you are going to rest and where. I think you stay in one place about long enough to breathe and that is about all. I want you to come home, and so would have a resting spell for all. I feel quite hopeful - this end is not yet but near. How happy we all should be to have you here before we return to Augusta. On Mother's account I should most desire it. I shall go to Augusta just as soon as I can be free after the house, and try to engage a girl. I should be there there a few days and not take either of the children. I am waiting for Rebecca to come here. I can leave we have been entirely alone nearly four weeks but get on very much better than I should have thought.

'Work' makes himself generally useful. and seems
contented. Jamie lies out of doors - every
day he goes out in the morning comes in to
eat his dinner and then out again. He is
nearly as dark as a molatto and I can't
help it. I think it has made him more robust
being out so much more than usual this Winter.
He has enjoyed his rubber boots hugely, and
they now look rather the worse for wear.
When Isabella comes I shall leave the children
here and go to Augusta. Chaney is a great-big
boy. You would be surprised to see how much
he understands of everything we do a day. Guy
and Grace are about the same - snap at each
other occasionally, and one might think they
would bite the next time. I shall send this
to Curtis. Come in the morning by 'Work' who has
letters for Mother to Dell. He can't now ride.
Snow all gone in places. I shall write to Charles
when I think he has arrived at Bearport P.B. I
think he must be near you at this present time.
Much love to him. All doing well at Farmington
As ever your own Sigg

and Charles absence - I
trust the Lord Jesus has
been with you "sticking
closer than a brother" - The
unconscious influence of
your companions & of the
scenes thro: which you
are passing must have
a deleterious effect on
your faith - O may God give
you Grace to resist tempta-
tion & get the crown of
life! - Our roads are becoming
snowy - but the firs still
afford a nice crust for
purposes of coasting, &
the Maple trees are yielding
their succreps - Our waiting
Eyes are unto God - I wonder
if he will send a Reverse
to humble us before East
Day (Apr. 13th) - Ella sends you
ever so much love - come & see you

Dear Brother Oliver
Hamington N.H. Nov 27/65
1865
All our acc'ts of
your locality & the way of reach-
ing you since you arrived
at Fayetteville have been
so conflicting that I have felt
discouraged about writing - Miss
Kearney of Brooklyn sent me
2 N.Y. Herald's containing quite
circumstantial acc'ts of your
Campaign thro: S.C. - So we
struggled with ^{new} bare soldiers
thro: the swamps &c of S.C.
and blushed with every
decent man in your army
over the scenes at Columbia -
The children & your dear wife
were all well when she wrote
(this morning - she mentioned
going out to see you - but I
can form no idea at what
point you may finally

New Orleans & pray with us for our salvation as soon as you

as you

Dear Brother Oliver

Hamington N.H. Nov 27/65

Stop long enough at to
Enjoy a visit from your
wife - She will not go back
to Augusta for 6 weeks at
least - Mother will dread
her going away very much.
Charles man "Nash" proves
a great blessing to them all
especially to Mother who
finds him industrious &
faithful - I hear that the
Old horse & Guss young flour-
ish especially under his
administration - We will
look for Siggie & Grace up
here soon - Ella sits up
now all day & has been
down stairs with assistance
once - Your little maudslake
is 6; weeks old today and
is a good healthy boy weighing
10 lbs - Daddie loves him & is
very tender of him and

Says many big words about
him - Ella Aunt Jane Josh
& her son Will are with us
now - The Nurse left today - God
has been blessing us with a
number of conversions & some
few of our church seem to
have been revived - & till
tonight I have been looking
for a somewhat extended work
of grace - but my lecture to-
night was thinly attended;
& no earnest spirit was man-
ifested, so that I am a
little depressed in spirits &
weakened in my faith for
immediate results - but
God helping me, I will continue
to "row beside all waters" &
trust God for the best.
You have never been so com-
pletely severed from us all
as during this Campaign
I could go with Siggie by if Providence opens the way for me to visit you -

American Tract Society,

(Instituted at Boston, in 1814.)

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NEW-YORK DEPOSITORY, No. 13 BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE, NEW-YORK.

WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq., of New-York, President.

Rev. JOHN W. ALVORD, Secretary.

JOHN G. BROUGHTON, Depositary.

Communications relating to the operations of the Society, and donations, may be sent to REV. JOHN W. ALVORD.

All orders and remittances for the publications of the Society may be obtained by addressing JOHN G. BROUGHTON.

New York, March 24, 1865

To Major Genl. O. O. Howard
Dear Sir

I take the liberty of sending you, by this mail a copy of the Act incorporating our "Friedman's Savings & Trust Company". You will at once see its benevolent design. It is national, & contemplates branches at all the great points in the Southern Country.

We hope, in this way, to do much for these poor people - by the general elevating influence of such an institution - by furnishing a safe place for their bounty monies, pay, & earnings; & so enabling them to provide for themselves & families when the war is over.

You will observe that unclaimed deposits (as many may die unheard of) are to go for the education of the race.

May we have your patronage in this good thing? I hope to see you at your new base ere long & should have done so (L.V.) before now only as getting this Bill through has detained me.

We are doing largely still for all

the armies, not only by our own distribution but
through the Christian Commission. Now that
your army makes its appearance as in connection
with Washington & New-York, I am making
arrangements to reach it with our gospel ma-
terial as heretofore.

Kind remembrance to all
my friends on your staff. The whole north
is full of interest in your magnificent move-
ments, & we trust the end is near. The Lord
keep you & guide you as ever—

Yours very truly

Respectfully

J. W. Alvord

See to

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

Mar 27 1865

By Telegraph from New Bern 27 1865

To Maj Genl Howard

Comdg Right wing

I Cannot imagine
 why Taggart does not
 arrive I have telegraphed
 to Morehead City to see if
 he can be found & to send
 Steamer for him I am
 afraid they have met
 with some accident in
 last storm

J T Conklin
 Col & g. m.

New Britain

March 27, 1865

1865

Coulter J. T.
Col. 2. Ar.

Why does not Taggart
arrive,

Seeds. Me. Mar 28th 1865

Dearest

Your letter and 'message' just received, and I am so sorry to tell you that I cannot go to you. Mother is entirely alone and you would say could you see how we are situated that it is utterly impossible for me to leave. I should enjoy the journey very much - should take Lucy or Fannie if I concluded you could raise no objections. Isabelle was to have been here long since, should she come and could stay with mother and the children then I could leave if you thought best, but I must not think of it now. I hear that Isabelle has engaged a school in Gannett to teach this summer - beginning in May, so she could remain with us but about a month. Rowland has doubted whether operations would admit of your coming another

this Spring. I cannot write more for there
is a slight rebellion here and Chaney is
crying for Mamma. When I close my letter
it will be "all right" as Chaney says.

Now comes Grace is cheerful so can be.

I wish I could go to you as easily
as this letter. I will hope it will
not be many months before we can see
you. You would have to walk from
the Depot if you should come now. ha. ha.

Grace sends a kiss to Papa. Mother says
she is rejoiced to hear from you once more.

Your own Linnie

Danversport Iowa Mar 28.

[1865]

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1865-

Major Gen. O. O. Howard.

Sir - I take
the liberty to address this letter to you,
and hope that you have not forgotten
me, who had the honor once to serve
upon your Staff, knowing that
your time is limited I come to the
point at once

I was honorably
Discharged the service last Decem-
ber but not being contented with
civil life I wish to reenter the ser-
vice, and thinking that probably the
organization of some troops may come
under your supervision, I respectfully
ask you for a position, in a Cavalry
Regiment if possible

Please give my regards to each
of your staff as I have the honor of
knowing. I hope General that my
request will meet your approval
wishing you all the success imaginable
kindly

I remaine your obedient
servant
S. May Churci

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

March 28 1865
 By Telegraph from New Bern 1865
 To Maj Gen Howard

A steamer
 has been sent to
 Beaufort for your Hd
 Qrs

J. T. Coulter
 Col & 2nd

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

New Bern N. C.

March 25th 1865

Houklai, J. S.
Lieut & Capt L. M.

Steamer has been sent
to Beaufort for the
Held. Qu.

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

Monday 28 1865

By Telegraph from New Berne 28 1865

To Maj Gen O O Howard

Your mail went out to
you today from Beaufort
I am doing my best to
get a steamer to go down
for Capt Taggart & understand
that he will be up ~~in~~ this
week at any rate I
sent orders for him to
come up as soon as
I arrived at the coast
but it seems that he did
not get them

J^y Conklin
Capt C. G. M.

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New Belue N. C.
March 28th 1865.

1865

Conklin, J. T.
Col. & Ch. L. M.

Has sent for Capt Taggart

U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

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March 28 1865

By Telegraph from Kingston N.C. 1865

To Major Gen Howard

Gen. Brockwich
will be up tomorrow
and then I will come
to Goldsboro and attend
exclusively. My own
Dept. will supplies
come by Wilmington
Road soon

D. Remick
Lt Col & Co.

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MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

Kingston N. C.
March 28th 1861

Remick, D.
Lt. Col. & Chf. C. S.

Genl. Bruckwith will
be at Kingston soon.

times lapped - Jamie is above the color
of Wash. spends his time out of doors
is not mindful of his personal appearance.
tries to gratify himself as well as he
can. He is as always a noble boy -
Charles has improved more rapidly of
late than any - his figure is still that
of Dr. Tappan. his head as round as full
as his belly - his cheeks ruddy - his
appetite for "lato" undiminished - his
spirits even & excellent - his feet &
tongue wonderfully active - Dacie has
them down some some maple candy
which they enjoyed hugely - I read you
& Charles' letters - His last was from
Antreps Monroe - There are now no appli-
cations for the farm & Mother is oppressed
by her care for the work, the cattle, the land
the timber &c. &c. as she always will be
while she remains there with no one to
lean upon - When Charles & I go home
for so short a time, it takes it all to
make us understand the matters &
we have no time or ability to perform
anything. I'll write advise &c by the

70
Lanunquar Feb. 31, 1865

Dear Mother & Charles

Lizzie received your dispatch
from Goldboro the 27. & sent it up to me
& I went down yesterday to consult &
arrange with her about complying with
your request - I found them all well -
but destitute of a girl as they have been
for 4 weeks - Mother very much worn
out with work & care - and Lizzie feeling
that it would not be right to go away
& leave the children for her to care for - She
offered to take Guy & Grace - but the length
of the land journey - the uncertainty of your
remaining much time at Goldboro &
the fear that the attempt might end
in disappointment to you both made
Lizzie think that she would not try now -
The roads are at their worst - I went
to Leeds Center Depot - took Bridle & Saddle
along - borrowed a horse & walked him
down thru the alternate snow drifts
& mud - The post is coming out & no
conveyance can move in fact with any
safety to life or limb - but as Isabella
was making them a little visit Lizzie
determined that if it were possible the

Depot & go to Augusta & visit her
her house & stay till Monday. The
roads are absolutely dangerous for man
or beast - being full of frost-made
holes & water gullies - alternating with
deep soft snow drifts so much inclined
that a carriage would tip over - It is
thus in Leeds. Here our sandy soil
is getting settled - where it has been
relieved of the snow. Let it fill
your heart with gratitude that Lizzie
is so well & appears so well in all
respects. The war has done more for her
character than for any of us I think. She
has developed & matured mentally & spiritually
under the severe discipline that she has
had. I have thought lately that the
Catachism might be changed in one
respect & in answering what is the chief
End of man? it might be truly answered
To kill women. The perplexing cares & troubles
of their household life are far greater to
them than the broader activities of ours.
The bearing & care of children - so little
relieved as it is in most cases is
almost continuous torture to their sensi-
tive nerves. I know the compensations - but
after all the burden is heavy & their joys

are purchased at a vast expense - health.
Strong trust in God - & contented disposition
&c will do much to mitigate the evil, but
it is our duty to help them all we
can. Ella is slowly recovering from her
terrible illness. She goes down stairs, but
is very weak in her limbs - has headache
& feels the care of the baby since nurse
went away. She sends a great deal of
love to you & will be much disappointed
if you don't love your little namesake
a great deal. Since he has given her
so much trouble - He is a nice, good
little boy of six weeks now - Sadie is well
& is a quite spry little fellow with a
big head & white cheeks - very tender of his
little brother - Guy is fatigued & has
lost his front upper teeth & wears his
old clothes in the barn & runs, &
helps "Nash" & plays with "Johnny" (the
latter was 9 yesterday) He looks a little
"hard" for a "maj Gen." but as well as
either you or I at his age. Gracie has
lost some teeth too & the March winds & sun
has given her many peckles & a little tan.
She walks as quietly as a cat on a step
that she was making & grows more & more
deft & lovely - Guy & Nash have three

bushel & at times yet quite per-
 ceptory is style seeming to forget
 that Mother is not a business man
 in his office a counting Room - but
 a poor woman whose whole mind
 & will is often on the point of yielding
 to the severe pressure of care - we all need
 more sympathy. I don't mean that which
 spends & exhausts itself in tears & beneficence
 but which is patient & careful of the interests
 & thoughtful of the happiness of our friends.
 Especially right us who are strong & when
 the infirmities of the weak - but you &
 Charles have your whole emotional
 nature taxed & its utmost limit -
 where you are - but Nellie & I might
 do more for our friends. The trouble in
 my case is that nearly all my power of
 this kind is expended on my people & little
 is left for my family - but preaching aside
 God has been blessing us with a no.
 of conversions & the Church is in a better
 state than for some time & my own heart
 is more joyful. Love to all & if with
 you & kind remembrance to Maj. Whittier -
 Mail time now -

With much love

Reneance

No time to read over

Howard, R.B.

Leeds. Me. Mar. 31st 1865.

Dearest

I do not write with the most pleasant feelings since I have to tell you that I cannot go to you at present. I say at present for I hope if again you should be resting and I could leave the children I should like to go to you. I did not think so much about it at first, I saw that I could not go and told you so, but I begin to feel that I have met with a great loss, and am more and more disappointed.

Isabella after keeping us in suspense for four weeks came yesterday to tell us that she could not come at all. She has taken a school in Gannett, Vigin in May. She is still keeping house for her father; they are all to move to New Gloucester next month. I feel a little homesick now, not to get back to Augusta exactly. We had an unexpected visit from Rowland yesterday. He brought his saddle and bridle

with him in the cars, and came on horseback
from the Depot at the Centre - he returned the
same afternoon. He don't think you will
feel willing Charles should leave you.
Mother has "caught at the straws" which Charles
has mentioned that Gen. Foster said he would
"like him to take the Regiment even if he took
it only long enough to organize". Rowland
read the letter when here and noticed that. I am in
hopes you will not have to remain in the field
a great while longer, and so won't miss him as
much as if he had left you long ago. Grace
is going to Farmington in a few days. I desired
it very much - to have her attend the children's
meetings and things they are now having there.
I will enclose Ellen's kind note that you
may see how much she wishes me to take
the journey spoken of. Mother is not willing
the children should go away from her, and
I don't think she is disposed I should leave.
Mother would own much older to go should go
be here. She is in hopes you, or has been hoping
you would come to us here before our return to

Augusta. We hope to have settled travelling by
the middle of April. Slights are no longer used.
I amie has written a letter for Pa-Pa
and says Mamma must send it, as you
will find it enclosed. I asked if you
want to send your love to Pa-Pa? Charney
looks up and says "love Pa-Pa". But I
cannot write more - it is supper time and
I must remove my writing from the table.
Guy has just come in with baskets full of box-leaf leaves
and some of the berries, and says I have torn my pants
Mother getting over the "bars". I told him it was a great-
misfortune to tear those pants with patched knees,
and then they all had a laugh. Good by with love
to all

Lizzie