
2450 3/3/1865

From: C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2391

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Beaufort

[57, 58, 59]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Beaufort Mar 3d 1865

My dear brother

I suppose 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'n 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 your accommodation had the Sec'y 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'r put it altogether 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 invited 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 is to raise thus securing me the first rank –to give me the privilege of selecting all my officers - and finally going to Charleston 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 appointment 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 appointment & attend to other business for him, connected with the raising of the Corps. I proposed (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 Regt. Still it opens a new field –will compel me to make new efforts, take responsibility, study, open a field for a work of humanity to which otherwise I would not have access. I think I am qualified morally for such a position, better than most young men –having as you know no special prejudice against the black man and disposed to regard 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 not unfitted by the habits of four years to return with profit to the Ministry & whether Providence designed I should do so. But if I should decide upon the latter course I can leave this service as well as any & meanwhile will have acquired valuable experience & 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 extended to embrace the whole of North & South Carolina, Georgia & Florida. He says then something worth thinking of could be accomplished for the negro. Gilmore, he thinks, has no sympathy in the work. He (Gillmore) does not seem to encourage or cooperate well with Gen. Saxton.

I thought it would be a place you would like after active campaigning were over, such an opportunity for enlarged benevolent, humane, & 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, inaugurating free labor in these states.

I believe 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 Lizzie so that my home may be with you all, since my heart is altogether bound up in the little children. And Lizzie seems more like our own loving sister than ever before. She seemed all goodness & amiability and if there is anything 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 while I am North & in that case I will try & visit you on my return from Washington & then will not perhaps be too late to renounce my new undertaking, if you disapprove of it. I had no one to consult for advice, but think my motive was to do the will of God. I trust He will add His blessing. I have had some anxiety about you, a great deal at times.
(see margin Page 1)

Lately we have had much rain. News by the Steamer today places Sherman's Army at Charlotte but I do not believe you are so far from the Coast. I imagine Kilpatrick may have gone to Charlotte. But we are all much in the dark. Have some fears that Lee will evacuate to Richmond & pounce upon Sherman before he secures a base, but trust it is already too late for this. Do send me a letter. I will remail it to <Portland>, if you have not time for both.

Your affectionate br.
C.H. Howard

2452 3/13/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2392

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee
Fayetteville NC

[618]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee
Fayetteville NC 1865 (ca March 6, 1865) [Date was written by someone other than the author. OOH made his headquarters at Fayetteville from March 13-16, so I estimate the date to be 3/13/1865.]

Dearest,

I am so impatient to see you that I hardly have the heart to write you a letter. A little tug Str. Made its way up the river (the Cape Fear) & and has thus connected us by a slender thread with the world again, for it seems as if we had been out of it for some time.

It is 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 & swamps not to be excelled, but no news, no letters from home, no papers except the few rebel that we capture. This aggravates suspense & lengthens the campaign. But how much more anxious must you all be at home, because you do not know as we do here the exact state of things. I learned today that one of my scouts Sergt. Quick got through to Wilmington. He had a telegram from me to send you. Our success has been very complete. My wing has till lately had to bear the brunt of the fighting. We took Pocotaligo, faced the Salkehatchie, the south & north Fork of the Edisto, the Saluda, the Broad, crossed the Congaree, the Lynch, the Lumber & are now crossing the Cape Fear. Gen. Hardee with 20,000 men gets out of the way. We have taken Orangeburg, Columbia, Cheraw, & Fayetteville. So much, darling, for ourselves. I have missed Charles very much & he has missed a long 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 forget me, but they have you my loving wife & their <> the mother to remind them of papa far away.

This time we have not been altogether deprived of ladies society. We brought from Columbia quite a number of men, women & children, who have tagged 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 discomforts of military life & enjoyed the novelty. A Gentleman by the name of Halpin, wife & daughter and a Mr Soule with his bride were our Guests. The bride of Columbia Miss Boozer with her mother Mrs Foster were entertained by Colonel Conklin Chf. Qr. Mr. I have mentioned them because we have seen so much of them for the last three weeks and I have learned that ladies can campaign. Mrs F & daughter were burnt out by that terrible fire at Columbia and though rich were suddenly reduced to poverty. She went from Phila & returns thither.

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 Chancy for a campaign. God bless you.

Lovingly
Otis

2451 3/12/1865 *From:* Guy [Howard]

To: My Dear Papa [OO
Howard]

OOH-2393

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[19]

Leeds, Mar. 12, 1865

My Dear Papa

I wish to writ 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 Morrill 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. Chancy is a big boy, and puts three or four words together if you ask him who he loves he will say, "love papa." Papa when do you think you will come home? We hear from Uncle Charlie pretty often at Beaufort. Gen. Saxton offered him a negro regiment.

From your affectionate son
Guy

2453 3/13/1865 *From:* Mrs. M. Oneill

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2394

138 Atlantic Street
Brooklyn
New York

Source: Bowdoin

[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 considerable to the funds for this very charitable purpose.

Very Respectfully
Mrs. M. Oneill
138 Atlantic Street
Brooklyn
New York

March 13 / 65

2454 3/15/1865

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2395

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters
Department and Army
of the Tennessee,
Near Fayetteville NC.

[593]

Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee,
Near Fayetteville NC. Mar 15th 1865

Dearest,

Before I retire 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 Coleman tomorrow. We will breakfast at 2 a.m. & move at 3 ½. Early isn't it? We do not generally start so early, but I staid back today to look after the rear.

I saw a train of some 6 or 7 thousand negroes men, women & children, start for Wilmington & freedom. Bundles on their heads, children in arms, men on mules, some in old wagons, all poorly clad & many with little to eat. They will do anything, suffer anything, for freedom. They go they know not where. I can only think & say to myself God will care for them.

I hope to be in regular mail communication with you in five or six days at the farthest. Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy and to Mother. I am hoping she is enjoying the winter with the children about her & do not feel the loneliness she would if you had not gone to Leeds.

I doubt very much whether operations will cease long enough to let me home this spring. Our work must be followed up rapidly in order to save life. We have just got word that Sheridan 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 be idle and if I may not go home. Many kisses & a heart full of love to yourself, Lizzie.

Lovingly
Otis

P.S. I hope Chas is well. I don't know where he is. Capt. Gilbreth is well & also Maj. Whittlesey.

Remember me affectionately to Dellie Roland & Cynthia & the rest. Send Rowland & Ella word that I am well.

2455 3/19/1865 *From:* Everett H. Bridgham *To:* Mr O O Howard

OOH-2396

Galloups Isle

Source: Bowdoin

[60]

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 horrible position would be very thankfully excepted.

I rcd your very kind letter nearly a year since. From the reading of it I thought it not adviseable for me to go on. Pleas 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 answer may be forwarded to me from here.

Pleas do something for me this once. We are supposed to go to the Me 12th now at Savannah.

Pleas direct in care of Capt Montgomery.

Respectfully yours

Everett H. Bridgham [Cousin of OO Howard]

[Written in read across the first first page]

Answd

2456 3/21/1865 *From:* Wm Smyth

To: Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2397

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

Brunswick March 21st 1865

Genl. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir,

I forwarded to the Secy of War your letter requesting that my Son, Lieut Wm H. Smyth of the 16th U.S. Infy, might be detailed for service on your staff, and was informed by the Adgt. Genl. That the request was not favorably considered. On inquiry, by Senator Fessenden, 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 Fessendens letter to me that the appointment would have readily been made, if there has 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 looking forward, hopefully, to the speedy and right termination of this terrible war. It may, perhaps, interest you to know that my fourth Son, Newman, who graduated commencement before the last, entered the Service under the last call for troops, and proved himself worthy the Lieutenants Commission received from the Governor, by good conduct 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

2459 3/26/1865 *From:* J.T. Conklin

To: Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2398

Newberne

Comdg Right Wing

Source: Bowdoin

[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

[Mar 26] 1865

By Telegraph from Newberne 26 1865

To Maj Gen O O Howard

Comdg Right Wing

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

J.T. Conklin

Col. & Chf qm

2460 3/26/1865 *From:* J.T. Conklin

To: Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2399

Newberne

Comdg Right Wing

Source: Bowdoin

[24]

U.S. Military Telegraph

[Mar 26] 1865

By Telegraph from Newberne 26 1865

To Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Comdg Right Wing

The camp & garrison equipage can come by cars will send it as soon as it arrives

J.T. Conklin

Col &c

2461 3/26/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2400

Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[66]

Leeds Maine Mar 26 / 65

Dearest

I have received one letter from you at Fayetteville but and have looked for others but none as yet have arrived. I cannot very well keep track of the Army, and then the different 'wings' 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 breath and that is about all. I want you to come home, and so would have a resting spell for all. I feel quite hopeful, the '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 to see after the house, and try to engage a girl. I should be there three or four days and not take either of the children. I am waiting for Isabella to come here, so I can leave. We have been entirely alone nearly four weeks but get on very much better than I should have thought.

'Wash' makes himself generally useful, and seems contented. Jamie lives 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 mulatto and I cant 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. Chancy is a great big boy. You would be surprised to see how much he understands of everything we do or say. 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 Corner in the morning by 'Wash' who has letters for Mother to Dell. He cannot now ride. Snow all gone in places.

I shall write to Charles when I think he has arrived at Beaufort S.C. I think he must be near you at the present time. Much love to him. All doing well at Farmington.

As ever your own
Lizzie

2462 3/27/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-2401

Farmington Me

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Me Mch 27 /65

Dear Brother Otis

All our accts of your locality & the way of reaching 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. Heralds containing quite circumstantial accts of your Campaign thro' S.C. So we struggled with your brave 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 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 "Wash" proves a great blessing to them all especially to Mother who finds him industrious & faithful. I hear that the old horse & Guys pony flourish especially under his administration. We will look for Lizzie & Grace up here soon.

Ella sits up now all day & has been down stairs with assistance once. Your little name's sake is 6 weeks old today and is a good healthy boy weighing 10 lbs. Dadie loves him & is very tender of him and says many big words about him. Ellas Aunt Jane Frost & 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 tonight was thinly attended; & no earnest spirit was manifested, so that I am a little depressed in spirits & weakened in my faith for immediate results, but God helping me, I will continue to "sow beside all waters" & trust God for the harvest.

You have never been so completely severed from us all as during this Campaign 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 temptation & get the crown of life!

Our roads are becoming snowless, but the fields still afford a nice crust for purposes of coasting, & the maple trees are yielding their Sweetness. Our waiting eyes are unto God. I wonder if he will send a Reverse to humble us before Fast Day (Apr. 13th)

Ella sends you ever so much Love. Come & see your new nephew & pray with us for his Salvation as soon as you can.

Affly
Rowland

I could go with Lizzie by & by if Providence opens the way for her to visit you.

2463 3/27/1865 *From:* J. W. Alvord

To: Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2402

Source: Bowdoin

American Tract Society
New York Depository,
No. 13 Bible House,
Astor Place, New York

[62]

American Tract Society
New York Depository, No. 13 Bible House, Astor Place, New York
March 27th 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 "Freedmans 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 (D.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 material as heretofore.

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

Yours very truly & Respectfully
J. W. Alvord
Sec. &c

2464 3/27/1865 *From:* JT Conklin

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2403

New Berne

Comdg Right Wing

Source: Bowdoin

[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

Mar 27 1865

By Telegraph from New Berne 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.

JT Conklin

Col & q.m.

2465 3/28/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2404

Leeds, Me.

Source: Bowdoin

[68]

Leeds, 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 Guy or Jamie if I concluded you could raise no objections.

Isabella 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 Isabella has engaged a school in Yarmouth 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 north this spring.

I cannot write more for there is a slight rebellion here and Chancy is crying for Momma. When I close my letter it will be "all right" as Chancy says. Here comes Grace as cheerful as 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 you once more.

Your own Lizzie

2466 3/28/1865 *From:* S. May Thengi

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2405

Davenport Iowa

Source: Bowdoin

[63]

Davenport Iowa Mar 28 [1865]

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
Sir,

I take the liberty to adress 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 December but not being contented with civil life. I wish to reenter the service, 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 such 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.

I remain your obedient Servant
S. May Thengi

2467 3/28/1865 *From:* J. T. Conklin

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2406

New Bern NC

Source: Bowdoin

[23]

U.S. Military Telegraph

March 28 1865

By Telegraph from New Bern NC 28 1865

To Maj Gen Howard

A steamer has been sent to Beaufort for your Hd Qrs.

J. T. Conklin

Col & Qr. Mr.

[Written on the back of the letter in a different hand.]

New Berne N.C.

March 28th 1865

Conklin, J.T.

Col. & Chf Q.M.

Steamer has been sent to Beaufort for the Hd. Quars

2468 3/28/1865 *From:* J. T. Conklin

To: Maj Gen OO Howard

OOH-2407

New Bern NC

Source: Bowdoin

[27]

U.S. Military Telegraph
[March] 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 this week at any rate. 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. T. Conklin
Col & C. Q.M.

2469 3/28/1865 *From:* D. Remick

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2408

Kinston NC

Source: Bowdoin

[28]

U.S. Military Telegraph
March 28 1865

By Telegraph from Kinston NC 1865
to Maj Gen Howard

Genl Breckwith will be up tomorrow and then I will come to Goldsboro and attend exclusively to my own Dept.
Will supplies come by Wilmington Road soon.

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

[Written on the reverse in another hand.]
Kinston N.C.
March 28th 1865
Remick, D.
Lt. Col. & Chf. C.S.
Genl. Breckwith will be at Kingston soon.

2470 3/31/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-2409

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[70, 140]

Farmington Mch. 31, 1865

Dear Brother Otis

Lizzie received your dispatch from Goldsboro 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. Ella offered to take Guy & Grace, but the length of the lonely journey, the uncertainty of your remaining much time at Goldsboro & 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 thro the alternate snow drifts & mud. The post is coming out & no carriage can move in Leeds with any safety to life or limb. But as Isabella was making them a little visit, Lizzie determined that if it were possible she <?> Depot & go to Augusta & visit 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 had done more for her character than for any of us I think. She has developed & matured <inety> & 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 sensitive 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. Dadie is well & is a <ruse [wise?]> & funny little fellow with a big head & white cheeks, very tender of his little brother.

Guy is tanned & has lost his front upper teeth & wears his old clothes in the barn & mud, & helps "Wash" & 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 freckles & a little tan. She <worked> as quietly as a lady on a dress that she was making & grows more & more dutiful & lovely. Guy & Wash have three trees tapped. Jamie is about 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. Chancey has improved more rapidly of late than any. His figure is still that of Dr Tappan –his head as round of all as his belly –his cheeks ruddy –his appetite for "tato" <undernourished> –his spirits even & excellent –his feet & tongue wonderfully active. Dadie sent them down some maple candy which they enjoyed hugely.

I read your & Charles letters. His last was from Fortress Monroe. There are now no applications 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. Dell writes, advise &c by the bushel & at times get quite peremptory in style seeming to forget that mother is not a business man in his office

or country 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 expends & exhausts itself in tears or beneficence but which is patient & careful of the interests & thoughtful of the happiness of our friends. Especially might we who care strong to bear the infirmities of the weak, but you & Charles have your whole emotional nature taxed to its utmost limit where you are, but Dellie & 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 prayerful.

Love to Chas if with you & kind remembrance to Maj. Whittlesey. Mail time now.

With much love
Rowland

2471 3/31/1865 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2410

Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

[72]

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 hope 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 Yarmouth – begin 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 expected 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 straw" which Charles has mentioned that Gen. Saxton said he would "Like him to take the Regiment even if he took it only long enough to organize". Rowland read the letters 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 desire it very much – to have her attend the children's meetings and sings they are now having there.

I will enclose Ellas kind not 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 desirous I should leave. Mother would seem much older to you should you 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. Sleights are no longer used.

Jamie has written a letter for 'pa-pa' and says mamma must send it, so you will find it enclosed. I asked do you want to send your love to papa. Chancy looks up and says "Love papa" 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 boxberry groves and some of the berries, and says "I have torn my pants Mother jerking 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, as ever
Lizzie