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2500 5/2/1865

*From:* Wharton J. Green

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-2440

Esmeralda, near  
Shocco Springs  
Warren County N.C.

Com'dg. Army of the Tenn.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[77]

Esmeralda, near Shocco Springs  
Warren County N.C. May 2nd 65

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.  
Com'dg. Army of the Tenn.  
General,

Whilst a prisoner of war at Johnson's Island last winter you were so kind as to write and promise me your influence to secure my liberation by special exchange. Acting upon that promise I take the liberty of an old classmate to write and request that if not incompatible with your orders that you will be so kind as to furnish myself and neighborhood with a small guard to protect us against the marauders and bad characters who always follow in the wake of a large army.

If you will deign to honor my house by a personal visit, it will afford me pleasure to extend it's hospitalities to Gen. Slocum and yourself as well as staffs.

In addition to the above request if you will kindly forward me a passport for my wife and cousin (Miss A.B. Currin) to Boston, their native city, your politeness will never be forgotten. I suppose you are aware Gen'l that the two Lees (Custis and Steph.) and Ab Smead are the sole surviving representatives South of the class of '50. Consequently you will not be bothered by many such applications.

I am Gen'l very resp'ly your obt. Servt.  
Wharton J. Green

[Note. G. W. Custis Lee, Stephen D Lee, Abner Smead and Wharton Jackson Green were all members of the USMA Class of 1854, having entered in 1850. Green left the Academy before graduating. There were at least 21 additional members of the Class of 1854 from the South, who according to this letter had died.]

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2501 5/2/1865

*From:* Wm. F. G. Shanks

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2441

The Herald  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86]

Private

The Herald  
New York May 2 1865

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Comdg &c  
General,

I am engaged in writing a series of Sketches or Recollections of our Generals for Harper's Magazine. Sketches of Sherman and Thomas have appeared in the April and May numbers of the magazine. Those of Gens Grant and Sheridan will be in the July and June numbers. I would like if you can furnish me with any additional data - my own material is very scarce - to write up a similar sketch of you for the August or September numbers. As a portrait will be published with it, it will be necessary to go to press a month and a half before the date of the issue, hence if you can send any material please do so immediately. Anything sent will be carefully preserved and returned to your address.

Very truly &c  
Wm. F. G. Shanks

[Written on the back side in another hand.]  
The Herald  
New York, May 2nd 1865  
Shanks, W. F. G  
Desires Genl. Howard's history for an article for Harpers Magazine

No answer

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2502 5/2/1865

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2442

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[87, 88]

Farmington May 2 65

My dear Brother

Your letter of April 9th was gladly received by us all. Since then, I have thought very much about you and conjectured a great deal as to your situation under the unpleasant circumstances that have since transpired.

Nothing has given us such a shock - save the Presidents death - as Shermans arrangement with Johnston. But I have hopes that neither his general or Army would be involved in the matter, and that the quickness of the Government in remedying the evil would present much mischief. How glad your army must have been to see Grant!

My family went to Bath a week ago Sat. and will return day after tomorrow. Ella writes that they are all well. Your little Guy came up and spent Sat. & Sun. with Frankie Sargent. He left yesterday for Augusta, expecting to meet his mother and Chancy at Leeds & Mrs Jackson at Brunswick. Mother will miss them very much. Guy says Wash is plowing & sewing &c.

When you wrote to Lizzie to come, I went to Leeds to encourage it, but Isabella couldn't be had & Mother saw great obstacles & Lizzie decided against going. Guy says his School was to commence today. Our Spring is Early, but white patches of snow are still seen on many of the hills & an overcoat is needful out of doors and a fire within most of the time.

We will look for you home now all the time.

Charles wrote me on the 18th ult from Beaufort S.C. that his Reg. was full. I dread the hot Summer there for him.

Our next Sab. Is communion and a no. are to unite with the Church. God bless you & lead you aright.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

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2503 5/3/1865

*From:* H.W. Beecher

*To:* My dear Mr Stanton

OOH-2443

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94]

Brooklyn May 3, 1865

My dear Mr Stanton

I presume that you have thought of General Howard, for the Freedman's Bureau.

During Sherman's March he could not be spared, but, I presume, now that he can be had, if he is just the man.

I conversed with Saxton, & others, in the South, & found them very clear in favor of Howard. He is, of all men, the one who would command the entire confidence of christian public, in the service and, I do not know of any one who would also, to such a degree, unite the secular public. I hear, he is pleasant to work with, a gentleman, courteous, respectful & cooperative. He is very truly a christian, he would give his whole strength to his duties disinterestedly without second thoughts, either for himself or any section, party or sect. Unless you have found some new thought of man, it seems to me that he is of all men yet mentioned the very one.

I am anxious to have the bureau in operation. We are in danger of too much northern managing for the negro. The black man is just like the white in this - that he should be left, & obliged, to take care of himself, & suffer & enjoy, according as he creates the means of either. He needs to be extricated from Slavery, to be guarded from imposition, to have the means of Education, & to have, in the case of plantation slaves, a small start, in tools land &c. Beyond this, I think nursing will only pamperize him. I see in the movements about here a tendency to dandle the black man, or at least, to recite his sufferings so as to gain sympathy & money from the public. All this will be checked by your bureau.

I was favorably impressed with what I saw at St Helene & around Hilton head. The 40 acre plan is good & works well. We cannot extend it back, through all the interior. No one plan, probably, will answer all purposes. One thing may be good in Carolina East, & another in Carolina West. Brisbane's idea of making slaves laborers, on wages, to white landholders will be wise as the alternative, or rather supplementary system. But the Main System, it seems to me, should be that which makes small farmers of the ex-slaves. There will still be enough loose hands for hiring.

I do not think it desirable to aid in any way, in keeping up the large plantation system of the South. That was an outgrowth of slavery. It enriched a few, but at the expense of States, or communities. The cry will be that want of laborers, is destroying Southern industry. The old kind of industry must be destroyed. We must aim at State-rights, industrially - instead of class a plantation right. Every year that sees the division of lands, & encouragement of small farms, will see States enriched tho' certain classes grow poor. The great fight has been between farms & plantations. The farms have whipped. If the southern land had been held as the northern & western is, in farms of 100 to 160 acres, we should never have beaten the south; but, then, there never would have been any occasion to try. The <Variety> of the nation will depend on its land system.

I congratulate you on the great <triumph> of civilization in the suppression of rebellion. I believe your part in this great war to have been preeminent - nor shall I feel satisfied, until I have a chance, publicly to express my judgment of your great ability in administration <produced even,> sound moral & political principles. It is in my bones, & I know it will come out by & bye.

I trust that your family are all well. I am grateful, that my eldest son, has been spared, without even a scratch, though he has seen no inconsiderable amount of fighting & some of it, as at Cold Harbor very severe.

I am very truly yours,  
H.W. Beecher [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher]

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2504 5/4/1865

*From:* Wm Sampson

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2444

Independence Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96]

Independence Iowa May 4th 1865

Maj Gen Howard  
dear Sir

Please pardon my boldness, but your name is, in our home, a household word. We here your army is about to be mustered out of service and am afraid my son Lieut J. P. Sampson from desire to see his noble wife and child & having seen the end of the war "feels conscientiously his duty to come home". No objection but fear haste "to resign" would be to have his name blotted out. Can you in the place of a father advise for the best. Perhaps a little longer service may help him & his family could visit him. If he has been as worthy a soldier as he has been a son & husband may be you can help him.

I desired to committ the care to you also he gets no letter from me. I have perfec confidence in your judg't.

I am truly  
Wm Sampson

Tell my son I write you I cannot get access to him.

[Written on the back side of the letter in another hand.]

Independence, Iowa  
May 4th 1865  
Sampson, Wm  
Recd. May 16th 1865

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2505 5/4/1865

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2445

Albany N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[97]

Albany N.Y. May 4, 1865

My dear Brother:

Your letter of the 25th enclosing \$100. was received day before yesterday. As was also your other letter, written a week before, received in due time. I was very glad to get the letters and especially the money. I will send a note to Lizzie, preferring to do so, in case anything should happen to either of us it would be better that there should be some evidence of my indebtedness.

I was sadly in need of the money and having been paying my debts with it, I needed no more than you sent and that will pay all my bills from here to Leeds. I shall go home in three or four weeks. If you go home before I, do please write me and I will join you in N.Y. City and go with you. I shall leave here on the 26th or 27th inst.

I had a letter from Mother and one from Rowland yesterday. Lizzie had already sent two the children to Augusta and was herself going immediately. Probably gone ere this.

Rowland was alone, his family being at Bath. Mother wrote in most excellent spirits and courage. She must be improving in health.

Last night I applied for Admission to the Albany Bar and was examined with 19 others three hours and I was so fortunate as not to miss a question being the only one of the twenty so fortunate. This morning I was admitted and "sworn in". So I am now a Lawyer.

Hoping I may see you very soon.

Your affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore

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2506 5/7/1865

*From:* H W Halleck  
Maj Genl Comdg  
Richmond Va

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2446

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[37]

U.S. Military Telegraph  
May 7 1865  
By Telegraph from Richmond Va 1865  
To Maj Genl Howard

Your command will be encamped at or near Manchester & not be permitted to enter Richmond till prepared to march through the City.

H W Halleck  
Maj Genl Comdg

[Written on the reverse side in another hand.]  
Richmond Va  
May 27th 1865  
Halleck, H.W.  
Maj. Gen.  
Genl Howard's command will be encamped near Manchester Va.

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2507 5/7/1865

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2447

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee,  
Petersburg VA

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[596]

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
Petersburg VA, May 7th 1865

Dearest,

We arrived here last night, some four days earlier than we anticipated on setting out. Maj. Whittlesey proposed that Mrs Whittlesey accompany you on a southern trip. I shall most likely start soon for Alexandria and reach that place by a week from next Saturday. Now if you can come and take two of the children & with Mrs Whittlesey be in Philadelphia by two weeks from Wednesday next (ie May 24th) I have no doubt you will meet there your respective lords. Major W. says no other escort is needed but Mrs W. Telegraph me Alexandria Va. On your arrival at Philadelphia and if we are so circumstanced as to make it possible & pleasant for you we will beg you to join us in Washington. If anything should render your coming improper or impracticable, I shall find my way home, "Deo Volente", as soon I can get away from Alexandria or Washington.

Give much love to Mother if you are still with her and many kisses to the children. May we be truly grateful to God for his preservation.

Lovingly  
Otis



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2508 5/11/1865

*From:* L.M. Dayton  
Maj. & AAG

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2448

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters, Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field

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[93]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field, May 11th 1865

Maj Genl Howard  
Comdg &c  
General

The bearer Private Ward, Genl Sherman desires to send to Washington as his orders will explain & along with you.

Please obtain from Genl Rawlins a receipt for the communication addressed to him and give to Ward that he may comply with his orders.

This being the only paper the Genl is particular about your taking charge of Ward will see to the balance.

I am Genl  
With respect  
L.M.Dayton  
Maj. & AAG

[Written on the reverse side in another hand.]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Miss.  
In the Field May 11, 1865  
Dayton L. M.  
Maj and A.A. Genl.

Friendly letter - asks Gen. Howard to forward a communication to Gen. Rawlins.  
Recd B. of F.R <19> May 1865

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2509 5/13/1865

*From:* F. D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt. V.R.C.

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2449

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters District  
of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md.

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[95]

Head-Quarters District of Annapolis,  
Annapolis, Md., May 13th 1865

My dear Genl,

I will not now attempt to congratulate you, on your return at the head of a victorious army. I hope to do so personally. I trust I shall be able to see you at an early day.

My name has been presented to the War Dept. for a Brevet, and I desire an expression from you in relation to my early service, on your staff, and as Col. Of a Regmt. In your Division. If you think I served with any merit, may I ask such a letter from you.

I fear my duties may not allow an absence sufficiently long to permit me to visit you if you go into Camp South of the Potomac, but if you are in Washington, I shall certainly avail myself of a few hours absence from my Station to meet you.

Please remember me kindly to Maj. Whittlesey. Perhaps he will drop me a note or telegram stating when you and he will be in the City.

I am Genl very  
Truly yrs  
F. D. Sewall  
Col. 3d Regt. V.R.C.

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2510 5/13/1865 *From:* J.D. Webster

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

OOH-2450

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Washington 13 May 1865

Dear General,

Permit me to introduce to you Rev. Mr. Ferril, long known to me as a zealous laborer in behalf of the "Contrabands" and "Freedmen."

His great experience in this department of benevolent effort peculiarly fits him for further work in the same direction.

Any further particulars necessary to be known in his case will be communicated by Mr. F. in person.

Very truly yr friend and Servant  
J.D. Webster [Maj. General]

Maj. Gen. Howard

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2511 5/14/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2451

Head-Quarters Army of  
the Tennessee,  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,  
May 14th Washington D.C. 1865

Dearest,

I wrote you from Petersburg that I hoped you would come on & be in Philadelphia by the 24th inst. I expected then to march across the country, but a telegram from Gen. Grant ordered me to come on by water & report to the Sec. Of War. I arrived here day before yesterday and delayed writing you, till I could say something definite. I enclose the order from the War Dept. I have visited the Sec. of War three times and now think I have a fair understanding of what is coming.

I hope you have made your preparations so that you can come on to Philadelphia by the 24th or earlier if possible as I can now meet you at any time. I want to see you and talk about the future. I presume I am now fixed here in Washington for a year at least. The only sorrow I feel is on account of the children. I don't see a proper place for them - no good house - no good schools. This however may be remedied.

I am now at the Metropolitan, and find it a very pleasant place. Mrs Hancock, Mrs Sprigg Carroll and Mrs Col Markland are here. Mrs Gordon niece of Gen Hunter with Gen Hunter & family, just out of Iowa, whom I described at Savannah as having father, brother & uncle in our Army & husband in the rebel Army is with her friends. On Gen Hunters account, I was able to befriend her & her children. She wants to know you & hopes you will come right on. Mrs Vincent, Webb, Benton & others of your old acquaintances are here. I called on Mrs C, Sprigg's mother last night, but not being well she excused herself.. Her two daughters, Miss Cany & another, were home but so affected that [it] nearly killed me.

I want to go to you at once, but the leave would be so short till I get my new Dept. in order, that I would rather <[you]> would come on. I hope you will bring two of the children, the others we will go for as soon as we get located. I wish you could bring them all and would'nt even if I though it would not hinder you too <[much]>.

A telegram will reach me at the War Dept. Major Whittlesey will be here this week Wednesday or Thursday over-land. I want him with me in some capacity. He is hoping Mrs Whittlesey may come on with you.

Give much love to Mother if you are with her and many kisses to the children.

May God bless & direct us.

Lovingly yr husband  
Otis

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2512 5/15/1865    *From:* Mrs [Lizzie] Howard    *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
OOH-2452                      Augusta Me.                      Washington  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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[35]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated Augusta Me. May 15 1865  
Rec'd Washington 15 1865  
To Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Will leave home Monday next

Mrs Howard

5 Col 195

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2513 5/15/1865    *From:* George E. H. Day    *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2453                      Washington DC May  
    15, 1865

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100, 101]

Washington DC May 15, 1865

Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am glad to learn you are placed at the head of the new Bureau of Freedmens affairs because I have confidence in the <human> & tender sympathies towards the oppressed race possessed by you. Sir, I speak as a friend of that race, having donated my time for four years to them, to be extremely careful in the selection of persons to have charge of them. Most of those placed in charge of them <have have> been cruel severe inhuman in their treatment o them. I do not ask for myself any office but as I know all who are or have been laboring with this class in this vicinity, I desire an interview with you, not for my own sake but to enable you to get such men as will be an honor to Gen Howard & a blessing to his difficult & delicate & responsible work.

May I have the honor of an interview at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor to be your obt Servt  
George E. H. Day

I refer to Senators Wilson, Wade, Sumner, Hanlan, Ramsay and any one who knows me.

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2514 5/15/1865    *From:* Geo. H Stuart

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O, Howard

OOH-2454

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Philadelphia

Chief of Bureau for Freedmen  
Washington City, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[109]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Philadelphia, May 15th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O, Howard  
Chief of Bureau for Freedmen  
Washington City, D.C.

My Dear General

The Anniversary of the U.S. Christian Commission is to be held in Boston on Tuesday Evening, May 30th, two weeks from tomorrow. It is the unanimous & earnest desire of the Boston Committee that you should address them on that occasion. Mr. Tobey has just telegraphed me on the subject.

It is only within a few days that any one supposed you could find opportunity for such a service. But the rapid changes & glorious successes, & national affairs rapidly settling into welcome peace, permit us to hope that you can make leisure for this advocacy of a cause that has already profited so much by your counsel & cooperation.

I need not say how great will be the personal gratification if you can accept this service. But I shall use neither appeal nor argument, for I know your heart is in the work, & that you will gladly do what you can.

In Christian love,  
Yrs Most Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

Please favor me with an early answer.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]  
Phila May 15, 1865  
Stuart Geo H.  
Friendly Letter

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2515 5/15/1865    *From:* Geo. H Stuart

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

OOH-2455

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[109]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Philadelphia, May 15th 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard

My Dear Brother

I have just seen in the N.Y. papers of today your appointment to the Head of the Bureau for Freedmen. Allow me to congratulate you on a promotion in which the Government has honored itself & the country. I know that the parties most nearly interested, - the new-made freemen themselves, - will most heartily endorse this action, - the more heartily as they shall come to know you better. I assure you of my sincere pleasure in seeing one so widely & well known as a Christian man put into a position of such delicate duties, large responsibilities & great Christian opportunities.

I shall be beforehand in saying to you that I had commended Maj. Gen. Clinton B. Fisk for this post, - his name having been mentioned to me. But I shall not disparage our excellent & heroic Christian friend when I say that I am fully satisfied. I shall take pleasure in saying to him, - & he will indorse it, - that if there is a better man for the trust than Gen. Fisk it is Gen. Howard.

Yours Most Truly  
Geo. H Stuart

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

Philadelphia Pa  
May 15, 1865  
Stuart Geo H.  
Friendly Letter  
Recd R of F.R &c May 1865



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2516 5/15/1865 *From:* Thos H Hubbard

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2456

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[103]

Washington D.C.

May 15th 1865

General:

It give me great pleasure to introduce to you Rev. Lyman Abbott, to whose family I am indebted for many kind offices.

Mr Abbott is connected with the Freedman's Bureau, and comes from New York, in company with Dr Thompson on business connected with the Association.

I think it very probable that you may already be acquainted with members of Mr Abbott's family, so well known in Maine.

Very Respectfully

Yrs

Thos H Hubbard

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

[The following note, in a different hand than the above, was written immediately after the above.]

Dear Sir,

We will call on you this afternoon at five oclock. If it is not convenient for you to meet us then, can you make an appointment & oblige

Yours Truly

Lyman Abbott

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2517 5/15/1865 *From:* W. H. Merrick

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2457

*Source:* Bowdoin

SOUTHWARK  
FOUNDRY  
Philad'a

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[104, 105]

SOUTHWARK FOUNDRY  
Merrick & Sons,  
J. Vaughan Merrick  
W. H. Merrick  
John E. Cope

Philad'a May 15 1865

My dear Otis

I am truly rejoiced & I presume you are still more so that there is at last a reasonable prospect of our settling down once more in the paths of peace.

What an inglorious termination to the career of the late President of the so called southern Confederacy - a fitting one too begun in treason & ended in infamy.

He must be blind who cannot see Gods hand in every event of the past four years - let us trust that we shall learn the lesson.

May we not see you on your way North after the grand review is over. I know that you are anxiously looking for the day when you can be at home, & I would not ask you to lengthen the interval, but if you can so arrange it we shall be very glad indeed to have you spend a night with us on your way home. Charley being included of course if he is with you. I believe Father intends writing you himself confirming this invitation.

Under any circumstances if you cannot stop here telegraph me when you will pass through & I will try to meet you, unless it be Wednesday when I shall be in Baltimore.

Very sincerely yrs  
W.H. Merrick

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2518 5/15/1865 *From:* S. V. Merrick

*To:* My dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2458

Phil

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

My dear Sir,

After your long and glorious march <> which <> happily brought <war> to a close, you will allow me to offer my sincere congratulations and to hope you will not pass through our city without giving us an opportunity to personally thank you for the part you have taken in crushing this rebellion.

I can fully realize your anxiety again to be with your family but nevertheless entertain the hope that you can spare us at least one night.

We are now in the Country about half an hours ride and would pleased to see you & your brother.

If you can come advise W.H.M. at what time he may meet you at the Depot.

Your truly  
S. V. Merrick

Phil 15 May [1865]

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2519 5/16/1865    *From:* E Waite

*To:* Mrs. O.O. Howard

OOH-2459

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[600]

Portland May 16 1865

Mrs. O.O. Howard

Dear Neice

I recvd a few lines from you yesterday enclosed with a letter from Sister Susan. I learn by your letter that you intend soon to visit your Husband at Washington. If you wish me to attend to any business for you in your absence or before you go, you will please let me know.

Your New Certificates of Bank Stock are now all ready except the Merchants bank. I will send them to you by mail before you leave, if you wish, or will keep them safe for you till you return, if you choose. I was fortunate in obtaining for you the highest premium on your U.S. Cupons –amt was \$65 for the three. The Premium on the Cupons was all the Same –say 4.7 pr cent making \$21 66/100 on each.

Edw Francis says he thinks he will go to Augusta next week.

I think it would be no inconvenience to meet you in the Cars on your way through the City. You can let me know if you please.

In haste much to all

From your Affectionate Uncle  
E Waite

all well

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2520 5/16/1865    *From:* Gussie P. Whittlesey    *To:* My Dear Mrs [Lizzie]  
Howard

OOH-2460                      Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Tuesday morning 6 o'clock  
Brunswick May 16, 1865

My Dear Mrs Howard

I was greatly surprised to receive your letter & equally so to get two from Mr W both urging the same thing – to accompany you on south. I can go provided the baby's cold does not turn into a lung fever or some such calamity befalls us. My girls both urge it strongly & I know of no other reason for staying at home. I presume I shall take Georgi. I wish you would take Guy too. I can leave better on Monday than Friday – shall we take the first train to Boston & then the boat to N.Y. reaching Phila at 12 Tuesday or stay in Boston Monday night.

I wish I could persuade my Father to go on with us, but I shall hardly be able to. If you hear anything to cause a change of plans, please write. How lovely it is this morning, & how beautiful we shall find the country all the way along. Let me hear from you in regard to the trains we shall go in – it is wholly immaterial to me.

I have a good many things to do to leave my family in comfort, which accounts for my early rising. But good bye

Your affectionately  
Gussie P. Whittlesey

Are you not rejoicing over the capture of Jeff. Davis?

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2521 5/16/1865      *From:* Wm E. Strong                      *To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
   A. I. Genl etc.  
OOH-2461                      Head-Quarters Army of                      Comdg Army Tenn.  
   Tennessee  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      On East bank of  
   Rappahannock River  
   near Fredericksburg Va

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[107]

Head-Quarters Army of Tennessee

On East bank of Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg Va  
May 16th 1865 Evening

Dear Genl

We arrived at this point with our own Hd Qurs. at 9 o'clock this a.m. The 17th Corps is all over the Rappahannock. Head of Column encamped on Potomac Creek some eight mile from the river.

Genl. Logan's Hd Qurs are in the city and his Command is encamped on the Massaponax River, 5 miles to the rear. The Army will move at an early hour in the morning towards Alexandria. The 17th Corps moving via Stafford Springs and Wolf run and the 15th Corps via Stafford Court House, Dumfries and Occoquan. If the pleasant weather continues the Army will make Alexandria easily on the 19th.

We have had a delightful march from Richmond to this point. Everything has gone on smoothly, and there has been no collision or trouble in the movement of the troops.

Our Army was annoyed and delayed a good deal the first two days of the march by the 20th Corps. The 17th Corps ran into the rear of their column 3 miles from Richmond the first day out, and were kept back all day. Only made the Chickahominy. The command swung out of our track about 4 miles east of the Pamunkey and from that point the Army came along nicely.

The roads have been very fair that far, and the troops seem to be in excellent spirits and have enjoyed the march exceedingly. There has been no straggling and no depredations of any sort omitted. I hav'nt heard a single complaint.

Genl. Sherman accompanied the Left Wing through S Court House and visited with Genl Slocum the battle ground at Chancellorsville. We left Genl S. at this point and came in to Fredericksburg yesterday evening. All move with us tomorrow morning via Stafford Courthouse. I dined with him today and I have rarely seen him in such good spirits.

The officers at Hd Qurs are well and send their kindest regards to you.

Remember me kindly to Major Osborne, Stinson, Gilbreth and Cole.

Hoping to see you soon. I have the honor to remain,  
Respectfully your  
Obt. Servt,  
Wm E. Strong  
A. I. Genl etc.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comdg Army Tenn.

P.S. There are two pontoon bridges over the Rappahannock. One, opposite the city which the 17th Corps crossed to day, and the other, just below the point where Deep Creek empties into the River, which the 15th Corps will cross on tomorrow.

I have the honor to enclose copies of the orders of march.  
Respectfully  
Wm. E. Strong  
A.I. Gnl and Chf. Of Staff

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2522 5/16/1865    *From:* A.C. Frissell

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

OOH-2462

New York, 13 Bible  
House

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[112, 113]

New York, 13 Bible House,  
May 16th, 1865

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

I have just opened your letter to Rev. Mr. Alvord, making inquiries in relation to freedmen &c., and as he has left the office expecting to see you in Washington tomorrow, I beg to say a word or two upon my own account.

You may remember me as the minister, who received a call to the Presb. Ch. At Buttermilk Falls, as you was about leaving West Point, for active operations in the field.

My family is still there, and I consent to see their pulpit supplied until they can fasten upon some one who will remain with them as a pastor. I was compelled to relinquish labor in that field, on account of some trouble with my eyes. Some changes have taken place in that field, which I know you will be gratified to learn at some suitable time.

I give whatever power I have myself, to the American Tract Society (Boston) in connection with Rev. Alvord.

The field for Christian effort is at this moment, very hopeful and attractive.

I rejoice God has spared you to take the trust which has been placed in your hands. It is full of interest. Gods people will remember you in their prayers, in your new position, as they have in the past, amid scenes of deadly conflict.

You enter upon a noble service, and you will find many warm hearts and sound heads, willing, yea anxious to cooperate with you in your good work for the colored race.

Rev. Mr. Alvord is delighted with your appointment, and whatever he can do or the Institution which he in fact represents, will be done with great pleasure.

God bless you, dear General, and give you great success in your new field of effort.

I trust you will pardon me for this interruption.

Yours, always,  
A.C. Frissell



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2523 5/16/1865

*From:* A. Beckwith

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2463

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Military  
Division of the  
Mississippi,  
In the Field, Alexandria  
Va

Commanding Army of Tenn.  
Now at Washington  
D.C.

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[114]

Head-Quarters Military Division of the Mississippi,  
In the Field, Alexandria Va May 16th 1865

My dear General

I will be obliged to you, if you will recommend Lt. Col. Remick for some promotion by Brevet. I have long contemplated taking some action in the matter, and will cause a recommendation to be made in his case through the Chief of my Department. Please send any recommendation you may think proper to make to me in order that I may send it in with the one made by the Commissary Department.

I observe that many officers in the Eastern Armies have received Brevets. It is proposed to recommend Col Remick for thee Brevets. Viz: Major, Lt. Colonel and Colonel of Volunteers.

Your obt. Servant  
A. Beckwith  
Col A.D.C. to C.S.

Over-

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commanding Army of Tenn.  
Now at Washington  
D.C.

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2524 5/16/1865 *From:* W.T. Sprole

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2464

Newburgh, NY

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110, 111]

Newburgh, NY  
May 16th 1865

To  
Maj Genl. Howard, U.S.A.  
My dear Friend,

This will introduce Miss Hedges, who is on her way to Richmond Va for the pious purpose of reclaiming if possible the remains of her beloved nephew, Lt. Col. Townsend, who was slain in the battle of Cold Harbor. The object I have, in commending her to your notice is, that you may give her advice in relation to the proper course to be pursued, and, that she may obtain from you a letter, or letters, to some one of the officers in Richmond who may aid her, in her mission. Miss Hedges is a particular friend of mine, and most worthy of any assistance you can render her. Kindness to her in this behalf, I will take as a favor conferred on me.

The best of blessings attend you. I have watched your movements with growing interest, and have thanked God, for all the success, that has attended you, both as a soldier of your country and the cross. Wife & children desire to be kindly remembered.

Your friend  
W.T. Sprole [Chaplain, Professor of Ethics and English Studies, USMA]

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2525 5/16/1865 *From:* Allen Greely

*To:* Oliver O. Howard Esq.

OOH-2465

Turner, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115]

Oliver O. Howard Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your name, & some what of your history has been brought before me by a printed paper. You cannot tell, for I cannot, how I felt, when I read it over, which I have done repetedly. If there is any mistake on my part, you will correct my error. Your locality is named the Burea of Freedmen's affairs. This account has brought to my mind many thoughts & feelings which I have not time now to speak of.

If you make a reply to this, as I hope you will, let it be void of all pecuniary pay, let it be only a few post-office stamps.

As ever

Yours truly,  
Allen Greely  
aged 84

Turner, Me,  
May [16?] 1865