

ARTICLE.

Governor's Island, N.Y.,

Nov. 20, 1890.

No. 12, Vol. 10.

SUBJECT.

Milestones of my youth.

ARTICLE

Governor's Island, N. Y.,

Nov. 30, 1890.

No. 12, Vol. 19.

SUBJECT

Miscellaneous of the young.

Milestones of

my upouth,

Article by

Gen.O.O.Howard

Governor's Island, N.Y.

Nov. 20th.1890

BURLINGTON, VT.

September 15,

1903

GEN. O. O. HOWARD

HON. JAMES K. JONES

REV. JOHN HAY, D.D.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

BURLINGTON, VT.

BURLINGTON, VT.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Lincoln Memorial University

at Cumberland Gap, Tennessee

My Dear Sir:

Will you not, my dear sir, help me to another contribution?
school year we usually need a few more subscriptions.
engagement subscribed. To meet all accounts and start adequately this
filled with four hundred of the mountain youth, and a parish
establishing a good plan, we have now the rooms and buildings nearly
You have generously aided my co-trustees and myself in

Very respectfully yours,

Major-General U. S. Army, etc.

President, Board of Directors.

Lincoln Memorial University

At Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.

GEN. O. O. HOWARD,
President of the Board of Directors,
Burlington, Vt.

HON. DARWIN R. JAMES,
Treasurer,
123, Maiden Lane, New York City.

REV. JOHN HALE LARRY, D.D.,
President,
Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

BURLINGTON, VT., September 15, 1903.

My Dear Sir:

You have generously aided my co-trustees and myself in establishing a good plant; we have now the rooms and buildings nearly filled with four hundred of the mountain youth, and a partial endowment subscribed. To meet all accounts and start squarely this school year we urgently need a few more subscriptions.

Will you not, my dear sir, help me to another contribution?

Very gratefully yours,

Major-General U. S. Army, etc.

President Board of Directors.

Gen Howard designates certain mile-stones
of his youth upon solicitation,
Courage, Shakespeare says, is one of "the King-becom-
ing graces."

Courage is that grace or principle within us
which ^{enables us to} fearlessly encounter danger.

When a principle within us it is doubtless
constitutional.

When acquired or rather enhanced, for
there must be some ^{indigenous} foundation, it becomes
"the King becoming grace."

Looking back of over fifty years of a
checkered experience, I feel in my heart
that I must ^{have} had born in me the principle
which I have designated Constitutional
courage; and surely under providential
leadings, home & school training, and
the ordinary & the extraordinary workings
of my life, the foundation has been somewhat
builted on, but to what extent my asso-
ciates and my critics can best judge.

I may say, ^{I think,} without egotism, that,
however I have come by the principle or the
fancied grace, to courage ~~and~~ ^{to} our each
successful step in my career.

To say to me as a child "Oh you dare not do

(to an

that" was simply to challenge me, immediate trial; it was to throw down a gauntlet that I instantly took up. This was ^{often} childish, reckless, foul-hardy. For example at eight years of age a little flock of ^{no.} boys & girls, were plodding our slippery way to the school. We had just had the usual "fanny thaw". By the roadside the deep ditches were full of water. The country being comparatively level the streams were sluggish so that very quickly in the cold morning the water became covered with a thin ice.

In passing the deepest pool ~~being~~ ^{being} the crowd out defiantly "Ole, you dare not slide ^{across} ~~that~~ ditch!" The girls: Oh, no, don't, don't, the ice is too thin!"

But no sooner said than attempted. Away goes the foul-hardy boy. When half over, the ice breaks & he goes into the freezing stream up to his neck.

This sort of daring of which I am not now at all proud was however a characteristic of my youth. It had perhaps this advantage for me; it made me play the roughest games; it early caused me to construct rafts for pond & river; to ride

horses without bridle or halter; to combat with fists & feet every encroachment of other strong boys ^{without regard to age} upon my conceivable rights; it made me a leader in gymnastic performances; but was coupled with a final and serious disadvantage, when, in trying a reckless feat, I fell from a horizontal bar through several feet of space and received a contusion upon the head that nearly cost me my life. The ^{deep} scar still reminds me of the ^{unwise} risk I ran, in order to show to others ^{as a gymnast} what I could do.

When nine years of age, just before my father's death, I had a test of courage of a little higher stamp. It had an element of timidity in it. There was a cottage prayer meeting at "Uncle Warren's" house Sunday evening at early candle lighting. I sat in the front sitting room near Aunt Rhoda. Many members, men & women, had taken part in singing, prayer & speaking. An impulse came into my heart to bear a hand. "What could a boy do?" I said to myself. I had my Sunday school Testament in my pocket! "Why not read a verse from that?" With the sudden ^{mental} suggestion came the quick resolve &

was certain. I referred to the 2nd of September first
was concerned with "Oh, your friends
in the 2nd, for this is right" and read a
few paragraphs, and then sat down. My voice
checked, and I made these remarks and a feeling
came to show the following the child's effort. When
I noticed how I told my father when I was then
in the last illness, sitting there in his high-backed
chair. He appeared, with some of his own
saying. "The 2nd, would you like to be a Christian?"
I was told to read the only page of his which I
remember, and his own words, "I know."

"Well, so we young men are, this year, begin a religious
life?"
No, but it was an effort, it was just the first
of a ~~long~~ great start, the evidence of the power
of a true courage. That courage which enables
a man after to stand to his convictions. After
long (longed), I said great things. But I was not
to succeed. I was not like a true child.
Probably the reason was that I was before
and the great start. But the spirit of a true courage
which was, was within of the first. But the
root was there.

I believe

and action. I opened to the 6th of Ephesians first verse commencing with: "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." and read a few paragraphs, and then sat down. My voice choked, my small knees trembled and a burning vein to shame followed this child's effort. When I reached home I told my father who was then in his last illness, sitting there in his high backed chair. He approved, with some apparent mingling. "My son, would you like to be a christian?" I have today to recall the only prayer of his which I remember, and his unwonted tenderness.

"Well", some young man asks, did you ^{these} begin a religious life?"

No, but it was an epoch, — it was just the point of a ~~blade~~ green shoot, — the evidence of the dawn of a truer courage — that courage which enables a youngster to stand to his convictions. Other boys laughed, & said smart things. Ours was sensitive to ridicule — sarcasm cut like a twisted blade.

Probably the reaction caused worse doings than before. and the green shoot, like the ^{tender blade} ~~grass~~ of wheat arrested by sudden cold, was withered at the point. But the ^{hidden} ~~living~~ root was there.

During my college days in Boston, I had a good
object lesson in the power of a young man
two classes in advance of mine. He could not
object to the use of his name. It was his, I
think from Boston. He sat on the bench of our
news-club. He knew the complete vocabulary
of my occupation of a true Christian. Not of
mental resources, in good health physically, he
was gentle, winning in manner and conversation
in fact. Through I resisted his influence, feeling
there was no other nature & even so far as
difference was possible; yet now I know
that his influence has been a blessing. Like
the ^{divine} edge of the ~~word~~ bar, embodied
in the ten commandments. I do not think
Kierke was ever intended to lead women or fight
battles with eternal weapons, yet surely God
sent him to a noble work, ready to
see large hearts & inspire them toward the right
for the future.

Another example of a little student when I
was a freshman in College. I had one day
in my examination been so much frightened by
my professor. He came down to me and said

During my college days in Bowdoin, I had a grand object lesson in the person of a young man two classes in advance of mine. He could not object to the use of his name. It was Rich, I think from Bangor. He sat at the head of our mess-table. Rich was the complete embodiment of my conception of a true Christian. Full of mental resources, in good health physically, he was gentle, - winning in manners and fervent in piety. Though I resisted his influence, belittling men in rougher natures & even sought a different companionship; yet now I know that his uprightness touched my conscience like the square edge of the ^{divine} law, embodied in the ten Commandments. I do not think Rich was ever intended to lead armies or fight battles with carnal weapons, yet surely God sent him to a nobler work, namely to win boys' hearts & impel them toward the right path to follow.

Another courageous little student when I was a junior in College heard me one day in great vexation use some fearfully rough expression. He came close to me and said:

[illegible]

"Howard, I never thought anybody would ^{ever} hear you use such words!" I did not reply. It was voicing my own conscience. It made an impression that years never effaced. "How good is a word spoken in season!" — To my mind that young student evinced a genuine courage.

In 1850, after graduating from Bowdoin, in ~~September~~ ^{August} I put in an appearance at West Point. Soon after my arrival the Cadets passed from their tented field to their barracks, a kind fellow Cadet of the next higher classed ^(he was also a chaplain) most cordially invited me to join Professor Spaldes' Bible Class. For a time my study room was as far as possible from the Academic Building where the exercise was held. When the Cadets during a release from quarters were in the area near the barracks, they filled the whole space walking in twos or threes, or standing & chatting in groups. This was the condition of things as I ^{beginning my Bible} emerged from my room & descended to the area. I could not escape the fun. "Hello! Him goes that plebe with his Bible! Well, well, let him boot-lick the professor. & Perhaps ^{it will} ~~will~~ help his standing!" Such phrases struck my ears. It was a real

receiving of a copy of the report of the
 the same as in the report of the
 a more distant, or perhaps in the
 opposition, you may see ⁱⁿ the
 now a victory in the presence of
 I felt that I had been over-
 To my satisfaction I was as good as
 happy as when I was, though it was
 and in which the snow is the
 but of course for me. I do not

A great expense the hall near the door.
 The house appears to be full of birds
 as one would of course in May. I found as
 there is no systematic visiting but frequently
 this kind, generally very noisy and noisy
 as was my custom to other people as
 the Governor's Dept where I lived & worked.
 I believe in the same town was not far from
 the Methodist visiting house, the only church
 town for within the province of old Fort Brooke.
 Florida, I was stationed for the most part ^{near}
 (between) of the then Department of
 During the spring and summer in the
 of the same.

ting of war for me. I set my teeth held up my head and marched through the crowd to the ~~high~~ academy entrance, and, though it was to my sensitive soul as hard as going into battle, I felt that I had been courageous, that I had won a victory in the presence of ^{an open} ~~hostile~~ opposition - a victory over my own ~~weak~~ Self. Yes, it was a moral victory, an epoch ^{in life} which strengthened the inner man. It ^{also} opened the door for the meaning of acceptable & useful knowledge, ^{unvalued} of the truth.

of 1857

During the Spring and summer, as the Ordnance officer for the then Department of Florida, I was stationed for the most part ~~at~~ ^{near} Tampa within the garrison of old Fort Brooke. The Methodist Meeting House, the only church edifice ^{belonging to the Methodists} in the small town was not far from the Ordnance Depot where I lived & worked.

It was my custom to attend worship at this Church, generally morning and ^{on Sundays} ~~evenings~~ when no imperative military duty prevented. On one Sunday evening in May I went as usual. The house appeared to be full ^{so} I took a seat against the wall near the ^{near} door. Being in

at the movement. Perhaps the object of the
exercise I know & with whom I associated laughing
inwardly I caught sight of two or three young trees
or with the others toward the soil. At that
I noticed a bunch back with women, holding
inwardly toward the front. At that time going
or back of the other soil. Several were
for whatever to go forward to the front seats
down & something more of the people called
of all persons. As the conversation went the
myself. After the women there were much singing
of ancient people among whom I observed
colored women and that they were in the
place. At that time I think we that were there -
from the front. That the women the few men
let the dog sleep carrying his pillow. I did not
to the women children were I kept my place &
fell asleep & fell against me. Still but I should
street by my side & that were under the bed
was to find a very high also coming from the
unfamiliar I was just a little from. It seemed

uniform I was just a little proud. It annoyed me to find a roughly clad urchin from the street by my side & still more when the lad fell asleep & ~~fell~~^{leaned} against me. Still lest I should make some disturbance I kept my place & let the boy sleep enjoying his pillow. I did not hear much that the Minister the Rev Mr Syde said. It struck me that ^{this clergyman} was unusually earnest and that he ^{had} a veritable hatred of wicked people among whom I classed myself. After the sermon there was much singing of old hymns. As the congregation sang the clear & searching voice of the pastor called for volunteers to go forward to the front seats or kneel at the altar-rail. Several men & women went to the front. As they were going I noticed a hunch-back little woman sideling on with the others toward the rail. At that instant I caught sight of two or three young men whom I knew & with whom I associated laughing at the movement. Perhaps the oddity of the deformed one amused them. On a sudden I said to myself: "young man, which side do you prefer, that of the seafarers yonder, or that

of their poor ones who are trying to do right?
Constantly, as so often in my life, the whole
came to be at once followed by action. I never
but his hand on my head & prayed for me with
them, for he was a tender-hearted Christian man.
There was no more in his mind.
praying following the action. The boys felt
convinced that there were some things to
this occasion. Still I had boldly taken my
stand ~~in~~ a class of Christians that were
considered practical & unswerving advocates
among my friends & relations everywhere.
It appeared to them a folly, a error, a mistake.
And when the situation was over then when I
found Professor of the Bible Class; but this
action looked another aspect of life. It did
indeed enhance the power of courage in
my own position and perhaps the way for
other in a physical manner which is often
called physical courage. In the same order
of things, the elements in their hearts.

of these poor ones who are ^{at least} trying to do right? Instantly, as so often ^{before} in my boyhood, the ^{strong} resolve came to be at once followed by action. I arose buttoned ^{up} my uniform coat and marched to the front & knelt at that altar. Mr Lynde put his hand on my head & prayed for me with tears, for he was ^{whenever I had thought of him} a tender-hearted Christian man.

There was no visible or immediate fruitage following this action. My bona fide conversion was some time subsequent to this occasion. Still I had boldly taken my stand ~~among~~ ⁱⁿ a class of Christians that were evasive & fanatical & unworthy associates among my proud & exclusive comrades.

It appeared to them a folly, a craze, a mistake. And indeed the situation was ^{even} worse than when I joined Professor Spool's Bible Class; but this action marked another epoch of life. It did indeed enhance the principle of courage in my composition and prepared the way for many ~~happy~~ ^{desirable} results.

There is a physical stamina which is often called ~~physical~~ courage. In the army when soldiers lack this element in their makeup

[illegible]

They are despised and are usually treated with
 ridicule. In the beginning of my first battle
 I was ^{with my brigade} stationed by Gen. McDowell, behind the
 fighting line with a small forest intervening. We
 were perhaps three miles in a direct course, from
 the ^{ragging} batteries & screaming shells. The increasing
 rattle of the musketry could occasionally be
 heard, while the booming of the cannon
 was incessant. To stand there & listen to those
~~ominous~~ ^{ominous} sounds knowing that soon we must
 rush into the thickest of the conflict, was
 trying in the ^{for every man} extreme. For awhile I could scarcely
 bear up. I was dismounted. My limbs weakened
 and all my strength appeared about to depart.
 How ashamed I felt. I had not dreamed of such
 a ^{deplorable} condition. Then I lifted my ^{yearning} soul to God &
^{cried (probably not aloud)} ~~said~~ ^{subconsciously}: "Oh, God enable me to do
 my duty." As quick as a flash of lightning, the
 reaction set in and I was wholly myself. When
 my command filed past me into action as I sat
 on my horse to observe them the men successively
 looked up into my face. Many were pale, many
 smiled and doubtless gathered assurance from
 my ^{newly found} self possession. This ^{singular} ~~experience~~ experience of

of physical frustration ^{never} occurred ^{to me} again during the war of Rebellion.

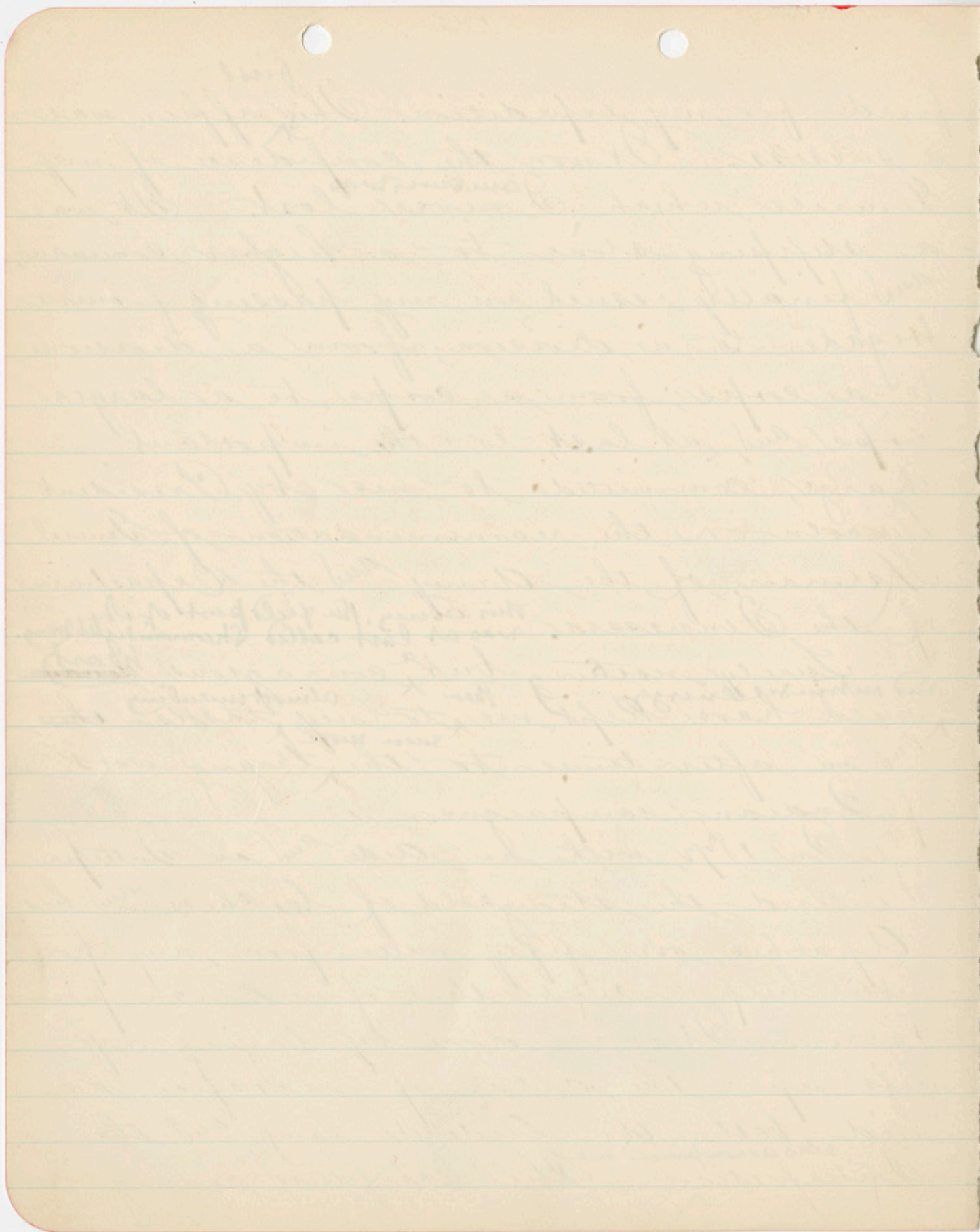
There are many other incidents of my life which have perhaps stronger bearing upon my future success, as I cannot succeed, than those I have noted. What the French call *énergie* such as so remarkably showed itself ^{during} their French revolution, but was developed & strengthened, like muscular action, by intensified activities, is the quality which made some of our general officers ~~superior~~ ^{excel}. If I ever attained such energy ^{others} can better judge.

My first considerable success with a brigade, was based upon first getting the permission from General Sumner to make a projected expedition. Second, the working a whole night to bring about the completeness of supply and other essential preparation.

In this preliminary work ^{was conspicuous} ~~I detected~~ ~~in myself~~ a strong patriotic motive, and in addition of an undoubted ambition. In the subsequent success there was demanded an ability to command men and keep their confidence, and the courage, both physical and moral, which pressed me to assail the enemy, follow him up and drive him beyond the limits

fixed for my expedition. This ^{first} affair was a success. It won the confidence of my Generals, which I ~~never~~ ^{have since} lost. It was a stepping stone to a higher command, and finally issued in my passing from a brigade to a division; from a division to a corps; from a corps to a larger corps, and, at last, to the important charge, committed to me by President Lincoln on the recommendation of General Sherman, of the Army and the Department of the Tennessee. ^{This army, the field part of it, was at last called Sherman's fighting army.} Surely nothing but a courageous ~~heart~~ ^{and untiring energy} ~~could~~ ^{then} have kept me ^{almost unending} to my tasks ~~then~~, and in after times to the trying work of Indian campaigns.

On 1872, with an aide and an Interpreter, I entered the stronghold of Cochise and his Apaches, over fifty miles from any possible help except that of our ever-present Father. It was done by laying my life upon the altar of sacrifice, as did both the Aide-de-camp and the Interpreter ^{who accompanied me}. The scripture ringing in



my ears, as I marched over the last hundred miles of approach, was, "He that saveth his life shall lose it: He that loseth his life for my sake the same shall find it." We remained there some thirteen days and succeeded in making peace with the last tribe of Indians then at war with the United States; and in putting them upon a Reserve, and soon obeyed, with ample success, our instructions to carry out the peace policy of General Grant.

If a young man has fair mental endowments, courage and push will carry him on, over some pitfalls and apparent failures, to a veritable success.

(sgd.) Oliver C. Howard.

Governor's Island N.Y.,
 Nov. 20th 1890

