

Tennessee Arsenal Augusta ^{Me}
May 9th 1856.

Dear Brother,

Was that nose bleed the result of
your rides on 'Charlie', or your nervous system
upset & break down at Hallowell? I hope those foolish
traditionary superstitions dont operate on you because
you are in love. as 'love sickness' produces bleeding at
the nose, faintness at the heart, &c.. Monday I was riding
Malack in the street, where Henry Wingate passed
me with as loud a looking team as an old horse,
old horse, old gig & (with his wife's consent) an old
coat, could make. I trotted my horse along by his
side & talked myself into Hallowell and so
accompanied him home. I did not learn
any thing new excepting that Uncle Solomon
had died and that Mr Pease keeps trying
to get of Uncle those "Paper Demands" that Uncle
holds in his hands. Stinchfield says that Pease
cannot prove partnership because Uncle had
given no joint note & is involved only as Endorser. I

were going to ride down to Hallowell this morning
and see uncle. Mr Dalton has left this Property
above here vacant, and I want to pasture
cows on a portion. Yesterday I went with Geo.
Williams a 'trouting' out nine miles, broke both shafts
of the old wagon, caught three trout &
got home in safety the same night, completely
tired out. Yesterday I mounted Malach & started
off in search of your picture. Left Augusta
at half past ten and got back at one after a
pleasant ride of from 14 to 16 miles. Mr Mendee's
description served as my guide, asked Geo. Williams
to find out the name & place of a street, there set
spectacled, gemine of reddish complexion. He asked
a big bull-headed fellow in about ten minutes after
my request. 'Why, says the fellow, don't you know
Jake Miller of Manchester? Off I rode in search
of Jake Miller. He was soon found. I rode straight
on the first branch of that new road that
circles the hill that we start out by going to Leeds
but did returning, go about a mile, you find the
Miller in question. He says he did not pick up the
picture, but his neighbor Goram Burgess did. Said
Goram lived a mile or two further off. I found

this house. Goram was gone, another man there. Goram's
wife was at home. The picture was identified
and recovered, cover or case smashed. Woman
would take money, looked as though she would
like to be persuaded. gave her one dollar to
give her husband. Man said is she your wife?
yes. "Hal, you have got a 'plaguy good looking woman
ye," which of course heightened Lizzie's color an
deposition. I got a new case for seventy five cents.
We or I shall go down to Brunswick before long
and I will bring the picture & the book of Foster's.
Maybe I will send it. All well, Guy has got
over the vaccination without blinking. I have
got over being Croft. Glad to hear from home
through you. I wrote home yesterday about Dalton
&c. Give love to Charlie. Cha^s Turner has got home,
is at Leeds, I hear. Remember me to all friends. Has
Stanton been recovered? Lizzie says first she don't
going to have anything to say to you. then adds
'I would like to get acquainted with Ella. says "As
no way to be talking about me to her, for she won't
like me." sends love to Charlie. Guy is playing in the
cradle. Lizzie is combing hair & talking to him.
Your aff. Bro Otis

141 5/9/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-106

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me
May 9th, 1856

Dear Brother,

Was that nose bleed the result of your rides on 'Charlie', or your harem-scarem upset & break-down at Hallowell? I hope those foolish traditionary superstitions don't operate on you because you are in love, "as love-sickness produces bleeding at the nose," faintness at the heart &c.

Monday I was riding Malach in the street where Henry Wingate passed me with as bad a looking team as an old horse, old harness, old gig & (with his wife's consent) an old coat could make. I trotted my horse along by his side & talked myself into Hallowell and so accompanied him home. I didn't learn anything new excepting that Uncle Stillman had <sued> and that Mr. Pease keeps trying to get of Uncle those "Paper Demands" that uncle holds in his hands. Stinchfield says that Pease cannot prove partnership because Uncle has given no joint-note & is involved only as Endorser. I am going to ride down to Hallowell this morning, and see Uncle. Mr. Dalton has left this Property above here vacant, and I want to pasture cows on a portion.

Tuesday I went with Geo Williams a trouting out nine miles, broke both shafts of the old wagon, caught three trout & got home in safety the same night, completely tired out. Yesterday I mounted Malach & started off in search of your picture. Left Augusta at half past ten and got back at one after a pleasant ride of from 14 to 16 miles. Mr. Hendric's description served as my guide, asked George Williams to find out the name & place of a short, thick set spectacle genius of ruddy complexion. He asked a big bull-headed fellow in about 10 min. after my request. 'Why', says the fellow, 'don't you know Jake Miller of Manchester?' Off I rode in search of Jake Miller. He was soon found. Proceed straight on the first branch of that new road that encircles the hill, that we didn't try going to Leeds but did returning, go about a mile, you find the Miller in question. He says he didn't pick up the picture, but his neighbor Goram Burgess did. Said Goram lived a mile or two further off. I found his house. Goram was gone, another man there. Goram's wife was at home. The picture was identified, and recovered, cover or case smashed. Moreover would not take money, looked as though she would like to be persuaded, gave her one dollar to give her husband. Then said is she your wife? Yes. "Wal, you have got a 'plagny good-looking woman &c.," which of course heightened Lizzie's color on repetition. I got a new case for seventy-five cents.

We or I shall go down to Brunswick before long and I will bring the picture & the book of Foster's. May be I will send it. All well. Guy has got over the vaccination without blinking. I have got over being cross. Glad to hear from home through you. I wrote home yesterday about Dalton &c. give love to Charlie. Chas Turner has got home, is at Leeds, I hear. Remember me to all friends. Has Stanton been recovered? Lizzie says first she isn't going to have anything to say to you. Then adds, I would like to get acquainted with Ella, says "it's no way to be talking about me to her, for she wont like me." Sends love to Charlie. Guy is playing in the cradle. Lizzie is combing hair & talking to him.

Your aff. Bro.
Otis

making. Tell Charlie not to work too hard over
his position. Give our love to him in abundance.
Aren't you glad I got your picture? Sewell's
Dad was with us Friday night. He said it was a year
or a day since he visited us at Waterbury.

Guy has gone to sleep after his naked war dance.
Lizzie will explain. Write soon & the news - How
earn off the May teaming? Did you hold your
elbows down & turn in your toes!...

I think we will have to take a trip down to
Beth...

Your affectionate Brother

Geo

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me.

May 11th 1856.

Dear Brother,

By some inadvertence I
carried your letter in my pocket (instead of mailing it)
- for one day after it might have gone. Thursday forenoon
I went to Hallowell and had a talk with Uncle.
He said Father might & ought to secure by mortgage
the money he had received from Mother. He said
that since all the property on this side of the Kennebec
is open to attachment, it would be better for him & for
you to so secure it. He said that the mortgage would
certainly hold if he had it running to me & I put
it in Mother's hands. He thought I had better go to
Sud's at once and get father to do so - at least to so
secure the \$2500 on ^{Uncle's} (his own) notes. In the afternoon
I went to Sud's and took Lizzie along, leaving Guy
at home. We found all well there, Cynthia & baby were
quite well. Roland had jammed his finger very badly,
Father seemed unwilling to accede to my proposal, fearing
that it would cause an immediate break up in the

Rail Road as soon as the Creditors saw a mortgage
of his property on Record. Uncle says Mother is as
much a creditor as any body else since 1844 &
that any man has a perfect right to give the
preference to one creditor over another. But he
does not feel certain that a direct conveyance to
his wife would stand fire in law. I think father
would & will mortgage the property on this
side of the Kennebec to secure Uncle's notes in
part as soon as I send him a description of
the deeds of the other two lots. For he has only that
of the Dalton farm. He is in hopes Uncle will
sell the latter immediately. But immediate
operations are not among Uncle's virtues or his
faults. There is a heavy note coming due with
father's endorsement next month. Before that time
father says not a cent of his real or personal
property shall be in danger. I begin to think
the \$5000 are in no way secure to Mother or her heirs.
Mother in case of father's death would leave her thirds
on his real estate and can have a good support.
My boys must look out for ourselves & for her.
Uncle John & Ensign are father's bondsmen for himself as
Guarantors for Charles. Things look a little dubious & cloud

they! We carried out quite a number of plants to Mother
with which she was much pleased. Cha^s Turner and
his wife accompanied us to Augusta Friday afternoon.
Charles has got a great quantity of flesh aboard
and has the appearance of a man that can
consume considerable liquor, & does undoubtedly.
His wife is apparently a fine little woman, with
good sense & good conversational powers. It rained
pouring, before we got to Augusta and I had the
good fortune to break down in the midst
thereof. A bolt ^(that attached one of the shafts to the axle) worked out and let the step get between
the wheel on the other side and immediately the
shaft snapped. Old Ben was excited. Lizzie was
under the buffalo. She finally hopped out into
the mud & got into Cha^s Turner's wagon and rode
on to the nearest house. We soon got rigged
up and rode on in the rain. Lizzie got an
old fashioned hood & cloak & perched her
herself in an humble position under the robe on
the bottom of the wagon. She got home in good
time. She says she will go to Brunswick ^{next} week.
This week she has got two bonnets to make one for
herself and one for Guy - & a binding round some
part of her New Black Silk, then she will be in

142 5/11/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-107

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me
May 11th, 1856

Dear Brother,

By some inadvertence I carried your letter in my pocket (instead of mailing it) - for one day after it might have gone. Thursday forenoon I went to Hallowell and had a talk with Uncle. He said father might & ought to secure by mortgage the money he had received from mother. He said that since all the property on this side of the Kennebec is open to attachment, it would be better for him & for you to so secure it. He said that the mortgage would certainly hold if he had it running to me & I put it in mother's hands. He thought I had better go to Leeds at once and get father to do so, at least to so secure the \$2500 on his own (Uncle's) notes.

In the afternoon I went to Leeds and took Lizzie along, leaving Guy at home. We found all well there, Cynthia & baby were quite well. Roland had jammed his finger very badly.

Father seemed unwilling to accede to my proposal, fearing that it would cause an immediate breakup in the Rail Road as soon as the Creditors saw a mortgage of his property on Record. Uncle says mother is as much a creditor as any body else since 1844 & that any man has a perfect right to give the preference to one creditor over another, but he does not feel certain that a direct conveyance to his wife would stand fire in law. I think father would & will mortgage the property on this side of the Kennebec to secure Uncle's notes in part as soon as I send him a description of the deeds of the other two lots, for he has only that of the Dalton farm. He is in hopes Uncle will sell the latter immediately. But immediate operations are not among uncle's virtues or his faults.

There is a heavy note coming due with father's endorsement next month, before that time father says not a cent of his real or personal property shall be in danger. I begin to think the \$5000 are in no way secure to mother or her heirs. Mother in case of father's death would have her thirds on his real estate and can have a good support. We boys must look out for ourselves & for her. Uncles John & Ensign are father's bondsmen for himself as Guardian for Charles. Things look a little dubious, don't they?

We carried out quite a number of plants to mother with which she was much pleased. Chas Turner and his wife accompanied us to Augusta Friday afternoon. Charles has got a great quantity of flesh aboard and has the appearance of a man that can consume considerable liquor, & does undoubtedly. His wife is apparently a fine little woman, with good sense & good conversational powers.

It rained, pouring, before we got to Augusta and I had the good fortune to break down in the midst thereof. A bolt (that attaches one of the shafts to the axle tree) worked out and let the step get between the wheel on the other side and immediately the shaft snapped. Old Ben was excited. Lizzie was under the Buffalo. She finally hopped out into the mud & got into Chas Turner's wagon and rode on to the nearest house. We soon got rigged up and rode on in the rain.

Lizzie got on an old fashioned hood & cloak & proudly hid herself in a humble position under the robe on the bottom of the wagon. She got home in good time. She says she will go to Brunswick next week. This week she has got two bonnets to make, one for herself and one for Guy, & a binding round some part of her new black silk, then she will be in readiness. Tell Charlie not to work too hard over that Oration. Give our love to him in abundance. Aren't you glad I got your picture? Llewelyn Dean staid with us Friday night. He said it was a year to a day since he visited us at Watervliet.

Guy has gone to sleep after his naked war dance. Lizzie will explain. Write soon & the news. How came off the May training? Did you hold your elbows down & turn in your toes?

I think we will have to take a trip down to Bath.

Your affectionate Brother

Otis

Kennelwood Annual &c

May 31st 1856

Dear Brother,

Father and Mother came here
Tuesday night with Dillie, were going back
the next day but fortunately it rained, and
although father had to go on account of a Directors
meeting for the next day, mother staid till
Thursday afternoon and I sent her off with Mrs
Walt & Michael who have not yet returned. Father
sold me their two farms on this side of the River
for a note of six hundred dollars, which he
immediately endorsed over to Mother. I took
up that note by giving Mother one running
to her for the same amount. The first one in
Chelsea I have already sold for \$100, Cash & given
a Bond. The other is still on my hands. Father
has mortgaged all his real estate. The home
farm & that beyond the Whippoorwill to you, to secure
yours & others notes, all named & the rest to Poland &
to secure a note given by Father to Father-Guardian
I believe & other notes; Charlie you know in what way I believe

On the day preceding the one I went to Leeds to get
father to Mortgage his property - R. G. Lincoln had
made an attachment of 1000 dollars - Father it seems
had endorsed a note to take the place of another then
due - And as I understand Mr Lincoln took the
second note as collateral security without any
authority I afterwards said that note. Father unaccounted
ly would correct this statement, but it is substantially
correct. At any rate Lincoln has such a note
of 1000 with father's endorsement on it -

Uncle Insignis financing - such as filling blank
dates & giving them wrong for father to back.

Was brought this to pass. but it has led father
to drop anchor which he was bound not to do
till he saw the rocks. Night before last I received
my Orders - to go to Waterlot when relieved by
Capt Gorges - Capt G. by same Order wants to be relieved
by another Officer. We are all well - Hope you are
well & doing well - Shall not leave the State before
July if then. Remember us to Mr Sander's family
Ezra & other friends. Affectionately Yours

W. P. Howard

Ms

Hobland S. Charles

143 5/31/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Rowland & Charles
Howard

RBH-108

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal &c.
May 31st, 1856

Dear Brothers,

Father and Mother came here Tuesday night with Dellie, were going back the next day but fortunately it rained, and although father had to go on account of a Director's meeting for the next day, mother stayed till Thursday afternoon and I sent her up with Mrs. Waite & Michael who have not yet returned. Father sold me those two farms on this side of the River for a note of sixteen hundred dolls, which he immediately endorsed over to Mother. I took up that note by giving mother one running to her for the same amount. The half-acre in Chelsea I have already sold for \$100 cash & given a Deed. The other is still on my hands. Father has mortgaged all his real estate. The home farm & that beyond the Whippoorwill to you Rowland to secure your & other notes, all named & the rest to Roland G to secure a note given by father to father-Guardian I believe & other notes. Charlie you come in that way I believe.

On the day preceding the one I went to Leeds to get father to mortgage his property, R. G. Lincoln had made an attachment of 1000 dollars. Father it seems had endorsed a note to take the place of another then due.. And as I understand Mr. Lincoln took the second note as collateral security without any authority & sued that note. Father undoubtedly would correct this statement, but it is substantially correct. At any rate Lincoln has sued a note of 1000 with father's endorsement on it. Uncle Ensign's financiering such as filling blank dates & giving them wrong for father to book has brought this to pass, but it has led father to drop anchor which he was barred not to do till he saw the rocks.

Night before last I received my orders, to go to Watervliet when relieved by Capt. Gorgas. Capt. G by same order waits to be relieved by another Officer.

We are all well. Hope you are well & doing well. Shall not leave the state before July, if then. Remember us to Mr. Sands family, Everett & other friends.

Affectionately yours
O. O. Howard

To: Rowland & Charles

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta, Me.
July 1st 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter last week and ought to have answered it immediately, but I put it off a little to see if I could not hear from George, and last Saturday I went down to Montville with Aunt Fanny. Had a pleasant visit & returned yesterday. Tell Charlie I can appreciate what he said about Uncle Jonathan's quarters. I had a grand good time, got wet through in a shower Sunday evening, while taking our cousins to ride. I went to Liberty, South Montville and The Kingdom. Charles will explain. Lizzie has slight suspensions about the matter, but is very anxious to see Ella and I want to see more of her, so that all formality may be got rid of and we may know each other. Lizzie joins me in sending her a hearty invitation to visit us with you. You need not fear Lizzie's ceremonial, for she is fast getting over such things, getting every day more independent. I have heard from George. He thinks he will be here by the 10th of July.

but his successor had not arrived at Mt. Vernon
when he wrote on the 19th ultimo. St. Gilman has
come up here from Thomaston to buy Malack
and I think I shall sell him. I would not if Malack
was tough but he is not and is getting on pretty
well in years. If he goes I shall get \$200. for him.
Give my love to Sarah. All at the house would
and some she in abundance, but they are
at the house & I at the office. Has Mr. ^{letting} memorized
his speech yet. Hope so a line, when you can come
up & bring Ella from Bath. She could not hesitate
to come if she could know what a good time she would
have, what a charming place it is, and what a
warm welcome she will get - My best regards to
her - To day your Examination?

Affectionately Yours

C. O. Howard

144 7/1/1856

From: O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-109

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me.
July 1st 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter last week, and ought to have answered it immediately, but I put it off a little to see if I could not hear from Gorgas. And last Saturday I went down to Montville with Aunt Fanny, and had a pleasant visit & returned yesterday.

Tell Charlie I can appreciate what he said about Uncle Jonathan's quarters. I had a grand good time, got wet through in a shower Sunday evening, while taking our cousins to ride. I went to Liberty, South Montville and the Kingdom. Charles will explain. Lizzie has slight trepidations about the matter, but is very anxious to see Ella and I want to see more of her, so that all formality may be got rid of and we may know each other. Lizzie joins me in sending her a hearty invitation to visit us with you. You need not fear Lizzie's aversion for she is fast getting over such things, getting everyday more independent.

I have heard from Gorgas. He thinks he will be here by the 10th of July but his successor had not arrived at Mt. Vernon when he wrote on the 19th ultimo. Lt. Gilman has come up here from Thomaston to buy Malach and I think I shall sell him. I would'nt if Malach was tough but he is not and is getting on pretty well in years. If he goes I shall get \$200 for him.

Give my love to Charlie. All at the house would send love &c in abundance, but they are at the house & I at the office. Has Chas memorized his speech yet. Drop us a line, telling when you can come up & bring Ella from Bath. She could not hesitate to come if she could know what a good time she would have, what a charming place it is, and what a warm welcome she will get. My best regards to her. To day your Examination?

Affectionately yours
O. O. Howard

Penitence Arsenal, Augusta, Me.,
July 17th - 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good time
& hasten to reply - I am sorry to hear of the small
pox at Leeds and so near home - I was going to send
Suggin, Gray & Mother back out there - as soon as I could
after Gorges' arrival. He has not made his appearance
yet. I am looking for him on every train in every
boat - Is it safe for anybody whose occupation
has never taken to go to Leeds - Haven't they run
back & forth with the infection in their clothes - endanger-
ing the whole community - I have considerable anxiety
on account of our folks at home - Three Army Officers
came here Saturday from Montreal - had three boxes (French)
I thought an - a smart one - who will take you over the hills
in May as fast as you will want to go - We are all
well - will write as soon as anything new turns up
Love to Charlie -

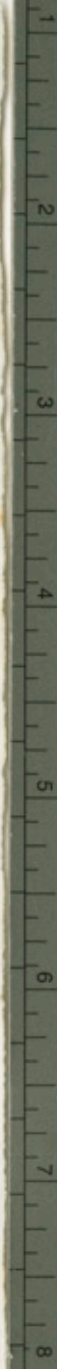
Your affectionate brother

Dtho

Handwritten text at the top of the page, possibly a header or address, including the name "James Brown" and a date "July 17th 1811".

Dear Mother

Main body of handwritten text, consisting of several paragraphs of cursive script. The text is mirrored across the center fold, suggesting it was written on a single sheet of paper that was folded in half. The handwriting is somewhat faded and difficult to decipher in many places.



145 7/17/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-110

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me.,
July 17th, 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good time & hasten to reply. I'm sorry to hear of the Small pox at Leeds and so near home. I was going to send Lizzie, Guy & mother Waite out there, as soon as I could after Gorgas's arrival. He has not made his appearance yet. I am looking for him on every train in every boat.

Is it safe for anybody whose vaccination has never taken to go to Leeds. Haven't they run back and forth with the infection in their clothes, endangering the whole community. I have considerable anxiety, on account of our folks at home.

Three army officers came here Saturday from Montréal, had three horses (French). I bought one, a smart one, who will take you over the hills in May as fast as you will want to go.

We are all well, will write as soon as anything new turns up. Love to Charlie.

Yr affectionate brother
Otis

Kennel Arsenal, Augusta, Me,
July 23rd 1856.

Dear Brother

We have had such confusion here
for the past few days that I haven't been able
to think straight. My arrangements now are a
little clearer. The Capt, his wife & two babies with
a Nurse arrived last Thursday evening. I
have now got everything turned over in good shape
and got my receipts. We will finish packing today
and Mother, Wats & myself go to Leeds I think this
evening. Lizzie and Guy will stop with Mrs
Mulliken for a few days & then will go to Leeds
if everything there is straight. She has been
quite sick from vaccination. I shall start
from Augusta, some time next week I think with
my freight (horse &c -) Mr Gilbert writes that he is
ready to pay cash for the farm. Love to Charles. I
don't hear from Leds. Mr Brown heard that his sister
was better.

Very truly yours

J O Howard

146 7/23/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-108b

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me,
July 23d, 1856.

Dear Brother,

We never had such confusion here for the past few days that I haven't been able to think straight. My arrangements now are a little clearer. The Capt., his wife & two Babies with a nurse arrived last Thursday evening. I have now got everything turned over in good shape and got my receipts.

We will finish packing today and Mother Waite and myself go to Leeds, I think, this evening. Lizzie and Guy will stop with Mrs. Mulliken for a few days & then will go to Leeds if everything there is straight. She has been quite sick from vaccination. I shall start from Augusta sometime next week I think with my freight (horse etc.).

Mr. Gilbert writes that he is ready to pay cash for the farm.

Love to Charlie. I don't hear from Leeds. Mr. Turner heard that his sister was better.

Very truly yours
OO Howard

the distribution of his officials &c. The Major, goes to the General. The General rages and by & by apologues. so it goes on. I have got on admirably with Maj Mc Smisty for I never deal with him except officially & then in writing. He has a few other officers who reckon there. Maj Page is the Capt. Adjutant General. He is a man that attends to his duties and through out of health with a consumption long he has mustered in all these volunteers & I have not seen him crop over. Some of these fellows would try the patience of Job. I would advise you to stand by & see them mustered. Each one rides what is called a marsh-pony. He rides up & is ordered to dismount. So that your horse Sir. Yes Sir. Where did you come from? Somewhere about Augustine. Did you ride that horse all the way down here? Yes all the way - you will then look at the horse. You can see every bone in his body. His spine is particularly prominent. But as soon as the regular questions are asked and answered. The fellow will jump up and off go the sand-fed set of bones at a right energetic gallop. Maj Page told me those poor horses would stand a harder & longer tramp than one of our handsome & sleek northern horses. I could not doubt him after my ride through from Talatka to Tampa by stage. I got that Order of Lizzies looked here. I will send her some soon as soon as I can hear from Washington. I should answer Gny's letter immediately but I don't think he could understand my letter quite as well as I did his. I tell you what it is Rowland P. felt proud of his Infantine labors. Think Louis Napoleon's boy could write or dictate such a letter? I should be delighted to get a letter from Ella and I will ensure one by writing first. Tell Gny I have not seen or spoken or flag since I have been here, excepting the Stars and stripes. I shall write

Lizzie by this mail, so that I need not buy &c in time - I wish I had
 had a more satisfactory man - what do you think of his
 Agency Project? Do you hear from Charles often? I shall expect a
 letter from Mother
 by the way & mail
 if she got mine in
 time to reply & I
 was keen enough to
 to tell her to
 direct to
 Tampa -
 I think this trip
 will be so many
 determined to
 my health
 I have an excellent
 appetite & see
 Mrs. See they
 Gny's here, not
 at the old
 as formerly
 my own &
 regard to
 all -
 Mr. Jackson
 to Brother
 etc

January 20th 1857.

Dear Brother,

I proposed writing you before
 but the time I set apart has heretofore been interrupted
 by business and mail day has come and gone without
 my intention being fulfilled. This time however I take
 time by the prolock, commencing the day before-hand.
 I am now well settled here in Tampa. I have fitted
 out seven companies of Florida Mounted Volunteers
 with arms, ammunition & accoutrements, each company
 being eighty five strong. made out duplicate invoices &
 triplicate receipts to each, supplied nearly all the regulars
 which have been filled up to eighty six, made my
 reports & sent requisitions to Washington &c. &c. all in one
 week. Now General Massey has gone, the post has become
 in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell. I
 was much pleased to get your letter by the last mail
 together with Lizzie's & Gny's. You all told me just
 what I wished to know: that you were all well
 and getting on finely. I am indeed glad that your
 lecture passed off so satisfactorily to all parties. I
 send confidence that such would be the case.
 I don't think much of Florida, and my opinion
 is rather in the retrograde. The entire state is not worth
 one half the expense the Government has been & is
 put to on her account. It is a dead level covered with sand

and pine trees. If you would extend the pine barrens of
Provincetown over the entire State and intersperse them with
an occasional ^{thick wooded} hilllock with comparatively decent soil some ten
miles asunder, you would have Florida. Tampa is a place of
five or six hundred inhabitants, with four streets east & west
and about the same number north & south at right angles -
The sand is deep as it is in our Bay from sand of a finer
quality. It never hardens in the streets except on the surface
after a rain. It's like wading in a light snow just
fallen to walk from the Military reserve to the
Hotel where I take my meals. On the public grounds
the paths are made of shells and covered on the surface
with saw-dust. When I arrived from Fort Myers with
General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th Artillery
here commanded by Capt. Maj. J. B. Scott. The latter had been
sent to Florida from Fort Independence Boston. His Lieutenants
were Hazard, Mack & Dana. Gen. Harney ordered the Maj's
his company to the river Allipore about 22 miles distant.
I was promised quarters as soon as he left. After two or three
days delay he started off on Sunday morning with his command
leaving Hazard & Mack behind and a Guard of twenty
men. Hazard is the adjutant of the commanding officer Maj.
Morris and Mack is on special duty at the Subsistence
Dept at this place. As soon as Maj. Scott had vacated these
quarters Lieut. Mack & myself took possession. My sleeping
room is a small unfinished room, you can see through the
cracks between the boards that cover it & the rafters are visible
above. But fortunately the weather has been cold enough to

freeze up all the little animals that hide themselves in such
places. Mr Mack is a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow and I
think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellow feeling
between us for he also leaves a wife behind. You know
a bachelor would not be likely to have any sympathy in such
cases. General Harney has gone on a tour, visiting all the
different posts & stations under his command. I am glad
he is gone. He muddles with everything, respects everything, but
without the ability to reorganize, or systematize, I never
saw just such another man. Impatient as he can be: he curses
and swears all the time, now a poor Mule driver has to
take it, now a sergeant, a soldier, or the wind, the waves -
but more especially his own luck. He has a poor memory
is as changeable as the wind, gives an order to countermand it
and plays the fool generally. Though he is well
impatient and headstrong, fortunately for him and his
Company he seldom has his own way. There are a
good many shrewd heads out here to hold him in
check. He is almost as large as General Scott & I would
say you could not find a better man to lead a regiment in
an open field fight. But those who think him a man of talents
of high mental endowments, are mistaken - for he is gross &
illiterate & I would judge, a man who had given full swing to
his passions. We have another specimen of an officer here
in the Quartermaster, who is much disliked. He is a man
about forty, large & well made. He seems to delight in
another's discomforture, is crusty, disobliging, headstrong &
impatient. He and the General are always fighting. General H.
interferes with Maj. McKinstry's plans, with his teams, with

147 1/20/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-111

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.
January 20, 1857.

Dear Brother,

I purposed writing you before but the time I set apart has heretofore been interrupted by business and mail day has come and gone without my intention being fulfilled. This time however I take time by the forelock, commencing the day before hand.

I am now well settled here in Tampa. I have fitted out seven companies of Florida mounted volunteers with arms, ammunition & accoutrements. Each company being eighty-five strong, made out duplicate invoices & triplicate receipts to each, supplied nearly all the regulars which have been filled up to eighty-six, made my reports & sent requisitions to Washington &c. &c., all in one week. Now General Harney has gone, the post has become in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell.

I was much pleased to get your letter by the last mail together with Lizzie's and Guys. You all told me just what I wished to know: that you are all well and getting on finely. I am indeed glad that your lecture passed off so satisfactorily to all parties. I had confidence that such would be the case.

I don't think much of Florida, and my opinion is rather in the retrograde. The entire State is not worth one half the expense the Government has been & is put to on her account. It is a dead level covered with sand and pine trees. If you would extend the Pine barrens of Brunswick over the entire state and intersperse them with an occasional thickly wooded hillock with comparatively decent soil some 10 miles asunder, you would have Florida. Tampa is a place of five or six hundred inhabitants, with four Streets East & West and about the same number North & South at right angles. The sand is deep as it is on our Day farm and of a finer quality it never hardens in the Streets except on the surface after a rain. It is like wading in a light snow just fallen to walk from the Military reserve to the hotel where I take my meals. On the public grounds the paths are made of shells and covered on the surface with saw-dust. When I arrived from Fort Myers with General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th Artillery here commanded by Bvt. Maj. J.B. Scott. The latter had been sent to Florida from Fort Independence Boston. His Lieutenants are Hazard, Mack & Dana. Gen. Harney ordered the Maj. & his company to the river Allifire about 22 miles distant.

I was promised quarters as soon as he left. After two or three days delay he started off on Sunday morning with his command leaving Lieuts Hazard & Mack behind and a guard of 20 men. Hazard is the adjutant of the commanding officer Maj. Morris and Mack is on special duty at the Subsistence Depot at this place. As soon as Maj. Scott had vacated these quarters Lieut. Mack & myself took possession. My sleeping room is a small unfinished room. You can see through the cracks between the boards that cover it & the rafters are visible above. But fortunately the weather has been cold enough to freeze up all the little animals that hide themselves in such places.

Mr. Mack is a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow, and I think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellow feeling between us for he also leaves a wife behind. You know a bachelor wouldn't be likely to have any sympathy in such cases.

Gen. Harney has gone on a tour, visiting all the different posts & stations under his command. I am glad he is gone. He meddles with everything, upsets everything, but without the ability to reorganize, or systematize, I never saw just such another man. Impatient as he can be, he curses and swears all the time. How a poor mule driver has to take it, how a sergeant, a soldier, or the wind, the <>, but more especially his own luck. He has a poor memory, is as changeable as the wind, gives an order to countermand it and plays the fool generally. Though he is willful impatient and headstrong, fortunately for him and his campaign, he seldom has his own way. There are a good many shrewd heads out here to hold him in check. He is almost as large as Gen. Scott & I would say you couldn't find a better man to lead a Regiment in an open field fight. But those who think him a man of talent of high mental endowments, are mistaken, for he is gross & illiterate &, I would judge, a man who

had given full swing to his passions.

We have another specimen of an officer here in the Quartermaster, who is much disliked. He is a man about 40, large & well-made. He seems to delight in another's discomfiture, is crusty, disoblighing, headstrong & impatient. He and the General are always fighting. General H. interferes with Maj. McKinstry's plans, with his teams, with the distribution of his officials etc. The Major goes to the General, the General rages and by & by apologizes, so it goes on. I have got on admirably with Maj. McKinstry for I never deal with him except officially & then in writing.

We have a few other officers who redeem these. Maj Page is the Apt. Adjutant General. He is a man that attends to his duties and, though out of health with a consumptive cough, he has mustered in all these volunteers & I have not seen him cross once. Some of these fellows would try the patience of Job. It would amuse you to stand by & see them mustered. Each one rides what is called a marsh-pony. He rides up & is ordered to dismount. Is that your horse, Sir. Yes sir. Where did you come from? Somewhere about Augustine. Did you ride that horse all the way down here? Yes all the way. You will then look at the horse. You can see every bone in his body. His spine is particularly prominent. But as soon as the requisite questions are asked and answered, the fellow will jump on and off go the sand-fed set of bones at a right energetic gallop. Maj. Page told me those poor horses would stand a harder & longer tramp than one of our handsome & sleek northern horses. I couldn't doubt him after my ride through from Palatka to Tampa by stage.

I got that order of Lizzie's cashed here. I will send her some soon as soon as I can hear from Washington. I should answer Guy's letter immediately but I don't think he could understand my letter quite as well as I did his. I tell you what it is Rowland. I felt proud of his Infantine labors. Think Louis Napoleon's boy could write or dictate such a letter? I should be delighted to get a letter from Ella and I will ensure one by writing first. Tell Guy I haven't seen an Indian or flag since I have been here, excepting the Stars & Stripes. I shall write Lizzie by this mail, so that I needn't put love & c in here. I wish Dellie had a more satisfactory room-mate. What do you think of his agency project. Do you hear from Charlie often? I shall expect a letter from mother by the next mail if she got mine in time to reply & I was keen enough to tell her to direct to Tampa. I think this trip will be in no way detrimental to my health. I have an excellent appetite & tell Mrs. Lee they cook here just as they do at Watervliet.

My love & regards to all.

Yr affectionate brother
Otis