Wennelse Assent Augusta. May 9th 1856. mondaying and finder or things some wast Eddina a seasing out some in the look hall for like of the properties of your has the to Dear Brother, Thus that were bleed The result of your rides on Charlie or your harring searing upset & break down at Hallowell? I hope those prolish represent the or we are for another love and traditionary superstitions don't operate on you because Me wit shit for our I man to the word hope . Can you are in love as love sickness produces bleeding at The nose, faintres at the heart &c. Monday I was riding Mulack in the Street where Henry Hingale Russice was the design of the same of the same me with as line a looking learn as an old horse, ald harrup, old Ing I with his wife's consent) an old so her less to grant house he was her Evat, could make. I trothed my horse along by his such I talked myself mits Itallawell and so accompanied him home. I did not learn going to have any thing to my to good . Then are any thing new Excepting that track Thetonen had send and that I'm fear kufes trying to get of Unell those Japar Demands' Mat Much holds in his hands, Stinehfield Luys that Feare like me " describer to the ten in - Jug is playing in the cannot from partnership because Unche has given no joint. note I is inavlocal asty as Endorser. I

am going to side down to Hellowell This surring. and see uncle. M. Dulton has left this Property whom here vacant, and I want to protune lows on a furtime. Thereday I went with Ges. Williams a trouting out him miles broke both Hange shafts of the old wagon, caught the bout & got home in safety the sum night completely tired out. Gesterday I mounted Malach & Started off in search of your picture. Left leagueta at half frust ten and got back at one after a pleasant side of from 14 to 16 miles. Mr Hendeis description Served as my quide, asked Geo. Williams hi find out the mane I place of a short thick set spectateled genins of reddy completion. He asked a ling bull headed Jellow in about ten minutes after my uguest. May says the fellow, close you know Jake Willer of Manchester! Off I will in south of Jake Miller. He was soon france. I weed straight on the first branch of that now road that encircles the hill that we still ist try going to Luds but this returning go about a with you find the Willer in question. He says he stick up frick up the Metune, but his neighbor Goram Hurgel did. Sand Garcin lived a mile or hos further off- I found

This house. Goram was goon, another mon there. Goram's wife was at home. The preture was identified. and recovered, lover or lase smashed. Homen world zfake Morney. looked as though she would like to be persuaded. gave her one dollar to give her husband. Hear said is she your trife! yes. Hal, you have got a plagny good broking warman ye, which of sound heighteren Lizzin color on rejectition. I got a new case for seventy five cents. Me or I shall go down to Brunswick before lung and I will bring the Justin I the book of Fosters. May be I will send it. all well, Juny leas got over the vaccination without blinking. I have got over being broke. Head to hear from home through you. I wrote home yesterday about Dalton Ge. Five love to Charlie. The Thermer has got hame, is at Luds, I hear. Hemember me to all prinos. Has Stantin been recovered! Lique Pays first the ains going to have compting to say to you. Then adds I would like to get acquainted with Ella. Says its Me way to be talking about me to her . for she work like me " sends love to Charlie . Juy is playing in the erade - Lizzi is combing hair I taliting to firm. 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 did'nt 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 did'nt 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

undines. Lell Clearlie not to work for heard over What Gutton. Tive our love to him in abundance Cerry you Glad I got you pretime? Slewflyor Draw Stack with as friday nights He said it was a year hi a day since he visited as at Watership. my has gone to sless after his naked was dance. Lizza will explain. Mile soon & the news - Haw carn off the May Training? Did you hold your elbows down I term in your toes! I think be will been to late a tripe down to Butte. Som office timate Brother The particular was not the to the sound and religion to the same with my the well with the same under the helper the princip topping and and the second of first the the thinks where me and and the same to former the sent the place into want year on the same for her had a her an ele parture don't secret promet has hered on on handle pristing may the toles on The lasting of the larger . The good have his great time, It say for his got homemore much This week in the get his bound to make one for hand and one for Joy . In hardy down an paint of him thewoodlessedille, the will be in

Nemneber Arsenal Augusta Me. May 11th 1856.

Dear Brother,

By some inadvertinee & curried your letter in my firetet (instead of mariling is - for one day after it might have gone . Starsday Joneroon I went to Hallowell and had a talk with Unele. He said Falker might I ought to secure by Mortgage the money he had received from mother. He said That since all the property an this side of the Hermelie is open to attachment, it would be better for him & for you to so seeme it He suid that the mortgage would certainly hold if he had it running to in I I fail it in Mothers humble. He throught I had better go to Lucks at once and get father to do so at least to so seeure 1th \$2500 on (his one) notes. Talker afternoon I went to Luces and work Liggie along, leaving my at home. He frame all well there, Synthia & baby were quete well. Holand Mad jamber his proger very busely, Father sumed involling to acceed to my forfessal, fearing that it would canse an immediate break up in the

Rail Road as som as the Celetitors sur a mortgage of his property on Record . Uncle serys mother is as much a cridition as any body else some 1844 & that any sound has a perfect right to give the preference to one eredition over another. but he does not ful certain that a direct Conveyance to his wife would stank fire in law. I think father would I will mortgage the gerofuly on this such of the Tienneher to seever unelig notes in part as soon as I send him a deveriphing the deeds of the other low lots : for he has only that of the Dalton farm. His is in hopes Unde will sell the latter somme deality? But immediate operations are not arrong uncles Virtues or his Justo? There is a heavy siste coming due with futhers enclosement next month, before that time father says not a cert of his real ar personal property shall be in clange. I begin to think the \$ 5000 are in no way secure to mother or her heirs. Mother in love of fallers death world have her there's. on his real setate and care have a good support. Me boys must look out for currellows I for her. Mulles John I Ensign are fathers bondsmen for himself as Generation for Charles. Things work a little dubious clans

they! Macuried out quite a sumber of plants to unother with which the was much pleased. The Tenses and his wife accompanied us to largeste friday afternoon. Charles has got a great quartity of flesh abound and has the appearance of a man that eun consume considerable liquor I does undoubtedly. Itis sife is appearently a Jim lette souman. with good sense I good lansersational powers. It rained , pourary, before me got to augusta and I had the good fortime to break store in the midety.

(Must attaches amy the Shaftile the apellier)

Thereof. A bolt provided out and let the step get between The wheel on the alter side and immediately the shaft snappeds. Old Hen was excited. Lizzie was under the buffalo. The finally hopeful out into the much I got with the Gurnis wagan and wich on to the newsest house. We soon got rigged uf and wich an in the rain. Ligger got on on old Jas hiver I soon V clouk & formely him herself in an humble fiverhow under the robe on The bollow of the wagon. The got leave in good tim. The says she will go to Brunswick week. This week the hes got two bounds to make one for herely and one for Gong - I a bineting round own part of her newblecksilk, 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

May 312 1856

Fran Brolling,

Father and mother cum here tuesday night with Dellie, wen going buck In next day but fortunally of minu, and Although father had to go an account of a Directors Mukny for the next day, mother stand lite thinsday afterior and I sent her top with thes Mark I Michael who have not yot aturned. Father sold me this two farms an this eith of the Kinn for a note of Sixtum hundred chills which he immuchility indorsed over to twother. I look Who that note by giving Mosther our unning to her for the same comments The healf own in Corlsea & hum already sold for plas, buch & giver a Ired. The other is still on my hunds. Father. has mortgaged all his wal notate. The home Jum I that beyond the Whippoorwill to you to seem yours I there notes, all named I'the west to Roland & to seeme a note given by father to talker quartien I believe I other who; Charlie for love in West way I bilion

On the day preceeding the one I went to Leeds to get father to Montgage his property 1.9. Isilder had math an attactioned of 1000 dollars - Father is sum had endorsed a note to take the place of another them du - Ann as l'uniterstand Mr Lincoln look the second note as Collateral security without any authority I atta such that note Father ununtied by would correct this statement, but it is substantially correct. At any sale Lincoln has such a new of love with puthers endorsement on it -Under Ensignis Jinaneining. such as filling blank dates I giving them wrong for Jather to beach has brong her this to passe. but it has bed father to drop anchor which he was barned not to do lite he saw the weles. Night before last & received my Orders . To go to Hateroliet when relieved by Capt Gorgon - Capt G. by same lever waits to be relieved by another Officer. It? are all well hope you are well of doing well - Shall not leave the State hefore July if then. Remember us to Me Simes family Everett Voller Lorends. affectionately yours O.V. Honan Hotoland & 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

when he work on the 19th peting It flower has Trennelse Arrenal Argusta, Me. July 12 1856 Dear Buther, I received your letter last week and ought to have answered it immediately but I port it off a little to su if I could not hear from Gorges and last Saturday I ment some to Montville with and Fanny had a pleasant visit & returned Gesterday, Tell Burhi I can appreciate what he said about mele frauthins quarters. I had a grand good time got wet through in a shower sounday evening while taking Fire evasions to rich. I went to Liberty South Mountville and The Thingdom - Charles will explain - Lizgue has slight tufidations about the matter, but is very anxious to In Ella and I want to see more of her, so that all formally may be got vid of and we may know tack other. Vizzi jains hu in sending hur a hearly mortahan to visit us with you - You not not fear Asseis Cenesownial for the is fast getting over such things, getting every day more indefendent. I have heard from Jorgas. The thinks he will be here by the 10th of hely

but his succepen hard not arrived at Mitheran When he work on the 19th pethone. It. Jehnan has come up him from Thomaston to buy Malack and I think I shall sell him. I would in if Mulach was lough fint he is not and is getting on pretty well in years. If he goes I shall get 200. for him. In my how to thankin. All able house would and low se in abundance but they are at the house I dat the office. Has flas primoreged his speech yet. Inop us a line, when you can come up I bring Ella from Bath? The could not heretate to come if she evile know what a good time she would how, what alknowing place it is and what a human welcome she will get - May first regards to her to day your Examination! Muchonaly yours a. Howary terminary for the a part of they over dies though yelling

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 aversionial 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

Wennelse Arsmal Augusta, Um, Ing 17th- 1856.

Deur Brother.

I received your letter in good time I haster hi upy - I am sorry to hear of the Small for it Suds and so man from - I was going to send Juggin, Jung I mother Mark out them as soon as I could After Googes' or revol. The hos not made his appearance yet. I am lowking por him an every train in every bout to it safe for mybory whose vaccinchin has never take to go to Linds - Haw'nt they run back I forth. with The infection in their elother - endanger ing the whole commonly - I have considerable anxietyon account of our folks at home - Thru army Officers lam here Saturday from Montreal - hall Three horses (french) I bought am - a smart ane - who will take you our the hills in may as past as your will want to go - he are all well will mich as soon as anything new hims up Som di Charlie - Mr loffeehough borther

DELow Broken I heater to what - I am down to have of the Someth his it dieto and in man' him - I was foring it down July July I the the Mark and there is seen as I seem look to it she fet anylow, who carried has now hater to go the Fride . Having they soon book I frothe halt the enfection in their states anders I fright one a spent in the well late on our the lite **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

Thennelue Arsenal Augusta, Men, July 28" 185%.

10 140man

Star Brother

It's how had such confesion him for the past for days that I have at her able to think straights. My arrangements now are a little cleaver. The Capt, his wife & his Babis with a News arrived last thursday wining. I have now got everything turned over mi good shafe and got my releift. Mi will finish packing today and mother Wart I myself go to Lads I think this evening. Siggi and Guy will stop with home Mulliken gor a few days I The well go to Luds if everything there is straight. Ihe has been gut sek from vaccination. I shall start from Angusta, some time much week I think with my freight-horse ye -) Mr Whent writes that he is ready to pay lish for the farm. Ivan to Charle. I don't her from Luds. Mr more heard that his lister. Very Truly yours wer better

Hennelus Mounail Augusta, Mes July 28" 185% Sun Model Hi hear had one confusion for the past fin day that I have it him all to think others. My lovery somb no on a Will there . In John his righ & fine makes with a time arriver lead thursday evening I have now got lesergthing timenes com in good stafe and got my weight. Whate finish perhing today and mother that I moved go to was I think this from Argusta who town myt weet of I think with by freight-love- ye -) The What write that he is Heart hem your date. The Jones had " that his duter .

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 state of the s the distribution of his officials we The Major, goes to the General . The General suges and by 4 by apologies. So it goes on. I have got on admirally with they the finish for I never deal with him except officially of their in writing 38 & S & Fran Brother, Sand The have a few other officers who rection there. May Pege I purposed writing you before is the aft. adjutant general. He is a man that attends to his cluties and Mongh out of health with a consumphing but the time I set afcort has heretype been interopted lough he has mustined in all these voluntures & I hum Thy business and muil day has come and gone without not sun him crops once, Some of Muse fellows would my intention being pulfilled. This time however I take by the patience of Gob, Awald amore you to stand by & su Time by the persock commencing the day before hand. Them Mustered. Eachow vides what is called a marsh prony - 14e I dan now well settled here in Temper. I have fitted sides up tis ordered to dismount. Is that your horse dir- Ges liv. Is and seven companies of Florida mounted volunting Where and you come from I somewhere about angustine. Did you with arms, amunition & accontrements, Each company rede that hove all the way down him? Hes all the wayyou will the look at the horse you can see every love in his being Lighty five strong made out stuplients invoices & body. His spin is particularly prominent. But as soon as the triplicate receipts to each, supplied nearly all the regulers regneiter questions are asked and answered. The fellow will which have been felled up to Eight six, made my formp on and off go the sand fed set of boms at e I reports & Sent requisitions to Washington te. te. all in one right energetic gallop. Maj Lage told me More poor horses week. Now General Marriey bear gone, The sweet has become would stand a harder of longer trainf them on of our in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell. I hundsome & slick northern horses. I couldn't doubt him was much pleased to get your letter by the last mail after my ride through from Palatter to Tampa by staye. by together with Lissies & Engy. you all toler me just Iget that ander of Liggins everhow here. I will send her I what I wished to know! that you were all well some soon as look as your hear from trushington. I and getting an finely. I am indud glad that your I should answer bry's letter immediately bet I don't think he A lecture pussed off so satisficationly to all purties. Could understand my letter quite as well as I che his. I till had confidence that such would be the ease. you what is Rowland D. felt prouded of his Infantine labors. I class think much of Florida, and my opinion Think Touis Mapoleons boy well with or dictate such a letter? is wither in the retrograde. The entire State is not worth Februla be delighted to get a little form Eller and Frill ensure our by Briting first the my I havest sun or Indian or flag since I have been him, excepting the Stars and stripes. I shall write I one half the expense the government has here is that to on her accounts. It is a dead level covered with sand

and fine trees. If you would extend the fine barrens of Brunswick over the entire state court intersperse them with on vecesional hillock with comparatively decent soil some ten miles asunder, you would have Horida. Fempe is a place of five or sex hundred inhabitants, with four shouts East & west and about the same number north & couth at right angles -The sand is deep as it is on our Day from and of a finer quality. It never hardens in the Streets except on the surface after a soin. Ites like wading in a light more just fallen to walk from the Montetury reserve to the hotel where I late my mucho. On the public grounds The paths are made of Shells and covered on the surface with Law dust. When I arrived from For Myers with General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th arbilling here commanded by But. Maj J. B. Scott. The latter had been sint to Horida from Fort Independence Buston. His Sientenants are Hazard, Muck & Dana. Een, Harney ardined the major his company to the sine allifine about 22 miles distant. I was promised quarters as som as he left. After two or Three days delay he started off on Sunday morning with his Common Second Situls. Hagard & Mack behind and a Guard of Iwenty. men. Magard is the adjulant of the commanding fin maj Morris and Mack is on special duty at the Intristence Depot at this place. As soon as they scott had vacated their Quarters Lent. Hock & myself took possepion. My sleeping soon is a small unfinished worn, you can see through the lracks between the bounds that even it & the rafters are visible above. But Jostwally the weather has been cold enough to

freeze up all the little animals that him themselves in such places. Mr Mack is a feliasant, gentlemany fellow and of think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellone fuling between us for he also leaves a wife behind. You know a backelor would in he likely to have any sympathy in such cases. General Harney has gone on a lour veriting all the different posts of Stations under his command. I am glad he is your. He middles with everything, whoils everything, but without the ability to marganize, or Exstendize, 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, now a seargest, a soldier, or the wind. The wans. but more especially his own buck. He has a poor memory is as thougeable as the wind, gives an order to countermore it and plays the fool generally. Though he is wilfule impatient and head strong, fortunately for him and his Campaign. he seldow has his own way. Them are a good many shrewd heads out here to hold him in Sheek. The is almost as large as General Scott & I wanted say you couldn't find a better man to lead a regiment in . an open field fight But there who think him a man glatus of high mental endowments, are mistaken. for he is groß & Miterate & I would judge, a man who had give pull swing to his passions. He have another specimen of an officer here In the Survermaster, who is much distiked. He is a man about forty lerge & well made. He sums to delight in anothers checomforture, is easty disobliging, headstrong & impatient. He and the General are always fighting. Jamel A. interferes With they Melinstry's plans, with his leans 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 & accourrements. 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, disobliging, 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 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