

at the American, but was more fortunate enough
to find him in, and very soon out when he
called upon me, but my business takes me so
much out that I often miss seeing my friend
when they call, please make my regards to
him, and say that I called &c - Elias is fully
well now, though he has been unwell this summer
quite often, he smokes altogether too much, knows it,
but has not the resolution to leave it off; I have
talked to him about it, but have the grand satis-
-faction of knowing that it is of but little use,
she will learn by sad and bitter experience before
long, I fear, that it is seriously injuring him and
ruining his constitution, which is not the strongest
in the world. - Ops is fat & hearty as ever, and
all that seems to trouble him is that his hair
is not thick enough, that worries a great many
men days, and many of our steady houses have failed
on that account, and the extreme tightness of the
money market - I am in hopes business will im-
-prove soon, and give us all something to do, -

I have written you quite a long letter, and you
must take it as it is, for I cannot think of looking
it all over for errors &c, and you must excuse a young man
about committing Luici - Matrimony & so on - Pray don't
love me as I have you, but let me hear from you once more
ever I trust Benedict & Peter are truly
Yours J. J. Sargent
39 South St

W 2

[Jan. 2, 1854]

273

that was better than none, though I sometimes think it
is not, for one feels so very lonely afterwards that the
pleasure of the visit is all destroyed, I was very much pleased
with the said young lady, though I am convinced she felt
exceedingly dull that evening, all of which I could under-
-stand fully, and perfectly appreciate, consequently I
did not trouble her so much with my conversation as
otherwise I might have done, but left her to her quiet
though I doubt not unhappy meditations, - she had
for a day or two had the happiness of being for a
part of her time with the one she loves, and was then
going far away from him again with no prospect
of seeing him for another long year, - I felt for
her, and gladly would I have poured out to her the feelings
of a sympathizing heart, but she was comparatively a
stranger to me, and I felt a delicacy in doing so, - I saw
them on the boat the next afternoon on their way home,
- their mouths have closed since then, but whether have
they fled? - and many times doubtless has your heart been
gladdened by the receipt of a well filled "Billet doux" -
how pleasant it is to be the recipient of such tokens from
those who are dear to us, and particularly in your case,
confined as you are, it must be a perfect "blessing in the
desert" - I hope you get them often, and am punctual
in your replies, - I suppose you are hoping for a full length
next summer if you live, and are even at this early day
counting the day that you are to intimate, - poor fellow, they

doubtless will seem very long to you, but they are sure to
pass away, and will then appear short enough,
I will not offer much of an apology for not writing
to you. for I fear it will be worse than the injury, but
procrastination - "the thief of time" - and a constant
expectation of visiting you from week to week must
be my only excuse, for I have often, very often thought
of you, and my regret - Eps rec'd a letter from you a
few days ago, - yesterday I think - which I had the
pleasure of reading, - I am happy to know that you
are so well, and getting along so well with your
studies as to be at the head of your class, - I expect
the change from camp to barracks in the fall is
quite as pleasant as "Greece sarsa" in the Spring, is
it not so? - I would have liked to have been with
you during camp duty, but something always preven-
-ted, Mr Benson was out of town all summer and
I could not very well be absent much, and only
went out of a Saturday afternoon and returned on
Monday morning once only until the other day I
went to Boston for a day or two as I wrote you
and remained a week, nearly, had a delightful
time, fine weather, and pleasant company, Sarah
and her mother were there for two or three weeks,
I am going to leave this, about next Thursday week for
Hollis, and if it is any news to you am happy to
say that I expect to bring a wife back with me,
the happy day having been fixed for the 12th between

is there no way that you can obtain a furlough
for a week or so? if there is do try it, but I suppose
you might as well try to fly, as I should so much
like to have you present, - Elias, I presume will go
along with me, Eps will not, cannot leave his
business, - I expect to remain in Hollis from
Saturday morning until Tuesday morning, when
we are to be married and leave in the Boat for
Back to take the Cars, this is the arrangement
now, so far as I know anything about it, - we may
stop in Portland for a day or two possibly if Mr Strick-
-land insists upon it, and if so shall see Miss Lizzie
we shall then come to Buxton for a day or two
and then I think shall return to New York via
Albany & West Point if we don't make an
alteration in our arrangements, - He shall board
with a friend of mine in Brooklyn this winter
unless we go to Japan as I somewhat expect we
may, though it is quite problematical, depending
altogether upon circumstances, - I feel almost too
poor to get married this fall, but have made up
my mind that I can get along, and so much
happier to have Sarah with me, and as she is
willing to take the risk of going to the Poor house
with me, I have made up my mind, and trust we
may steer far clear of that place, -
I regret that I did not have the pleasure of seeing my friend
& townsman William Webb, - I called several times at

W. Howard
June 4 1852



PAID

Paid.

Col John Gilmore

South Ferry
Main

P.S. Why think Uncle does not write me? Tell me how Grandmother was when you heard from her. Give a glow to father - Did he lose anything by his official transactions as Treasurer of the Road?
West Point N.Y. Jan 4th 1852.

Dear Mother

275

I have let more time slip by before writing you than I intended when I finished my last letter; but since we have no church to day, and I have resolved some time since not to open my text books for the purpose of studying on Sunday. I will dedicate this forenoon to you. Speaking of studying on Sunday. Sabbath evenings I have usually employed to get my lessons for Monday morning; I had long thought it was hardly right, that I ought for the sake of my health at least, to lay aside my books for one entire day out of each week. But the fear of doing badly on Monday would over throw my resolutions. But at last I began to get provoked at myself for such a want of sense & self command, and broke off the habit which had been sealed by five years practice. I make up for it by getting up between three & four on Monday morning. I believe I have done as well on Monday as on any day. There are two young men in the first section, who never study Sundays, and one of them almost always gets a low mark on Monday morning; perhaps he cannot like me ~~wake~~ up when he chooses. Since I wrote your Christmas & New Year's have come & gone and with them all the luxuries we are to expect at West Point for another year. Found Capt Brewster unusually pleasant & obliging when I presented my uncle's letter containing a very pressing request for me to visit him at Parkskill a day or two beforehand.

he granted me even more than I asked, allowing me to leave the Post on Wednesday evening & return on Friday morning. I had a very pleasant visit at Beckskill: found my cousin Augustus about as usual, still subject to those frequent & frightful attacks of his malady. Uncle had a fall down stairs, with a lamp in one hand & a tumbler in the other; he broke neither, but hurt his head very much & dislocated his shoulder. but when I was there he had nearly recovered from the effect of the fall; his arm being still a little lame. I left this place Wednesday evening - just at dark a little after parade to cross the river for Cold Springs. The river had just frozen over leaving air holes - as is usually the case where the tide rises & falls every day. It was storming furiously & growing continually darker & darker. But Cadets are not easily intimidated when a leam is in question, and I think I have never been so very timid child, at least not within my recollection. Well three cadets of us with a guide & a lantern set forth for a two miles walk on the precarious route - now I suppose you are expecting a scene - some narrow escape - but no! I kept ahead of the guide more than half the way, and once even set him in the proper direction - thus slipping in to Cold Springs as light as a feather - so much for the exploit of your wonderful son. Well when I got to the depot I found that we must stop there all the evening or nearly so for the cars - After racing about - quite in search of amusement to still my impatience I sat down before the depot stove & was soon joined by Professor Agnel, (pronounce his name An-jel.) He is the most accomplished scholar on the Post having visited nearly all parts of the world, & being able to speak fluently three languages, as if they were his native tongue. I never

could decide whether English or French was his mother tongue. He says he has a little by six years of age, when he has never allowed to speak a word English to himself. He says he used to whip him if he attempted it. Now the child is very indignant & will have nothing at all to do with his father if he addresses him in English. I asked him if the child could speak English as well as he could French. He said yes: of course, there being an English atmosphere all around him. He thus amused me - telling me about his family & his experience abroad. He had travelled in South America, or was an Officer there I don't know which; He had much to say about the French authors, & the French institutions. He was in Paris at the time Louis Philippe was restored in 1830. and described to me with the warmth of a personal observer the horrors of those three days, which sufficed to put Louis again upon the throne - the excitement & intemperate madclerung - the crowd, composed of men, women & children of every size & age, would in their blind fury stand the full charge of the cavalry - rush upon the horses, get under their bellies & slash them in pieces. He said the soldiers had been ordered to fire into every collected crowd. He told me too of some of his own narrow escapes - Thus passed the evening very pleasantly. The cars arrived about nine o'clock or after. I set me ashore at Beckskill just after all hopes of my coming had been given up & my cousins gone to bed - The next day I went to church with Uncle in the morning - afterwards had a splendid Christmas dinner, prepared especially for me & went to Mrs. Wendell's in the evening, where I took tea & stopped the evening in the society of lots of ladies; I felt of course like a fish out of water: but I reckon I behaved most of the time like a well-bred young man.

The ladies had a good deal to say about my father. Uncle Ensign
 they did not remember so much about. They all agreed that I
 resembled ^{my father} them; but Mrs Rundell thinks my hair is darker. I
 hardly think that can be; but my hair is darker & better now
 than it has ever been before. The Misses Philips at Newburg
 are almost angry with me because I don't go to see them;
 but it is next to impossible - They are still keeping a large
 boarding school. filled up with young ladies I would judge from
 New York & Brooklyn. They speak of me to almost every cadet
 who gets up there, requesting me to come. I think I shall get
 off after ^{this} January to go up there to get my tooth pulled. I
 have not yet decided whether the lady cousins are worth such
 a painful sacrifice or not. The January examination commenced
 yesterday last. Our Class will be examined about next Wednesday or
 Thursday. My mark for the whole time in Mathematics is the best
 by a little more than a unit, 4,05 Schelene. Everything depends
 on the examination if I do well I shall probably remain where
 I am if badly will fall. I am waiting for the issue, but with
 no great anxiety, for I have done as well as I could, that is
 I have studied as much as is consistent with my health.
 Now I have talked sufficiently about myself. I wish to know
 how my friends are getting on. Is Rowland's ever any better. Why
 was he not written to? I wrote him a letter to Brunswick -
 another to Cape Elizabeth. Probably he has got neither. If he
 well enough I at home tell him to write. I am anxious to
 learn how he does. Give my love to Delle & Charlie - ask them if they

I got out of money when I went to the hill & I shall have 50 cts in about 10 d. I borrowed
 of the bank & I shall have 50 cts in about 10 d. I borrowed

276 27

Have not any good word to send me, any news to tell me
about their studies, their school, their master, their play mates,
and their fine times. I presume a good many little boys
remember me as their teacher, I more perhaps as their
schoolmate. Have not I tellin any large stories, I'm sure of course
to tell me, about the new things that have happened? I shall
look like a little boy side of Rowland Bailey: if he is so large
and tall as you say. I suppose Charles is running up impercepti-
bly perhaps to you, but I shall notice it, for I have him in mind
of the same size as when I left. Ask Roland if he had as good
a time on Christmas eve, as we had several years ago when we
went to a party at Wilson Gilberts - and returned late late ev-
rather early in the morning ensuing, in a drifting snow storm.
Lucy Ingham was my lady, and she is married. (?) It seems to
me now that all my old companions are yet boys & girls. How is it
that they are getting married! But ah! I myself am twenty one
and who knows but others may grow old as fast as I.
On new years we had quite a feast. Oysters the night before -
just noon of the day quite a dinner - after which I got two whole pieces
of mince pie. I live well enough always. I am not disposed to
grumble at our provisions. I always have health & a splendid
appetite: who can ask more? Yesterday afternoon little Glosson &
I raced about the woods, for exercise & reconnoitering. Sometimes off limits
& sometimes on: we did not care so long as we did not get "hived". We
met Harville in our rambles. He looks badly, all freckled & pitted with the
indellible marks of the small pox. He says Warner is well.
With much love for you all I am your affectionate Son. C. C. Howard &

in California in March, I am glad to ^{hear} so good news from Sarah and her husband I hope they will do well in every respect your Aunt Ann is with Mother, I have heard that she will ^{visit} Portland this winter, probably visit Mrs Waite &c. she has never come to Leeds since her return to So. I think she would come, and honor me with a visit if I should send for her, that I shall not do, at present, John Harrison this has gone into trade on commission in Mrs Alden's store I have not heard how much business he is doing. we have had an uncommon cold winter so far but still I am happy for warmer weather and shall be untill spring, we have gloomy weather to day, neither ~~snow~~ snow nor rain but a frost catching on to the trees untill they are loaded with ice such as do you hear much about Frost the Hungarian general our papers are filled with accounts of his greatness, I thought your West Point Cadets must catch the enthusiasm towards him Jerry Lathrop & understand has had the honor of an introduction to him, your Aunt Ann would like to go to New York to live and I think she eventually will go there how does Langdon carry himself you have never mentioned him, you can give my love to him if you think best, and Warren too although they accused ^{me} of spreading false reports about him when he came home from West Point I was not in the least guilty, no doubt he thinks so, but I don't care ^{your C. G.}

274
My dear boy Leeds January 7th 1852
It's a long while since I have written you, many events have transpired to prevent me from it Charlie's letter came to hand one week since glad to hear your health and spirits ^{are} good, suppose ere this your preparation is made for examination, and will be over ere this season will reach you, Christmas too, is over with all its anticipation and I hope all is well, you will tell us in your next letter how you find your Uncle Bards family and how much mixture of pain and pleasure you found in going to Peekskill The same day I mailed my last letter to you I rec'd one from W. Howard saying unless some radical change took place in his health he must come home, I was not disappointed, I knew when he went from home, he could not stand it long unless the Syrup he took with him helped him, but his school was large, and school house hot, and walking on the beach a half mile where the cold sea breeze took him on leaving the school house increased his disease in ^{two} weeks to an alarming extent, he reached home and did not leave his bed, for a week, since then his disease has been wearing off, for ten days we kept his chest and back one series of sores made by Croton oil, and every other means used to clear his lungs of the matter collected there, he has had some discouragements in his progress towards health but I think he is in a good way towards health if nothing befalls him he has a cough yet, and has never had a change of air, has never been out of doors yet nor any

room where there is any change in the temperature, what will be the result of this sickness is yet to be seen, I fear if he returns to those college rooms again his chills will return in full force, but that is yet to be determined, he has not received any of your letters from West Point, he stopt at Mrs Waite's over the sabbath on his return from Cape Elizabeth sick enough all the time, I am under great obligation to Mrs Waite for her kindness to R.B. and would be glad to thank her in person, R.B. said they were coming up with Dealey to Lewistown, Turnen and Livermore, to spend the De Verleys Vacation, when he first returned he was in hopes to be well enough to go for them and bring them here, but we have not heard anything from them I thought if Lizzie knew how sick R.B. was she might possibly find means to come here, but their time is expired I think, I have written Lizzie a letter the day I mailed your last I expect it lays in the office at Portland now, after I had prepared my letter for the directors I gave them to your father ~~to~~ to write the superscription and he directed, Lizzie O, Waite as we are in the habit of speaking her name, if she should call for such a letter at the office it was intended for her, I intend writing her again now that my poor brain is getting more settled, I have slept two ~~the~~ nights without any care of R. your father getting up to renew his fire, R.B. has begun one or two letters to you and thrown them aside, his head was in a sad condition when he came home but his pulse is quite even, and his eyes look quite natural

I know but little about what is going on in town as I have not been out much this winter, they ~~seem~~ always seem to be in trouble in trouble at Uncle Barneys Ruggles Sylvester who has been so long in the habit of having fits died in one not long since I dont know how Uncle B gets along Ruggles was able to take care of them, your father has just returned from Church and come in and given me a trimming about his shirt collar they are always too broad or too narrow or too short or too long, and I am never in any humor to hear him, Delle is trying to write something to you and Charles is writing on the same table with me, and R.B. is taking a luncheon on the sofa, so you see my boys are near me all but you, the rest of our family are well R.B. had a letter (from W. O. C. and Maria) of condolence and congratulation William, thought sickness much better than school keeping, Maria said their family were all sick except father her mother she said was very sick, she Maria had been confined two weeks to the house, dont think strange that your Uncle John dont write for of all men I think him the most full of care and business, I think he is living beyond his income and struggling with all his might to get the better of his circumstances he is gone from home a great part of the time, I should not think strange that Maria does not write according to the news I have of her, she might answer a letter and she might not, from sheer indolence, Addison Manton has called on us and thinks he shall come to West Point before he returns to California he intends arriving

Charles, and Kadelphus, Tuesday morning
 have exerting themselves
 to write to you. Rowland still appears to be in a good
 way of recovery, he has not been out yet, we have
 such stormy weather he cannot go out with any
 safety, I dont understand your being so short of
 money, I shall enclose one dollar bill in
 this I hope you will be careful and send it to your
 Uncle, if you need any money, next summer before
 coming home write in season, to have it sent from
 here, yours ever. Eliza Gilmore

D. C. C. Howard.
 West Point
 N.Y.

Dear brother Leeds Jan 4th 1852
 It has been a long time since I wrote you
 a letter, but I received one from you dated 20th Dec.
 It was quite a long one comprising five pages. As you say "I
 like to have letters & long ones too from my brother" ^{but} better
 than I do to write them my self. but I know it gives you
 pleasure to hear from home, so I will try to answer all
 that you write. I am in good health and I think if you
 should see me you would not think that I was pale.
 Rowland is getting along well, as well as we could expect.
 You asked, if he had any trouble with his school? I believe
 he did not he liked his school very well. We have a very good
 school here, taught by Daniel Wing of Mammoth.
 It has kept four weeks and will keep three or four more.
 I have been teaching school this winter, Mr Davis began a
 school here last Fall and it finished Friday night, but
 there will be 4 more meetings to prepare for, the Dedic-
 tion of the new Meeting-house. I dont know that you know any-
 thing about the new Meeting-house. The Methodist of Quaker
 Ridge have got them one, and it is to be Dedicated next Thurs-
 day, it is situated below or south of Salmon Wings farm, on the
 right hand side of the road as you go towards Mr Brewster
 Sunday 11th. It has been some time since I began my
 letter. I could not finish it because I ^{went} to school.
 Delic is writing on the same table with me, he has
 written (if you will see) that I am sick &c. I suppose that he

ment to convey the idea that I was unwell. I have got
a bad cold. I said the meeting-house would be dedicated
Thursday, but I made a mistake for it has not been dedica-
ted yet but will be next Thursday. There was a new ^{meeting} house
dedicated at Wayne Village. situated on the opposite side
of the road from Arza's. Who lives where Mr. & Wm. the
Smiths used to live. We received a letter from you
last night, and one from Livia ^{which} contained one which
you wrote to ~~her~~ ^{Rowland} and directed to Cap. Elizabeth. I have got
along well with my studies this winter. I have study
Wells's grammar. I have got to interest in my arithmetic.
If I have good health I guess I shall go to read ~~at~~ ^{to} Hills
next spring. There is a funeral sermon
to be preached at the meeting house to day for
Mr. & Ebenezer Lethrop. Mr. Thomas Lypson. he died
away from home ~~and~~ was not brought home but they
had a sermon preached our folks did not go
up it storm'd so this morning. Livia wrote that
her another was sick all the time she was at Liver-
more if it had not been for that she would
have come down here. she wrote that she just rec
a letter from you.

Our teacher Mr. Ping has some different
arrangements in in school from what we have
been used to having here on the Ridge. In the morning
we read in the Testament, and then in the
Youth Reader, after which the smaller classes
read and then Arithmetic and Geography.

After we read in the afternoon we write
~~an~~ spelling-lesson taken from our reading left.
Just as school closes at noon and night he asks them
all if they have whispered, and they have to say whether
they have or not and if they say yes he puts down a black
mark. I suppose you have not skated any
this winter. Delie and I have skated a great deal. You
have enough to do beside skating and if not I don't
know as there is boy enough left in you to play.
The first part of the winter we skated,
but the ice is covered with snow.
Rowland has been writing funny things here on the
table so you see that he has not forgot how to make
fun. Kulan A is reading a well out loud, it is one
that you with some others presented to the ~~the~~
society. I believe the name of it is Norman Leslie's
Delie & learns very well this winter he studies
my th's Arithmetic and he studies Geography
by with me. the boys and girls in his class
in spelling have a chain to wear when they get
to the head, and leave off there; then they take
their place to the foot, the one that gets it the
next time largest number of times has it when
the school finishes. We have got a new oil cloth cart
put an over kitchen floor, mother has got some
very very pretty plants, there is one pretty rose on her
bush now it looks very pretty when there is nothing green
out of doors. O. C. Howard. From your affectionate brother Charles

Portland, Jan 8. 1852

Dear Mrs Gilmore

I should have written to you sooner, in answer to your very kind and most welcome letter, had I not expected to have seen you before this time. I felt unpleasant to return without seeing or even hearing from you, but mother was sick all the while we were gone, and I did not wish to leave her; she was not able to leave her room till New Year's day. She is quite well now excepting her cough but her much. Mr Pealy received Rowland's letter last evening, we are very glad indeed to hear his health is improving. if I had known he was sick I should have made greater effort, after mother got better, to have gone to Leeds. Mrs L. was in this morning. she heard from Rowland when he was the sickest, and had'nt heard since till I told her ^{at her house} this morning, expects Mr Martin and Mrs Lee tomorrow. Hope Rowland will pardon me for keeping his letter so long. I am very much obliged for the liberty of reading it. I have not heard from West Point since. Remember me with love to all who may inquire after me. Yours
 E. A. Waite
 To Mrs Eliza Gilmore. }

Amie
Jan 21 1872



Mr Rowland B. Howard
South Leeds
Maine



Mother wrote you all the news as so I
shall now to tell Write me soon and
Remember me as
Your off Bro
Rowland

South Leeds Jan 8th 52

Dear Brother
I do not feel as well today
as usual being afflicted with a severe
headache, but I am gaining strength and
flask slowly and am in hopes to go out
in a few days. What discourages me the
most is my extraordinary susceptibility
of cold. The slightest breath of cold air
seems to close up my pores and gives me
a cold. unless I can overcome this difficulty
the climate will keep me within doors
most of the Winter. I have my fears of
returning to College and taking my
old room. and I don't know where I can
get a better. The Sphenon class is so
large that they occupy their own rooms
and all the best of the Freshman rooms. If
I was in perfect health, with closing the
windows and doors and covering the cracks
with a carpet. I should yet along well
enough. But with the predisposition to a
lung complaint which I think now is
fastened upon me, it would be little less
than self sacrifice for me to attempt to
study under the same circumstances that

I did in the Fall Term. But the state of my health will decide everything. We have had a severe snow storm and the roads are drifted after the old fashion and the men have been out two days breaking them out.

Poland is the same, as ever only worse. I think the evils of his natural disposition are increasing upon him. He seems to want energy, resolution, perseverance and independence of character, in fact all of the requisites of success in the world. But he has other qualities, which if fully developed might be of great advantage to him in life. His sisters are urging marriage and if it is of the right kind, I think he had better conform to their views.

I tell him, he has arrived at that point in life, where suicide is inevitable and all he can do is to seek the most honorable death, whether to be drowned in the sea of matrimony or otherwise. I like Addison's

appearance very well and hope that he will go to see you. He has seen Lizzie and likes her very much, but thinks she is excessively little. But you know a Californian's idea of everything is remarkably extensive.

I was to go to Livermore after Lizzie but the state of my health would not permit.

and thus we were all deprived of the pleasure of a visit from her. In your letter to Richard I thought you prided yourself considerably on being able to hear the gossip of Maine without any ones knowing it. But as every one knows that you have a secret correspondent among us, your information of remarkable movements (of the tongue) does not appear so wonderful.

But that was rather funny that the Sage father of our Uncle Henry should take such a painful interest in your affairs, as to try to arouse Father's fears for his sons future matrimonial prospects. Mother told me and I told Lizzie and she wrote you and that's the whole story, I suppose I wrote you that she had a present for your twenty first birth day, if she did not, don't let her know that I have, for perhaps she wishes to give you an agreeable surprise. It is a beautiful edition of Female poets of America, a very appropriate present, selected in fine taste. Maria writes me that she is having a very gay time this winter, attending balls, dances, et cetera but is kept from the Christmas gaieties by a severe cold. Report says that William is quite studious, in his father's law books. I suppose

I saw Jack's present Soap about a year ago. I only
saw for him being formerly impressed with his
personal appearance & accomplishments. A little
old maid girl about 18 I guess, as wild as a
hawk. but Jack could not stand his fascination
when they were so exactly being upon him that
they for some time at discretion. And you are
is married, but this is probably too new to you. Tell
how wasteful was his days of fascination & yellow tory in
Paris with the first victim of the clip of 1830
Who'll be the next? I can't even guess - May
be I shall tell a sister & get married & go right
straight off - I think this will be the only way I
shall get off any how -
Only was here one week ago to day. He
was just returning from his vacation tour up here
where seemed to be in fine health & spirits. In
him - it is that is sick of Pedagoguing as
I am & I presume that this will be the last
year of the business for both of us - I shall be happy
to see you when your vacation comes
I expect a long visit from you of course - I
do not wish to disappoint you - I do not know
when to be in school this time or when a very
small school - But I make my time of some
people & am by reading now - This letter has been
hastily written since as there it will be read I fear
with some omissions as you find it. J. N. Lewis

281
Dear Howard
It is a week or two since
I recd your very acceptable letter & I will
endeavor to make plain the conjectures in which
you seem to be indulging at my expense & in
relation to my private affairs - In the first
place for an earnest in the supposition that
I am a few men. far from entering alliance
with any I yet so far as I am concerned I
never with the whole world. (A certain portion
of this letter contemptible I am of course excepted)
Now I must confess as he says I have few
sympathies or bonds of relation or friendship
But to proceed - as I said I am a few men
far to go or come as I please, far to do as I please
& say what I please, far in the widest & most
comprehensive sense of the term, but please to
feel no particular disadvantages from the peculiar
inconvenience of my position - I know I
am after all just what what you took me to be
in respect to general society but nevertheless I
do not yet despair of finding a better half - be
the the better or the worse, sometimes or other
as soon as I shall be ready to receive you

It is a consoling reflection that there are enough
of them such as they are, & some of them are
good enough if you can only find them.
But as for me I got kind of sick of the
business & got up in disgust as much as
anything. With no particular provocation &
without any other pretext than my own individual
impulses for propriety, I concluded it
altogether wise to disengage myself from
all such circumstances for the present, & be
ready to commence again when the occasion
ought seem to require it. I didn't care
me much of course, whether it was more
difficult for others I leave you to judge. Not
that I am indifferent to the pain of others, by no
sort of means, I regret anything like that most
sincerely & wish it might be on my account
truly I imagine that the real happiness
of all concerned was consulted in the arrangement
as to the manner of its accomplishment therefore
I leave you to inform it is done I can't be sure
& I would not have it under if I could.
I know you see I am not asking, nor agreed
yet at perfect liberty to swing in any direction
I may choose. & when I decide to put out of
the world or be farrable, I can do so without
stopping to hoist in & stow away my anchors &
cables - I am in readiness for the voyage.

But how is it with you? Still just I presume.
Well, that is right you incur less blame for doing
so - But old facts they say, no cut love and
anchored again. Rather suddenly - In fact I
guess he was anchored in two places at the same
time - That was too bad - too bad - then to see
about about his paying a double game, I suppose
who would have thought it of him. I always imagined
that he was as immovable as the hills - as steady,
faithful, unchanging love - one whom no thought
or deed could sway from the star of his first
admission & devotion. I had supposed that certain
obligations incurred by him in that quarter
would compel him to the observance of his vows.
But it seems that all of these things down too
run out enough to run his heart against the
vile attacks of an unrespected woman - and
then of his having under a tolerable exchange
it would seem to be better. But of the truth
you know. I do not think his later selection a
very flattering one for his taste. But there is
no accounting for man's tastes in such things
you know. Truly I am beginning to think that
your respect is hardly a sufficient basis for such
relations. I am glad when it is said they say
I I guess it does. Mine I fear has never yet
been said, whether it ever will be or not, is what
the future alone can satisfactorily determine.

So much young men become attached to this place - after the first year, our class is now 60 in number - no: 59 - its: 0020 - more must take leave of us before we graduate.

My class is now drawing problems partly in perspective - niches, spheres, cubes, cones, cylinders &c - with their shades & shadows the light coming in a given direction - It involves all our knowledge in mathematics to lay them out with the pencil, and the greatest care & neatness to put them in ink with the right-line & circular pen. This exercise we have till the first of February instead of reciting in mathematics.

So that we are obliged to draw five hours a day - Oh! how it makes my bones ache; but I begin to do admirably. I believe you would say some of my drawings look nicely, though you could not understand them - But they are not half as good as some others in the class - But as usual - keep trying!" - I have said a good deal about West Point in this letter & its affairs; and if the above suggests anything, which you would like to know - you must mention it.

I hope you will be able to say that Rowland is entirely well in your next letter - I shall answer Charles Rowland's & Debbie's letters as soon as I can - I would like to write more & oftener, but you must see that I cannot always do it. But never imagine that I neglect to write through indolence, or want of affection for my mother & brothers.

For you must know me too well to suspect me of ^{the} being guilty of the other. Give my love to all. Tell Roland & Alger, he needn't get married till I get home - for I want some young men in Leeds - After ^{five} ~~two~~ more months of solid study I shall feel myself prepared for furlough - & I fear you with others will find that I have not a bit more common sense or refinement than when I set forth - But I am not going home to show what I know but to have the happiness of seeing again, face to face my mother, father & brothers. - In good night - Yours affectionate son, C. Howard.

I meant to write really nice when I started, but you will see how well I succeeded before you get through } West Point N.Y. Jan 18th '52.
if you ever do - From this you }
can form some faint ideas }
of my great success in drawing }
topography. - C.H. - }
Dear Mother, 289

I have taken my pen this evening to write home, and the question arises to whom shall I write out of my numerous correspondents at that cherished place? I am thinking on reflection that you deserve the next letter. Our examination finished last night. I came out as you will probably find before this reaches you first in mathematics, fourth in french and thirty sixth in drawing. Mr Lee, second in math. third in french and sixteenth in drawing. I must now pull like mad till June. If I can rise twenty files in drawing, I will come out ahead at that examination. All things are possible to the determined mind - that is all reasonable things - I may do it - we will wait & see. I have written a letter to Augustus to day & enclosed the dollar you sent me. You think it odd that I should be out of money - so do I. You know father let me have ten dollars - I bought some books to read in camp, particularly to keep from thinking so much about myself, my situation & my prospects, with a part of my money, I got some wine to buy some things that I needed at the store. I let Yangtan have a little, which he promised to pay in a few days, as soon as he got a letter from home, which he never did. In the summer while in camp, I had to go to Joe's, you remember the little building close by the Camp ground, and get ice creams, and sometimes when it was hot & I did not feel like going to dinner, I would get a whole dinner. Well when I set out for Puckskill I had between fifty & seventy five cents. Capt Brewster would have let me have money from the treasury, but I forgot to ask him - and I

could not get it well after I came back. Here then is a fair explanation of my prodigality, showing at least where my money went to, if not my prudence. I am now in debt about 25 dollars, I presume you wonder at this too. I will attempt an explanation. In the first place by coming in September I lost two months pay, 48 dollars. I was obliged to buy six pairs of white pants this summer, whereas my classmates had their old ones & bought none. Our class had to furnish themselves with a riding suit in addition, which has not come before till after furlough. This suit came to ^{forty} four dollars. — We have enough in all conscience, to support us well for the four years, but you see by this that it is at present unequally distributed. One set of summer pants will last me nearly through, one riding dress & artillery suit will certainly. I now put in just as few orders as possible. Our drawing instruments come this year too — about 14 dollars. Third classmen. Those who are "boning" furlough as they call it, nearly all look threadbare — Next June I shall be I think about 12 dollars out of debt, that is if I "bone" it hard. The two months pay for the summer while we are away is given us in advance in clothing. If we do not take it in clothing we don't take it ~~at all~~ at all then. Perhaps you know that two dollars per month is reserved by the Government to give us a uniform suit & a sword when ~~we~~ graduated. Then in fact we have but 22 dollars a month now. — If you understand these statements you will not be surprised to find me in debt, and the strictest prudence would hardly have kept me from it. Those who are much out of debt made large deposits. — If I draw money from home for furlough, by prudence, I ^{shall} be able to more than repay it when I graduate, unless I should have the luck to be made an officer

this coming year: of which I have no expectation; for since I have been square-marcher, I have not reported enough to please such military men as Capt Elder, our commandant; and then every body knows I take more pride & more interest in my studies than in military bearing. In our class four young men have been found deficient & are to be sent away — 6 more were deficient in drawing alone and are to be retained. One young man — Mr. Philpotts — when he came here says he did not know a vulgar fraction from a decimal, & has by industry mastered the course in mathematics & in speaking french — but they found him in drawing & say he must go — He failed to make a few straight marks & must leave — He has 180 demerit. This is the only case where drawing alone was the finale. I hate to see him go for he is my friend & I think it is palpable injustice. This January is the first January Examination in which only first places have been sent away — Mr Stevens & Webb were both found last January one in drawing & the other in Mathematics, but being permitted to stay both more than redeemed themselves before June & now are out of danger. Mr Browne has been on pins for some time, but he just saved himself again — next to the foot in Mathematics & also in french — & 45th is drawing. He will have to labor very, very hard between this and June with his pen. After that he will have little trouble from the nature of the studies. Just before they went to be examined in Mathematics the last section (called "the immortal section") came to my room — "Why are all these young men as there are on the post? — some were as pale as a cloth — some trembling, & all excited & anxious. They know some of their numbers must go — but who? — He that happens to get something that he can't do well on. — I know some of them would I help to get or found deficient at this Academy."

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard A.B.

West Point.

New York.

Portland Jan. 18th '52

282

My dear Old Chum,

What would I not give to have you sitting here to-night with Liz, and Mother and me! What a happy set we should be - in fact we are quite so now - at least you would say Liz was could you look in upon her through these frosty windows and see as I do now working away, in her own graceful, happy way embroidering her "scarf" and looking all so pleased to think she has got me to write to you for she says she is so busy she can't. As for me, you have an idea that I am misanthropic, gloomy, unsocial, "ruined" in fine and it would be useless for me to tell you I am not so, so we will let it go as it is.

But by the way I am inclined to believe that I am about as happy as most men - mind you I have got to calling myself a man - and as for being "shattered" as Liz and Lucretia (not Mrs. Wick) call me or as to having ever been love sick I most strenuously deny the accusation or the imputation. I am naturally communicative and say what a great many

would keep to themselves and what had per-
haps better be kept to myself and so under
myself liable to be called ruined when I
am not. You know just what I have
passed through - yes, suffered, for you know
I did suffer, but you ought to know
that I am not so gloomy and misan-
thropic as you pretend. But I am in a
hurry and can't stop longer to talk about
myself except to say that I train 'Liz'
the best I know how - she goes to the
Lyceum and we do hear some first-rate
lectures but she has found out some of
my boys, who go there, and detracts a good
deal from my Pedagogue orial dignity by
peeping round by me and making me
laugh &c. Old Jackson, I don't know
but you may have heard of it, has given
Miss Clark The mitten and is engaged to
another woman, a Miss Dearborn of
East Pittston; and what is more old Jenett
has given Amanda The mitten - I saw
Jenett a little more than a week since
and he told me this with his own mouth.

What do you think of it? Eh! Isn't it
a pretty pass? What do you say? I am
ready to exclaim with Cicero "O tempora!
O mores! Or as I should say O Moses!

That Butler should have done it and got damned
for it of course is nothing strange but that
the pious and devoted Jack! and the de-
liberate, dispassionate, unswerving Jenett
should have fallen from Their allegiance
is to me astounding, fairly so.

What is the "class of '56" coming to? I did
not look for such a development so soon
in fact I never did. I was much pleased
with your glance back at our old college
days. Many things that then occurred,
already float dreamily before me
while many show brightly and can never be
forgot. How fortunate for us poor mortals,
it is that things past soon get shaded
and dimmed. Byron says,

"Joy's recollection is no longer joy

While sorrow's memory is a sorrow still"

but I think we forget our sorrows sooner
than our joys and I am glad it is so.

I am really glad you are doing so
well in your present career as you are
and be assured I hear of nothing with more
pleasure than your success. I have no fears
for your success for your energy and per-
severance will render your triumph certain

In haste, I am as ever your more than friend
C. C. Howard. Peleg J. Perley

he means. I will send you a paper containing
the proceedings of the Convention. At my suggestion
Father has subscribed for the Portland Advertiser for
you and I suppose you will see it regularly
hereafter. By a late reduction, the price is 150 per year.
I think it is the best paper in Maine.

I wouldn't stay at West Point a week without
a Maine Whig paper and I suppose you feel
something so. Our folks are well except Pella
who is complaining of various infirmities today
and wondering if he shall be able to go to school
tomorrow. It knows today, a regular cold with much
stomach of the worst kind, and out of doors all is
chill and dreary and in doors newspapers are
in great demand. Grandmother is at Uncle
Ensigns, is going to stay in town 2 or 3 months.
She has a project in her head I believe to run
mule to Halliwell, but I don't know whether
she will carry the day or not. John A has abandoned
farming become a merchant trading in the
shop that Jesse Lane occupied. I hope he won't
quite ruin his father, or anybody but himself
by the operation. I have had one or two
bleigh rides and 5 or 6 walks and shall doubt
the amount this week if I can. We have
not see your rank yet. Probably because we have
not been to the Centre P.O. I am glad to hear
of your success and congratulate you upon
your prospects. Hope to see you A. No 1 at
the end of the course. Your aff Brother Rowland

The last part of this was written Sunday Feb 7th
and the first Jan 30th 1852
284

Dear Brother

Although I shall expect a letter from
you tomorrow yet having a little spare time I occupy
it in this manner. My health is decidedly poor although
much improved. My general health is very good but
my lungs are affected considerably and I have a
coughing spell every morning. I am at a stand
to know what to do. I fear if I return to college
and occupy my cold room and devote myself
additionally to study that I shall be used up for
some time and you know if I ~~do not~~ return
at the first of the term, that is in about 2 weeks,
I cannot, for a year, if then I think that to leave
college at the present time will decidedly injure
my prospects for life and I am afraid to continue
them will ruin them. The former certain and the
latter uncertain. Now the question is, which is the
greatest evil, the certainty or the uncertainty?

On account of my making up my 'review' which I left
last term I must decide very soon and my health
at present will not permit me to study at all,
if it does in the course of two or three weeks.

Another question with me is, what is it best for me
to do if I do not return to college? I should like to
see you and talk over this subject. I think I ought
not to stay in this climate unless there is some

powerful motive for so doing. If I should leave
Maine I should try either the Southern State or California.
My inclinations at present lead me to look favorably
upon the latter. If I understand its climate from what
I have heard from Addison Roland and others, and
from what I have read casually, I think it quite
favorable to my constitution. The air is of equal
temperature and consumption and the thousand
and one lung complaints incident to our State
are unknown. The other diseases such as intermittents
yellow fever and Cholera are such as may be
guarded against by proper attention to diet
and apparel. Addison said. If you long to visit
you so that you are unable to continue your studies
leave to California and I will see that you are
well situated. I have none of what is called (Linn)
for California. But rather regard a journey there as a
a sort of penance that I owe to my forfeited health.

But perhaps I may not go to California or anywhere
else, at least, don't say anything about it to anybody.
Dr. Sarsden was here yesterday and advised me not
to return to College at least for 6 weeks, I am quite
flabby after my sickness and probably if you should
see me you would pronounce me to be in robust health.

They had a town meeting here yesterday (Saturday)
to vote on loaning the credit of the Town to the
Rail Road. The project signally failed. The friends
of the measure being out voted two to one. The
Towns of Livermore Wilton & Jay had voted to

lend before us. But will now retract (probably)
as the measure was to raise \$75,000 with 15,000
for the share of each, and the taxpayers of those
towns will not contribute any unless the whole
amount is realized. The last hope of the
Directors is now extinguished and future
generations seem destined to see a road
graded for 14 miles, and abandoned. Which
will probably teach them how futile are all
such projects, and the above towns will sink
into their former obscurity perhaps somewhat
deepened by the dead loss of \$50,000 or more.
A loss that falls the harder, because most of
the sufferers are those of small property, who
contributed their savings for this work.

Father has lost his office of Treasurer and thinks
he is very nearly secure for his debt against the
Co. How much Ensign is I don't know. You probably
hear from our Temperance law, now and then.
I believe there is nothing that Down Easters feel
so proud of as of that, although it meets with
vibrant opposition in our own State yet such
is the enthusiasm for it here and such its
reputation abroad that I believe the Russians
them selves are proud of it and of its author
Neal Dow. Gov. Hubbard at a late convention
adopted the Law as his own child and has
pronounced himself a temperate man now
and forever and what John Hubbard says