

South Leeds Sept 1853

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Dear brother

My mother was going
to write I thought that I would write you a short letter
Broxland has has gone over on the Railroad to
get some posts to build R.R. fence. Father has just
returned from a ~~the~~ rail road triangle. Mother is knitting
stockings now & Mary is making rugs father is
counting his money to see if he has not lost
some. he does not say any thing about his money
I guess he has not lost any he is treasurer of the Railroad
and Town both so &c. Some Days he will say when
no one has been here: no body has meddled with my
pane to say the first thing he will know someone
will pass the window, soon they will knock he will go
to the door and there will be an Irishman: he will
ask father if he has got my change about here? He
will come in: father will ask him what his name is
he will tell what his name is father will ask him
if he can write his name ~~father~~ he will say I donot
write much. father will say. make y our mark then. father
is going to drive a way his sheep to pasture father has
now 63 live shee & 3 dead ones which are in the
sheep Barn Mr Caleb R Sumner was here today after
some money for Slesper so good by Remember me as you.
affectionate brother Deldie

some kind of an office. Do you know what it is?
I am glad for him for I suppose he needs it, and
I have understood from you that he has been
a soldier in the Democratic ranks for some
time. Of course he deserves it. I am glad to see that
your R.R. is doing so well. 89 passengers per day is
quite a crowd and would afford some income, if
they continued at the same rate. Lizzie has not
written me lately and I have no news from anyone
else. I was so disappointed in not receiving a
letter this morning that I hardly knew what to
write. Friday. I hear from Aurilla that you are
proposing to go to Portland about this time and
to conclude that you are there. If you see this
before you go. I wish to invite you come and
see us. After you get away from home it will
not make much difference and surely you will not
value the expense. You can come down here and
return to Portland any day you choose. Or if you
prefer going directly home from here, you can go
as far as Dartmouth and from there home. They will
give you information as to what train you should
take in Portland. Got a letter from Ephraim and
in an hour you will be just at our door. George's
death has given us a very melancholy surprise. I will
write more about him in my next. Ben Day is a
great loss to your Church and family. He was an upright
man and good citizen. Love to all. Yours affectionately,
Write particulars of George's death. Rowland

W H Howard
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Dear Brother

Leeds Gopskham April 6. 53

I will do as I said and write you
this time, though I think it will not be a
good letter. for the first thing I did was to make
a mistake i.e. writing Leeds instead of Gopskham. It
is Wednesday afternoon, Rowland has just left
our room to go to Brunswick. I am all alone
so if stillness while writing will make a good
letter, I see no reason why this may not be that.
It is still in my room but I can hear noise
enough from out of doors, Children playing,
wagons passing & cars a roaring past too, can be heard
at most any time here, by quite a deaf man.
The cars passed a few minutes ago, immediately after
wards we saw a little boy walking along, from the
depot towards our house. And who do you think we
thought it was? Rowland saw him first, & spoke
& said, there was a little boy coming who looked
just like Del. I ran right down to the front
door, but found to my disappointment that
it was no such a boy. If you ever do come down to
Gopskham, you will find Mrs. Port's house to be very
nearly opposite to the depot. After leaving the
depot you go a few steps, then come on to the main
street, which is called Elm St because of the many
Elm trees that are placed on each side of it.
Most of these must have been planted here many

years ago, for they now are large trees. A little way above Mrs Frost's, on this street & between it & the Academy is an old two story house inhabited by only one person & that an old crazy woman, I have heard say that she is quite wealthy, if she is, she does not show much of it, for she wears one of those old white coats like Jacob Bailey's instead of a dress. A little farther, on the north side of the road is the Academy, It is a pretty large building though not quite so large as the one that you saw at Hunt's Hill, It is built of wood & painted a kind of red like the depot, On the inside it is divided into two large rooms one above & the other on the ground & besides these there is a small room called the recitation room on the ground floor, In the room above the ladies study, & recite in some things to Miss Griffin who is the female teacher of the school & she comes down below to some. Mr Adams has the care of the large room below in the forenoon & part of the P.M. Rowland has it the rest of the rest of the Afternoon. Thursday morning, I did not finish my letter last night but studied, in hope of rec^d a letter from home this morning. I shall go up to the P.O. after breakfast & see if there is one. We rec^d a letter from Otis the other day, he has a bill so that he is excused from drill, dress parade &c. Tellie you must write me a good long letter on the receipt

of this, I don't know any thing about affairs at home now, so you will have plenty of material for a long letter. Breakfast bell has rung.

Rowland will finish the letter Dolly. after having been to the P.O. Give my love to mother & all. I hope father will go to N.Y. for Otis will be so glad. you & mother are preparing to go to Portland now I suppose. When I look this over I find I have written very poorly, by writing fast. Mr Perley is the writing school here the best of the town. But I am encroaching upon Rowland.

Dear Mother

From your Affectionate
Brother Edward

I can but think that you are sick or away from home as I have been to the Post office this morning (Thursday) and found no letter from home. I receive them this morning when they are mailed on Tuesday. Charles and family are enjoying good ~~good~~ health. He had a letter from Otis a few days since. He writes that he is well except that little trouble which Charles mentions. A foil is troublesome. but he gets rid of Parade which I should think would be quite a relief. I suppose that he writes you that the new drill of War. Jeff Davis, is introducing some reforms into their drill and general discipline. making the former more difficult and the latter more strict. I see that Uncle Waul has got

Friday morning fifteen minutes of ten and ^{the} distress in my head is less severe than usual, although I feel it sensibly, it has begun at six or seven, and began to pass off ^{at} twelve this morning at nine I felt but little of it, and now it is not so severe but I can think tolerable clear, your father is gone, and I seemed so quietly situated, that I resolved to fill out my sheet, The sun shines beautifully over the vast extent of snow, that fell yesterday, the water is dropping from the eaves of the house, and indeed it seems quite a fitting time to say pleasant things to some dear friend if anyone could collect their thoughts sufficiently; I hope my son your one in a cheerful enjoyment of Rowland and Charles spoke of your troublesome bile, one of the troubles we creatures are to ^{have} however they are over before now, perhaps the foilage at West Point is already showing itself, to the gratification of the lovers of the beauties of nature, with us, we have thought it quite forward, to be so the farmers could plow and sow oats, and peas, but the snow that fell yesterday will stop them for a few days, I suppose at West Point the river, trees, and government buildings, officers houses, soldiers barracks, gravel walks, Cannon, and imitation breastworks, are have become one and the same thing to you, you pass them and re-pass them, daily without notice, I would like to know every day how you spend your time, but again your little perplexities would annoy me without adding to your comfort, Rowland says in his last letter, that uncle Ward has got an office under government Treasury what is it, I am glad for him, if he is capable of filling it, perhaps he will retain it sometime, the last I heard from your Aunt Ann she was alone, in Brooklyn, Perry lying at sea, and Silas had gone to Canada with his father, in some of his wild speculations and Sarah had come to Maine with her husband's relations, at Calais and that vicinity, the last I heard from Hollowell, our friends at that place were all well, as usual, I am quite anxious about eturn I wish I knew how she was getting along and whether Perry got out of his troubles at Charleston well, or write me as often as is consistent with the occupation of your time, I shall enclose a two dollar bill in this yours, with Mother's affection Charles Moore,

My dear Son,

Leeds April 18, 1853

It is a long time, since I have written you, I thought when I received your last, it would be but a few days before I should write you a long letter, and then I had a number of things to say, in particular but now I do not know what they were, for I have been sick nearly ever since, I believe I have not had a bill from a Physician for eleven years until now, I have had quite a severe attack of rheumatism in my head and attended ^{with} a bad cough, which are now wearing off, the attacks in my head are not so severe, neither do they last but a short time my cough is loose and not very troublesome, as I manage it, whether it really is any better or not only from the course I pursue, I have had so many blisters, and mustard plasters on me that I am quite an invalid, Rowland and Charles were punctual to their resolve to write to Mother once a week, they appear to have tolerable good health, what I most fear is a failure in their health, my visit to Portland is over for the present, as I cannot even look out of doors without giving me pain, your father has been extending the time even since January, to visit his friends at Canton, and look after business affairs, but my indisposition and the affairs of the railroad have delayed him so much, that he cannot go at present, a very long piece of railroad fence is now pressing upon him, the frost is out of the ground, and stakes can be driven, and the fence must be made, to stop damages to the company, so I see no way for him to leave at present A Haines of Portland went to New York (at the time I mentioned to that your Father talked of going,) to make some payment

on the hill for Iron for the railroad, I was very much gratified with the general tenor of your last letter your advantages for high attainments, have been far superior to mine, but your mother never once felt any sacrifice in what she has done for her sons but always would be glad to do more, I feel such an expanding ^{desire} for my children that it is inexpressible, but never in those feelings have I looked forward to their filling high stations, but to their being fitted for such stations, I do not allow myself to look into the future but my constant course is to submit it to him who holds the destinies of all things, daily experience shows us the uncertainty all things worldly, but it is a happy feeling, to ~~feelings~~ to think ones children will be a blessing to the world, that their influence is for the intellectual improvement of their fellow beings, if it is so, let their course be onward, onward, when it occurs to me that I may be called to eternity, any day, and leave my boys I shrink to think what would be the worldly situation of my boys, but my trust must be in the same Being, who takes this mortal breath, can direct our steps aright in this various world, if in a case you should ever be led to reflect on any course your ^{mother} has pursued, recollect she has she has used her utmost endeavor in her situation to keep her property for her sons but if you fail of obtaining it, depend on your own resources, cultivate an understanding that will stand the test against all worldly goods, your father says he has always ^{him} felt since he has had care of my property like one who holds a property in trust, but this is a subject I seldom approach, The death of George, who goes on his way to California seems to make quite an impression on me, I have spent many pleasant hours with George, last summer he did not seem as he used to, some times he would be George again, but George found a watery grave

eternal is in this neighborhood at work, when the family received the news, Bethuel wrote him a letter, detailing the particulars of his death as they came to them, and told ^{will} Amiel you must bear it as well as you can, for I don't know but it kill mother, he died in ^{days} San Francisco, with ^{the} Panama fever he had a fever in the fall which unfitted him for such a journey, the Barriers family at S the 22^d of February, all in poor health but the little boy six or seven years old, George has been with us so much I feel as though one of us had passed to eternity, Lucia Turner has been doing my housework this winter and is still with us, since G's death she keeps up a screeching kind of laugh a great part of the time, I have my fears that Lucia is destined to an unhappy life, her flesh wastes almost as fast as if a fever was upon her, Deacon Cary and his son Orman have lately died out of one house, they were both members of our baptist church, Our Maine liquor law seems to have gained in strength by legislation, it seems we have nothing to fear this, as regards the law, I sincerely hope we shall retain the law long enough to test its value, I have received a very good long well expressed letter from Miss Sturilla Barrows, now at Topsham, she gave a very pretty description of Topsham, her Boarding house, and all her employment, and ^{the} female department of the academy, the letter was on the whole worth reading and answering which I shall do soon, Mr Barrows called here this afternoon, he is very well pleased with Sturilla's situation, Mr B. or tell us that Mrs White is to be buried tomorrow, her funeral at one O'clock, the death of Clough makes such an impression on us, that our pens record them almost involuntarily your father keeps teasing me to stop writing for fear of fatigue, but my subjects are so common place, they require very little intellectual labor, our farm is

Topsham Apr 11th 1853

My Dear Brother

We had rather sad news from Leeds the other day. Mother has not written for some time but we heard it through Ansell. The most painful part was the death of George Jones. He had lived at one house so long, and was of such a mild and amiable disposition, that we had learned to love him. Poor fellow, He died in pursuit of wealth. California always had strange attractions for him. especially after hearing Roland's marvellous stories after his return. He at last obtained the wished for opportunity and sailed with his brother-in-law. But he never lived to see what he really believed was an El Dorado. We have heard no particulars in regard to his death. It is a sad thing for his Mother and his family, and Mrs Berry (Melvin) says it is a terrible blow to Lucia. But I think that her volatile disposition will soon recover from the shock. He loved George and she labored hard to obtain him, and to have the cup dashed from ^{her} when almost within reach, must be a bitter disappointment. I think that such disappointments more seldom leave their trace with the young, than is generally believed. But doubtless, when no new object presents itself for their affections, and they are compelled to spend their days in single blessedness. They will cling with tenacity to the old love, and throughout

all their long years of disappointment. They will relate
such a ~~disappointment~~ ^{circumstance} as the reason for their forlorn
situation and constant reprimands. The other death
was that of Dea Carey. I always regarded him as a good
man and therefore an honor and an ornament to the
Church and Society in Lees. If you and I ever attend
that meeting again together, as we used to do, we shall
miss him from his accustomed ~~seat~~ at the right of
the pulpit. Don't you recollect how quiet and attentive
he used to be through the long sermons, rising perhaps
at the close of service to give some notice of interest to
the Church and People. He had a good heart and a
ready tongue, and it will be long before they can find
one to fill his place in the the Lees Society. The Church
at L. is in rather a deplorable state. If a Column stands
firm and unflinching in battle, keeping their ranks
and maintaining their discipline, it matters little if
the shot of the enemy takes down some of their men, even if
they are their best and bravest. With evolutions as
regular as when on the parade ground. The ~~places of the~~
places of the missing men are supplied and the unbroken
Column stands ready to again renew the battle. But
let the army be undisciplined, and let each
soldier be his own commander, and march according
to his own mind, and that mind influenced by super-
stition and prejudice (as was the case with the Scottish
Covenanters) and the loss of men can never be endured
their places can never be supplied, and their ~~enemies~~
will in the end triumph. The latter state is that

of the Leeds Church and it seems to me as if sin
and Death must finally triumph over them. But
still we are allowed to hope for better things. Yesterday
I heard. Rev Jo. Hutchinson, who I believe used
to preach in Leeds. He is decidedly, a queer one, and
some of his ideas had the merit of originality,
if nothing else. Leonard Martin came over and
dined with me Saturday night. Sabbath morning
we took a walk on the bank of the river above the
village, towards that old fashioned Meeting House
which you will recollect. we used to pass in those
delightful rides to and from Coley, with the old
white mare. The May flowers (trailing Arbutus) are just
beginning to blossom. We got a good large handful
of them. and today, their fragrance makes my room
very pleasant. The street in Topsham is dusty and
has been so for a week. But vegetation advances
slowly on account of the cool nights. The weather
in Maine is similar to Indian Summer. After the
sun is up in the morning. the air is warm, pure and
delightful, but in the afternoons the cold wind
comes down from the snow covered hills. and the
evenings are quite chilly. This has been our
weather for three weeks. The farmers are plowing
and I have seen early peas sown and potatoes planted
but they will not come forward much until the
ground is warmer. The grass does not start yet.
and the boys as usual are having great times

all the playing ball in the fields. Our last day occurs on a
such a Thursday of this week. You spoke of our Liquor Law.
These bids fair to be nearly as much excitement
growing out of the new amendments as there has
man in regard to the old law. The worst rummies the
behaviour we have used to say, they like the old law, but
that we not like to see it executed. These new amendments
will take care of that very thing, viz. the execution of
the law. I have ^{heard} its opposers talking freely in Brunswick
and this town. They say now, that the old law was
at the enough, if they could only have let it alone. They
the behaviour said so in our State Senate. The Portland Express
ready says so. So I begin to think we are getting at
one to root of the evil. It is true, as you intimate that
at some every reform has at some time a reaction in
firm progress. But it is also true, that after their action a
reaction, reforms, like physical substances, at last
find a medium, and at that point they remain.
I am expecting a reaction in the Temperance
movement in Maine, at some future time although
places there are no indications of it at present, but
Colum shall not expect that reaction until Rum is driven
let the from all of its hiding places in our midst, and
soldier we shall be better able to resist the reaction,
to his we can be while it retains a strong foothold
- station among us. Look out for some more emigra-
corena next June. Rummies say Gov Crosby has
their p his head in the same noose that Old Habb
will die. There ought to have been such an enormity.

I am rather in hopes. He will come. I asked
Lizzie to come with her if she could. I have
received no letter from either of them since. I
wrote you last. Mr Adams and his respects.
What Officer is it, that Uncle Ward has got,
Do you know? I hope it worth something to him,
I have understood from you that he had
the air of a poor and disappointed man.

I am very for that hope and hope that it is better
by this time

I shall expect a letter before a great while
The details of your West Point experience are
very interesting to me. never been being
tedious but give me a good long letter.
This letter looks no better than my first
spring are won't to do, but you will
excuse it. I must now go to my school
to good by!

From your affectionate Brother
Randall

Charles Oliver O. Haver

Gov Crosby will no more render himself unpopular
by this course than did Hubbard. 15,000 Whigs voted
for Hubbard on this account, and not more than
half that number of his ~~own~~ party left him for
the same reason. Thus, Hubbard gained votes by
his course on the Temperance question and
thus, Crosby will not lose any by his, to be a
Temperance man, is at present popular in Maine
almost too much so for the true interest of the cause.
Thus the new bill passed the House by a vote 92 @ 38
the Senate. ~ 21 @ 9 and I have no doubt that
one tenth of those that voted for the Law, are drinking
men. They did not vote for the law because they
liked it. but they did not dare to go home to their
constituents with the brand of Rum on their
foreheads. It would have made them unpopular. John Fernald
H. W. Paine, was one of the four whigs in the House
that voted against the Law. He is a great calculator
and perhaps he has gained something by that vote.
I have strung out this letter long enough. Charles ^{the} thing
by what you wrote that you would write him in a few
days and he will answer that letter and not write
now. He is well, and sends his love to you. I think
he is doing well in his studies. He is learning to
declaim which he will write you about. I heard
that Mother was going to be in Portland the last of
this week or the first of next. and so I wrote
Lizzie to ask her to come down here see us, and

don't know why - I loved her and I could not enumerate
the causes. But this love has not developed in me wild
cravings & romantic fancies - but tended to foster the good
feelings of my nature. & filled me with good & sensible
resolutions. which ever awaken & fortify right principles.
It has not made me weak & remiss in my studies - but
if anything had an opposite effect. I am glad it has
been so & I wish I were so circumstanced so as to
afford her happier prospects, than I shall be able
to. I was intending to tell you of a remarkable
case of somnambulism - a lady walking post in
his sleep - but I have not time or room now
I will reserve the account for my next or to amuse
Dellie. You thought I was doing remarkably well
to come out 7th in Drawing. doubtless. Nearly all the
class had commenced painting but me. As it was
new to them they got low marks for a time &
I continuing ^{pencil} painting get a better mark than they.
My genius in the fine arts is not yet remarkably
developed & I fear it will always be diffident of appearance
Give my love to all. Remember me to all at Uncle
Ensign's. Aunt Annelia's, Uncle Barnet's. Aunt Lucia's
&c. &c. - Warren L. was well the last time I saw
him. He must have written home once or twice since
then. I seldom have any unhappy moments. excepting
sometimes for a few moments after I have done badly in
Chemistry or tried to draw to paint possibly a mountain -
I want to see father - is he coming? Your affectionate son
Edw.

I would not send you such a foolish little
envelope but it is all I have.

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W. C. Howard

West Point N.Y. Apr 11. 1858

My dear Mother,

I intended to
have written you a letter yesterday. But I began
one to Lizzie and after finishing that I did not
have time to write another. I thought I would not
write after taps lest it should unfit me for the duties
of the morrow. We usually go to chemistry at eleven & return
at twelve & I determined to devote the hour after I came
back before dinner to you, but Professor Bailey had some
experiments with the microscope to show us & kept us the
whole hour. After dinner as you may remember we
go to chawing & draw till four. then to drill & drill
two hours. then to evening parade which takes up
nearly an hour. then to supper - after this we run
about, walk or visit each other for half an hour
when the bugle calls us to our books & our studies.
Do you ask why I am not studying? We have a
review lesson, and I think I can get it in the
morning between reveille & breakfast. At any rate
I am going to write you a letter & run the risk
else you will not be likely to get one this week
than you will imagine all sorts of things. So here's for
a letter. In the first place your son is very well, in
very good spirits. not doing very well in his studies

for he is bothered with his poor memory, which all his application has failed to remedy; so that chemistry which ought to be the easiest study in the course very often procures a partial failure. But this does not matter - if we do the best we can, it is all that we can expect of ourselves. I am reading during all my leisure moments the book that Professor Sproule gave me - Nelson on Infidelity. I have read it almost through and with every page I become more & more convinced of my ignorance, of the volume that I have had in my hand if not in my heart from boyhood. It has set me to thinking & to reading with renewed interest. I went to one of my friends, borrowed a volume of Clark's Commentaries, commencing with the prophet Isaiah: and am trying to read understandingly. It is disgraceful to a boy born & educated in a Christian land to be ignorant of the bible. Those prophecies which tell us in brief the history of the world, and which are proved by rigid facts to have been written thousands of years before the events predicted by them transpired, ought to possess an incalculable amount of interest for the scholar, independent of his duty as a native of a Christian land & a son of Christian parents. I am glad I take pleasure in such studies, for I hope that they may finally result in something more than a mere assent to the truths

involved in them. If I had time I would like to correspond with a Christian divine, who was wholly acquainted with the business of his life theoretically & practically, but now it is better perhaps that I make converse with my own thoughts. Master Selvie perhaps is expecting a letter I wish he could have one - but if ~~he~~ I cannot write him now I will make up for it by & by. Tell him to be sure I not be idle, for he will soon see that he anticipates he a young man. It may be a received maxim that education begets pride & untoward ambition and unfit the young man for manual labor - but it is a mistake: 'tis not knowledge that does this, but the ignorance & folly of the majority of men, who have stamped one of the most worthy vocations, as unbecoming the gentleman. I still say that if necessity should urge it I would take a pride & a pleasure in raising my own bread. Why do you not then do it? It is because I feel myself now better fitted for other things. You need not be surprised to see me yet settle down as an unpretending, ~~industrious~~ ^{industrious} farmer, although such a thing is rather improbable. I hope my brothers will all feel like me in this respect. It will save many hours of anxiety & many pangs of disappointed ambition. Lizzie is expecting you - desires much to see you, You must love her for she has been a true & faithful friend to your son. Her love has been a safe-guard many & many a time of which no one knows but the object of it. I show her, I

Stopham Apr 12/53 -

My Dear Mother

Although you cannot receive this notice Saturday, yet I thought I would write a few lines immediately after receiving your letter of the 3rd and Delle's of the 10th inst. The most painful news is that of your illness. Delle's tells is very well for him, yet I cannot gather from his letter what is its nature and extent. He says the Dr visits you regularly. I know this would not be the case unless you had something considerably worse than your common ill turns. He says it is a long fever. But I must still hope well. Let me believe that it is the result of the change of season, and that remedies will soon overcome it. I shall wait with a great deal of anxiety until I hear from you. Which I am in hopes to do on Thursday morning. Mrs Perry wrote Annella that you were talking of going to Portland the present week. as soon as I heard it I wrote to Lizzy to be sure and tell you to come down here and see us. Delle's intimates that you would have done so if you had not been taken sick. We heard of George's death and Dec Carey's through the same source as above. Poor George! He never realized his dreams of California. His good constitution and moderate habits availed in nothing when attacked by disease in another climate. I pity his poor Mother.

George had a good heart and a kind and amiable disposition. He was generous and happy and had no rival. He never would have made enemies, but would have been surrounded by warm and confiding friends. His errors were of the lesser kind. More of the heart not the head, young, happy, hopeful. We must say, Good by. How I wish that Roland would take his death to heart, and be more forgiving, more kind, and more indulgent to the faults of his friends, while he more strictly guarded his own heart. I have at times partaken too much of that misanthropic spirit, which he too frequently indulges in. But I have found human nature almost everywhere the same. Men are not what they should be, and we must take them for what they are. The faults of others must be indulged else how can ours be forgiven by them. Dea Carey is an almost irreparable loss to your Church and Society. He had a good heart and a ready tongue and I fear it will be long before his place will be filled in the Leeds Society. May the Brethren teach them to finish their dissentions and become more united. While they have an opportunity. I heard Rev Joseph Hutchinson, Sabbath day. Did he not preach in Leeds some years since. I did not remember him. I liked his Sermons pretty well. His expressions had the merit of originality if nothing else. But I thought I could gather from them however a little variety, but that can be

easily forgive him if he is a good man. Lizzie
from what I wrote her, will expect to see you almost
every day. and I suppose she would have seen
you if you had not been sick. Nellie says Father
has put off going to Massachusetts. perhaps you will
yet be able to accompany him as far as Portland.
I was surprised to see your letter dated the third
until Nellie told me the reason. I have got a little
head ache today other wise Charles and myself are
very well. I wrote Otis six pages yesterday and
Charles will write him in a few days so we will
make up for the lack of letters from home while you
are unwell. Nellie wrote us the longest letter he
ever did in his life. If he keeps on improving
his letters will soon be worth a dollar apiece
to his brothers. Charles & Mrs. Frost have been
fixing up a project for you three to ride down to West
Bath to Mrs. Hooper, when you come to see us. but I like
Charles we cannot spare you to West Bath unless
you stop here some time. I shall leave this letter
now until Thursday when I am in hopes to hear
from home again. Thursday, I have been to the P.O.
this morning and got no letter from home. We fear
you are not improving as we were in hopes. Nellie
thought you would write Sunday forenoon. but Day
is cold and rainy. We have no school. We shall
expect a letter from home now every day. I
shall mail this that you may receive it on
Saturday. Good by, your aff. son, Romaine

My dear mother; ^{Howland & Charles} ^{Apr 14 '53} ^{Thursday forenoon Apr 14th '53}

Howland has begun a letter to you & I will finish it. As he has said the news of your sickness was sad & unexpected, but - Nellie said you were recovering, this is good news; and I hope that you will continue to improve fast, for I cannot bear the thought of your being sick when we are so far away. We have been so lately that we hardly dare to open a letter for fear of reading bad news, for all the letters from Leeds contain, of late, some thing so grievous to read. But I was very much pleased to receive so long a letter from Nellie, if it was not pleasing to learn the facts which it contained.

There was never any circumstance which which came more unexpectedly than George's death, to me. I had never dreamed of such a thing, although there is no reason why I should not; but on the other hand much reason why I should have feared it, for there is scarcely more than one in thousand who passes through the dangers of a journey to California in safety. I can hardly feel that George will ever be seen by us again on earth. It must be so, if it is so, of which I suppose you have no doubt. Last day, mother, today; How are you today, very sick? I hope not. Nellie said you would send us a letter by Sunday's mail if able, if we should see it today, & it usually comes in the morning mail, which arrived, but with no letter; but perhaps it will come in the afternoon. We had the warmest & pleasantest day yesterday that we have this season; & this fore noon we have had a hail storm, but it has now cleared & I think it will soon be clear again. We have some of the sweetest & prettiest May flowers in a vase in our room & downstairs have abounds in these. But, tell Nellie, that the boys & girls here are not so fond of "Hanging May Baskets" as they are in most of places; hardly know what they are. I hope mother you will be able to visit with father & Nellie for I think you will enjoy yourself very much & we

all be so glad to have you come to see us.
is now most night, the mail has come
& I have been to the P.O. but found no
then, so we must despair of hearing from
me today, & from our sick mother. although
I hope this is not so. As I was walking
long from the P.O. I thought how
season was advanced up to Leeds,
I see, by the side of the road that the
was ~~is~~ starting since our rain. And the
feeling is very good between this place
& Bath, but I believe your letter said it
is dangerous traveling, though it was dated
of April. And have you ^{or any one} begun to
work in our garden any yet? Major Frost
you on his curly 2 weeks ago. He is
Mrs Frost's father-in-law. I believe the
healthiest man in Bournemouth. Rowland
says he is going up just the P.O. &
will take this up. So I must close
now, Hoping that you will rec it in health
that you will write soon. From yr Affe son
C Howard

As he has said the news of your sickness was

Apr 14 1853

and of Hanson's May 1853 as my own mother of the

Portland Apr 14, 1853

My dear Brother

As I know my last letter could not possess much interest to you both from the nature of the subject and the manner in which it was treated, I am now about to write a few lines which will be more interesting from my locality than any other cause.

I came in, yesterday morning and shall return at Brunswick this noon. Lizzie is sitting beside me hemming a handkerchief which I have just purchased, her eyes are ~~so~~ better and look as well as ever. She has been at the Marble Job both times, when I came in, on this, and yesterday morning. I never saw her look more interesting. When the exercise gave a glow to her cheeks and gave a certain earnestness and spirit to her manner, which her ill health sometimes

parents. Lizzie has changed her dress now
and sat down with me. She appears quite
cheerful, and has ~~none~~ of that troublesome
cough which worried me when I saw her
last, (in October) - Yesterday was Fast Day
and we had no Recitations. I spent the
forenoon here, and the afternoon and
evening with my particular friend
Frank Gilman. I also slept with Frank
and have returned here, after breakfast
this morning. Last evening Frank & I
attended a concert of the Sacred Music
Society, (Lizzie did not choose to go) and I
enjoyed the concert exceedingly. The Oratorio
which they sang, was one in which we have
been drilled this winter, and the words
and music were very familiar.

Something in music, that we have heard
before, always sounds best.

Mrs Waite has not entirely recovered
from her illness, but is still quite ~~well~~ ^{improved}
but she appears in good spirits and
says she thinks she has a long lease of life.

Mother wrote me a few days since
a letter overflowing with love and

tenderness. Charles wrote the same day
and appears to have a good time at
Kent Hill. Rockeford wrote me a letter
of three pages and was very enthusiastic
over me that he received from you, a
short time before. They tell me of the death
of Mrs. Turner. My Turners wife. This is not
unexpected. We have a Temperance
Society in college numbering 50, good
sound men, and we are working in
a quiet, social, conciliating manner
to gain new accessions from the ranks
of those who get drunk on Fast Days -

Mrs Waite sends a great deal of love
and says she is glad that the four years
are nearly up. Lizzie does not know ^{where} ~~where~~
I am writing at. Mr. Percy is at Livermore,
Miss Ellen, & Mother are here. The family appear
pleasantly situated - I have no more
time to write as I leave for Brunswick
in a short time. I remain with much
love

Your Brother

Rowland

I wish you would drink with me some of Mrs W's
Beer, its good,

brother; although I know it will require application & perseverance, properties which I know are more prominent in my brother than in myself. though I mean to persevere both. Surely these traits have not shown themselves much in my course of last week, as you know I have pictured it to you. Some young men need much caution to keep them from studying too hard so as to injure their health, while others, (& there are very many of this class,) need much, very much admonition to make them study as much as they themselves could, or as their friends wish them to. I think I come, ^{much} nearer to this ^{latter} class than to the former; for I know that there is no danger of my studying too hard. I shall never therefore have any thing to fear, from that source. But there seems to be another chance coming along to take me from my studies if I am of a mind to go, this ^{next} week. They are to have a poem from Galt's Pike in Brunswick Lyceum; & I am almost of a mind to go as I have never heard any thing of the kind, & as he is a man of some note. Did you ever hear him speak? I would like to get some advice from you Otis in regard to such things, I like always to go where I can acquire knowledge. I rather go to a Lyceum lecture than to twenty concerts & I should not have gone to the concert if I had not had my ticket given me. I think your adventure with badol Arthur was about as amusing as anything I have ^{ever} heard of occurring at West-Point. We had a little laugh over it - I tell you, Rowland said that it was just like you to, be carrying him up to his room in your arms, "Otis is always dipping into every thing." Rowland has had a cyclopaedia of English literature, this eve. & for amusement & instruction &c has been getting Mr Adams to

[illegible]

had much play-time. In the first place there was our usual Wednesday afternoon, which I had to myself. It was as pleasant an afternoon as ever I witnessed. Rowland went out after my flowers & for a walk. I thought I would study, & actually came up in my room & took my Algebra for a short time; but I found that I could not study with any profit, & so concluded to take my walk also in the pure and fresh air. I went across the Railroad bridge, went over to Brunswick graveyard, I went alone; I had not been there since, (do you remember her!) I went with you & Mother, also accompanied by Mrs. Crane. I remained there quite a long time, read nearly every one the inscription on nearly ^{very} grave ^{stone} there. The next day was fast-day in Maine; so we had no school. It was not pleasant today, my Journal says (for I have a journal) "but failed a little in the morning, & was cloudy & rainy all day long." I read Putnam's monthly in the forenoon & during the day wrote a letter home that night - an inch of snow fell, but was melted away by the hot sun the next day. Then Friday evening I went over to Brunswick & heard the Macomber girls sing, for I had no lesson to get for Saturday afternoon, but then I had enough to study if I had stayed at home, Rowland & Mr. Adams went over too. Then yesterday forenoon I studied, then again in the afternoon I went to walk. But in the evening, after Rowland & I sang some I took my Algebra. I am nearly as far advanced in that as any in my class, those who are in advance of me do not perform all the questions & I do, but I shall soon overtake them I think, although they have studied it before, for I have gained upon them since I began, they being some what in advance of me when I commenced. As the first bell has rang for meeting I must prepare to go. — After leaving

my letter this forenoon, I started to go to the Baptist Church with Rowland, but at a little distance up the street we met several of his old classmates, with whom I used to be acquainted at Yermouth, & hearing that there was to be a baptism up to the Freewill Church, we went with them up there, and after listening to a short sermon, we with the rest of the congregation repaired to the river to witness the baptism, there were four persons baptized. — I should think that you would be somewhat abashed in the presence of such great men, unless you ^{know} more than they do, or at least if I judge you by myself I should think so. I do wish I did feel a little more fully. I try to overcome this bashfulness pretty hard. But still I have not done much toward accomplishing it. I intend to declaim every week this term, so to become an unabashed speaker if possible. Your explanation before Sir James Alexander was of the polarization of light. There are 10 or 12 pages in my Philosophy devoted to this, but this is exceedingly short I suppose compared with your study of it. Are the undulatory & wave theory the same? I supposed that they were, if they are, I suppose I can study in my Philosophy just about enough perhaps to give me a slight idea of what your demonstration was, & that is all. Yes Otis, I like Phil. & Chem. very much, & should be glad to have you write much about these, & I might derive some benefit perhaps from what you might write; though I know you might write much very much, which would be far beyond my comprehension. Yet I hope to have a knowledge of such sciences, "one of these days" as well as, my

Mr. Adams wishes me to remember him to

Monday Morning Apr 18th 1853
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Dear Brother

The news of mother's illness came very unexpectedly. But from ^{what} Nellie says, I hope that it is not serious, or at least is leaving her. Had she not been sick she would have visited Charles and myself by this time. Do you recollect Horatio Howard? Charles Howard, son. He has some remembrance of you. He appears to be a good fellow and a fine scholar. This is his first term of Medical Lectures. Yesterday was a very cold uncomfortable day. But there were two Baptisms, one on each side of the River opposite each other. There are to be a number more.

You signed that fourth Class-man in a very characteristic manner. I could relate many anecdotes of your prowess under similar circumstances, and somehow, you know, you always get best. Miss ^{Anna} Bartlett has been down to Brunswick but I did not see her. I have not heard from Lizzie for a long time. Henry Gilbert has lost another of his daughters. Hopkinton news, there is none. Ditto Colee. Ditto Lees. Ditto Portland. Hoping to hear from you in answer to my last long (if I recollect) letter I remain as ever

Your affectionate Brother
Portland.

if I had the money to pay for it. But as Father has suggested that I get nothing on the credit system. I shall wait for a remittance. I must get a coat that will do for Sabbath during the Summer. and be suitable to wear to New York, if I go at the close of the Summer Term. I have not settled with Dr Peaslee yet for his consultations & prescriptions. I have had no means of knowing his bill as he has not been in the three times that I have called upon him. It must be a gratification to you to know that his medicine helped me and that Charles has not been so well for six months as now. He is fast recovering his animal spirits and muscular energy. The settlement of Charles' bills and other expenses may be deferred until my return at the commencement of the next term. but I have thought it best that I have the money now for the three two things. The Doctor, I should suppose, will not be over three dollars. as I consulted him but three times, and had pretty long consultations. Such a coat as I wish for and as you would wish me to have under the circumstances, would be about \$4.00. If you and Father think it for the best. I should like to have him enclose this amount (\$4-) in your next letter. Contin Horatio's term comes so much before mine that we shall not be in Leeds together unless he stops there some time. I have not seen him very lately. Remember me to Father Deane and all the rest of the family. We still feel anxious about your health. Write us a few words just to let us know how you are getting along, if nothing more. by Tuesday's mail. Deane writes as though he was very busy and important personage. I am glad to hear that he is making himself so useful. Think of me still as your affectionate son Rowland

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Dear mother; Rowland & Charles Topsham Apr. 21st 53
I am sorry that it has so happened that you will be obliged to defer your visit to Topsham. Yet I am glad that you have recovered your health sufficient to write us a letter. for I began to think, not having the letter at the time Lellie mentioned that you were not recovering. & I find by yours that you were not well enough to write at that time. But I hope you will now soon regain your health. It seems very unhealthy at Leeds this spring sickness & death is the only news we hear from there. Miss Ery Gurnard it seems is most gone now. & Mrs Whit - was just buried. such is what we have found in every letter. I hope we shall not hear of any more deaths, although, I know all for the best. When father is not going to Mass or New York, Ohio will be some disappointed when he hears this for he anticipated having much pleasure from his visit. I had a letter from him a few days ago, he seems to be enjoying himself. he told of an amusing occurrence which happened even at West Point - the other day. It was of a fellow's getting up from bed in sleep, & performing his usual military exercises, at last this carried him to his chamber & placed him back in his bed. I suppose then if you do not come home mother, there will be no one visiting from home this term if any one should. I should like to have some of my summer clothes such as my hat & pants, for it is growing warm, besides my clothes are growing thin, & begin to be hole in some places. but - I can

make them last by getting them mended
if there is no other way. all but my best ~~photo~~, which
I have been wearing for two or three days, are worn
through at the seat but one of the boarders promised
to mend them, but I ^{have} no prices, but darned will
do for a little while. And some of these hot-
sunny days my face gets burnt with my little cap.
Still if there is no other way, I can get along with
what I have. Dellie writes a real good letter every
time. Tell him to try hard on writing well, as well as
all other things & he will do it. He writes a good lot
of news; one thing that seems rather mysterious to
Rowland & me. is why he has so much to say about
Mr. Longley a man whom I scarcely ever saw in my
life. I'll tell you mother, what we have surmised
as to this; we have concluded that he must have
moved on to our farm; is it so? I suppose Dellie
thought that you had written to us all about it.

22 Apr
Last evening I went to hear a ~~Penn~~ at Brunswick
Lycenum given by Harrod Pike. It was a very pleasant
evening. Mr. Maxine who you know is one of the Medists
at B. came over here just before night & went with us
back to hear the poem. It looks this evening very much
though it would rain. The grass already begins to
look fresh & green, but I think a rain would help it.

Yesterday about noon there was a severe thunder
here, one which has been building here for some time. Mr. Ad.
and the school went to see it. ~~Lane had, but I have~~
was obliged to study so as to get my lesson. ~~I will not be a long time before~~
~~I shall be there too.~~ ~~Chas. Howard~~
~~22 Apr 1853~~

Harilla has a bad cough which troubles her very much in school and out. She needs her
mother to cure her up. Like all young girls she is rather independent of her
health. Remember me to Aunt Loretta & Del... Mrs. Wordman.

Copsham Apr 21st 1853

My Dear Mother

You can't think how pleased I
was to hear from you, at last. The letter was
mailed at Hallouell and we got it two hours
afterwards. I am very glad that you are getting
along so well and am in hopes that by the time
I see you, you will look as full the same as
ever. His wife, though in good health and
spirits. Tutor Pike recited a very fine poem last
night before the Lycenum. He is a young man
of much talent and promise. The son of an
old Brunswick Schoolmaster. I shall recite all
of my Lessons to him next Term. I have written
two letters to Livvie since I have received one from
her. I suppose she has not heard of your illness
and is still expecting you in Portland or she
would write. You mentioned something of our clothes
in your last. I have been compelled to wear my
best coat and pants pretty common this term especially
in school. and my back has become so much worn
as not to hardly decur. My buck coat has come to
mending at the Elbows, and of course begins to look
very rusty. ~~for~~ Sunday, after mending is all of the week.
I think I must have me a new coat of some kind to wear
for best, during the summer and autumn. I would get
measured now and have one made at the tailors here

The foregoing I wrote this morning between ten & twelve. I have now just returned from drawing. The battalion is gone to drill. So it goes and I have so much time to myself! I did not tell you of all the honors that have been conferred on me. Last Saturday night I was elected vice-president of the Dialectic Society - and am told that I will have to deliver the oration on the fourth of July next. This last does not portend anything like ease. I am very anxious to hear from you again. You must not be anxious about property. We have been boys highly favored and if we have not - or do not fit ourselves for the duties of this life sufficiently to take care of ourselves we are not worth much.

I got the dentist to extract a tooth for me the other day & he made bad work of it. He crushed it & then failed to get out the roots - so my tooth is in a worse state than it was before - rather troublesome. I was sorry that it happened so that father could not come to N. York for I would have been very much pleased to have seen him. We have only one month now before June. But in that time there is an abundance of study. I wish it was over. I want to get into the last year. This is the hardest year we will have I fancy. Remember me affectionately to all my friends & relatives. Thank Dellie for me that he wrote me so good a letter. From yr affectionate Son
O. Howard.

O. Howard

West Point N.Y. Apr. 26th 1858.

My dear mother.

I received your last kind letter in good season, and should have answered it Sunday but I thought my letter would appear to you new & fresher to know that I wrote it but a day or two before you read it. Since if I put it in the office tomorrow morning you will get it just as soon as if I had put it in on Monday.

I had not dreamed that you were sick and so sick for a long time and I knew nothing of it. I got a letter from my brothers at the same time I got your letter telling me of the same unpleasant news that my mother had been very sick but was now convalescent. I hope from my heart that you will be well entirely when this reaches you. I presume it will do your poor head no good to dwell on your sickness, so after telling you of the affectionate sympathy of your son - and that nothing would make him happier than to be with you now and be able to minister to your comfort & if possible soothe your pain, come talk with you when you might be able to hear it. (But this may not be at present) I will pass to other things that will be pleasant for you to know. Since I last wrote you I have been made an Officer - Quartermaster - Sergeant, with the fair prospect of becoming Quartermaster next year. You will of course be anxious to learn the advantages of this Office. This Office belongs to what

in military phraseology is denominated the Staff. I do not have to attend roll-calls, drills, or parades. I do not have to carry a sword or musket, but wear a sword and sash to Sunday morning inspection, and to church. All my duties except Academic duties - riding & Artillery - are to inspect $\frac{1}{2}$ barracks for damages every Friday night, to open the storerooms & remain by them for a time every Sunday morning after inspection - to attend Sunday morning inspection - These duties of course are easily performed - I wear a pair of chevrons on my arm at all times. You may remember this insignia of Cadet Officers, each officer of different grade has a different badge. Mine is the second office in my class, and by far the most desirable one. It was very unexpected - to be thus raised from a private in ranks and put above 15 or sixteen Sergeants of my class. The vice president's death was announced in orders last night. This morning 18 guns were fired at Newell - as 12 o'clock we will fire as many more and at parade 30 will be fired. At ten o'clock to day we all paraded & listened to the announcement by the President and Secretary of War of the departure of their brother in official honors, accompanied by a brief obituary. Death seems to deal unsparingly with us as a nation, cutting off our first & greatest and sorely afflicting them who are left to us. But it becomes us to acknowledge the wisdom of Providence even in chastening us. My brother wrote me about George's death and that of Dea Carey. But they did not tell me that Arman C. had died too. I do not know what will become of Leeds

I have always felt a deep respect for Dea Carey - for I believed him to be just what he professed, a good Christian, an upright, honest man. - I hope Lucia will recover from the effects of her disappointment which must have come so sudden & unexpected upon her. Her hopes were undoubtedly as bright, her love as real and deep as mine. - and they were crushed. - But though it may pale the cheek, and embitter the cup of life - yet it is needless & wrong to cherish & aggravate these feelings of bitterness which end in gloom and melancholy. It is not a proper tribute to the memory of the one that's gone. Still, ^{no one is} ~~none~~ are capable of interpreting the state of another's heart - the feelings - the tender cords that may easily be broken - even certainly the one who has not felt such a weight of disappointment is incapable of appreciating the feelings of one who has. - We are all very practical, can easily predict the course we would pursue, but it needs experience to make us feel a proper delicacy & sympathy for those who suffer. We seem to have a great amount of cold rainy ~~rather~~ weather this month. I fear it may injure some of the farmer's early crops. I presume however, very little has yet been done in. Main except to sow some oats - or work in the garden. Capt Williams brother made me a call the other day while the battalion was at drill, and I spent a very pleasant hour with him. He is a very fine young man, pleasant & gentlemanly. I call on him about every Saturday. He is staying here with his brother to read. He likes the place over.