

Bard Coll. Oct 9th 1853

Dear Brother

It is now almost three weeks since we bade you good bye at West Point. but I do not doubt that the time has seemed shorter with me than with you. for I have been busy most of the time in a great variety of duties. which pleasing variety is denied you - but I really hope that the time which has passed since we left you has passed pleasantly with you -

Lizzie has without doubt before this given you all the particulars of our return home and of our stay in New York City - We had an excellent time and I believe she was better when we arrived in Portland than when we left N.Y. I saw L. when I came down (a week ago Friday) and although she was not so well as I should have liked. she was better than I expected to see her. I am in hopes that her journey to see you has done her no injury. as I really feared it would.

Mother received your letter the night before I left home and has probably answered it ere this. I was very glad to hear from you so seasonably. You evidently had an excellent time at the Ball or Hop (as I believe I heard them calling it at the Hotel) -

Mrs Scott appears very condescending and affable and without doubt seeks to make Cadets happy as possible. I should think from what you have said that the General rather disapproves of her party for fear that it might interfere with your discipline. On the whole, I guess you had a good time - You see that my paper is indeed wrong or something else. but you will make out right after awhile - I am now fairly out of the freshman year after passing two years in that delightful season.

I suppose the college distinctions are in a great measure humbug. but there is real satisfaction in being for the first time a Soph and enjoying his general success against all Freshmen and his Friday afternoon dignity. On Friday Prof Bowditch gave the subject of our first theme and an introductory lecture to the duties and excitements of his Department displaying his usual vanity and many very happy hits. He then handed it over to Tutor Packard and for himself he takes a vacation of nearly a year to recruit his health exhausted by his onerous college duties. He will visit Europe and come back no doubt a more finished Orator & Rhetorician with a new addition to his vanity and self impatience. Now after this. I know I shall get a better defence of Prof Bowditch because your generosity will not allow anyone to spoken ill of.



But it will be of no use as I do not doubt  
that our real estimates of the man are quite  
similar. He told the Senior Class the other day  
that his rank when in college might be found  
by referring to the Archives of a certain Society.

All of the Profs have remembered you to me this  
term and Prof Upham told me the old story that  
great exertions were necessary for me to rank  
as well in his esteem as you did -

We had a good time the other night initiating  
the Freshmen and also yesterday in holding  
them in these things. I will allow are foolish  
but they are also very funny. I love to think  
of the ludicrous figure that some of the  
Freshmen cut on their 'initiation' and  
often enjoy a quiet laugh with myself  
at their expense. I became a Y-V-  
immediately after my return but it is not  
known here as yet. If Gilman inquires  
for me you may tell him this as he is a Bw.  
The Society is prosperous and is taking the best  
men in Freshman Class - Charles was well  
the Sabbath before I left home, but I  
have not heard from him since. Most  
of the Kent's Hill scholars who came here to  
enter were turned away. Prof Packard having  
a mortal aversion to everything that comes  
from that direction. I don't think Charles  
had better stay there much longer, if he  
is fitting for college as I suppose he is.

I like Miss Supper, who came on as  
far as Boston with us, very well, but cannot

407 101  
express so much admiration for her as  
you seemed to feel when you came here  
in Hurlough. I have been to meeting  
all day and feel rather tired. So I must  
finish my letter and go to bed. Remember  
me to your Room-mate and others who may  
inquire. If you see Warren, tell him I  
remember very gratefully his kind  
attentions while I was at West Point.  
I shall send you a paper and some  
lectures now and then and I am  
in hopes to hear from you often -

Uncle Ward was very savage  
in politics, but I never contradicted  
him a word, but as I knew it was  
of no possible use to try to contradict  
his positions, I conciliated with him  
very well. He was very kind to me and  
told me to come to him when I got  
through my studies, and as he was well  
acquainted, he would try to be of some  
advantage to me - I think his Senior was  
a very superior man. He will make  
his mark in the world and get  
rich. He likes good Brandy, but I think  
he is too strong minded a man to make  
drunkard - Good night

Alb Howard

Yours affectionately  
Roulston



South Leeds Maine Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1853

My Dear Brother

I have not written to you  
 for a considerable <sup>er</sup> time. Charles came home last  
 Friday evening, he is here now, I came home last  
 night, and he went to Mr Barrow and brought me  
 home. I suppose Poland told you about the school  
 so I need not tell you much; we speak and write  
 compositions every Wednesday afternoon. I have not  
 written but one composition since I have been up there.  
 Mr Bridgman is a very good teacher; We have from  
 24 to 30 scholars. Theresa Howard goes to school. —  
 In my spelling class there are about 16 and  
 the one that leaves off at the head the most times is going  
 to have a present, we don't know what it will be.  
 But I write not much. I study <sup>Smith's</sup> ~~Smith's~~ <sup>Greenleaf's</sup> ~~Greenleaf's~~ Arithmetic  
 Natural History and Grammar. I board at Mr Barrow's  
 and go home to dinner every noon. Poland and Samuel  
 Jones work here. B. J. has got a bile on his neck it is a  
 very bad one. This morning I saw it. Charles is well  
 and says give my love to Otis, and should write if he  
 had not written so short a time since. He and I went out this morn<sup>ing</sup>  
 through the orchard and so up to the Bakes to see Ensign's  
 family. ~~They~~ <sup>the</sup> are up there. They came yesterday and are  
 to stay about a month. I went up to Warren Howard's  
 last week and staid all night. They inquired about you.



Thomas B. had a husking last week and I went to it.  
Mr Rackley had a husking and I went to that, I enjoyed it  
very much he had ten to it, he had a very good supper.

I have just returned  
from the sheep Pasture father and went down to  
find the sheep

I can't write any more it  
is growing dark and I can't see the line.

I remember me as your affectionate

Brother, H. Bilmore  
Dellie

O. C. Howard,

Dear brother

Sun. Oct. 9. 1858

I have but little space to fill.  
but I conclude that I will finish Dellie's paper  
received your very interesting & kind letter last  
Thursday. You need not consider this as an  
answer, for I will write a longer one next  
Sat. - Since I wrote to you before, I have  
determined to become a Christian. Have sought  
to have my sins forgiven. Though Jesus our  
Lord, by prayer & have also asked in meeting  
the prayers of Christians & expressed my  
determination to live a pious life & have ob-  
tained. I have faith to believe, the same. I shall  
if I keep on be saved in Heaven at last.  
But I will write you all about it in my next letter.  
From Your Abie

Brother  
& Mother  
are saying this all time

Brother Howard



and when lots of glory is to be won  
I have no doubt. There again the  
Mexican question is growing darker and  
more threatening every day. I give you  
an opportunity to try the tactics of the  
Mexicans - or purchase Austria, brooding  
on the conduct of Capt. Sugrison - may  
imagine the strain can only be washed away  
in blood - Any thing to get up a fight &  
you are in demand - But after all I  
should hardly like the employment & I think  
would rather see it at a distance, than to be  
a participant -

Well I guess I'll continue to sit  
in my office which by the way, is a very com-  
fortable one, & give you advice for 3 papiers  
or (not) acids & leucis, or pericardial claims  
in Court, I shall comfort them all of  
the time the people are often.

I am sorry to hear that Lizzie's cheek is fading  
& pining. I may attribute your apprehension  
to anxiety & solicitude. As soon as you get  
out, get married & take her on a excursion for  
health & pleasure - I would get married  
to someone, if I could, satisfactorily - I am  
sick of living in this way I open - Remember  
me to Lizzie & her mother.

Your Friend truly

Geo. W. Everett

Galena Illinois  
Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1853

Friend Howard

Your letter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst is  
received. I must protest against any  
title of A.M. or others of that sort - as I am  
not ambitious to wear them just now -  
The fact is that I did not feel interest  
enough in such temporary to forward  
my 3<sup>rd</sup> for my 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. I allowed the  
opportunity to slip & unless very favorable  
circumstances favor the attempt I shall  
probably never apply for another Parchment  
from the Faculty at Bowd. I prefer my  
professional to my literary Register -

But your report of my advancement  
into another & very different profession  
is a little the most startling announcement  
of the age. I have seen you have got the  
very first intelligence of any professional  
change in my part, for really your letter  
contains the very first intimation I  
have received that any such high destiny  
was before me - If it should happen, that  
I am yet to be a fellow laborer of Rev.  
Auriant S. Brown. I shall expect a  
sufficient warning to give you a letter



time to prepare & commit to memory  
a few discourses with which to start out -  
I object however to this forcible abduction  
of me from a profession of his own choice  
& profess in my great faith in any body's  
getting me into the Pulpit without my own  
knowledge. - No Sir, I should wish that  
to the very last. But if I went there  
wouldn't I give them a blowing up  
generally - I should like to have the  
scope of a Minister occasionally, but  
at present I do not care to undertake  
his office - I am at a loss to account  
for such a story as you have reported  
and on the whole doubt ever how it did  
originate & circulate - When I think  
of leaving London for divinity as a profession  
I will give you more than an intimation  
of that fact & until then you may  
consider me very friendly with Chilly  
Blackstone, Coke, Kent &c &c (then with  
the Fathers). I apprehend that the profession  
is as much as I can do justice to and  
it is rather too late to begin upon a new  
one - I am satisfied with the one I have  
chosen as a science, & will be as a  
practice if I can only get enough of  
it to do. In this respect I am not  
overburdened just now & therefore don't

a very considerable portion of my time  
to reading - I am glad to hear that you  
were so soon & so easily released from  
your unpleasant confinement & hope  
you did not suffer much in your reputa-  
tion by it. Confound them I would say  
to shut a fellow up on so slight a pre-  
text & keep him from what few pleasures  
life affords whilst he is right to do a con-  
dition to enjoy them - Ah, ho. Military  
subordination would not do for me -

Yes what are you going to do after you  
have finished your course - & when are  
you going to be? Question of serious im-  
portance surely. I admit your liability,  
if you remain in the service, to be sent  
off almost anywhere - But what you get  
into the Corps of Civil Engineers, which  
does in short distances for the most  
part & always is well attended & well  
furnished Companies. This service  
it seems to me would be much more  
agreeable than the military & equally  
& perhaps more profitable -

Perhaps you can get an appointment  
in the Turkish Service - When ascending  
to pursue appearances there is to be a great  
demand of men of your profession -



Dear brother Otis

Wentworth Hall Oct 15, 1853

As I promised you in my <sup>note</sup> that I put in Dally's letter, I now take my pen to write you a letter. As I said in that, I now propose to be a Christian. Not that I have much changed from what I always was, not that I am any more or less than your younger brother Charles. But I now endeavor to discharge the duties which our God & Father has enjoined upon all. & try to walk in the paths taught us by our Savior while upon earth. I was influenced to reflect & think of the matter by my Chum, not exactly to think but to think & reflect more upon it, for being educated as I have I <sup>thought</sup> thought of the subject & at times quite seriously from childhood. By thinking & conversing & also reading my Bible I came to the conclusion that it is the duty of every one to love & serve his God. Besides this, by the same means, I was led to believe that I could not be happy hereafter, in Eternity, if I did not do the commands of God while on Earth. and I can truly say that I should be miserable if I did not endeavor to do as He requires. & I know I could not be happy on Earth, because I know my stay here will not most, be short, then I was & should have been unhappy when thinking of Eternity. Then from a sense of my duty to God & for the sake of happiness here & hereafter, <sup>from</sup> I have of my great sin

stay at home this winter & go to the common school if we have a good teacher. I should like to study Algebra if we have one who understands it. I don't suppose I had better try to get into College before two years from this fall (if my life & health is spared) though I shall be prepared before that if I study I shall then be sure to. I shall have a good lot of time to study English & to get a good bit of time to study Latin. Though I suppose I shall have them in College I should like to study Rhetoric, Chemistry, & Mental & Moral Philosophy. Write me what you think about my entering college if I go & about my going to Otis. And I wish you to ask me any thing about my religion that you wish, as of course you will. I feel half that that you are not doing better this season in point of rank in studies. I hope that your next letter will say that you are doing well. I wish to write part of a letter if not a whole one to-morrow to-night & also go to the meeting for which the bell will soon ring. I have not written to Howard yet about this step of mine. What think he will say, he will be glad I think. I hope I shall meet you both in December. I am glad that there is some prospect though slight of my enjoying one in a while an interview with you after next year. Please tell me my mistakes if you observe any. Last Wednesday & Thursday were the days for the cattle show & fair. I attended the first day & got you a pair of boots sent up by Melvin Berry. It was at the Carver. Write me as often as you can. May you be a humble Christian. Your affectionate brother  
Otis Howard

When you pay Otis's pay please that I may be a good boy & a good man.



perhaps during the short time I have lived. I went  
to God repenting & asking through the merits of Christ  
who died for sinners. That I might be forgiven my  
sins & accepted as a follower of Him, & as our Lord hath  
said he that asketh believing shall receive. I believe  
that as I was sincere that I had my sins forgiven.  
Since this I have endeavored to do my duty. I attend  
the prayer meeting & I speak and read & pray every  
morning & night with feeling, now I love to pray  
& I love God's people much better than I ever did  
before. At first it was a great cross to me to  
speak in meeting before my associates who were not  
pious & to kneel at family prayers; but we are  
commanded to take up the cross & follow Jesus.  
It required resolution from me at first to go forward.  
But I am thankful to God that I had the resolution  
of character. Now Alas you may think that I  
became excited & was frightened into this step,  
but I was not. I know because I believed the Bible  
that it was my duty. I think your last letter Alas  
was as good a one as I ever received from you and  
least as interesting. If you are sincere in prayer  
Alas & mean at all times to do right & are not ex-  
posed of religion, <sup>I do not know</sup> why you do not or cannot enjoy it.  
All about my Father is very interesting to me.  
I was at home last Saturday & Sunday I found  
all well. Mother had been sick but was about  
well again. I had a real pleasure - stay at home  
I talked more about Father than I ever did before

with mother. & she & I read & knelt together before  
God. she was very thankful because I had become  
pious. I went up & brought Bill in home Sat. He is  
dying well this fall. I received a letter from Rowland  
Thursday. He went to Harland where he will  
look to Brunswick found Lissie pretty well.  
He advises me not to stay here at school only  
while I am studying English & studies for he thinks  
it is not a good plan to study languages & his says  
that Prof. Pickard is prejudiced against Mr  
Robinson. There has been a Teachers class formed  
here this fall for the benefit of those intending  
to teach this winter. I have thought some of teaching  
so I joined it - but I hardly think I shall teach.  
We meet about every evening at quarter after  
six & remain till half past 8. We have a lesson  
one night - from the Genesis in the form of  
a Lecture & questioning time, reviewing the next with  
also another lesson on history. There is a lesson for  
Smith's bible one for Geography. Perley teaches principles  
of writing. Mr. Garsey of Brunswick the Art of  
Teaching &c. We are supposed to know all these things  
before, & this is a review. - Each night - some one  
is drawn out by hitting a name from a box in which  
he has those of the members of the class, on a review  
of what was given out the previous one. - Do you not  
think this a fine idea Alas! that it is an excell-  
ent plan for one wishing to teach. It is attended free  
from Guilt. - I rather think now that I shall



Bowd. Coll. Oct 16. 1853 <sup>411</sup>

My dear Brother

Immediately after receiving your letter, on the spur of the moment, I sat down and wrote you three pages neglecting my recitation for that purpose. but after reading your letter again and rereading my own, I came to the conclusion not to send it but to wait for my sober second thought. which if not so earnest and enthusiastic would perhaps be more sensible. I mention this simply to show you what interest your letter excited in my mind. During the writing of my former letter and ever since I have been in a brown study. and I am now in the same unsatisfactory state of mind and therefore I of course shall give you an unsatisfactory letter. but I feel as if I should be untrue to your love if I did not answer your heart-revealings in some way - and in a corresponding spirit. How selfish I am! The first thing that occurs to me is, to defend myself from the implied imputations in your letter. but after all I don't know but that this should come first, that you may feel no kind of distrust <sup>in regard to</sup> your young Counselor. if I may borrow your idea of the matter, God knows as I know. Alas. that I have no disposition <sup>to laugh</sup> at any man's feelings, but his follies. and much less your own. which I most heartily sympathize in. No! I can never make the sincere feelings of an upright and confiding heart. the subject of mirth and humor. I would not speak of this. but I



suspects in the same way that you do, that  
I make such Subjects. (the most sacred of any),  
the butt of ridicule, and thus much of confidence  
and heart communion is lost between us three.  
I trust to time, if you shall continue associated  
together, to dispel all doubt of the purity of my motives  
and the levity and would be generosity of my  
disposition. (if this enough!

Concerning the very delicate subject which  
you have broached in your letter, after all this  
thinking and writing, I do not feel prepared  
to speak. Your words have surprised and  
filled me with wonder and astonishment. In fact  
I am utterly confounded at the conclusions which  
the facts seem to point out, and the suspicion  
which you seem justly to have formed. Not but  
that these suspicions have crossed my mind before,  
but that they should take so real and tangible  
form. Mother has not liked some things in Lizzie  
and I have always taken occasion to be her earnest  
and hearty defender. Is it possible that I have been  
mistaken? Is she not an exception to rest of her  
sex? as I have always argued. Would she stoop to  
deceive anyone? Has she been deceiving a heart  
like yours? The almost damning evidence which  
you present almost answers these questions in  
the affirmative. Now what can I say in palliation?  
What do I know that is calculated to inspire  
and encourage you? Shall I bring forward my  
preconceived admiration of her character?  
If these suspicions prove true, I will abandon  
all pretence to an insight in to character.



which I thought I had a little, I have assiduously cultivated a regard and friendship for L. on your account and also on my own. for I have valued her as a personal friend and correspondent and after what I have heard, seen and believed, I will not yet give up that she is better and purer than appearances seem to indicate—

After what has occurred it is her bounden duty to write you if she has sufficient health to bear the exertion, and explain these things or confess her duplicity—Heavens! where would have ever thought that I could use that word in regard to Lizzie Wait. I am not going to say one word to encourage or excite in you a false hope. Time and her own pen or lips can make these things straight. Doubtless you have reflected as I now am upon his opportunities and her weakness. Childlike simplicity and sisterly affection. Remove yourself from the question and let us see how it has been. They have constantly lived together. They have been perfect confidants and have sympathized together in everything. P. has a great, passionate and susceptible heart and W. is I have not for some time doubted but that is was deeply interested in her, and I knew that she loved him, but I did not reflect how dangerous to the young heart is the indulgence of a sisterly affection towards one who bears no nearer relation than that of friend—and I own that I have been deceived in regard to one thing and that may come many. She has not that manly independence which the first impression me as



having. It was more in her appearance than  
in her mind. This I am convinced of, and  
this may be one reason why I am deceived  
if I am, in regard to her command on her  
own heart, I have thought that her reason  
controlled her affections, and her sense of what  
honour would render your suit safe under  
any circumstances. I fear that I recognize  
her too much like yourself. but these my  
conclusions may be too hasty, and I must  
pray God they are, The great question with  
you is, does she love him? You do not doubt  
this. Has this affection proceeded so far with  
as to estrange her heart from you

P.S.

Have they made any mention  
(next page)

I substitute the last page of my old letter  
because I have not time to write more. I must  
tell you in regard to my visit to New York.  
That I was entirely satisfied with it. Everything  
in your conduct which you seem to fear that  
I should construe into neglect, I found good  
reason for. Lizzie if you loved her demanded your  
first attention and I should have come away  
disappointed if you had directed it elsewhere.  
You did not tell me hardly enough of your  
future plans but there you can give me  
your letters. It is now after 11 O'Clock and I  
must bid you good night. I shall wait  
anxious to hear from you if it is but a mere note.



the usual of affection? the affection I mean of the love?  
can you love Perry more than the loves you? Would  
it be rather that he than you should be her husband?  
These are harassing questions to you both, but  
they must be answered. Yes! the must answer  
them. If she does not answer your letters or  
if when she does, she evades these direct questions—  
then should I not ask them for you? I owe it to  
myself both if matters take this turn. To you as  
my brother, who is so situated, that he cannot  
I move, and to her as a near and dear friend, for  
as I regard her—I know the way. Otis, to her heart  
and if once I should demand her confidence  
it shall not be refused. If she does not write you  
within a week, write me again what you think—  
This matter has quite stirred up my feelings and  
I have before shocked me, and as I have written  
tragically I fear it has been incoherently, but I  
am nothing for spelling or arrangement if  
you understand what I mean. While I  
am writing this, I am confident that you  
will be dissatisfied with the result. There is  
nothing in it to quiet your fears or to  
give you satisfaction anyway, but it is the best  
that I can do now. Mother writes me that Charles  
has experienced religion, but I have not heard  
from him yet. I fear he feels a delicacy about writing.  
Remember me to your children and write soon—

Yours affectionately

Rowland



etc. v.  
I have in  
your in regard  
was cut  
ended  
in

Cadet Oliver O. Howard  
West Point  
New York



My dear Son,

Leeds Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> 1854

This is, indeed a beautiful afternoon, and the fourth day, just the same, this afternoon, no one remains at home but myself, and Nancy, there being an excursion on the cars to Lewiston to view the seven miles, My son, it has been a long while since I have begun to set times to write to Otis, but some common occurrence would prevent, I thought when I received your last letter I would answer it, immediately, but you see that eighteen days have passed since the reception of it, B.B. appeared in good health when at home and wrote me, soon after he got settled at College in good spirits, he says, now if I can have my health I can do well, he went into Portland, and called on Mrs Waite and Linnie & presume Rowland and Linnie have written you all about themselves ere this, Charlie has written me, and made me a visit and brought home your letter written four days after mine which I read with much pleasure and tenderness, too it brought back many trying scenes, which to my sensitive spirit were, indeed trying at that time, truly I always had a desire to make those around me happy, and when I have failed I have always attributed it, to a lack of judgment in myself, but of late there seems to be a great change in me I do not, or are not capable of feeling as I did once, I look at my responsibilities very different from what I did even ten years ago, but I forbear I know not where my pen might lead me, I have lived as long with my present husband as I did with your father, I hope I shall deal justly, and my friends will look with charity on my person

P.S. the reason why I have my paper in two pieces, I blotted one of one late letter. Please I'll make it all off. D.D. Howard



Phonley, seems to have a desire to live a Christian life and I hope  
he will, faith in <sup>the</sup> upholding hand of God sustains us in  
trials, perhaps Otis, you think Abner might write something  
of Leeds, and Leeds folks but my interest in Leeds  
people, and the affairs, of Leeds, is not, as it would be if  
my children were here, I believe our relation are  
generally doing well recently all my family have  
visited me within a short time, your father was at your  
uncle Ensign's this morning on business says Ensign's health  
is poor he has had a bad cough a long time, and is quite  
reduced, I fear he may not recover if the cold weather should  
come, before he is better, your cousin Seth Howard is  
become the father of a pair of twins a son and daughter so  
your relation are increasing Nelson Leadbetter and  
wife have been here, this fall, and made me a visit  
they were detained at his father's, sometime he had  
a sick turn which lasted, a week or more, we have  
no preaching in our house this fall, the Brethren  
fell out some how, <sup>with</sup> our Banners, and he preaches in other  
places and we do without, I am happy in the thought  
that you hear the gospel from sabbath, to sabbath,  
and I sincerely hope you hear with an understand-  
ing heart, our heavenly father knows our hearts  
I have not visited Uncle Barney's this season, your father's  
business has kept him almost all of the time away  
on the railroad with the horses he has built a  
great many roads of hence by the railroad  
and carried dinners for his men from home,  
this you will see makes employment for all of =



Wittland has returned, from Brooklyn, Rowland said  
spoke of going up to West Point with him and him  
but he did not encourage the idea at all his route was  
such, Rowland was not so well pleased with ~~Harriet~~ his  
Uncle Ward. I concluded he took <sup>an</sup> unfortunate  
time to visit him as he had just returned from his  
political convention, and it did not go to suit him  
he was, quite well pleased with Mr Henry, his uncle  
Boninlaw, Anna Gilmore is a cripple, one leg drawn  
up considerably with throubnesses, but strange to say  
with all these, enjoys tolerable good health, Louisa  
has been confined <sup>to</sup> the house since last May, with the  
exception of a few times she rode out the first of August  
the prospect is, that she will be confined all winter if  
she ever recovers I go occasionally to see her but not  
as often, as I should if our house could be at home  
more I have lately visited Deacon Turners Mrs T,  
is still living, Sarah her nurse she is a great sufferer  
I sometimes think it best to mention some of our  
troubles, so that you may not be surprised to hear  
of the death of some of our friends I am much obliged  
to you for giving me an idea of your studies as it is a  
comfort to me to know how your time is employed  
and to think you have some rational enjoyments  
your letters always interest me, more than anything  
I have got a part of your drawings framed and  
have bought me new carpet and table for our  
room, which makes quite an improvement  
this may be a complicated letter write when you can



I am now reading <sup>Doct Gaysons</sup> ~~Doct Hays~~ sermons perhaps you may  
have read them, this volume which I now have contains  
sermons, they are very good, they interest me, very  
the one that I read yesterday, I thought seemed  
to set the character of God in its true light and  
us poor frail creatures in our true light, how  
vain it is for us dependant creatures to fight against  
the providences of God, — Your father has returned  
from the excursion is delighted with the idea that  
~~the~~ six cars were so full that half of them could not get  
seats, this is the second excursion within a week on the  
road, your father said he saw Uncle Stillman on the  
train, going to see the seven miles a day, I was  
one of the few who were left at home, but I have enjoyed  
myself well, as I have been calling over my domestic  
cares, Dillie is still at school in the centre of the town  
Thomas Bridgman the teacher, his school is rather  
small, your father said he saw Mrs Bridgman on  
the cars this afternoon your father only went as  
far as the junction where the directors held a meeting  
this afternoon, they have an office there where they  
hold their meetings, your father is now seated at  
~~the~~ table counting piles, and piles of money, or bank bills,  
how much financiering a rail road creates how we  
shall come out is uncertain, I am anxious to hear from  
Lizzie, but cannot unless through you, or some  
one else I think a great deal about my absent sons, and  
always hope they will be happy in well doing, I  
hope you will have your health through the coming  
winter I have not heard whether you returned



I saw at church today. Presign and wife John H. and wife and child, all in health, Mr Barnes has a school at the Centre of thirty scholars Elizabeth Mammell who lived, with me attend, the school Lucia Leadbetter, attends, the only ones who go from this neighborhood the track on the railroad is laid as far as Haines Corner, the Locomotive travels up there every day from the Junction, and baggage cars or freight cars through nearly every day. Nellie is delighted with everything that pertains to the railroad, our station house is building at Timothy Posters, much to the annoyance of Solomon Lottrop, and the neighbors him, ~~from~~ Anissa Lottrop is married and gone to house keeping the Old Bachelor Row is broken they had a wedding party, and Axel Toss while hunting the squirrel ~~fell down~~ no bones broken as we know of remember me to Warren tell him I haven't forgot his attentions to us when at West Point what is to become of Rundal now, I am sorry your name which your mother gave you in infancy, should cause you ~~some~~ trouble I am in hopes you will ~~stay~~ find some place, that your name will not be a disgrace some day, the club I believe are prospering well the have taken measures to break up three rum sellers the band are doing well. I have not attended but once this quarter on account of sickness, in my family, but am not sorry I attended joined & have enjoyed it much through the summer, it is now past one o'clock at night and I must get some rest, yours from your affectionate Mother Eliza Oliver & John and.

My Dear Son,

Leeds, Oct. 15, 1853

I must first say that Charlie is so he can walk the room, and if nothing befalls him will soon recover, we received yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> and ninth of Oct., the news of Mrs. Wait's sickness had not reached us, until by your letters, I feel sadly, about her sickness, I cannot bear to think, that she must leave Lizzie this soon, I feel as though I should be glad to be some comfort to them if it was in my power since thinking more of Mrs. Wait's sickness, I think she must be better. Mr. Haines met with your father at a directors meeting at Leeds Junction, and said his wife and Mrs. Strickland would have come up with him, if it had not rained he said nothing about Mrs. Wait's sickness, I would go directly to Portland and ascertain her situation, if my family were in a situation to leave, I have heard for several weeks, that Mrs. Haines and Strickland, were coming to Leeds and visit, and have had fear of their coming, on Charlie's account, but now I am sorry, for if they had come I should have ~~known~~ <sup>known</sup> how Mrs. Wait was, my family are all quiet in bed and I hope comfortable, and I will try to pen a few thoughts hoping they may give you more pleasure than my other, I see by your letters that you have as many friends call as is convenient for you to see, it must be quite a ~~trouble~~ <sup>with</sup> to go to Newburg and be treated so much distinction by kind people I hope you will have your health, for only think were you to pine away in a hospital at West Point as much as Charlie has it would be dreadful. Charlie is dreadful poor I wash him all over every day and rub him with a coarse towel I am in hopes to see him get on some flesh soon, I attended church one service today, which I had not done for a long while, your father has been to Hallam lately said Grandmother is quite well and all of Uncle John's family



your last letter, (although it contained the sad news of  
Mrs. Wait's sickness which is truly a great grief to me, and  
your thoughtless brother, Rowland feels very sensibly the  
kind lady's sufferings and his first impulse was to go to her  
but on second thought he recollected her kind sisters and  
brothers that could go to her any time and seem more natural  
than others, where is Mr. Tenley this fall? I have not heard one  
(word from him since you left Maine?) has set my mind more  
at ease about you and your present situation, than I had  
been since your return to West Point, I am not a young and  
active mother seeking the daily comforts of her children  
around her, but a careworn old woman, anxious and  
worn, and watching so much so, that I am not comparing  
for anyone, and am sensible, even too sensible of it, I am not  
envious and am yet capable of being affectionate, I never  
had an envious feeling towards Lissie neither an impatient  
feeling towards her, nor an indifferant feeling, and  
would have been glad to have been companionable with  
her if she had shown the slightest disposition towards it but  
she did not I did not blame her any, nor have one heated  
thought of her neither had I one cold feeling. ~~Woman~~ towards  
her, it was a pleasure to have you here and about here  
and to have Lissie with you, but you <sup>must</sup> know that I have  
such a careworn feeling all the time, that I am not capable  
of any conversation except the commonplace observation,  
I was very sorry to have Lissie feel as though she was not  
welcome, for I would pay her the most delicate attentions  
if I were capable of it, you cannot conceive the divided  
kind of life I live now do I wish you to, I am particularly  
sensitive to the dirt in our round our carriages  
horses and harnesses, and all the unthrifty ways that  
I am subject to see daily, My husband's manner of

managing for three years past, is entirely foreign from  
what I ever could have expected instead of my income  
that ought to bring us in comforts and comfortable things  
and improvements, has only made me more trouble, and  
brought me less comforts and more care, your mother  
don't imagine cares for the sake of being careworn no  
she comprehends all at once, and struggles on and  
on from day to day with a full view before her face,  
only think of what a fix he is in all the time with  
Arson's business and everything else on his shoulders,  
now can you wonder that your Mother is no companion  
for any one even for herself, now my son will say I  
thought my mother had religion, enough to overcome  
all these things, I wish I had, but it is a constant struggle  
with all these varied cares, to keep in sight of the most im-  
portant principle, and that which I know is the most  
important point for aim; but I have one hope that grace  
will conquer, and all these minor barriers will break down  
before it, My son, you cannot have the smallest idea what  
a large share of my thoughts are on you, and even has been  
you have the same protecting power over you in one place  
as another, may you never weary in well doing, now  
I know how Otis will feel, while pursuing my thoughts,  
as I have scattered them along, he will say to himself  
O! Mother how much reason you have for your gratitude  
for innumerable blessings, your sons are promising and  
respected, and respectable and your husband has no bad  
habits and always kind, &c. &c. and here you are dwelling  
upon what you cannot help, I wish I had a happier  
train of thought and will try to have one, with the help  
of Providence, Arson still continues to gain although a cripple  
he has not been to Leeds yet Louisa has just returned



I hope Otis you will do as you know, for this will stop is writing. Continue to pray. I have written two lines & then write another. I have written two lines & then write another. I have written two lines & then write another.

last letter. I have since been examined by a committee of three & got a certificate or shall have one at the close of the Term from Mr. Gorsey for teaching school, although many that were examined with me did not get one, but studied a while longer & then again were examined & even then did not get one, but this will not hinder their teaching school for they can, well enough get one of the Town school Board. I were older than I that were examined. I had also about concluded not to enter college next Fall for I thought two years study before entering, will not hurt me, but on the other hand, I shall rank better in College & what is of the most importance I shall have a better education. And as I shall not have to study hard to enter in two years, my health can be recruited & my body as well as mind prepared for the duties of college life. I have no mighty reasons for entering next year, only I should like to be in the class with Winter & others as well as be in college as long as possible with Rowland. For if I enter next fall I shall be with him two years. The latest news I have had from Lizzie came through your letter. I really hope she will soon recover. I suppose it is my turn to write her a letter but I do not have only time to answer those that receive, & perhaps if she is unwell she would not be able to correspond much. Does Lizzie ever mention the subject of religion in her letters to you Otis? I hope your affection for her is strong.

We learn that Hon. Orville Jennings formerly of this State, and a graduate of Bowdoin College of the class of 1849, has been recently elected by the people to the office of Attorney General, in the State of Arkansas, by a large majority. The merits of Maine boys and Bowdoin graduates seem to be appreciated wherever they go.

Went to Hill Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 1853

My dear brother Otis  
joy your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. I received with great joy. And I now improve the first opportunity to reply. I was exceedingly glad to find that my last was a welcome & interesting letter, for I like in every act of mine to please my brother, he always is & has been so kind to me; yet if this news of which I wrote had not been welcome, notwithstanding my love for my brother, it would not in the least have changed my predetermination; for I even I am commanded in the Bible to love God with all my heart, might, mind, & strength; & this I will endeavor to do, though it may be a cross. But Otis I knew that it would be well received by you, you would be a Christian Otis & you must; yet I cannot say anything that will influence you, it must be the working of the Spirit & Otis does not something whisper to you now, that you should seek & live for your God! I know it is so, your letters speak it though in different language. Your letter was full of excellent thoughts & good advice & I will try & profit by it. I know I shall be subjected to sorrow & disappointments in this life but when this is the case I will look to God for aid. Temptations beset the path of every one, but in this I have the example of our Savior for he was tempted. I will watch & guard against



them, as much as in my power. Now, Ohio, do you think Rowland will or did receive these tidings of which I have been speaking? for I wrote to him a letter last-Saturday, mailing it. Monday, and I have not yet rec'd an answer, though perhaps I shall get one today. Rowland also has been so good to me as a brother could be, he is sensible & sensitive, & I have reason to think he will coincide with you in his judgement of this matter, first because his good sense must show him the necessity & expediency of it, & second his regard for me will prevent his condemning the act of mine. — I was real glad instead of feeling hurt, because you corrected my mistake & mentioned my carelessness in writing I will profit by it & be more careful hereafter, & even with all my caution I am little mistakes in this letter, if you can find any Ohio I wish you to tell them all to me, any defect in expression, or spelling, & also in thought, if I entertain any wrong idea whatever, or is considered so by you, please write me about it. In this way I may improve nearly as much as in writing other compositions. This reminds me that I have not written but two compositions this Term. I should have written more but I do not get time. I suppose I ought to write a composition instead of letters today but then I like to receive & so I am obliged to write letters, & writing a letter is not so hard a task to me when I have leisure as it would be. My Cuban lessons have taken much time this term,

but I only wished to take lessons one term & so I shall not be troubled with it again. Writing about letters, brings to mind, that I have been particularly blessed in respect to receiving letters the past week. Monday I rec'd, your Wednesday one from Mother of 4 pages & one from Nellie of 3 p. in which was enclosed one of 4 p. of note paper from Anilla. and Thurs. I rec'd one from a schoolmate at Goshen & residing there. He says that Mr Adams has rather a small school there this Fall, now it was the close of the term there being only 19 scholars. Mother wrote that all were as usual. Mentioned receiving a letter from you, says you do not stand as well in your class as usual. You did not mention your standing to me. Nellie seems to be doing well at his school, but expects it will close soon. Mr Barrows had had an attack of fever lately but was getting better when he wrote. Anilla congratulated me on having given my heart to God, & trusts she has done the same, says she does not enjoy very good health. Has a pain in her side often & has a bad cough, thinks she has not long to live in this world, though I hope that she will yet get well & enjoy good health & a happy life here as well as hereafter & do good in the world for there is much to be done.

I have not thought very strongly that I should teach this Winter. I only thought some of it because I did not know as they would have any fit Teacher in our district. But as you do not think best & as Mother is not much in favor of it I will give up the idea entirely. I mentioned the Teacher's class to you I believe in my