West Point N.Y. Oct. 1860.

Lieut. Howard:

I was born in Batavia N.Y. in Aug. 1839. My father is a farmer. With the exception of an attendance of six months at a High school, my education was limited to that of a common district school. My parents have long professed religion, and are both members of the Methodist Protestant Church. This church differs from the Methodist Episcopal simply in discipline. Their greatest solicitude has always been to give us religious instruction. There were originally thirteen children - eleven of whom are still living. Of the thirteen ten have professed religion, the remaining three are remembered in our prayers. Morning and evening prayers are always observed, and at meals a blessing is asked. This religious training has had a beneficial effect. None of the family are profane, or intemperate. I never heard an oath uttered in my fathers presence, by any person, without eliciting his reproval. I came to West Point in June 1856. The family circle was then complete. About the middle of June of that year, a sister, who had long been in feeble health was taken very ill, and after a weeks sickness death ensued. She had not openly professed religion before her illness, but upon her death-bed she gave every evidence of having found peace with God. Although I was then a stranger to God, I remember what relief I experienced, when in sealing the letter informing me of her death, I came to the passage stating that she had put her trust in Jesus. Her death produced a deep impression upon me for a time: I realized my condition but deferred making my

peace with God until a more "convenient season". Having always remained at home, with the exception of the period previously mentioned; I had heard but little profanity before I came here, and on my arrival, I was shocked to hear not only the name of God taken so often in vain, but also to witness the efforts which many made to utter horrid oaths. I had not been in the habit of reading the Bible much; but now I took to reading it instinctively. This was my condition until furlough. On furlough I was enabled to resist the temptations, which were thrown in my way. My moral character was strengthened, but as yet I had not sought God. Another affliction was necessary. My youngest brother, who when I left was apparently in perfect health, was taken sick in Dec. 1858. It was soon evident that his disease must prove fatal, and again was God's goodness manifested unto us by his repentance and forgiveness. He lingered until March 11th when he died, glorifying God. He took great interest in Religion, and after he had told my mother that his hands were cold, and that he was dying; he would not relinquish the hand of a neighbor (who had been sent for to go after a sister) until he had promised to meet him in Heaven. His charge to me was that I should delay no longer my preparation for eternity. I was permitted to return home, and attend his funeral. Again I realized the necessity of preparing to meet God, but made no effort until after my return. I read the Bible more attentively and then resorted to prayer. I continued my efforts until I experienced relief. About this time I commenced attending the Prayer Meeting,

to a subsequent experience: at certain times I feel much nearer to God than at others. These seasons occur after the performance of any service or duty, which tends to draw off my mind from worldly things. Particularly on Sunday evenings, and also after attendance at the Prayer Meeting; I feel a closer communion with God. Then I enjoy prayer. I feel then the presence of God's Holy Spirit, & that there is a reality in Religion. During these moments I resolve to look back upon them; when I find myself wandering a way from God, and their recurrence always increases my faith. I look forward to the time when I can show forth my faith more in works. In whatever capacity I may serve I hope to do to do good, and to advance the cause of Christ. I have endeavored to give an accurate statement of my experience. Sometimes I am in doubt; Sometimes I am discouraged, but these happy moments with God illumine my path, and dispel my doubt. I believe in God, I believe in Christ, and I pray for the time when I shall know no doubt, and when I shall have a steadfast faith in all of God's promises.

Ask your prayers that I may continue faithful unto the end, and that I may ever remain a true and humble follower of Christ.

Emory Upton.

Darling write that Sarah will remain with them this winter, and come home in the Spring –

Tarrytown
Oct 4. /60 P.M.

My dear Howard.

The Karnak arrived to day with letters for me containing sad news – Thinking you might not have recd any letter by her, I deem it my sad duty to communicate the mournful intelligence of the death of my very dear friend Frank Sargent – I need not say how shocked & grieved I am at this, but I have learned to bow to God's will, convinced that what He does is "well" – Poor Sarah is struck down with the blow, for her husbands death was unexpected & sudden. And she was tenderly attached to him – Poor heart, how terrible the affliction, and

yet God has promised to be with her to sustain and comfort her.—

Hetty Johnson was just breathing her last, as the Str sailed — brother & sister so soon to be reunited in that other & better land.

Frank died Friday 21st at 5 a.m. Hettie was thought to be passing away on the 28th when the Str sailed —

Darling writes that he stopped on his way home, on landing from the Str on Thursday PM, and saw Frank for a few moments, but never saw him alive again — the immediate cause of death was the sudden breaking of an abscess on the left lung, producing strangulation. He was thought out of danger & doing very well, up to a half hour of his death. — Oh God prepare us for all the eventful changes of this life not only but for a happy eternity beyond.

Death has been busy in my family and among friends; who shall be called next? this is a serious question, and to be answered by no man — but if we heed the admonition "be ye also ready," we shall not fear the summons, but, aside from the sad sundering of earthly ties, we shall be glad to be with our Saviour, "which is far better"

The battle of life is a wearisome struggle, the toils, the trials, the temptations, and worst of all the dying, and the leaving undone, saddens and wearies me — and yet it must be fought out — "Gird on the Armor which Christ has prepared for us, and "quit ye like men," is what we must do — "The battle you shall win" is a "true saying", and I pray God for strength to do all my duty to His honor & glory — Mrs Bacon desires her love to Mr Howard, and with my kindest regards to you both, I am, faithfully yr friend,

J. R. Bacon

No. 11 Tompkins Place –
Sabbath Afternoon – Oct. 7th/60

Lieut. O. O. Howard –

Dear Sir –

We received the sad news of Mr. Sargent's death, by the "Hannack" on Friday. —— I thought very possibly you might not have heard of it – as the death has not been published in any of the papers; and that I would write and give you the few particulars, we have received.

He died on the 20th of September. An abscess had formed on the lungs – which burst, occassioning speedy death. Mr. Darling, who had been in the United

States during the two months spring, arrived at home, an hour before he died. — Mr. Sargent's sister, Mrs. Johnson was dying when the Steamer left her disease was also consumption.

Capt. Lee was not there, he had sailed sometime before - and is now on his way home from Matanzas - he is making a long passage - this being his twenty-fourth day - this is sad news to meet him.

We cannot sorrow for Mrs. Sargent - we feel confident "our loss is his gain" - but poor Mrs. Sargent - my sympathy for her is too deep for expression - her entire dependance upon him - in all things - makes him an almost irreparable loss; she certainly has been severely afflicted - by the death of her dear Mother - and at this time - but may God - that she may be enabled to see His hand in these afflictions - and to say "it is all right."

Yesterday I went down the "Alabama" to see Nellie, and Mr. Lockett, once more and to say "good bye". Oh! Mrs. Howard, I can part with her now - with different, lighter feelings than when last I wrote you - for I have reason to believe she loves, and trusts our God, as a Father, and a Friend.

With kind regards to Mrs. Howard, and yourself, I am very respectfully

Yours &c.

Thomasine M. Kearney.

rather a thin house, but
Enjoyed the day pretty
well - I paid a minister
$12 - to go to Hannington
for me yesterday = All our
friends are well - Oscar
was in last night & I
mentioned having a letter
from you - We are in the
"North room" - where Lizzie
has been so much - It
always reminds me of her =
Tell Grace we are very glad
to hear that she is to go to
Hope Guy never ride too
much! Ella & Mother
both send a great
deal of love to you &
Lizzie - with many kisses
to the dear children -

Rowland

Leeds Oct. 8. 1866

Dear Otis

I'm going to keep
writing your letters till
your conscience compels
you to answer! Mother
is still improving - tho: she
does not go out yet & walks
quite lame - Ella says her
girl is "an old joke" & I
fear that it is so: but
she is better than none =
Edw: Gove of Beth came from Nafan
last Friday & brot the sad
news of Franks death - two
weeks before = He was sick
but three weeks - one of
his old attacks - I suppose
Sarah may have written
you = Frank had an insurance
of $5000 - on his life - Sarah
was very much cast down

P.S. N.B. This is a rumor that I have

He hoped till half an
hour before he died that
he would recover. but an
abscess broke, & proved fatal
after it was certain that he
would die - he was unable
to converse - I heard of no "wo"
that he left = I hope Perry
will hurry back to Sarah
as she will need him
greatly = Mr Gore is a good
Christian fellow & watched
with Frank during one of
his last nights - He goes
to N.Y. next week to return
with Perry - & you may hear
of him - if you are down,
from Bacon - He would like
to see you & may be up
to the Point some day =

We go to Farmington tomorrow
& my Ordination is to take
place Thursday = I will send
you a paper containing an
accct. of it = I wish that
you could be there - Mother
wishes very much to go but
will not be able - Laura
& Aunt Aurelia will go =
Ella is nicely - is mending
my pants! = sends a great
deal of love to you all =
I saw Sellie Sat. He is
well - but has no School
secured yet = Alect. has
not written since the letter
I sent you - I spent last
week in Bath getting
ready = have two Sermons
to prepare before next
Sab = Father very kind & thoug-
htful for our comfort - & we
had quite a talk this morn-
ing regard to 13th of March - I
preached all day for Mr
Chapin yesterday - had

Portland Oct 9 1860

Lieut O O Howard

Dear Sir

I have been looking for a letter from you for some time - have been anxious to know how you all do we regret that you and Lizzie did not make us a call while in Maine - we are not always overrunning full of Company as at the time yourself called for a Moment & could not be Entertained for a Night — we are not often put to such straits - do not fail to come and see - give much love to your good Wife & dear Children - Tell Lizzie her dividends are due and I will collect and forward the same if she wishes —

Your Affectionate
Uncle
E Waite

Brighton Oct 9 1860

Aunt Mary

Dear Sis

I have been

so busy for a little from day to
time since - have been anxious to hear
how you all do we regret that
you are sick but trust it is a
cold which is prevailing - we are not
always convinced that of Darling
as at the time generally called
for a Moment it would not be entertained
for a Night - we are not often but
to hurt Henry - he not feel to come
and see Mary Anna have to spend
part night & Dear Brighton - Oh Sally
I'm thinkin one day and I
will collect and forward the
hour if the weather -

Your affectionate
Lucie Hunt

New York Oct 10th 1860

Dear Cousin Otis

I arrived here Monday and found letters from Sarah giving me the particulars of Frank's death what a shock & poor Sarah it is. Poor Frank when I left Nassau 6 weeks ago was quite well but a few days after had an attack of Hemorrage which confined him to the house for some time when on the morning of the 21st ult as the morning gun fired at 6 o'clock he started out of his sleep. a an abscess broke which suffocated him in half an hour he never spoke after. but went quietly to his God whose child he was in every respect I have lost a dear dear Brother and

poor Sarah an affectionate and kind good husband and adviser she was thoroughly dependent on him for everything. now I do want to be with her now in her sorrow but I fear I can never be so great a comforter as I ought

Sarah will probably remain in Nassau this winter and come on here ~~this fall~~ next spring.

I have not heard from any and of our Eastern friends for a long time please write me how is your mother and Roland and Charles and how is Vaughan Otis do let me hear from you. I go to Spilford ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow and shall return here monday or tuesday morning and if I can I will spend one night with you before I sail which will be the last of next week I go to Nassau again

Give much love to Lizzie and the children and with much for yourself

Believe your affectionate

Cousin

S. P. Lee

P.S.

If you see Jennie Grey tell her I have got her shell matt and will send it to her tomorrow if I have time before I go East excuse this as I am writing it with a miserable pen at the Hotel

Perry

all well, with Much Love
are looking for a great rush here
next week to see the Prince and
the British fleet —

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Portland Oct. 11 1860

Lieut. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

Your letter of 8th
is recvd with the Enclosed Coup
-ons, all right - which together
with the Bank dividends will
more than pay for two
Shares of Bank Stock —
Our Bank Stock here is
much sought after - none now
offering in the Market —
I have made Enquiry and
have got the promise of two
Shares for Lizzie at $104 pr
Share — think I can collect of
International without Order —
the Cashier says there is no
need to send the Certificate it is
perfectly good — Your Affectionate
Uncle — E. Waite

Portland Oct. 15. 1860

Sent O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I enclose certif-
-te for two Shares Bank Stock
in $208 — also Cash $28 — amt 236.00

Recvd for dividend on Bonds 150
do " Canal Bank — 28
" Casco Bank — 44
International Bank — 14 236.00

the International divide 3½ per Cent

Please Acknowledge Recpt
and Oblige — Your Affectionate
Uncle
E. Waite

P.S. the British Fleet have
just arrived

O. O. Howard

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West Point N.Y. 16th Oct. 1860

My dear Mother

The princess has now gone and I can write you a letter. Saturday evening I went to call on Bishop McIlvaine. The Chaplain of West Point 38 years ago, found him a genial warm hearted aged Christian. On Sunday he preached for the French to the Cadets & referred to his early experience in a very touching manner. The Post was given over to infidelity. not one Christian man any where & only three Christian ladies. He spoke of the revival that took place then. In the evening he went into our Cadet prayer meeting & told them also much of his early experience.

Sister Hannah (uncle Lewis's daughter & Lewis Greville Phillips's wife) is on a visit to Rantoul.

I am in hopes his visit will be greatly blessed to us; though I fear the subsequent visit of the Prince of Wales has absorbed all the attention of the young men. The Prince came yesterday about 2 P.M. in the St. Harriet Lane with his Suite of 8 or 10 gentlemen. We had a large crowd of people, but all were very orderly except those some who crowd into places where they were not invited. The prince is a good looking young man of 19 rather small of stature. modest & gentlemanly in his bearing. He seemed to take much interest in everything here. He visited nearly all our buildings. received military honors on the plain. partook of a collation at Col. Delafield's. visited Fort Putnam on Horseback & then went to Coggens Hotel to spend the night.

This morning he visited the recitation rooms. He stayed in mine long enough to hear one recitation from Cadet Burnham. All his Suite of gentlemen were with him. He dont seem anymore of a Prince than Francis Orman Turner. He looks & appears very much like him. I hope you are now quite well. I am anxious to get a letter from you. I received one from Rowland while he was at home. I had written to him directing to Buffalo. and presume you got my letter announcing the death of Frank the next day after Rowland wrote. I have heard from Percy & some expect him up tonight. The Children & Lizzie are pretty well. Guy has a cold. Grace says: send my love & my kiss. Love from all. Affectionately Your Son

O. O. Howard

Farmington Oct. 18th 1860

Dear Otis

I received your letter in regard to Franks death just after I had written you - I wrote Sarah yesterday - You will receive a "Chronicle" giving some little acct. of my Ordination - It was a solemn & interesting day to me - I only preached half of last Sab - Mr. Whittier being with me & occupying the afternoon - Our boarding place is all we could ask or desire except I feel the want of a more retired study - I would give money for your room in the Bancks -

Ella is well, happy & contented - We have no festy and our Wednesday

Evening prayer meetings are held at private houses - We had a very small but good meeting last night. Today I have been very idle intellectually - Ella & I went into the woods & up on Powder Horn Hill this morning & this afternoon - One of the most beautiful of Indian Summer days - Mr Goodenow sent us his horse & carriage & we rode down to "the falls" & called on Bro. Rogers who is now preaching there - Ella is now calling at Mrs. Burnhams. She enjoys being a "minister's wife" so far very much - but it has all been sunny like as yet -

Mother did not come to Ordination - Mrs Patten, Uncle Eugene & Luna were here = I wish you & Lizzie could come & see us - & O how I long to see dear little Guy & Grace = Tell Guy, Miss Abbott, with whom we board has a little black dog not half as big as Diamond - He is black as a shiny boot. His ears are short & his tail (!) is very slender & pointed & he is very playful and his name is Garibaldi - but we call him "Garry" for short! Before Aunt Ella was up this morn - he had some fun with me on the hearth rug - (we have an old fashioned fire place) - & went to kiss me & kept so hard at it to jam my lip between his tooth

& mine & hurt me & I
set out to bite him! We
had quite a shock of an
Earthquake yesterday morning
at 6½ O'clock - The whole house
shook & trembled like a
Steamboat on the waves &
the crockery rattled - We are
having a no. of cases of
Diphtheria & I have a
proposition to submit to
you on that acct - As the
Gray has been so success-
ful in the treatment of it
will not please to ask
him to write out what he
considers the proper Symptoms
& treatment of the disease
that you may send it to
us - Ella has so much

confidence in his treatment.
I too. that we would
rather have his opinions
for our own private resource
if either of us - or the family
we are with thereon be
attacked - This is asking a
good deal of Mr. G. - but
I know you have placed
him under some obligation
& I feel the delicacy on
that acct. Give Ellen &
my love to Mrs. G. & Jennie
if you see them -

I suppose Charles has
written you of the religious
interest in his School. Two
or three conversions & a
general & pervading
seriousness & inquiring
spirit is what he speaks
of to us.

May the Lord continue his work - uphold strengthen & direct our dear Mother & give him many souls =

I brought away the first vol. of your Stevens Hist. of Methodism - Lizzie will say "it is just like him"!

But I am very sorry - I will read it & you shall have it next Summer - I found the blue buttons = I miss my "Pattern Hand book" - ah. tells how to marry & bury people - Have you seen it? =

Mr Patten gave us a nice Lounge covered with Enameled leather & Spring Rocking Chair - ditto - & a nice hair mattress = These with our pictures make us feel that we are at home - Ella

says "tell Lizzie we have got the machine up but have not time to get - as I have had so many little jobs to do" - give my congratulations to Mr Carroll - Katie must rejoice in her little brother - Grace, have you ever seen the baby?

We have our fares on the A.R.R. changed to Walter!

In great haste

your - aff - bro -
Rowland

P.S. Ella sends love to Mother Otis, Sister Lizzie, Guy & Grace ~~Lelé~~ Guy he wants to know all about the Prince - We see the N.Y. Times - I take the Boston Daily Journal - Did you see the Prince!

Please always mention the prayer meeting when you write — I often think of it & try to pray for it —

fulness — Some thing of the depth of His goodness —

I wish that Johnny Weir — I wish that any who have not — might be present where the Lord is carrying on a work — a special work of Grace — Yet one place is as good as another & the Lord will bless the use of His means in His own good time.

We have had no unusual meetings & even our prayer-meetings have not until the very last begun to be enlivened — The Church is cold but some members are alive.

Only 3 weeks more — Many scholars still out of the Way of Life. You do not escape my memory in prayer & I trust your supplications have had something to do with the wonderful society in this Community. Pray that I put no dependence in self — all in Christ — & that His name may still be glorified, & mine & the feelings of Christians overruled — Mrs. N. is praying for her husband now — Wishes that I might do my whole duty while I stay.

Colden Oct 22 1867

My dear brother

Your turn has at length come for a letter — I need not say I was very glad to get yours above a week ago — It brought the 1st news of Mr. Sargent's death — Portland has since mentioned it — It seems that Sarah will be comfortably off in this world — Have you seen or heard anything of Perry since your return? I remember with great pleasure your Portland friends — Am sorry I cannot more fully appreciate as a christian and rejoice that God has given you the heart to labor for your Master & that he gives you ability to do some thing for him when you are in the house with Mr. Carrol — May the

My dear Johnny Weir — I have not heard from you since Mr. Sargent's death — Write soon — I wish you were here three days — My dear Johnny — I cannot tell you how I long to see you — Write soon — Your sympathy in our sorrow was very kind — Your sister Martha (Mrs. Lockwood) sang in our house in memory of the departed — We miss her sadly — Write soon — Affectionately yours — C. W. M.

Lord give you faith to pray & to labor for his salvation as your heart seems to be prompted now. You will be glad to know that the Lord has been pleased to show us something of His salvation here where I am situated — Mrs. Newcombe, the lady where I board, after some struggles & some unhappy days, has found peace in believing & has consecrated her life to the service of Christ — Three of my scholars have, one after another, found the Christian's hope — Another who has gone away to teach & for whom I humbly hope God gave me grace to pray hath found joy in the Holy Ghost — And still another who came into our family for a few days upon a visit & decided here that she cannot seek the Lord, has written me of the happiness she found in the love of her Savior.

These great blessings have deeply humbled me — brought me to view my own unworthiness & the glory of Christ more nearly in their true light — And, Oh, the Lord seems so gracious & good to me & to all that sometimes my heart is very full — I have felt like spending some time in trying to praise & humbly thank Him.

To have others inquire of me what they ought to do to be saved — makes me realize to the fullest extent my dependence upon the Lord — As I cast myself upon his mercy & look to Him for help — He is pleased to let me know something of faith — I begin to perceive more fully its meaning as used so frequently in Scripture.

It is a great favor to let me know something of my own weakness

was manifested in all the surrounding country and in the the different families. Men that were never known to call upon the name of the Lord except in blasphemy were found seeking for pardon at the foot of the cross. There was no noise of any kind but all was still and the Spirit of God silently worked at the hearts of all people. There was nothing thought of for a long time except the revival it was the sole subject of conversation. There was meeting every night and often it was too an invitation was given to those who were seeking the Saviour to remain for conversation and prayer. and every evening there was about ten or a dozen stayed At one communion thirty two stood up before the congregation and professed their faith in the Saviour and their determination to renounce the "world with its affections and lusts" it was on this occasion that I joined the church. The next communion season there were fifteen or twenty more joined the church. And every communion one or two more would come forward. This happened for a long time until at last all the interest died, or seemed to die, away Seldom had there been for years before such an outpouring of the Spirit and the principal part of the converts were the young people of the town. I was nearly fifteen years of age when I joined the church and I am now nearly seventeen, which will be next February. I have never since regretted the step I then took and it is my earnest prayer to God that I never shall. I thank God that he gave me the parents that he did. Words can not express the love I bear them and also to my brother and sisters. To them next to God I owe all the comforts and privileges which I have enjoyed. and my prayer is that God will shower down his richest blessings upon them and that I may continue to feel towards them the love that I now feel. I have endeavored to give you a distinct account of all you desired but whether it is what you wished I will leave you to determine. You can look this over and see if it is what you wished if it is not I will be most happy to give you all the information in my power. Wishing you the Richest blessings of God's grace I have the pleasure to remain your friend

West Point Oct. 20th 1860

Lieutenant Howard

Esteemed & Respected Friend

Sir

In accordance with your desire expressed to me to know something about the early history of my place of residence the religious influences by which I was surrounded and my subsequent connection with the church of God I now with pleasure take this opportunity to comply with your desire My birth place was in the town of New Brighton a small but beautiful place of about twenty two hundred inhabitants surrounded on all sides by the most attractive scenery, in the western part of Pennsylvania. It is the favorite resort of a great many city people during the hot summer months. During the early history of the state a block house was established there and it was there also that Brady performed some of his most daring adventures. Half a mile from my fathers house the spot is still pointed where Brady made that celebrated leap when pursued by the Indians. Scattered around among the woods are still to be seen graves of the Indians. and arrowheads are still picked up in the woods and on the hills round the town. The Block house was still standing until about a year or eighteen months ago. when it was torn down The first church was organized some twenty five or thirty years ago. The first pastor was Dr. Aaron Williams a cousin of my fathers who preached for seven or eight years. when he received a call from a congregation in New York. when my father who was then through his Theological studies

at the Seminary took charge of the congregation at their request and has been its pastor ever since. My father is an Old School Presbyterian and has been preaching one twenty three years. He is now in his fifty third year. My mother is also a member of the same church. I was early taught to go to church and Sabbath school and every Sabbath afternoon my mother gathered us all about her and had us recite the Catechism repeat hymns and verses from the Bible. She would also talk to us about God and heaven and the importance of living him and giving our hearts to him. She never allowed an opportunity to go unimpressed. A death or accident was always improved to draw our attention to the necessity of preparing for death and judgment. She was a truly pious woman and to her prayers under Gods providence I owe my conversion. She was very intelligent and pleasant and the confident of all her children who went to her with all their troubles and difficulties. My ancestors were all respectable industrious and intelligent people. and the line can be traced back to the blood of kings. I do not say this in a boasting spirit however. I am proud but only to give you a correct idea of my family. As we grew older my father would question us on the sermon to see how much we remembered of it. This was always the custom except when there was company. For some time before I thought of coming here. and before I left home it was our habit to have all my brothers and sisters meet and sing while my oldest sister would accompany them on the melodeon. I often think of those sabbath afternoon meetings as the pleasantest of my life. I often find myself wishing I was at home with them again and Sabbath day is the day I feel most homesick and lonely. I pass my delight to attend the Sabbath school and I never missed a Sabbath unless prevented by sickness or some other cause equally as good. I have not attended Sabbath school since I left home nor do I know whether it will be my privilege to do so again until I return. As far back as I can remember I do not know of my ever using an oath or ever being concerned in any thing that was disreputable or that would cause my father pain. When my brother and I went out in the evening we always were requised to let our parents know where we were going and to get their consent to our going. In this way a love of home was raised in our hearts which would not have been the case had we been allowed to wander around the streets as we pleased. I have six sisters and one brother. We are twins. Three of my sisters are members of the church. My brother is not a member of any church but it is my earnest prayer, as well as the earnest prayer of as good a father and mother as ever lived, that he will soon come out on the Lords side. It was during the great revival of '58 that I was first seriously impressed. I had often thought I would like to be a good man and always said that I would be one some day but I still put it off. Untill at last it came to the point that I must become a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ then or be lost entirely. I resolved to seek the Lord. There was a young minister by the name of Friedley preaching for my father. and it was under his preaching that I first received my religious impressions. My father talked and prayed with me and the minister of whom I spoke did the same. I also talked with my oldest sister in whom I placed great confidence and for a long time I did not know what to do but at last I found so I hope "peace in believing" During this revival great interest

together with the influence of a mother who is as near a Christian as any person I ever know I pray God that I may continue to lead a christian life – and improve in godly ways –

I am ever your sincere friend

E. K. Woy

West Point Ms.
Oct 21st 1860

My Dear Mr Howard –

Since you requested of me an account of the circumstances connected with my profession of religion I take pleasure in giving them to you –

While I was very young (about eight year old) I had the reputation of being one of the worst boys in my native town – If there was any mischief or anything unusual happened I was sure to be pointed out as having something to do with it – and the respect that the townspeople had for my parents only prevented exposure – I continued this kind of life until I was about twelve years old –

I had always been obliged from childhood to attend Sunday School and although without any apparent effect yet when I was about twelve years old I commenced to think seriously about my course of life. The influence of my home having a tendency in this direction — My sisters, I had six at the time five of whom were Christians, exerted a great influence over me — At this time I was in that state which all of us must experience I was on the brink of high precipice and a single push would have sent me to judgement — but the hand a kind friend sent it would almost seem by Divine Providence came to my aid and I was saved: A gentleman settled near my home about this time he was a most devout Christian — and strange as it may seem took a strong fancy to me — and his was the hand that guided me from the precipice — to life — If a person of different character had formed an attachment for me who can tell what would have been the result — My first step towards leading a new life was to take a pledge with my friend to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks — This was the commencement of my new life in August 1854 I was confirmed — I was at that time fourteen years of age — I joined the Episcopal Church and have remained of that faith ever since — These are the principal events connected with my early life — I owe it to Divine Providence Who sent a guiding hand at the critical moment of life

West Point N.Y.
Oct. 23. 1860 —

My dear Mother,

I received a letter from Rowland yesterday & a paper. He said you were not present at his ordination — I am sorry, if the reason of your not being there was that you had not sufficiently recovered from your attack. Everything moves on with regularity & considerable monotony here. Our most marked events during the term from examination to examination are the changes that frequently occur in the officers of the Post. Col. Harden our Commandant of Cadets left last monday, & his family follows him tomorrow. I feel quite an interest in this family

(I am glad to hear such good news from Charley this Resolution?)

his cough will be looser tomorrow. Grace seems perfectly well & is generally very sweet tempered & happy. I find I set a great store by my children. I am praying that God will make of them instruments of blessing to us & to the world. Guy has a "primer of Rules hat": a drab round topped, felt hat, with a button on the top — long drab pants coming down to his shoes & his usual sacks — over which he puts his coat on cold days & damp walks. Grace has a 'cunning sack' that she puts on to go out — gathered a little at the waist. Siggie made it out of something of Guys — She has made me a dressing gown too which I could not describe to you — red predominates. I must retire for I have to begin to study early in the morning. I hope Father is well. Write much love to him, kind regards to my friends & my earnest prayers for you all. I am your affectionate son

O. O. Howard

I had the two eldest daughters for pupils for some time, their aunt, who has the care of them (for they have no mother) has been for some time past a teacher in our Sunday school - and the two younger children, Bettie & Willie scholars in the same. The Col has been uniformly kind to me and I wish he was as good a christian as he knows he ought to be - Colonel Reynolds, replaces Col. Hardee. We like him much - I think he is a good man. The Superintendent Col Drlafield still remains, though he has already served out his period of four years. Sissie & I went to bid good bye to the Col Hardees family this evening - This afternoon I started to visit the parents of my Sunday school scholars & the children themselves. You should have seen the crowd of children following me at the Band barracks - their faces were not all clean, but they looked happy. I found one of my scholars sick with the Dyptheria - the poor little boy was suffering a great deal & had been for some time - and I heard of another scholar, very sick, through away on a visit. Almost all the people I visited today are Germans. Last night I held a prayer meeting with the Cadets - I proposed to many of them to give me an account of their religious life in the form of a letter - I have received already several very interesting letters & am hoping that much good will grow out of the exercise. The children are sound asleep & Sissie has gone to her room if not to bed. Guy has gotten a cold & Sissie soaked his feet tonight in hot water. He is in a good perspiration & I hope

I know her to be a noble-hearted woman chastened and purified by suffering — but she belongs to a proud ambitious family — and Edmund's failure would be attended by many trials that only her very intimate friends can realize.

If, as I have heard it said, he really wants natural ability to go through such a severe course of study, I would suggest, in the spirit of doing unto others as I would be done by, that you clearly enlighten his mother on this point. No agony seems to me unendurable but that of self reproach: and I would be grateful to any one who at the risk of humiliating my pride, would save me from the far greater sorrow of unjust severity to an unfortunate child.

I understand he is doing well and I fervently trust he will continue to improve — but if he such a painful necessity should occur, I know that Edmund will receive from you all the consolation it is in your power to give. With my best wishes for your health and long continued usefulness I remain very truly and respectfully your Helen B. Chapman

Lieut. O. O. Howard
West Point N.Y.

Westfield Mass. Oct 29 60

My dear Sir,

Your very kind letter of Oct 22. was duly received, and would have been answered at once, — but I was then, and am still suffering from the influence of this New England climate.

You discharged a painful duty with delicacy and kindness — and I believe it will give you pleasure to know that the task was really a less painful one, than you had imagined.

I have long been prepared for such a result — and my last interview with my son in August, fully impressed me with the idea that it could not be long delayed.

I did not consider it advisable in me however to check any voluntary effort to succeed: and from my knowledge of his peculiarities of temperament and character, I felt the necessity of leaving his fate

entirely in his own hands

He is well aware that he has no severity of censure to dread on my part — on the contrary I am sensible of too strong a tendency to regard him as unfortunate rather than blamable.

By the kindness of a Providence that has mingled many mercies with much trial, he does not leave West Point either friendless or destitute — and, mortifying and humiliating as these two years must seem to those in whom the 'pride of life' is yet unsubdued, I feel certain they have exercised a most beneficial influence on his character and habits.

This cannot seem a strange idea to one with whom all things are subordinate to a Christian life: and you will not be surprised that I can feel, even that this very humiliation so torturing to such morbid sensitiveness, may be a lesson that will impress his memory forever.

For all you care my dear Sir, in striving to lead him, and and all his companions, to the only true source of strength and refuge from temptation, I am deeply grateful: and I trust your earnest labors will not seem wholly in vain.

They cannot be fruitless — the seed thus sown will spring up and bear abundant harvest, but you may never know in this life the good you have accomplished.

Is it not something to have the grateful wishes and fervent prayers of so many anxious and sorrowing mothers?

I may never see you or have occasion to address you again — and at a moment when from my own sorrow I can more keenly appreciate the trials of others, I cannot refrain from a suggestion with regard to Kirby Russel. In his success his widowed mother has every thing at stake; and I fervently trust you may never have occasion to address such a letter to her.

You of all others need not be told how to write on such an occasion, but I have known Mrs. Russel since her son was a very little child