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1 3/1/1812 *From:* W B Howard

*To:* Dear Parents [Seth Howard]

RBH-0e09

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 1st 1812

Dear Parents

For fear of the so grate alarm my preceding letter has occasioned you I again write mutch sooner than usual and have the pleasure of informing you that I am in good health also Seth and all our relations and friends in this Country. The mortal diseas that has raged and produced so mortal in this nabourhood has in some measure abbated. No new cases within two or three miles from me have taken place for eight days past. The disorder appears to take its course Southward. There are a number Sick in the south and East part of this town. 2 were buried yesterday and a number now lay very low. I have fortunately escaped thro the goodness of the mighty director as yet with only the Sparest of the complaint.

Seth came to my hous this evening from Doct Baileys where he has been a number of days. I expect to go with him to Poughkeepsie in a day or two. He has a grate notion of a paint and oil establishment in some convenient place. He appears to be more fond of that than the mercantile business. If I was acquainted more with that branch of business I could better determine relative to the proffits &c. if any opportunity offers I will lend him all the aid in my power or if he is willing to continue with me I can find him sufficient employment but the only difficulty is I cannot afford to hire and give sutch wages as he perhaps may expect that I have it in my <[hole in paper]> toward him by help <[hole in paper]> <business> the moment <[hole in paper]> age of 21. It is not <[hole in paper]> young man to start in <[hole in paper]> of the world with a <> have been fortunate in <[hole in paper]> aspect but it has been done <[hole in paper]> Street from the <[hole in paper]> application to buy <> for my part that Seth <[hole in paper]> continue with me on <[hole in paper]> If I should be taken away <[hole in paper]> that knaeds any thing concerning my business more than the gratest stranger in the world.

After we return from Poughkeepsie we shall <commit> on something; myself or he will hereafter write you our determination. I wish for the mean time that you would write your pleasure respecting his continuing in this Country as he has informed me relative to your business at home. I sometimes fear that I have been the means of depriving you of his assistance when it was most needed. If so I wish you to write & if most agreeable to you for him to return no dout he will comply with your request. Otherways he will continue with me unless we should find some place more lucrative and agreeable to him. He appears to be well contented at present and I assure you is a fine young man.

March 22d three weeks after the foregoing was written, myself Seth & all our friends are well. Seth is at Doct Baileys. Doct Bailey has just gone from here. The mortal diseas mentioned in my former letter continues & has recently entered my own hous. One of my blacksmiths lays a lifeless Corps. One 2 & 3 burried in a day in this Town & has been for some time past. When God will withdraw his afflicting hand I know not. If I or Seth is sick I will write immediatly. Be not to mutch allarmed. Answer the above without delay & remember that I am & hope to be to the last day of my existence your dutiful & affectionate Son

W B Howard

NB. The person mentioned in the bottom of this who is dead is John Boyce Twin Brother Dr Abraham Boyce both of them lived with me - aged 28 years  
WB Howard

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2 9/27/1812 *From:* W.B. Howard

*To:* Captn Seth Howard

RBH-0e10

York Town

Leeds

County of Kennebec & State  
of  
Massachusetts

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*Source:* Bowdoin

York Town Sept 27th 1812

Dear Parrents

I imbrace an other oppotunity to inform you that I am in good health and likewise our friends in this Country. I read a letter from Everett last evening announcing the good tidings of health and happiness among you which gave me grate pleasure to hear. He also informed me that you had heard that Seth was in the Army which is true. I write this particularly in answer to his with respect to Seths situation. Seth on commissary business in Pou-se attach'd him self to the company of Infantry called Fusyliers the 15th of Sept. That Company together with two more from that Town & also one or two companeys from Albany & others selected from the vilages on the river recd orders to be in readiness to march at a moments warning. The Laws in this State place all the Independant Companays under the partiular direction of the Governer liable to be called on by him 3 months in every year. These companies were selected by him for the defence of New York City and ordered on the 20 or 21 of Sept to repair to a beautiful place called Fort Richmond in the County of Richmond at the Narrers below New York about 12 miles.[Staten Island]

They left thare home property and business and with general Satisfaction accompanied thare Governer to their place of destination. They are all young men of the first respectability and all particular favourites of the Governer. He treats them with the politeness of an officer, converses with them with the cheerfulness of a Soldier & the friendship of a brother. Everett expressed a wish that Seth could have had an appointment. I assure you he does not want one in the first place he has not a turn for an officer & in the second place he is happyer without It.

I recd a Letter from Seth on his embarking from New York which gave me grate uneasyness with respect to his wellfare & that was not all. I felt troubled on account of being the means of seperating him from the best of Parrents & should any misfortune befall him I might be stampd with the guilt of ingratitude. I rested verry uneasy and as soon as I concluded that they had arrived at their place of destination I left my business and went directly to the spot where I found him in health & good spirits & mutch pleased with his situation. I assure you it is the most delightful & healthy place I ever saw or that can be found on the sea board from Georgia to the mane. His duty is easy. He is called out in the morning & evening and hour at each time & on guard once in ten or twelve days. The intervells of time he can improove as he pleases. He carried with him a handson collection of books which he perruses at Leasure. His Componey hired three Negro cooks in New York & furnished themselves with a Cooking Stove. Their provission as good as New York flye market produces & on the whole they fair more like Congressmen than Soldiers. Many Clerks that are out of business in the City are eager to take their places. I asked Seth if I should send some one as a Substitute for him. His answer was no. If he could not serve his Country three months at this delightful Season of the year & on so beautiful a Situation as that from which the Governer assured them they should not be <remooogd> under there auspices. He said if he could not serve his Country three months he should never wish to see his relation again, under the appellation of a Republican. I then tooke out of my pocket better than Two Hundred dollars & told him to take what he pleased for his happyness was my own & he should share with me as I had no other brother in this family. He informed me that he had money enough for the present. Should he want hereafter he would write to me as he had an opportunity every day. I parted with him cheerfully & shall go & see him again in a few days & you may rest assured that he is in as mutch safety and as well provided for as tho he was in his fathers hous. His companions & soldiers are all Gentlemen.

Many things I have omitted in my letter respecting myself & our friends here in order to give you a correct account of Seth for fear of your uneasiness. My love to my brothers & sisters & all friends.

W.B. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

[STAMP] PEEKSKILL N.Y.

Captn Seth Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebec & State of  
Massachusetts

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3 11/14/1812 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e03

Poughkeepsie

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

D.M.

Winthrop Post Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Poughkeepsie Novber 14th 1812

Dear Parrents

Permit me once more to trouble your patience with the perusal of another of my letters. I have written so often, & have not been gratified with an answer, that perhaps it may be the height of imprudence for me to persist in writing before I am perfectly satisfied whether it is your pleasure to receive my letters or not.

Notwithstanding I shall this once, so far abandon myself to my own natural feelings, as to risk the probibility of incurring your displeasure, could I have any sinister motives to actuate me to the performance of this duty, other than what flows from a tender solicitude for your happyness. Thinking as I have reason to do from the nature of things, that, that happyness depends greatly on the conduct situation & circumstances of those children, who have the honor of claiming you as their Parents, & as cirten Branches of that family have wandered far from home from their Parents & Early Friends, I have considered it as my duty as one of those to inform you of my situation, health &c. Takeing it for granted that you have so mutch of the Parental feelling still entwined upon the heart, that nothing would escape your perrusal wherein the least trail appertaining to the welfare of either of your children was noticed. Especily when those fingers that guided the pen & that mind which dictated the sentaments that flowed from it, was numbered as one of them. Confiding on this suposition which I have hastily drawn up, & not wishing to extend my prelude to a much greater length, knowing that you must be verry much averse to any thing that Borders on prolivity, I shall break hastily off & inform you that I am in perfect health, & so are all our relation within my knowledge. Fortune has been verry favourable to me in all most every respect since I turned my back upon the Provence of Maine. Health has been one of its greatest bounties, & indeed it is almost impossible to appreciate its worth notwithstanding the trifling account we put upon its value yet it is by far the greatest blessing that man can receive from the giver of Life.

I have just been reading the life of General Meraw [Jean-Victor Moreau] detailed down to his embarkation for America, as he has been a person verry well known through out the world as a distinguished Millitary character & his conduct of late being so verry mysterious, & my reflecting upon it was the principal cause of my writing this letter. As there are many who justify him in his late conduct, I thought proper to offer my sentament on this subject although I can not confine within the narrow limits of a letter, the whole which has all ready gone from my pen to the publick on this same subject. Yet I can offer you a few sketches, which may suffice to acquaint you with my feelings on this subject. You may think perhaps that it has no connection with any duty I owe to you, still it will gratify my singular curiosity & the remarks that I shall make may not altogether displeasing to your taste, when you consider the source they spring from.

It is now twelve o'clock. I think I will retire. The rest you shall have in the morning.

Sunday morning Novem 15

I shall now resume my subject without a preface, as you may not have a perfect recolection of the circumstances that brought Meraw to this Country, it will be no more than necessary that I should explain them. At the time that Bonaparte was in Egypt Meraw had the command of one part of the French Army at the Rhine, if we judge from the allmost unwarrented feats that he has performed during his Millitary carrear, we must Pronounce him a schollar in Millitary tackticks, not much if any infered to Bonaparte, a general who can retreat three hundred miles in the heart of the enemys country over rivers & mountains with Forty thousand men, & the enemy with a far superior number in his rear. He who could take on his retreat ten thousand of the enemy must be considered among those of no small fame. Suffice it to say he fought forty Pitched Battles till Bonaparte was appointed 1st Counsil for Life. Then he retired to a private life where he remained but a short time, before he was apprehended for a conspiracy against the life of the 1st Counsil tried & condemed to two years imprisonment from that he was suffered to come to America where he has remained for several years, & the Federalists have been verry Busy all this time in circulating their suspicions of his being commissioned to bring about a revolution in America. But no sooner do we see him returned to Urope & there joining Alexander & fighting against his own Country, then the Federalists proclaim with one voice what a great & good man, &

when the news came that both his legs were shot off & he dead, they all envyd him such a glorious fall, shure enough what a glorious fall it must be to die the death of a traitor fighting against his Native Country but such is the death that has sealed the fate of General Meraw.

Not all the arguments that can be produced from the most able pen, can vindicate his conduct as justifiable in this last expedition, although that party may exert every faculty & every nerve to advocate the cause of Great Brittain & support her in her opressions. Still can any man, who has common sense, let him have ever so much partiality for Great Brittain & the allies, & ever so much hatred for the French, can he believe from his heart, that Meraw has acted that part which becomes a man of honor. Never. Why then do they urge these sentiments upon those who have not discernment enough to enable them to discover their petty intrigues? Because it is the main spring of their party pollicy. Could they so far enforce their malicious precepts as to Bring the commonality of the people to believe that England was fighting for the liberties of the world, that Bonapart & his army ought in justice to be demollished from the face of it, & that Meraw would be instrumental in accomplishing that object many would then be led to believe that it was a contest worthy of his former Political character, & that he died gloriously. Such men are mistaken admiting that the contest was ever so honorable that the whole world was to be benefited by it. Still he is a traitor & a villin who dares lift his arm against his Native Country. He must be lost to that Patriotism which ought to glow in the Breast of every citizen either civil or Millitary towards that country that claims him as its native champion. Shame & disgrace ought forever to follow him, whose Patriotism has lost its sway, & whose ambition has taken side with the enemy of his country to Bring about a civil commotion.

You will please to excuse all errors & ever believe me to be your dutiful son  
Seth Howard

All formality omitted as it respects sending my love &c. Thinking it useless as you all very well know my affection for you one & all.

[Envelope]  
Capt Seth Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebeck  
D.M.  
Winthrop Post Office

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4 2/9/1813 *From:* W. B. Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e02

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Febry 9th 1813

Honored Parents

A considerable time has alapsed since I wrote you last. I now have the pleasure to anounce the safe arrival of my Brother Everett to my Welcome habitation. He arrived to my house about the 10th of Jany last & tarried with me about a week. He then went to Doct Bailey's and from there to Poughkeepsie where he tarried a few days and painted a few pictures & then came to my hous accompanied by Seth and others. After making a short visit & taking a few sleigh rides I went with him & Seth to Poughkeepsie and on Friday last Everett and I returned home. He is now sitting by my fire side in perfect health a conversing with a Frenchman on the affairs of France & the death of Bonnaparte which was the rumour here last evening &c &c. I cannot discribe to you my feelings on his arrival, when I left your Hous little did I think of seeing him again. How changed the son when beholding him at so grate a distance from Home in perfect health. He will hereafter give you a naritive of his Journey which he can do more correctly than I. I believe it was verry pleasant and agreeable finding his friends and acquaintances all in good health.

I recv'd with gratitude your kind proposals for my return & would willingly except them were my situation different. Altho good fortune has entreated me from the many obligations I have ben under (Gratetude Excepted) to my friends in this Country, still I am placed in a situation that will render it imposible for me at present to comply with your generous proposals. I have now Two farms and a Store of Goods to attend to. My credit likewise which is more than all the rest a man without Credit is poor indeed. Should I relinquish Business and leave this Country a grate Sacrifice must be made. I should have <[Hole cut in paper]>land at a low rate, goods at a reduced <[Hole cut in paper]> business unsettled should <[Hole cut in paper]> business I am sure <[Hole cut in paper]>& by good fortune <[Hole cut in paper]>. I have already <[Hole cut in paper]> discontent fatigue <[Hole cut in paper]> my <[Hole cut in paper]> owing to my poverty <[Hole cut in paper]> flushed with self <[Hole cut in paper]> the many privileges <[Hole cut in paper]>from your kind indulgence <[Hole cut in paper]> Home that your <[Hole cut in paper]> would soon extricate <[Hole cut in paper]> that the income of a good <[Hole cut in paper]> in your declining years <[Hole cut in paper]> that has formaly attended <[Hole cut in paper]> affairs are not in so <[Hole cut in paper]> anticipated Especially in <[Hole cut in paper]> farm. Most raskally <[Hole cut in paper]> you can reconcile your selves to do ungenerous an act, altho' I owe all gratitude to you who are the best of Parrents. Yet from the little knowledge I have with the world gives me strangers not relation to deal with as in the above instance.

I close these few lines by wishing to be remembered to all my brothers sisters & enquiring friends. Everet wishes to be remembered to you & all the family.

Your dutiful son till death  
W. B. Howard

N.B. Everett wishes if Mr Lindsay comes into this Country that he would by all means fetch with him a Spotted Horse that now in Brunswick if I remember right.

If my business will posibly admit I think of making you a visit next fall.

Again your &c  
W.B. Howard

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5 12/11/1813 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Seth Howard

RBH-0e01g

Easton

Poughkeepsie

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Easton December 11th 1813

Beloved Brother

With unexpressable felicity I avail myself of this opportunity of writing but notwithstanding what I write may be irregular and unnatural in its form and destitute of the simple rules of composition and other qualities that would render it pleasing to the reader. Yet it is to be hoped that it will meet with a kind reception as it proceeds from a well meaning heart. It is with pleasure that I can announce to you that our relatives and friends are well in Bridgewater except Grandma. While it has pleased an omnific God (after a long and laborious life devoted to the particular care and attention of her domestics) to confine her to her bed about two months which she seems to bear patiently. Her disorder it is thought will terminate her existence.

I left home about the middle of October. The people there were enjoying good health. Aurelia came to Bridgewater with me and is there now very well-contented. We some expect to see you here as you wrote you were coming to Boston. But I have not heard any thing from you since nor from home since I came from there. I should be extremely pleased to see you here and have you accompany me home for I expect to return next spring if I do not alter my mind.

I am now in Easton teaching a school near the factory. It is a very large school of sixty scholars. It employs the most of my time while the day lasts but I have some leisure hours which I appropriate to the study of the latten Language or in turning over the instruction pages of some historian in order that I may benefit at some future period from such necessary and useful science. Teaching a school is not an occupation that pleases me but I am in a situation which excites me to do from necessity what I would not do from choice. I wrote a scrawl to you while at Bridgewater last September which undoubtedly you have received. I came up then with a drove of cattle and the last time with a drove of horses which I have sold. One of them I have owned about six months but three years old for which I had one hundred dollars.

My Father is coming after Aurelia in the course of the winter. We have heard most horrid news relating to the treatment of prisoners at Quebec. The story of which would almost excite tears of blood from the eyes of a Hero if all the avenues of passion were not shut against it. A great number of yours and my acquaintance are then doomed to waste the bloom of their youth in the obdurate clutches of unrelenting tyranny.

Many of your acquaintance since you left Leeds have become inhabiting of the world of spirits. Of those I now recollect are Abigail Lindsay, Clarissa Lamb Bernus Lamb Eli Henish & Ester Francis was thought to be in the last stages of consumption and likewise Archabal Lindsay was failing very fast. James Lindsay and Lydia Lane were published and it is expected that Luther Ledbeter will take Jennison. I will omit all other matrimonial stories untill I see you which I hope will be soon for when you wrote you observed you had nothing to hinder you from coming but the sobing at your departure but I think your unbounded imagination changes not the folly of the people. You must excuse my gestic.

Doct Bridgham taught a school one quarter at the school-house near my fathers and boarded at our house together with seven or eight. It was said to be an excelent school. I did not attend on account of other business but the most of the young people of the neighbourhood went and some scholars out of town. Davis Francis attended it and has been reading virgil all summer when he was able.

I wish you to write to me immediately after you receive this whether you come or not and inform me of Everet and Ward. I have not heard any thing from Everet since he left you. Give my respects to Ward and all relatives and friends there and reserve the same yourself.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland B Howard

[To:] Mr Seth Howard Poughkeepsie

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6 7/26/1814 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Captn Seth Howard

RBH-0e04

Yorktown

Leeds

County of Kennebeck Me

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Honored Parents

Five weeks have elapsed since my brothers left my hous for the district of Mane and not one word have I heard from them. How they can keep me thus in suspense they can better account for than me. Heaven grant that they may arrive ere this and dispelled those cares and anxieties that have so long corroded the breasts of the best of Parents. There reflections are the only consolation I have for the loss of the Company of my unfortunate Brothers - any circumstance however grate the deprivation may be to me if it will only be the means of rendering comfort and happiness to my dear Father & Mother I most willingly submit praying Heaven to crown their last days with health and enjoyment.

For near Seven months Everett was with me and little did I think we should be seperated untill the curtain of life closed the sun for ever. Physicians Friends & acquaintance and he himself for a long time gave up all hopes of his recovery. The feelings erected on this occasion in my breast can be easier conceived than described; the only deviation was in discharging my duty as far as I was capable which I earnestly hope was acceptable to him and may it be to you all. You no doubt thought strange of my not writing by Everett which I intended to have done. But I assure you I had no expectation of his starting altho he had long had it in contemplation but his feable health I expected would baffle his resalution. In this I have been disappointed. He could however inform you of every particular and should health and circumstances permit I am in hopes to see you this fall probibly in September. I am however peculiarly situated. I have let out my Farm to my sorrow. I have my store& carding machine to attend to, which will render it difficult to leave home. Tell Everett that I have kept the machine agoing both day & night from the first day he started and now have a large Quantity of wool on hand. Tell him also that I have got my rye secured in the barn and would give \$100 that I had my part of the other Crops in my own hands or could have them before I leave home for I have rogues thieves and the devil to deal with. Last season was the time I had calculated on returning home but could not accomplish it. I at this time know of but one thing to hinder - a draft takes place in this Region this week. Should I and my boy both be drafted I surely cannot go home. Should I alone be drafted I can substitute him in my place &c. I have no news to inform you more than you have already heard. The affair at Chippewa and Capt Porters loss of the Essex are the only things of moment at this time. Porters letter to the Secy ought to be read by every American.

Pleas to rember me to Everett. May natures grate Physician soon restore him to perfect health for he has already baffled all human skill and by this time must be convinced that they do not possess the knowledge or the means to accomplish it. Doctrs & Priests are growing very much out of date. You will also remember me to Stilman & family and all my brothers & sisters repectively. Do hurry Seth back. I long to hear from home. Tell Everett that every half hour some one of his acquaintances are calling to know if I have heard from him. Ingratitude is a name he disdains. I had almost charged him with it for not writing. He must inform me from time to time of his health and every thing else.

After acknowledging with Gratitude the many favours I have rec'd from you pleas to accept of the best wishes of your son for the preservation of your health and happiness  
Ward B Howard

Yorktown July 26th 1814

[Envelope]

Captn Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck Me

[Postmark stamp] PEEKSKILL NY July 27

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7 8/20/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01a

Yorktown

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown August 20, 1814

Dear Sir

After my respects to you I have the pleasure to inform you, that I arrived safe here in one fortnight to a day from the time I started from my fathers - had a very pleasant time and a very agreeable journey. We traveled from Leeds to Portland to Boston, through Bridgewater to Providence from Providence to Hartford. Then to Poughkeepsie from there to Yorktown - a journey of more than five hundred miles. I past through a great variety of Country, many delightful villages & pleasant farms very fertile & under high cultivation and over some most reched mountains that exibeted to the eye of the traveler a very dismal scene. I arrived at Poughkeepsie the residence of my brother Seth on Saturday evening found my relations and my Brothers friends in health.

On Sunday forenoon I attended Wm Donards Church & in the afternoon the English Church which was new to me and appeared an excess of formality. It was all "as the <iregov> said Gitty up setty down &c &c."

Poughkeepsie is very hansomely situated and the market is crowded with produce of every kind from the back Country for twenty or thirty miles which is fertile and very productive. It is agreeably inundated with hill and valies and it abounds with fruit in great pleanty and is the handsomest country I ever saw. I repaired immediatly to this town found Ward in health and very pleased to see me when he found me to be his brother. But at first he could not recognize my features and it appeared to him for a time a thing almost imposible that it could be me.

Yorktown is a country town situated about forty miles from Newyork City a good township of land but perhaps as uneven as the towns in Maine are in general. My brother owns a farm & a cording machine and other buildings and is doing considerable business. I have been here now but a short time but to say that I like as well as I expected is to speak the truth. Noting this landscape from the general appearance I suspect that I have cast among uncultivated & disipated part of the world. You will readily conclud the state of society now existing and what of course the enjoyments of a person must be who is fond of good company, good society and whishes to devote his time to cultivate his mind and enlarge his understanding.

I resume the pleasing work of writing to you at this time and would make use of every effort to convince you or at least as far as words will lend. To the confirmation of any truth that my bosom still glows with affection for you and while memory continues to hold her seat in this brest of mine the recollection of your simpathetic and tender friendship towards me shall be fresh in my memory. It is true I have quit my native province my relatives and bosom friends and have wandered to a distant country but not at the same time thinking to add to my felicity and enjoyment but perhaps you know some of the motives that actuated me to do as I have done and some perhaps are best known to myself. However my advise would be to a person being among his good friends & confidents placed in a good society situation &c and family and enjoying a sutuble fortune sufficient to consel all the demands of his appetite & taste to console himself on the advantages of his present state & live and die under the mite influence of contentment and conclude within his own breast that he has enjoyed himself as well as any one living. Which in fact he has & if we were all concerned of it our enjoyment would be much greater than they are at present but our minds are as fickle as the wind and no director can control them.

Rowland B Howard

[To:] Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds

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8 8/29/1814 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e05

Poughkeepsie

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

D.M.

Winthrop Post Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Poughkeepsie August 29th 1814

Dear Sir

I have written to Doct Bridgham informing him of our safe arival, which letter I presume you have had the pleasure of seeing Ward was here the last week he tells me he shall start in a short time for the Eastward. I have entered into partnership with a gentleman of this village for the purpose of establishing an air furnace, & if it is a possible thing we should like to get Mr Lincoln. I have given Ward instructions respecting it but I thought it necessary to acquaint you with my intention. I request you to engage him so that he may be making preparation previous to Wards arival. We expect to hire him at \$2 per day after he arives & he find himself except his money expenses on the journey & that we will defray. However if that wont do, say \$2 1/4 if that wont do you will wait till Ward arives. He has unlimited instructions. The ocation of my making this Request of you is, that we wish to have it agoing as soon as possible, so as to be prepared to cast stoves before cold weather. He may stay as long or as short as he pleases, the longer the better.

Please give my respects to all that may be interested in my concearns. With gratitude I subscribe myself your affectionate son.

Seth Howard

[ENVELOPE]

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

D.M.

Winthrop Post Office

[POSTMARK] POUGHK NY AUG 29

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9 9/3/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Thomas Lindsay

RBH-0e01e

Yorktown

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown September 3rd 1814

Good Friend

With pleasure I eagerly improve this to acquaint you of my welfare and hope to receive frequently in return a recompence in the same way.

I arrived here safe in a fortnight from the time I moved from Leeds. We were favoured with beautiful weather and had a very good time, saw many pretty faces delightful villages and pleasant farms. I walked at Easton where I taught school last winter and spent two or three evenings in among peculiar to my taste inclination and likeing. I likewise have been favoured with coincidents of this kind since I arrived in this place. My Brother haveing a good span of horse and a carriage double horse waggon which is the only pleasure cart we have in this country. We lack in a full complaiment of young women. We rode about eight miles to a great Camp meeting where men were collected some thousands of people at the least calculation. We past that day evening and some evenings since perhaps as lively as I ever did in main. To state facts I can say that I like as well as I expected and am perfectly contented. The people deffer here much from those of main. There are two general classes of people which are no way similar. One is of regular habits and tolerable informed but the lower classes are very disapoted and of low habits but some allowence is to be made as my business leads these people to my acquaintance more than any other. I almost forgot to inform you that I had the good fortune of entering into business with my brother in his store where I expect to continue for some months. Undoubtedly you will have received information of the capture of Washington ere this arrives to your home. I will asure you it has caused an animated spirit of resentment and roused the patriotism of the people to such a degree that almost every man is on the alert. Between thirty and forty thousand men are now in actual service in the vicinity of Newyork City and the militia are ordered and now more being from all parts of the state. They move with energy and patriotism becomeing american soldiers.

After wishing you prosperity and happiness I must draw to a close by requesting you to write the first oppurtunity.

Yours &c &c  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Thomas Lindsay  
Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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10 9/21/1814 *From:* Dwight F. Harrington *To:* Mr Roland Howard

RBH-0e06

Camp Fort Erie

Yorktown  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Camp Fort Erie Sept 21, 1814

Roland

I little thought to have received a line from you dated at Yorktown, yet I assure you I was much gratified with the perusal of yours of the 10th Instant, especially when you mention the name of Hadassah with so much respect and admiration. That I may live thro' the struggles of this Fighting School, and be permitted to return to the Forest of the East, is my most earnest wish, when I am sensible I should enjoy myself with the People of that Country. While I was there, I considered it a part of my life not altogether misspent, tho' it proved not very lucrative. The acquaintances I acquired was that of good & generous minds which has made a lasting impression on my memory, & that which will never be eradicated while the animal fluids flow thro' the veins which now invigorate the arm to throw with impetuosity the means of death to a haughty & ungrateful enemy.

Having been nearly two years deprived the privilege of personal conversation with the Girls of my Age & Acquaintance, you might be led to suppose I had quite forgotten their tenderness & good company - but the reverse is the case with me for the instant I hear from these bewitching Creatures it brings fresh to mind the pleasures I once enjoyed, which compared with my present situation, has the effect of Electricity.

You speak of the recovery of Everetts health, & I assure you I am much pleased to hear so favourable news. I think that Seth has forgotten to write me, but as he does not like a Soldiers life, perhaps he is willing to forget Soldiers but he must remember I am as much a Painter as ever.

Some few days since I received a Letter from Doctr C Holland of Livermore who states some marriages having taken place, among whom is Miss Patty Howard to that darned illiterate fellow of a Phillips. What will Ward say when he comes to visit them? A Mr Pray to Sally Stone & so the Devil is to pay among the Girls & Boys in the East. However the one near the meeting house in Jay is yet of the same mind as formerly (as the Doctor says).

If you wish to know any thing concerning the battle of the 17th Sept, you must look to the Prints. You will observe the death of Capt Bradford who was lately exchanged from Halifax. He commanded the Company I was in. I was with with him when he was killed &c. The volunteer Militia fought well, but lost 60 or 70 taken prisoners, owing to getting scattered in the Wood. Expect to have some more Tragi-comida performances very shortly - in which 'tis ten to one but I get my Profile disfigured.

Qr. Master McChains & Lieut Brown are both here. Lt Brown wishes his friends to write him &c - (viz.) Mr Bailly.

Be so good as to write me, or request Seth to do as much as to think that I am yet alive. When you write to Leeds, be sure and state that I have escaped thus far unhurt in the Service of the U States.

Should be happy to have you forward some of your Newspapers to me, even after date they would be gratifying to us here.

Tattoo has been beat. I must suffer the candle to burn no longer.

I am Sir, as usual  
your obd friend &c  
Dwight F. Harrington  
Sergt. 21 Regt. US Infy

Mr Roland Howard

P.S. The Enemy have evacuated this place, I retire hastily in the dead of a rainy night.

[ENVELOPE]

Buffalo NY  
Sep 26  
Mr. Roland Howard  
Yorktown  
New York

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11 9/28/1814 *From:* Rowland B. Howard *To:* Mr Millford Norton

RBH-0e01d

Yorktown

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown September 28 - 1814

Respective Friend

As it so providentially happens while studying in a way to preparing ourselves to set out in the world that we became some what intimate and did enjoy ourselves at that age of our lives in soubillity and liveliness peculiar to ourselves and at this period altho we are now deprived of the advantages of personal liberty intimacy and social chat yet with great reluctance I relinquish this enjoyment and with much pleasure resume my pen agreeable to your request and coincident with my own inclination to acquaint you with my welfare and situation in life. It is true I have left my relitives confidants and bosom friends and wandered to a distant country among strangers of all descriptions some good bad and indifferent as they are of course in any country what ever. Let it be represented in the best lite it can but to state facts I can say that the greater class of people in this country have accomplishments peculiar to the yankes. There are some few of the fair especially those that have perfected them selves in the rudement of there behaveiour as to deportment habits customs and manners consistent with genteel life.

I have spent some jovel hours in company with those of this description but some of my time I have appropriated to a rural retreat on some lonely rock to amuse myself in reading or in contemplation of my past or future life. As for the former from the time I saw you first my enjoyment has been as great as I could wish and God knows that the finer feeling of my heart calls forth greater acts of gratitude to my good friend than my pen can perform. I left Leeds on the 9th of August and arrived here in one fortnight. I went immediately into business for my Brother in a store. He went to main soon after my arrival which of course confines me entirely and which renders me incapable of making observations on the country at present. I now have the offer of \$75 a Quarter to teach a school. It is more than probable that I shall once more undertake this disagreeable occupation as this together with other business I could attend to will make my situation very promising. If you will have the goodness to write me I will inform you from time to time of my life and the country where I now reside "in my poor broken way" I must draw to a close by requesting you to give my amities and shake hands for me with all that know me. I am with great Respect and esteem

Yours &c.&c.  
Rowland B. Howard

Mr Millford Norton  
Augusta

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12 10/15/1814 *From:* Aurelia Bridgeham

*To:* Beloved Brother [RB  
Howard, Sr]

RBH-0e07

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds October 15th 1814

Beloved Brother

With the greatest pleasure imaginable, I now attempt to write to you notwithstanding the incorrectness of my composition writing &c. I flatter myself it will meet with a kind reception. Best of Brothers, my feelings were inexpressable at the time of your departure from this place. I retired to my chamber the day you left us and scarcely neither did eat drink nor sleep for two days and nights but after the Dr came from Portland and said you were in very good spirits when he left you, I composed myself as much as possible, and have made myself as contented as I could with what friends I have here. Pleasing myself with the idea that I shall once more see my Brother and enjoy myself in his good company as I have heretofore.

Pen cannot express the joy I felt on receiving your letter. When I opened it and see the contents therein it served to recall my mind to past scenes and seemed to remind of past favours unnumbered from you. O! Beloved Brother if I may so express myself could I have seen you here last Thursday my joy would be unutterable [See note 1]. But of that blessing I was denied. Hour after hour have I spent meditating on those happy hours we have passed together and would to God I could spend the remaining part of my life as I have heretofore.

I have no particular news to write respecting your relation and friends in this country. Mam did not recover her sickness for a long time after you left here. She is far from being well at this time. She has a very bad cough which I am afraid she never will be any better of. Mam is troubled very much on being seperated from her son Rowland. She says she cannot bare the thought of never seeing him again, likewise the rest of her sons who are destined to be far from her. But my dear brother you are the one she has always depended upon takeing care of her in her old age, but she makes herself as reconciled as possible to her situation, and says she thinks it is all for the best that you should be gone as you was out of health and not able to labour. I hope you will be careful of your health and not be exposed to the bad weather &c, for health is the greatest blessing in this world that you are sensible of. Deprived of that we are deprived of every comfort of life.

Lucretia and myself have enjoyed ourselves extremely well since Ward came home. In his good company and many others of your acquaintances and mine that has made the time seem short that he has tarried here. He says he must soon depart of which I dread the thought, but will try to assume as much fortitude as is possible for me, and pass the scene which is the most unpleasant of any that ever I experienced - that is parting with my nearest and dearest relation. Ward will inform you of all news and will tell you more than I can write. Your friends and relation here all express a wish to see you, Dr Bridgham in particular. He is one of your best friends. Friend do I say. He is your Brother and one I will dare to say wishes for your health and prosperity as much as any Brother you have now existing. Ward will inform you about the wedding &c &c &c. All your relations and friends send their love to you, Lucretia in particular. She wants to see you very much. Hadassah I have not seen since your departure but I presume she is as lively as ever and wishing to see you. Nancy and Caroline I have seen. They were here the last week and as chipper as ever. I read you letter to them they were much pleased with it.

Rest assured my dearest brother you have my best wishes for your prosperity in every undertaking and my never ceasing prayer shall be offered to the great auther of the universe for your happy immortality.

I must now conclude by requesting you to write to me as soon as you receive this and write every opportunity to me and likewise to the Dr. By the transactions of late, relative to changing my name I must now subscribe myself your

Affectionate Sister  
Aurelia Bridgeham

[Note 1: I presume that Aurelia is referring here to her marriage to Dr Thomas Bridgeham which occurred in

October 1814. She mentions the marriage several times in the letter and signs the letter with her married name. Thus her marriage date was Thursday the 13th of October 1814.]

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13 10/16/1814 *From:* Thomas Lindsay

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e08

Leeds

Yorktown

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 16th 1814

Dear sir

I received your favour the thirteenth instant and was highly gratified to hear that you was in the enjoyment of a perfect State of health. To add to your happiness I would inform you that your friends intimates and connection of both sexes participate with me in the enjoyment of the same blessing. I would fain write you some news as a suitable return of gratitude for the high honours conferred on me by you the favour of Corresponding with a distant friend but nothing incidental to our former acquaintance occurs to my mind at present.

For this six weeks past the district of main has bin in a continual uprore. The militia has bin all under armes and within the limits of my acquaintance they were generally speaking wiling to turn out to defend our sea board and Repell an invading foe.

Under the present imbarised Circumstances you will conclude we have but little time to spend with ladyes which is the taste of your humble servant but rely on this when ever an opportunity presents we lose no time in calling together our pleasure parties to signalize our selves among the brilliant assemblies of the east.

I must solisit the favour of a letter for which I hope you will give me a discription of manners and customes of the people in your quarter.

Their has nothing hapned of importance since you left hear. No new Cortships Nor marriages except that of your sisters to the Dr. I under stood it was attended with great splendor but I had not the pleasure of being ther.

I had a conference with miss hannah Chandler once since your absence who expressed a desire to see you in a state of selibicy once more. Hannah Stinchfield wished me to find a place in my letter for her compliments who greets the Day that you shall return.

Write to me soon and often Concerning every incident that hapnes to you during your stay at Yorktown and if you see cause to Remove from thence direct me wher to find you.

And believe me your's with undessembled affection

Thomas Lindsay

To Rowland B Howard

[Envelope]

Mr Rowland B Howard  
Yorktown

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14 10/23/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01b

Yorktown

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown Sunday Oct 23 - 1814

Ensign

with pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of yours dated at Bath a few days since in which I learned with great satisfaction the welfare of yourself and companions in arms and with uncommon feelings almost productive of electricity. I received yours from Farmington which was the first news I had from the east and which contained many little incidents that added more to my pleasure than can be described or even imagined and it was not through forgetfulness or my not being remindful of my distant friend that I have not written before but owing to the multiplicity of business on my hands (left by my Brother) and the many letters I have written to the eastward and elsewhere but as this has been my misfortune you will excuse me this once and not follow my example in this respect but write every opportunity. So you are the only person I depend on for common and domestic news. I wish you to acquaint me with much of these which perhaps will seem little or nothing to you but will be of consequence to me.

I suspect there has been great attentions in the feeling and anxiety of the people since I left there but it is no more than could be expected at this eventful period. I hope those that I have had the honor to know my associates will not be backward in defending our common country and in repeling the hostile invader from our shores but go chearfully and perform their tour of duty which is short and easy to what many of our countrymen experience. We all have our bad and good fortune in the great drama of the world but M. Comb said fortune favours the brave. The militia here have been called in to actual service but the Sergeant that warned me being a particular friend of mine and by my request did not return me so the commanding officer of course & I am clear from military duty for a time. I attend a military school very strictly and think I had better be prepaired and not go than go and not be prepaired.

I have had the offer of \$75 a quarter for teaching a school in this vicinity but have declined the offer. I received a letter from Stonington not long since. He had escaped unhurt after the last battle at fort Erie before the British left that place. He thinks it is Ten to one that he gets his profile disfigured in this fighting school. I have been very prosperous so far and enjoyed myself as well as I expected but if I had some of my former associates here I could live far more contented than I do now.

I have been in perfect health since I left home. Seth and my relations here are all well. I wish you prosperity and contentment in a soldiers life and hope you will pass your time as agreeable as such a state will allow you have a good opportunity of studying on any other amusement you have a mind to employ yourself about. Those that ask what I send for them you must more good will and gratitude than my pen can describe. Shake hands with all my good friends for me. Do write immediately. I close in haste

Your ever true friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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15 1/1/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e11

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D.M.

Winthrop P. Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill January 1st 1815

Beloved Parents

An opportunity now presents itself which I readily improve in addressing you for the first time since I left home, but beg you not to consider it as neglect for my heart is truly warm with anxiety and tender emotions for the welfare of my beloved Parents - notwithstanding the great distance that now separates us you will find me no less anxious to contribute to your happiness and comfort. But perhaps my leaving home may prove disadvantageous to the family, but I hope not. However I am fully persuaded it has been some advantage to my health. It is true I have been some unwell since I left home, but not a day unable to attend to my business. Good fortune has placed me in a very pleasant situation in the Village of Peekskill, six miles from Wards & 30 from Poughkeepsie standing in full view of the North river where I am now Teaching a very fine school consisting of Fifty scholars. I have 2 dollars and 12 ½ cents per scholar a Quarter. I shall probably continue here some time. I am boarding now in a very agreeable family and am very well contented. This is a very fine Country and the climate I find much milder than that of Main. It is now the first of January & no snow on the ground and not colder than I have known it in October there. Everet & Ward drank tea with me yesterday afternoon. I likewise had a letter from Seth dated three days since. They are all in perfect health. Ward has sold his farm since he returned for \$2,000. Everet has given up the idea of going to Sackets harbour and is about preparing to start for Newyork to spend the winter which in my opinion is the most prudent act. The pain in his breast has entirely ceased and he has grown very fleshy.

I was much surprised that Ward did not bring a letter from the Dr. But was no less pleased in having a letter from Aurilia, the favour of which will never be obliterated from my memory. I beg her to accept my best wishes & she and the Dr write very frequently. It is a long time since I heard from home and you will readily conclude the anxiety I feel. You hear from me frequently I suspect by my brothers letters of course it is not necessary for me to write so often. I almost forgot to inform you that Seth has had very hard luck with his furniture which he computes wholly to bad management, but is in great hopes Mr Lincoln will come. He built the establishment with the greatest rapidity of any of the same extent established in that Town and his fatigue & labour has reduced him almost to a skeleton.

In great haste, I am your dutiful son  
Rowland B Howard

N.B. Give my compliments and good wishes to all my Brothers sisters neighbours and friends and do some of you write immediately to me.

[ENVELOPE]

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebec D.M.

Winthrop P. Office

[POSTMARK] PEEKSKILL N.Y. Jan 2d

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16 2/20/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01c

Peekskill

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Feb 20 1815  
Beloved Friend

Once more I am favoured with a moment to advise you of my situation and to renew our former corespondance which to my great surprise and regret had been discontinued and for what reason I have thought it was beyond human intention to determine. Many hours have I passed in solitary retirement saying to myself did I leave any friends behind me and if I did why are they so unmindful as to deny me the privilege of perusing a few lines from my native country but it with great pleasure that I find that the fault of which I complain is not yours. This day a gentleman handed me a letter from a distant post office wher it had miscaried dated at Farmington December the 20 but not withstanding the interior you will readily conclude that it was not unwelcome news when I inform you it is the only information I have received from the East for more than four month.

I will inform you now of my situation occupation and life since my last which perhaps will be among your first inquiries after my Brother returned. I sought for an occupation that would be more lucrative and hearing that the school in this village was vacant I made application and procured it for one quarter after passing an examination by a board of inspectors appointed by the state to bring into <eximtion> a new law for the regulation of common schools. I flatter myself that I succeeded in a way satisfactory to my employers. My first quarter terminated two weeks ago on which I received \$115 for the Tuition of the scholars under my care. It is the most profitable school in westchester county but the undertaking is attended with so much perplexity and anxiety it is very probable I shall not perform the office after the Termination of the second quarter which I commenced on Monday last. The village of peekskill consists of some hundred houses and more than twenty stores and accomidated with every commodious haven from which while the river is open are eight or ten sloops continually sailing transporting produce & passengers to the city of Newyork. This village stands on the East bank of the hudson abut 35 miles from Poughkeepsie and about 50 above Newyork. I board in a genteel & respectable family who live stileish in every sense of the word.

I have generally speaking been in perfect health since I left Leeds. I visited Ward & Seth last week who were both well. Everet I have not heard from for about six weeks. He was then at White Hall on Lake Champlain and in good heath. Should I not return to main this summer which it is possible I may but not very probable, I shall enter into the mercantile line of business in company which may prolong my stay in York state for years. Ensign if you will but imagine yourself in a distant Country among strangers you can form a faint idea of the satisfaction which would be reanimated in my bosom if I could but receive a visit from some of my former friends or schoolmates. If you calculate to settle for life in main I think it a thing of great and very expedient that you should visit some part of the united States that you never have while you are yet a young man. It will not be time and money thrown away but on the other hand it will be productive of many great advantages. You will not only observe the different customes habits manners and practices of every class of people but will have an opportunity of regulating your own by reversing the errors of the bad and folowing the good example of our superiour who distinguish themselves in the annals of our beloved country. I should be very happy to wait upon you at any day hour or minute which if I continue in this country I hope I shall have the honor of doing.

You must write to me immediately and continue to write without waiting to receiving one from me. Fail not to write me every month if not oftener. You hear other ways probably from me but I receive nothing from main except yours & your last is of great interest to me. Remember me to my beloved parents & family to the neighbouring familys and all other Friends.

I am your sincere and good friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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17 3/1/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:*

RBH-0e01l Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Happy thou fair when mild <con [torn corner]>  
Adorns thy youthful breast  
To anxious thought upon Thee sent  
Not to disturb thy rest  
Angelic form than heaven has Sent  
How greatly are we blest  
Delightfull then if we could see  
Union and peace embrace  
Smiles and sunshine there would be  
Enlivening every face  
Nothing disturbs thy peaceful heart  
But small domestic care  
Endeavour then to all impart  
Reanimations there  
Recount to them a goodly thought  
You then will claim there care

Peekskill March 1 1815  
Rowland B Howard [written backwards]

Hail lovely maid all in thy bloom  
Angelic form quiet at home  
Delighted there to talk and chat  
And please here guests with this or that  
Sure to touch There generous heart  
And overcome there greatest art  
Holding the staff of cupids dart

Comely and mild generous and just  
Reason her guide providence her Trust  
Amiable in gesture look and act  
From vice and folly she doth lack  
To alleviate her own good self  
Leeds July 3 1814

Your heart with virtue fraught  
And soul bedect with usual glee  
Never a look with disdain took  
Except when friends doth prove not free  
Sublime her chaise to stay her name  
Unremembered in the ramble  
Mind full its best to lie at rest  
Enrapt in peace not trouble  
Reluctant she her neighbours all  
Bewilldered in there folly  
Envys not There were flat  
Lest vertue should be sorry

Yorktown 1 September 1814

Think well ere you resolve weigh each event  
Lest when to take in sorrow you repent

Beauty makes virtue lovelyer still of [TORN PAGE]

< > makes duty more devinely [TORN PAGE]

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18 7/6/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Capt Stillman Howard

RBH-0e01f

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D. Maine

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill July 6th 1815

Dear Brother & sister

It is with the greatest pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of writing which I have long delayed in hopes of receiving a line from Leeds.

You little think while you are there busily employed in your domestic concerns of the great anxiety which exercises your distant friend and brother relative to your health and welfare. I have heard not a word since Rowland B Lyndsay arrived in this place and then was very much surprised when on asking him I found not one letter for myself nor Brothers. He arrived here in good health and spirits about six weeks ago and immediately repaired to the Doctors where he has remained ever since at work. I heard from Seth a few weeks ago but not from Everet for more than six weeks. He was then in Platsburg in tolerable health. Ward has sold all his possessions in Yorktown and moved his effect to this village the first of last May. The second quarter I taught school in this village, was then terminated and I thought it a very promising opportunity for me to go in to some more active business. We <rented> the best stand & store in this town at one hundred dollars a year. We entered into pardner ship, Ward agreeing to put in two thirds of the stock and I some and draw the proffits accordingly. We bought in New York when we began 4,000 Dollars worth of goods. We have and shall keep that stock good. I went down to the city for the purpose of purchasing goods last week and had the pleasure of seeing the City selibration on the 4 inst which was very splendid surpassing any thing I ever saw of the kind before. It is realy a great and elegant City. I had likewise the pleasure of seeing the steam frigget move round battery with a heavy discharge of her guns.

You will readily supose we have so much business as we can attend to when I inform you we make some days nearly one hundred & besides what we charge. Owing to my small constitution and poor state of health I confine myself mostly to dry goods which is very busy but very clean and lite work. I have had some very severe turns of pain and sickness this spring and have lost some flesh but of late I think I have reverted some. I make it a practice now to ride out a small distance every day. I have been under the necessity of leaving my former boarding house, it being so far from the store which I much regret. Altho my self & Brother now board in a very good house Seth has bot out his partner in the furnace and is now verry prosperous. I feal under great anxiety about my fathers concerns but it is wholly imposible for me to have been any advantage to him on the farm had I returned last spring. I have not done one days work since I left home nor should I be able to were I to return. And you will readily conclude it was not posible for Ward to leave this Country after being a merchant here for more than four years and accounts standing to a great amount and many no one could collect but himself and beside he is very well situated among a numerous trains of Friends and acquaintance which if he remain in this Country probably will be condusive to his advancement and station in life. Much more but the copy is lost. I close.

Rowland B Howard

Capt Stillman Howard Leeds  
County of Kennebec D. Maine

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19 8/9/1815

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01i

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D. Maine

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill August 9th 1815

Ensign

It is allways with pleasure that I address you but I am put to the necessity of requesting once more some information from the Eastward. It has been if I do not mistake four or five months since I heard one word from home. You well know my anxiety for the welfare of my friends and I can not but consider them unfealing if they neglect the small task of penning a few lines for my information. But I will complain no more at present but hope for the better. I now for my own part enjoy tolerable health likewise Ward & Seth. The latter I visited two weeks ago and found him as prosperous in his business as I expected. He received a letter about the fourth of July from Everet who was <then> at Plattsburg doing well. And as for the particulars of myself which you said you always wished me to write is that I have done teaching school where I believe I was imployed when I wrote you last and have entered into the mercantile business in partnership with my Brother Ward which occupation I like extremely well notwithstanding the great anxiety you must know of course attends it especially if it be a young man just setting foreward in the world when good or bad management will materily injure or promote him through the rest of his life. My acquaintances in this Country are verry extensive and my being conversant with so many new names it has caused me to forget many of the names of my former acquaintance whose persons I perfectly well recollect.

I now board in a very good house near our store and pay two dollars and a half per week for my board exclusive of my washing which amounts to fifty cents per week generally and my other expences would be thought considerable in Maine. But this fact is certain money is easier to be obtained in this country than it is in that but it is equally certain it will go but verry little ways if you expend it either for fancy or necessity.

We have two boarders in the house both young men one a student at Law. The other a merchant who make our society very pleasing while at home. Ward is appointed justice of the Peace and has received his commission and qualified to the office he is doing and like to do good deal of business as a justice which office is much more lucrative than it is in Maine as there is scarcely a day but what there are more or less Justice Courts in this village.

Ward and I last Sabath went out for a chair ride and visited Doct Baileys 15 miles from this place where we see Rowland B Lindsay who was well and tolerably well contented. He has <recruited> his horses fleash and has been at work for the Doct ever since he arrived in this state. I think it very likely he will return next year.

I wish to visit you verry much but can not at present. I do not regret my visit to this country as I receive many advantages here that I never could acquire there and perhaps am better situated for comfort and enjoyment than many of my friends provided I am blest with health.

It is probable my parents considered that my leaving home was a detriment to them but they may rest asured that it will not be in the end. Give them my love and all the family like wise the Doct & Aurelia & all those that inquire of my welfare. Aurelia I have long expected to write and likewise yourself which I hope you will without fail after receiving this. Inform me of the deaths removals and mariages since your last. You must accept my best wishes for your proprosperity and happiness.

Your Friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds  
County of Kennebec D. Maine

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20 9/25/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr. Ezekiel Stinchfield

RBH-0e01h

Peekskill

Leeds County of Kennebeck  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Septem 25 1815

Sir

This will apprise you that I am yet in the land of the living acting my part in this wide world with health and prosperity and notwithstanding the distance that seperates us I am yet mindful of you and my former friends whom I have past so many delightful hours with and now with an impression that a line from me would be acceptable I take the liberty to imploy a leasure moment in writing my welfare and giving you proofs of my good will for yours. I have lived well since I saw you with enough to eat drink and wear and other favours requisite to pleasure and happiness in this disapated world. I had the good fortune from the time I came into this country to get into business both Proffitable and advantageous for improvement in education and business.

Ezekiel you probably well Recollect my saying in days of our intimacy that we might shortly separate and desolve acquaintance but what was then only vision is now a reality. But notwithstanding acquaintance can not now be cultivated between us. Let us not neglect the more necessary friendship by adding to the pleasure and hapiness of each other with the favour of a few lines which to me when I receive that favour is very interesting and I presume that a corespondence will not be wholly disinteresting to you.

When I receive a letter from my native Place it gives me more pleasure than any moments I pass. But seldom it is that I receive one. It is probable you have Learnt my situation before by letters I have wrote to my friends. I am doing much business in the mercantile line. My Brother Ward is Sheriff & Justice of the Peace. He has some days five or six Courts a day consequently the care of the store mostly devolves on me but I have assistance good part of the time. Therefore my task is not hard. My Brothers and friends here are all in good health. Dick Foster called upon us last Sabath but could give us no late news from home. He said he was going on to Baltimore.

Give my love and Amities to all good friends. I shall visit you when I can the Lord willing. Give my Respects in particular to Ensign. Tell him if he has not forgotten me to write me one letter and be so good as to do the same yourself.

Your good Friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr. Ezekiel Stinchfield  
Leeds County of Kennebeck D. Maine

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21 10/6/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Samuel Paul

RBH-0e01j

Peekskill

Lyons

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Octbr 6 1815

Sir

I was highly pleased a few days since when a gentleman came into our store and presented me with your compliments whom he said he had seen a few days before. You can not immagin how much the newes of one of my intimate friends did interest me. I drew from the man all he could tell which was but little at most only you was in Lyons and had made a stand.

I was surprised you did not visit me at the time you crossed the river, which I suppose was not far above this village. But I suppose you was on your journey and could make no stop. I have heard nothing from Leeds with in two or three months. But the last news I had the people there all well and flourishing. I came to this village last fall, which probably you heard before. I taught school here two quarters and Received one hundred dollars for each. My Brother Ward sold his possessions in Yorktown five miles from this and moved here the first of April when my school had terminated. I entered into pardnership in a store with him where we have been doing much Busines ever since. The Village of Peekskill stands on the east Bank of The Hudson River about fifty miles above New York City and twenty five miles below New burgh and thirty five from Poughkeepsie. It is a verry pleasantly situated Town of about two hundred houses. I live verry agreeably in a good society of young people. I find money pleantyer here than in maine but much easyer spent.

The climate here is warm mild and healthy and but little snow in the winter but I suspect Lyons lies so far north that the climate differes but little from that of Leeds.

You can immagine by your own experience my feelings when I left my native country and came into a distant land among <[paper torn]>. But I have been verry fortunate <[paper torn]> since I have been here and it is <[paper torn]> wish that you may be equally fortunate. You will find good country <verigated> with poor in every Quarter likewise advantages and disadvantages go where you will.

But one truth is certain that a man must be wide awake to live in this world. I had a letter from Harrington a few days since. He was then at Sacketts Harbour in good health and spirits. <Everet> I have returned to Leeds in the month of July. Samuel do write me immediately after receiving this and inform me of all the news when you left Leeds of our old friends of the Country where you now live and how you like leaving Leeds and all the removals from there with all the deaths and marriages. Give my best compliments to your father and all the family. Tell them Ward Seth & myself are all in good health.

Receipt of my best wishes for your prosperity.

Your friend & schoolmate  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Samuel Paul  
Lyons

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22 12/1/1815 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* [Capt Seth Howard]

RBH-0e01k

Peekskill

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Dec 1815 [Assume Dec 1 1815]

<[Torn page]>

with pleasure I present myself to my beloved payrents and be assured that I feal particularly interested for your well fare & happiness at the consequence of my absence be what it may. I have long delayed writing hoping to receive a line from home. But an anxious mind and a belief that it would not be displeasing to you to lern the welfare of your distant Children prompts me to write. Everet arrived in this village in about fourteen days from Leeds has boarded with Ward & myself ever since which is eight or nine weeks. He is in perfect health and has painted Wards, mine and many other pictures in this place but talks of leaving this for new york city soon.

Seth continues yet to flourish with much business on his hands. Rowland Lindsay has gone to oversee and work for him in the furnace and is very well contented. Ward & myself continue as usual doing much business and have enjoyed our selves extremely well since Everet has boarded with us. Ward will probably buy a property in this village in the course of this winter and possibly may. In the time <[paper torn]> discourse of late some inclining so <[paper torn]> I have been very harty through <the summer [paper torn]> except about once a month <[paper torn]> I have had an alarming pain in my brest with uncommon sickness but after running my stomach with an Enema in two or three days I got about again. It is owing to a debillitated constitution altho I am now quite healthy.

I confine myself at home pretty much having wrode but once more than a mile from the village for five months. Of course I can give you very little history as there are many places of note within five or six miles that I never saw. You may think strange of this but it is a fact. The people all are very domestic in this Country. I like my situation very well, and hope by industry and stout application to business to support myself hansomely and lay up something against a day of need.

I present myself with gratitude to my good mother and thank her for good counsel in my youthful days and have lerned by sad experience how to appreciate the benefit of many small domestic favours of a mother which a person is deprived of among strangers.

With due Respect and esteem I am your dutiful Son  
RB Howard

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23 1/3/1816

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01m

Peekskill

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Jan/3 1816

Beloved Friend

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for your favours of the 15 of Jany [Dec?] which was the first within four months. With becoming humility I think myself incapable of Giving advise to one older than myself notwithstanding my inability I will embrace some of the principal ideas of your letter and to which you can add or diminish as your better judgement will direct. 1st then as respects traveling you have already learnt my mind and experience being the best instructor I have had the opportunity of information and improvement whether I have profited by it or not. A man with money can put himself in to business where he pleases but without money he must be favoured by providence together with industry and economy to flourish with any degree of prosperity every thing is best illustrated by comparisons. Now to compare you with myself in every respect would not be just, altho your education and opportunities <[torn page]> much the same with mine yet <[torn page]> fortune (the best recommendation <[torn page]> strangers) is undoubtedly considerable where mine is nothing. Therefore your prospects would be better than mine. The common people of this country are very illiterate owing to bad management of schools and the luxurience of the country produce dissipation. Therefore a young man of your education with a full portion of good breeding and good character can walk and be respected in the first class who are generally speaking wealthy and indowed with polished manners in this class I have had the fortune to introduce myself and (considering I am writing to you in confidence as one friend to an other speak not of this) have so far gained the confidence and esteem of an A. Y. L. in the V. whose rank and fortune surpasses any in my knowledge.

I flatter myself that if my esteem and inclination corespond with my outward wish I shall one day possess h.h. but till then God forbid! As you know it never was my faculty to speak on that far into my heart. If you conclude to travel south you will call on me of course, which I shall consider as a greatfull favour. I long to see my good friends for some such I know I have in Maine youthful companions. <[torn page]> to me and Ensign you may <[torn page]> my frenship is the same as when we were classmates at the Monmouth school. I am not doing so much business as formerly in consequence of the small pox prevailing throughout the village which is occationed by some ignorent supersticious willful people who would not believe in the efficacy of the kind Pox as a preventative against the small like the dutchman carrying a stone in one end of the bag to mill because his father did.

However thanks (not to the docters for they have tried to spread it) but to heaven that there is no more here to <have> it when these get well. We need some yankee laws in this respect. I am astonished at your negligence in writing to me you must not expect it is so necessary for you to hear from one so often as for me to hear from Thousands. Write every opportunity. I will write when any news presents. In your next speak of my friends. All you know is news to me. Give my respects to all that know me. Tell them my health is better than formerly.

Yours respectfully  
Obt serv  
Rowland B Howard

Ensign Otis  
Leeds

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24 2/22/1816 *From:* Everett Howard *To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-308

Peekskill, N.Y.

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

District of Main

Via Post Office Winthrop

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[Missing Opening. About 1816]

for more than an hour being in perfect health and thinking nothing would heal me, having frequently wet my feet during the storm. I returned, drank a dose of Brandy, het my feet & went to bed. Colonel Bebe was sick in my room. He said I would pay dear for trifling with his health as he called it at Sacketsharbor, which I found to be the case, altho I am not certain it was that which made me sick, but however I was taken very sick the next day in the afternoon, & continued there almost a week with no soul to wait upon me but officers Servants, who out of benevolence lent me them. They made me porige herb drink & chicken brouth, swept my room & brought water to heat my feet &c &c.

One of these was a smart boy that came with Chandler from Monmouth. His fathers name is Allen, frequently at your house to sell Baskets with queen silk over one eye. Blake of Monmouth servant to Chandler was taken - <> before me. Not a soul in the house would appear early to know when I was to moove to a more convenient place for a sick person. In fact I thought it time to moove myself if I wished to live. I procured help to pack my things & place my trunks on my carriage, entered it with much difficulty, but being assured I could ride from trying the day before. I left Sacketsharbor without being able to take a last look of it behind me as I entered the woods. <[Missing lines - paper torn]>

[written crosswise on the paper] Seth is doing well or not but he is doing much

Your unfortunate son  
Everett Howard

[Envelope]

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

District of Main

Via Post Office Winthrop

[Stamp] PEEKSKILL Feb 22

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25 7/29/1816 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e12

Poughkeepsie

Leeds

Count of Kennebeck

D. M.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Poughkeepsie July 20th 1816

Dear Parents

having so much to attend to I have delayd writing since I arived here till now. I have the pleasure to inform you that I am in health. Likewise all the rest of your relation & friends in this place.

I came by the way of Newyork, stopt at Peekskill saw Ward, Rowland, & Davis Francis. Everet came with me to Poughkeepsie. We were all hous together at Peekskill, a circumstance that has not hapened this great while before & indeed I never expected it to hapen. This last journey I road raising Eleven Hundred miles on horse back in about thirty days. I never saw a drop of rain in the whole time from Louisville. I came to Frankford then to Lexington thence through washington to Limestone at Maysville, crossed the Ohio River went through Challicothe leaving Cincinata.

To my left past through Zanesville leaving Marietta. To my right crost the Ohio River at Wheeling into Pennsylvania through Washington to Pittsburgh about Six Hundred Miles, then crossed the mountains to Chambersburgh through Harrisburgh, Carlisle to Easton. Crossed the Dellaware River in to Newyork through Morristown. Newyork to the city of Newyork. The pleasantest journey I ever made excepting about two hundred miles in Pennsylvania among Dutchman. They could not talk English, but we could make the Dutch Girls understand very well. I have traveled more than three thousand miles in the western country, through Ohio, Kentucky Tennessee, Indianah Territory, Illinois Territory & a little ways in to the Missouri Territory. I was within twenty miles of John Lindsay but never saw him. I have been sorry since I did not go.

I have seen a most alligned Country, & one that I could recommend to all young men. Especially Machanicks. I have not time to explain to you now the many local advantages that Country possesses over the Eastern part of the United States, but at some future period, I will give you my memorandum in full, & my observations ocationally as I traveled through. Probably it will not be till I am settled there. I find a great deal of difficulty in settling my Business here. I don't know how I shall make out but I hope to get through in the course of two or three months. I want to visit you before I go so far from you, but I have met with so many losses & been so unfortunate I can hardly afford the Expence. It is but little ways I know. You can imagine to your selves how I look about as fleshy as I was when I was home & rather darker complection. I may come before I return to the Westward, but its uncertain. I expect to be married as soon as I return, but I shall come to see you as soon - notwithstanding that . For I can take my little girl in my pocket - not much larger than a ground squirrel. She wants to see you as much as I do. Now who would have thought that I should have gone to the Western country to get me a wife, but so it is & cant be helpt. I believe Rowland is getting him a wife & Ward not far from it, but not knowing cant say. Davis says that Lucretia is one of the finest girls in that Country. I never heard till now that Aurilia had a Son. I wish her much joy. She certainly must be hapy as it is her own Fault, for she has got one of the best hearted men for a Husband this world affords. Doct Bridgam is what I call a whole sould fellow. These are the ones for me. I want none of your half way fellows. I like those that can look on adversity & smile, & say the world was made for Caser & for Cato too. There is a number of Branches of Business that I can go into at the Southerd but have not determined yet what I shall do but I expect either go a boating to New orleans or establish an Iron Foundry. Both very proffitabe business but the Boating is very disagreeable, but I am determined to get Rich if it is by hard knocks. Rowland Lindsay is here & has learnt to be fire man in the furnace, a trade worth one thousand dollars to him at least. If I establish a foundary in that country he will go with me where I shall do well by him.

Please give my love to Aunt Lindsey & family to Stillman & Family & all my relation friends & acquaintances that wish to hear. I remain with sentaments of fillial gratitude.

Your affectionate Son  
Seth Howard

[ENVELOPE]

Capt Seth Howard  
Leeds  
Count of Kennebeck  
D. M.

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26 3/23/1817 *From:* Davies

*To:* Mr Rowland B. Howard

RBH-0e13

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 23d 1817

Rowland,

I have leisure to write to you, and would to God I could answer half a score of your letters, but not a word have you written since we parted! You Sir, one so fond of tracing the connexion of causes and events, will, I presume be so good on the receipt of this, as just to inform me, what Magic Spell has wrested from your hand, that pen which you used to hold so liberal.

A late writer has said that human friendship was like live embers, when collected together they warmed each other and were continually breaking out in to flames: but rake them a little assunder they instantly loose their warmth or partial strife; and my ounse Land Lord I believe he is above half right.

You begin to suspect me of writing you a novel, no Sir, nor hystory, but a few plain family facts. Your Parents are well and enjoy a competant portion of vegetable nutrement to keep good their physical force, and luxuries, quantum sufficit to render their days easy and agreeable, which you must know is not the case with many in this country at present - some wear the aspect of penury and want, while all serious judges, express serious fears, that some animals if not human, must perish for want of subsistance; unless some thing extraordinary takes place. Sleighing commenced about the 20th of No'r & has continued ever since with little or no intermission, save what arose from intense weather and blocking snows. But it is a most general time of health. I know of no one sick at present. I have been hauled up a few days for repair, but the Doctor, like you may by this time be exceding tired of torsing my illegible scribbling, but Rowland is the best I can do. My hand vibrates with my heart, so that it is with dificulty I can make any thing like letters. I have frequented Miss Hannah Chandlers company at times this winter. She often enquires after you with a degree of interestedness. I am apt to think Hannah & Lydia great girls notwithstanding all that has been said against them. Miss Harriett Starr of Jay has been here for some time with Lucretia. She is a pretty little bewitching creature - as fond of making conquests as was Hadasah, and I believe she has partially succeeded in some instances.

I have taught school three months this season and want one month of completing my engagements when I was taken sick. I conclude I must abandon it and when I regain my health, if soon, go again to Brunswick to work at my tract, as such would be profitable should I be able to pay as close application as the business requires, but all is uncertainty with me. I shall be against a stump soon for want of paper, so good by - till you write to me

Davies

March 28th

Dear Sir,

Since the first date of this letter, I have had a relapse, much to dishearten my spirits, and consume my ponderious system, but yet hope to see better days, but alas I don't know!! Since being confined here I have look around me for some friendly compassionate intimate, have extended my retrospic as far as you, but thought I could see no genial Rays of Heaven born sentiment to illume my sad condition; felt an aching void in my own breast, too poignant for discription, and almost wish to be buried in silence, as deep in the bosom of our earth, as I fill myself, in the memory of those, which I once hailed as the dearest of natures gifts. I am apt to think my constitution of such an exotic nature, that it must be transplanted to some more congenial clime, in order to exist in this world. You used to ask me, in case you commenced business for yourself alone, if I would not come & live with you; such an opportunity I would gladly embrace.

When at Brunswick last winter I received a letter from Ward which I believe I have answered. I have not heard about you or your health since then. You may wish me to write more particular about your family, but they enjoy a tolerable degree of health generally, excepting Lucretia, whose health is indifferent, but her spirits are good. What I before wrote about her gallant, I don't wish you to immagin that serious consequences are likely to attend it. I only wrote it for novelty's sake. God I should almost envy the Best of men such a blessing.

Thomas, I was ready to conclude, last fall thought something of marrying Miss Pitts, but by some strange, fatality (to use Gen Dearborn's expression) has changed his purpose, and she, to please her Parents, has consented to be published - to another man, but declines marryin at present. This Rowland was the most marvilous thing in this County. Hardly a person in town or in the adjacent town but what interested them delve in the affair and Wm Otis' family, who you know were always predudicial against our family, led the ran

A kind Angel has lavished his Magnetia, calemel Jolup &c so profusely that the obstructus of nature have yielded to their influence, and I shall be able to Return to School shortly, so glorious thanks to God and Generous Reward to the Doctor. I have no essays on human understanding, no Rhetorical or Logical disertations, no Geographical or Astronomical observations or Classical lore to develop to you; but think you much better pleased to hear of the partial function of our preventibus.

And first of Uncle Jos who married off two of his girls in one hour, to men of the upper country Alpheus L to Miss L Foss, Mr Levab Lethal to Miss B. Lane, Thos Lindsay to Olive Church, Mr H Jennings to Miss Hannah Lothrop, &c&c, and I guess by and by Lucretia for a Mr Plaidsted of Gardiner is as partial as you please. He is a scholar and from common Report a fine man. Rowland, I want to see you and chat about the little interesting pictures of Peekskill and especially about your little girls, Miss Catherine Miss Kelsie &c &c. I should be glad to hear of the shines which Ensign cut among them, but he does not write me or any body else as I can hear. I saw Nancy a few days since in fine health and Mine. Cupids dart has at length persed my head, Liver or something, which will eventually produce connubial intercourse or lingering Death you know which I don't er care!!! Give my compliment to Ward Aunt Fanny, and all who may inquire after me at Peek's and to Mr Prey in particular should he be within your knowledge. Ask him to wright and command Ward to. Tell Aunt Fanny I wish I had stad with her last winter, and tried to have gotten that old Miss Lyon with her fortune, as we talked. Write yourself soon, tell of your circumstance intentions &c &c.

Accept my best wishes with those of the whole family and believe my your undeviating friend,  
Davies.

Mr Rowland B. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

Paris Me

March 29

Mr Rowland B. Howard

Peekskill

State of New York County of Westchester

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27 4/20/1817 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e14

New Orleans

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

Province of Maine

Winthrop Post Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

New Orleans April 20th 1817

Dear Parents

I have the pleasure to inform you that I am in very good health. I arrived in this City, about ten days ago after a passage of thirty days, from Cape Girardeau County Missouri territory, where I was Blocked up in the ice all last winter. I left that place the 12th of March about 9 O'clock in the morning & never left the helm to exceed over an hour at a time, till I landed in this City on the 12th of April. I was quite worn out with fatigue & want of rest. But I am very Smart now, have about 300 barrels of Pork & 100 of Beef, but not finding a market, I have had it all repacked & stored. Should I not find a good market here in the course of twenty or thirty days, I shall ship it for New York or Boston, & then Should fortune favour me, I may once more visit my paternal roof. Once more press to my bosom my kindred friends.

You may have blamed me for not writing oftener, but believe me when I tell you that every convenient opportunity that has presented I have written, all last winter there was no mail went from the country where I was. Of course I could not write, but not a day, not an hour I may say, that past me, but my thoughts were on those that I left behind, & often has the Silent tear stole down my cheek while reflecting, that the change of fortune has driven me from my friends, from my home, from all that is near & dear to me in Life. Little did I think when last I saw you that so soon I should been a visitant in this City of disipation.

It is now Sunday, but business goes on the Same as any other day, to a stranger it appears very odd, but the inhabitants think nothing of it. I have just returned from takeing a walk from the back part of the City, out of one hundred children that I saw, there was not to exceed three white ones. In fact the inhabitants are all coper collered excepting a few that have come from the Eastward, & many of them have a creole for a wife or Mistress. It supprises me very much that a man Brought up in the Eastern States could ever fancy one of these half breeds, the language spoken here is principally French. There are people here from all parts of the World. This is the grand Mart, or deposit of vice & debauchery from all quarters of the globe.

I have not yet been to see the celebrated Battle ground of Jackson's victory, but intend going as soon as I have leisure, after which I will write you the particulars. What would you think when I tell you, that the River is now two foot higher than the City. It is kept out by a Levee, a mound of dirt thrown up about four foot high. The River is now in its highest stage. This Levee continues on both banks of the River up One hundred & fifty miles along which are the most Elligant plantations of shugar & cotten that can be immagined. It looks like one continued village on both sides this whole distance, & I am told it continues so to the sea a hundred miles down.

The richest Planters on these plantation own from a thousand to two thousand negroes - a young able Bodied Negro here is worth one thousand Dollars. They see hard times poor fellows. They don't get half enough to eat. These French & Spaniards have no mercy or humanity. There is no Law to punish them for killing their own negroes, if they affront them. It frequently happens those large slaves owners don't mind killing a negro if he don't please him.

There is at this time about 400 ships & brigs in this port. I spent allmost the whole day yesterday to see if I could find a vessel Bound to Hallowell, but could find none. Had I found one I intended to have sent you a barrel of shugar. I was in hopes to have found one. It would have been very gratifying to me to have sent you this small present a token of remembrance & no doubt it might have been of some benefit to you, as shugar must be high in that country. But as it is, it cant be helpt.

My dear Mother, I address you in particular, I have an idea of the tender anxiety a fond mother feels for her children when absent, but I beg you to rest assured that in whatever situation I have here before been, or hereafter may be placed, those good & virtuous principals instilled in my youth have ever been & I flatter myself ever will be my constant guide. No doubt that my misfortunes & their consequences have been a source of much affliction, but it is the destinies of fate & we must submit. Should we both live it will not be long before I

make a visit to that country. If I don't this summer when I shall take with me my dear Mary. Oh! I wish she was there now, to be society for you & Lucretia. Please to remember me to Stillman & family, Doct Bridgam & family Aunt Lindsay & family, Lucretia, Rathburn, & Franklin, Frank. A day I want to see him more than a little. Adeu. I am still under the necessity of subscribing myself the unfortunate wanderer.

Seth Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] [faint]

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

Province of Maine

Winthrop Post Office

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28 6/15/1817 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e15

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D. Maine  
via Winthrop P Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill June 15, 1817

Beloved Parents

I take the liberty to write notwithstanding I must think you had almost forgotten me as I have not received one Letter from home for more than six months and have waited anxiously every mail till I have given up the Idea of hearing from you. With pleasure I can say for the first time in my life I have enjoyed perfect health for the last six months. And while I continue so, how gratifying it would be to me were it Possible to visit my parents, brothers, sisters & old friends. But fortune the govenor of human pleasures has long denied me that supreme felicity and nothing but dame prudence has prevented me from sneaking a moment to spend with you. I am touched with gratitude when I reflect on your care, assiduity & prudence to instill in my mind Good precepts and examples in my youth & which I hope have been so far usefull as to not render your son unworthy of his parentage. Altho, Desapation has been round me as a snare and vice as a temptation & Disappointment the natural attendant on a fruitful immagination has some times been my lot. But I have no reason to complain of my situation considering that I am nothing more nor less than a poor young man. Mr Otis you have undoubtedly lernt is my partner. We are in our new Store much the hansomest in the village, with a very Great & General assortment of goods sell at a small profit and for cash only doing at present more business than any around us. I have put in my proportion of the partnership money & shall be much disappointed if Mr Otis does not at least get five hundred dollars soon notwithstanding my credit is good in New York for any amount I would be likely to ask. But you know it was always my wish to do business safe. I think if his father could once come into our Store & see how he is situated he would help him to some money which if he ever expected to do I should any wait be the most use to him now. He is a very prudent saving yong man, very much improved & will shortly handle goods with a very good grace, well contented & well pleased as you must know that it is no small thing for a young man to be introduced into such extensive business. It occupys our whole attention myself in a special manner never leave the store except to buy Goods.

I must say when Mr Otis gets more experience in the Business & more acquainted with the people that I anticipate the time when I shall be able to pay you a short visit. Oh! The ties of affection bind me to maine notwithstanding the distance I am from you.

Ward is well, has led a saw mill & keeps an extensive lumber yard in the village in company with Mr Marquis Philips a nephew of Uncle David Philips who does the business. His justice & sherif business occupes his whole attention. Everet I heard from the 20 of Aprill, then in Savannah in Georgia. Had made much money & was in the best of health. Seth arrived in the City of New York from New Orleans a few days ago while I was in town, well, but has seen hard times. He brought a 100 barrels of Pork for sale. Uncle Philips has moved to Peekskill and set up the tin business. Doct Bailey talks of moving to the village.

Give my respects & love to Lucretia Rathburn Franklin & all Brother sisters & friends. In great Haste.

Your affectionate son  
RB Howard

[Envelope]  
Capt Seth Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebec D. Maine  
via Winthrop P Office

29 1/1/1818 *From:* Scipio

*To:* Dear Editor  
Choniun

RBH-312

*Source:* Bowdoin

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For the <Closman> [entire letter is faint and difficult to read]  
[Date is estimated about 1/1/1818]

O <Sharpsburg> excursion

<Dear> Editor

happening to recollect that I had promised to write for the Choniun why not here I have seated myself to fulfill that promise, but now the question arises, what shall I write about. I can think of nothing but a hunting excursion from which I have just arrived, and as it was rather pleasant to myself, it may not be uninteresting to your readers. <Our> party having provided themselves with some old rusty <firlocks> with which our forefathers had langed away at I don't know Bears, wolves, catamounts, hedgehogs, mose and dear, geese, ducks, beevers, skunks, woodchucks, &c&c, to say nothing of "Injens" and "Brittishers", being ballasted also with gunpowder, blue pills, flints, caps, <pinning> wires, knives for skinning the "varmint" to be teakin. We were prepared (after reading Davy Crockets directs For hunting the "critters") to proceed on the dreadful business of killing with malice aforethought any thing that wore fur or feathers, from an "Injen devil" down to a striped squirrel, or, from down to a "tebs bird" up to a South American condor. Having heard that the extensive forest west of <Cochesoagen> Lake offered a rare chance for our "hunting" thither we bent our steps. On reaching an ancient road which bounds this wilderness on the north we paused to determine for the public good, our ears were Soon Alerted with a noise of a varmint, pounding against a tree. Thither we went. We soon saw that he evidently was either trying to stave the tree in pieces. In his fury, at our intrusion into his sequestered retreat, or trying to stave his own brains out rather than die by the hands of the assassin.

Having however, poured a broadside into his rear. He fell into our victorious hands, and we marched away in triumph. Soon again we discovered a four legged "critter" whose name we did not stop to ask, making towards us, with evident intent of evil. Giving him a shot, he thought best to return to his den. And we thinking best to consider him as mortally wounded continued to advance into the forest. Our party now separated into three divisions. We belonged to 1st, and were the first to meet the next game. A fine plump looking drummer, which made our mouth "warter" and our stomach juices was discovered sunning himself on the <lut> of our veteran fallin oak. We were about to introduce him to the attenten of Black Betsy. When casting a no face - don't - can't come it kind of a look. Off he flew like a gall. "Wats afraid the fellers want to go home with her active nights. The whole party now put off in pursuit. We chased and chased, but the more we chased the more she would not be Cothched, no how. At last we put the best looking chap we had on the track but she had made up her mind, and like some others of her sex of another genus, she would not be coaxed so it was given up. Having taken at now of the beautiful lake Cock.... And ascertained from one of the inhabitants that the varmant of a larger growth, had gone to attend a World Convention sitting in Peartown , and Catamountville to consider the expedancy of adopting measures for protekting themselves more effectually against their common the "Crocketites" we dug out for home loaded with the enormous amount of peltnis and venison which we had taken consisting of a little, nasty, speckled-red headed woodpeckers.

Scipio

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30 1/30/1818 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e16

Peekskill

Leeds

County Kennebec D. Maine  
Via Winthrop Post Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill Jany 30 1818

Dear Parents

I again write hoping thereby to gratify my kindred connexions & fulfill a natural obligation I owe them. It is with peculiar pleasure that I can state that I and my friends are injoying perfect health and prosperity. But it has been a subject of unpleasantness to me that I should be deprived of Intelligence from you. A partial delay is excuseable but a total neglect is unpardonable. But however a Due sense of the obligations I am under to my beloved Parents whose fostering hands sustained me in my youth and to whose care I am indebted for the first principles of Education and to whom I am indebted in a measure for my present happy situation in life, render it nessary that I should make frequent acknowledgments of gratitude to them & show myself not altogether an unworthy son. Altho circumstances as relates to business wholly unforeseen by me has prevented my writing my near & dear connexions or returning to the Bosom of My Fathers family.

But I hope in the course of nex summer to be able to visit you again & My being unacquainted in the Early part of my life with Mercantile business and Likewise without resources you must conclude the two first years of residence here in that line must have been somewhat inconvenient and altho my experience in this branch may have been dearly Bo't yet it will be more usefull.

My prospects at present seem promising. Mr Otis and myself have had not less at any time than four thousand dollars worth of goods on hand at once since our commencement. He is a man very well respected and of a very good disposition. But as he continues without funds or resources we shall dissolve in the spring. The whole business has been transacted on my credit and Punctuality which you must know occupies my whole time and attention. We have sold many goods and handled much money this year.

I hope my dear mother will rest contented as to the welfare of her distant sons for if the least circumstance of Ill health misfortune or disaster should befall them I shall embrace the first opportunity to communicate it to you.

The last we heard from Seth, he was about to descend the River Mississippi with a number of boat Loads of corn. His wife likewise was to go down in the steam boat and both to meet at New Orleans. This was in December and further I know not.

Everet went from Ohio to Pittsburgh, thence to Erie. On Lake Erie where he wrote last he was in a sleigh. Then going to Kingston Montreall & Quebec and then to Maine or Europe. The last improbable. He was well "except his old acquaintance the Reumatism".

Ward is engaged in his official business and probably will go to Albany this winter. He has not disposed of himself in Marriage yet nor is there any hopes of a ready sale. Mr Pray occupies a space in our circle of Bachelors and on the score of attachment like another Brother. I have not been in the country but once for four months nor to Doct Baileys since last March. The Doct is now here in health, likewise his family. Patia is a Beautiful Girl. She boarded in this village last summer, and went to school to Pamilia Phillips who teaches a boarding school.

We have had no snow yet but continue in expectation. The weather is warm. I sometimes wish I was in Maine that I might take a leasure sleigh ride. The Hudson River is not frozen here yet. There is Rising Twenty five houses Building in this village this winter, 4 on lots that Ward has sold & one he is about to build himself. We shall try to obtain a Bank this winter.

Tell the Children I remember them all, Lucretia, Rathburn & Franklin but shall forget if they do not write. Remember me to all relations and friends and be pleased to receive the Greatfull acknowledgments of your Dutifull son.

Rowland B Howard

NB. Tell Mr D Francis there is no Death in his acquaintance. But Marriages innumerable among which are Charles Diver to Hetty Strang cousin to Catherine, Philetus Raymond to Miss Hannah Dusenbery & Jesse Christian to Nancy Chess, and many more &c&c. It is a long time since I heard one word from Leeds.

[Envelope]

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County Kennebec D. Maine

Via Winthrop Post Office

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31 2/21/1818 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Capt Stillman Howard

RBH-0e17

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

D. Maine

Via Winthrop Post Office

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Peekskill Feby 21th 1818

Dear Brother

It is with Reluctance altho a pleasure that I write to you - inasmuch as you nor any of my friends to the Eastward have condescended to write to me for some months - yet a kindred attachment induces me to fulfill an obligation due my friends. You can not immagin with what eagerness I search every mail for a return on their part. Providential circumstances has led me far from you and my situation in business compells me to remain. But it is with lively sensibility that I often picture to my immagination those friends I left behind, among them yourself and wife and Dear little children. I presume a happy circle in the enjoyment of life and the pleasures of society, which are gifts of stirling worth that ought to render all contented and happy and draw forth a due reverence love and Gratitude to the Creating Author.

What more particularly drew forth my pen at this time is to Record the Death of one of our distinguished Revolutionary heroes and much esteemed Patriot Maj John Paulding, who performed an act of Patriotism worthy the imitation of every enlightened freeman. He died on the 19th Inst and was this day Buried with the honors of war and Masonry. In conjunction two Miles from this Place to which the Proseccion Marched from the house of the Deceased Three Miles Escorted by a company of Cadetts from the Military Academy at West Point with the Best Band of Musick in the United States.

The procession was arranged commanded and Directed by my Brother Ward who was selected for that purpose. The procession consisted of one hundred and Three wagons average five persons in each with as many horse and foot. In the whole surpassing any thing of the kind I ever saw before in numbers, solemnity and good order. In discharging the last obligation to this distinguished individual I hope we have done that honor due to his name which no American can recount without feeling of the highest respect.

I had the honor yesterday of negotiating with the commander in chief of West Point for the Military assistance we have received this day and I am happy to say that all was conducted in the best order and greatest harmony.

The deceased was the father of nineteen children and lived with his third wife and probably about sixty years old. Thus fades the valuable citizen and thus fades the hero with laurels. A sad certainty but no more sorrowfull than that - we must all Die. A consideration that should teach us to discharge our duty to our creator and to our fellow men, that when we pay the last debt of nature we may not fear Justice, but deserve mercy and Receive happiness.

I see I must curtail observation which I should make were you nearer me and instead say I and your friends here are in perfect health. I have not heard from Seth lately and Everet I Believe is in Canada. Uncle Phillips lives here, his Daughters are fine accomplished Girls which is to be expected from their education. I have rode frequently with them when we have had sleighing which has been near a fortnight this winter, but all gone at Present. Thus you see we can not enjoy ourselves in that pleasurable arrangement as you can in Maine.

Mr Otis is yet My partner. We have yet a large quantity of goods on hand not little than three thousand dollars worth which it is [my] intention to sell before the River opens. Business continues tolerable good & Mr Otis is much improved in his manners as is natural to suppose for he visits in the most genteel circles. When I shall again see you I know not but I hope before many years. Give my compliments to Doct Bridgham and friends and remember me to my fathers family.

Yours with affection  
[Rowland B Howard] [Hole in Paper]

Mr Stillman Howard

NB Rowland Lindsey was here last fall. He lives on a small lake near Lake Erie and I presume is a doing well. He was then in the lumber Business.

[Envelope]  
Capt Stillman Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebeck  
D. Maine  
Via Winthrop Post Office

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32 6/21/1818 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e42

Cape Gerardeau  
[Missouri]

Leeds  
County of Kennebeck  
Province of Maine  
To be left at Winthrop Post  
Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Cape Gerardeau [Missouri] June 21st 1818

In good health I date from this place. I believe I wrote you at New Orleans of the unfortunate occurrence that occasioned this Journey. We sailed on Board the Steam Boat Franklin from that city on the 23d of April. We had as pleasant a passage as could be expected at this Season of the year. Owing to the great misfortune of breaking the main shaft of our water wheel, we was detained Ten Days, which made our passage much more Tragious than it otherwise would have been. The weather being tollerably warm in the Lower Country, we was annoyd very much by the musquitoes, which are very Troublesome, & nights particularly, they are allmost insupportable unless one is provided with a Musquitoe Bar, which is made of thin Muslin, & so constructed as to cover you compleatly from the annoyance of this disagreeable insect. This I was carefull to provide before I left New Orleans. It is an old saying that a burnt child avoids the fire.

On my passage from New Orleans to New York in 1817 we were detained by Low tides, at the mouth of the Mississippi, ten days, during which time, language cannot express, how much I suffered from this poisonous animal. They were much larger at that place than any I had ever seen before or since.

There has so many accidents hapened on this River to Steam Vesels, that Mrs Howard was frequently verry much allarmed for our Safety, but takeing every thing into consideration our passage was much more agreeable than otherwise. We arivd at this place on the thirtieth of may, making in all thirty seven days from New Orleans. This being the only place near where I had my business to transact that we could get comfortable accommodations, we accordingly made it our home here.

It is fifteen miles from here to where Mr. Stevens died, at a place he had been doing business at for two years past. He had visited his family but only once in that time, but had not seen them previous to his death for Eighteen months, which rendered the circumstances of his death very distressing to his tender & affectionate family. Mrs Howard was very anxious to visit the grave of her beloved Parent, & as there is no way of travelling in this Country but on horseback, & She, never having rode any I had some fears for her safety. However it was her wish, & we accordingly procured horses & rode there without any accident. So far from being timid as I expected, She seemed to enjoy the novelty of the ride very much, but I must draw a veil over the remainder of our visit. All you who have simpathizing hearts to participate in the distresses of the afflicted, & can mourn with those that are berieved of a tender & affectionate Parent will in immagination no doubt accompany her to the Grave where are deposited, the last & Sacred remains of a being, who has shared with her the delicious Sweets of domestick happiness, from her earliest infancy, whose instructions & admonitions have been receivd & treasured by her as the fundamental basis on which depends her enjoyment through this, & her happyness in a future world.

Mr Stevens & his family are all natives of England. He moved to New York City about the year eighteen hundred, at which place he has made his principal residence ever since, till about two years & a half ago he moved to Kentucky. He was a baptist Minister, & from what I can learn his principal object in moving to this Country was to preach to the Natives of those Western Soils. However it Seems he had partly relinquished that object by his remaining So long in New York, notwithstanding, on his moving to Kentucky he again seems to pursue his original intention, by leaving his family & coming to this place where fate destined he should close the period of his Existence away from his native country & from the Bosom of his worthy family, who would have esteemed it the greatest happyness in this world to have been with him & by their kind attention to have soothed the last agonies of expiring Nature. He died on the tenth of March. He left a wife & four daughters three of whom are married & one remains single. Two were married last winter & both live at Louisville, where the Mother & Lidia the unmarried sister reside.

But to return, we tarried all night at this place. The people who had tended upon Mr Stevens during his short sickness (only about ten days) were very kind. They urged us to remain longer but every thing appeared so melloncholly & Mrs Howard so low spirited, I thought it best in her present situation not to remain, any longer.

We accordingly got our horses, & after a few hours pleasant ride arivd at Cape Gerardeau. Mary is so much pleased with riding, that we have since been out to a small town about 15 miles, went one day & returned the next. The Franklin Steam Boat Stopt here day before yesterday on her return from St Louis. She took in a few hogsheads of to-bacco for me, & started again yesterday morning for New Orleans. To day I Start on horseback for St Louis, & shall return here again in the course of ten days, & as soon after as I can arrange my business so that it can be left in the hands of an agent I shall leave this part of the Country for Louisville Kentucky, where I shall remain probably till October, when I shall again return to Orleans, once more to try to settle myself. I am very solicitous to hear from my friends especially from my near relations, but my situation is so transitory that I miss of a great deal of information from that quarter. Do not fail to write me at Louisville, as you will have sufficient time to send a letter to that place before I leave there & after that continue to write to New Orleans . Mary & I send love to all of you. We do not despair of seeing you yet if we should live. Remember us to all relation & friends.

I remain your affectionate & dutiful son  
Seth Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] ST. LOUIS JUNE 23

[Postage] 25

Capt Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck

Province of Maine

To be left at Winthrop Post Office

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33 5/9/1819 *From:* Lucretia Howard

*To:* Seth Howard Esq

RBH-0e18a

Newburg

Leeds

County Kennebeck

D.M.

To be left at Winthrop Post  
Office

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Newburg May 9 1819

My ever dear and affectionate Parents

You may be surprised to read of my being in this place but I have become a great traveller. I came here in company with uncle Phillips and good family. We came in a sloop which you know was new to me and you must judge it was a source of some sport indeed it was. We had a fine sail and they talked some of making me Captain I had so much courage. There were several young ladies on board and we had fine time.

I have written that I am in a new place of course you will expect I'll describe it but I have been here so short a time that [I am] not capable yet but can say of all places that I have visited I give Newburg the preference. Oh! it is a delightfull place. I have formed but very few acquaintance but those that I have are very fine.

It is very handsomely situated on the River and I have never looked out but have seen no less than 8 or 9 sloops and often the steemboat and allways the house boat. I don't know as you have ever seen or heard of this house boat but it is a great curiosity. The bottom looks like. The horses go round as when turning a cider mill. I think there is eight horses. It is curious indeed but you have a poor discription of it as I am not in the habit of discribing any such a thing.

I never was so delighted with a place in my life. It is very lively and very gay but the gaiety is not the most attraction that it has. No indeed. Lucretia is not a very gay girl. I think if you should see me you would think me more simple than ever. My good cousins say I have altered very much since I came here but I cannot see it myself and hope it is not for the worse for it is my greatest wish and constant prayer to be good and conduct myself so as to merit a hearty welcome home once more, though there is every inducement for me to be happy here. I mean the society and place are so pleasing that nothing except the duty to the best of Parents could induce me to leave <[torn page]> delightfull a place, but home is pleasing and will <[torn page]> me while My dear Parents live and do not think that Lucretia will ever forget her best friends in the fashionable world of Newburg. Oh! No! Home will be as dear to me as ever, although I have formed many very dear connexions here, but I shall be favoured with a correspondence with them after I arrive at my native home but the tears steel down when I think of leaving them and I cannot help it although you may say I ought to be stimulated by the affection to you. Oh I am. No child's Bosom is warmer with affection for there Good Parents that your child that now addresses you. How bountifully I am dealt with. Parents and friend it would be ungreatfull for me to wish for more. Some times I say oh that you live altogether but this would be too much for one to posses Parents and friends all in one vicinity. I cannot ask it.

Now I must stop. The bell rings for the last time and must go to church. I was in hopes to finished my letter before the meeting but have not. Good morning for the present.

Church is out and I am again seated by my Uncles desk. If you was here my happyness would be complete. My dear Uncle and Aunt are seated by me and are requesting me to Give Love to you. Uncle is highly flattered with his new prospect here. Oh they are parents to me. I never shall forget there kindness to me and I hope you will ever bare in mind there goodness now <[torn page]><[torn page]> had room I would try to discribe the goodness of my <more than> kind Brothers. Never was a sister so blest before <[torn page]> good, so good Brothers and cousins, I idolise them all. They seem more like sisters than cousins. Uncle Bailey & family are included but oh we must part and what shall I do. We are often all together and jolly as possible when the word is said part from Lucretia our feelings cannot be suppressed.

I received a Letter from Ward this morning from New York. He is in health. A few days since I had one from Rowland in Peekskill. He is also in health. Everet the same. He has become a Labourer in the Ocum mill. They flourish with their ocum. Rowland is a tradeing as usual. I have been his clerk for several weeks untill I came here. Cousin Joseph [Bailey] has gone to school. He has lived with him a year. He will return soon.

Well what do you think about my comeing home. Do you think it is time. If you do I must go but Ward is to take me and we may start in June, but it is uncertain as he has so much business on board and the Great Wedding is about to take place. I am a goin to Poughkeepsie from here with Cousin Pamela [Phillips] and from there I am to spend a week to Judge Johnsons the finest familey in the world. I go to New York City from there. Those are my visits that are contemplated before I <leave> this happy Land.

Give my love to Stillman and family. Dr and Aurelia often mentioned me to little Hinvenold that she may remember me. Oh I want to see her indeed all of you more than I can express. Remember me to Uncle B.H. [Barnabas Howard] & family, Aunt Lindsey [Thankful (Bailey) Lindsey] and family and all every one Rathburn Franklin. Oh a Little dog how I want to see him. Remember me most affectionately to Mr Francis and wife family in general. Tell Eunice she is in debt to me a letter so write <> to me soon. Tell the Dr he never has writen to me.

Lucretia

Arvillia and Ada [Phillips] send love particular to you and all friends. Pamela is in Peekskill but is to be here soon. Fail not to write. Seth is in tolerable health or was the last letter we had.

Adieu.

Lucretia [Howard]

[Envelope]

Newburgh

May 11

Seth Howard Esq

Leeds

County Kennebeck

D.Me

To be left at Winthrop Post Office

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34 6/11/1819 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Dear Parents [Seth Howard]

RBH-0e18b

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York June 11 1819

Dear Parents

I have the pleasure to inform you of my being in New York. I left New Orleans on the 10th of May & arived in New York 29th of the same month. We experienced a tollerable pleasant passage. Mary was a little sea sick when we first started out. We enjoyed our health so very poorly in that place that I was induced to try a sea voige <which [hole in paper]> I find has greatly improved it. We think of visiting you in the coarse of the Summer.

Immediately on my arrival I wrote to Ward & he & Lucretia arived here four days ago. Ward will return tomorrow & Lucretia will remain with Mrs Howard till I am ready to go to Peekskill when we shall all go together & spend a little time in the country after which I am in hopes that Ward will accompany us to the Eastward.

I met with quite a misfortune. The next morning after Ward arrived here, I got out of bed & in attempting to walk across the Carpet & wash me, I ran a needle in my foot & broke off inside. I immediately sent for a surgeon & had it Scarrified, after a fruitless search for two hours he gave it up & ordered a Poultice of flax seed & Indian Meal for the purpose of drawing it out. This has been repeated for three days but to no use. I began to flatter myself that there is none in, should it be the case I shall be well in a few days. It hapened <[hole in paper]> <to be peculiarly> unfortunate at this time as it is not possible for me to wait on the ladies to see the curiosities & amusements of the city.

I shipped immediately on my arival on board the Neptune Barge consigned to Mr Batcheler for you one BlI sugar & one pair of Portrait likeness of Mrs Howard & Myself. The Sugar is New Orleans Production & so are the Likenesses. They are in gilt frames. I hope they will arrive safe. I leave particulars for Lucretia to write.

I remain your affectionate Son  
Seth Howard

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35 6/22/1819 *From:* John B. Russwurn *To:* Mr John Otis

RBH-0e19

North Yarmouth

Student  
Paris Academy  
Oxford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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North Yarmouth June 22. 1819

Friend Otis

I received your epistle bearing date some time ago, but for the want of an opportunity have not answered it. I understood by a letter a few days ago from friend Clark that you was at present at Paris Academy.

Well what think you friend Otis, Hebron Academy burnt down? Astonishing, you would reply. Not all so, I consider it as the judgement of Heaven for their treatment of the few independent souls who resided with them during this past year. True is the saying "all for the best," for we see it plainly proved in the visitations of heaven on the Hebronites.

I understood also that the Academic Fraternity began to look up a little by friend Clarks letter. You who are, or may be scholars at Paris, have nothing to impede your progress in the delightful paths of literature. You have all the advantages that a scholar can wish for, viz. an excellent preceptor, and a good society. You inquired the reason of not appearing in Hebron the last quarter; I mentioned when I came away to Shubael Tripp that if I studied all winter I should not be in Hebron any more (to school); and another, is that I did want to come for I might have been there, all the time that school kept, as such was the desire of my guardian. I shall attend the two ensuing months at Gorham Academy I expect as soon my guardian returns from Boston; and I can get ready.

I should prefer being in Paris with you, but the time is so short that I do not think it worth while to go so far for only about eight weeks. I am now reading in the second volume of the <Majorca>, and I recite at six o'clock every morning to Lawyer Millin. I can truly say that I felt rejoiced to hear that you had pushed on in your studies although I had not myself. Friend Clark also named a Mr. Robinson who purposes to enter the Sophomore Class; he is doubtless the same whom I have heard you mention as being an excellent scholar, and an independent Soul, for all the Hebrones (Contraction of the name.)

I hope you will remember me to all the members of the Society with whom I am acquainted, particularly to Learned, Millet, Parsons and Stone. I shall write a few lines to Brother Plaisted by the same conveyance. Job. C. Barrows and lady (Nancy Myrick) spent the Sabbath in this town. I hope you will write again in a short time, and give me all the particulars concerning the Academic Fraternity, your school, and Learned and Myricks case.

Hoping that you enjoy the advantages of health, and the same good success in your studies:

I remain  
Yours  
respectfully  
John B. Russwurn

P. S. Direct your letters to this place still, to the care of Calvin Stockbridge Esqr.

[ENVELOPE]  
Mr John Otis  
Student  
Paris Academy  
Oxford

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36 6/25/1819 *From:* W.B. Howard

*To:* Captn Seth Howard

RBH-0e20

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebeck Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 25 June 1819

My dear Mother

I seize a moment to inform you that six of your children are now with me (including myself) all in perfect health. I rec'd your letter some time since for which inestimable favor I tender you my gratefull thanks. I wrote to Stillman immediately on the receipt of your letter on the subject of its contents. I have rece'd his answer from Boston. I shall refrain from writing on that subject as in all probability Seth or myself or both of us will visit you a few weeks after the receipt of this.

I have much to inform you & the limmits of a letter are wholly inadequate to express my feelings of Gratitude to you & my kind & indulgent father, by chance I saw your letter to Everett who is now with me. I was extremely happy to hear from you, but regret extremely that any sentiments expressed by my kind & affectionate mother should in any particular be exceptionable, that part alluding to C. Fillebrown I highly approve his conduct I am well convinced deserves the disapprobation of each individual of our family & I assure you is not acceptable to my Dear Sister Lucretia. But when you tread on the subject of her union with an other person and discover a considerable anxiety for its accomplishment, I must by leave to chide you on that subject and flatter myself from the generous sentiments I know you to possess, you will never urge a union of your daughter with one who is not of her choice. I have no time to portray the consequences, suffice it to say evils of the most serious nature have often resulted from this interference of parents in selecting partners for their children.

Give my best respects to my father. I shall endeavor to visit you when Lucretia returns which will probably be in July. If not at that time I shall so arrange my business to see you in the fall. Untill then except this assurance of my feelings of gratitude and tender affection for each of you.

Your Son  
W.B. Howard

N.B. I shall probably have occasion to use the horse while to Oliver Otis when I arrive there for his base conduct & conversation respecting me.

PS. Lucretia and all your children send love to you.  
W.B.H.

[Envelope]  
Peekskill 25 June  
[Postage] 18 ½  
Captn Seth Howard  
Leeds  
County of Kennebeck Me

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37 7/16/1819 *From:* Ward B. Howard

*To:* Capt'n Seth Howard

RBH-0e21

Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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16th July 1819

Dear Father & Mother

After I gave up the Idea of returning with Lucretia I intended writing a long letter to you but have neglected it untill the eve of her departure & shall now be under the necessity of refering you to her for every information respecting me. Your repeated favors & kind offices to me, through life merit & shall ever command my gratitude. In condescending to let Lucretia visit me you have laid me under a double obligation to you, & be assured it shall never be forgotten. I can truly say I have enjoyed more pleasure in her society for nine months past than I have before enjoyed during my absence, no trifling obstacle would have prevented my returning with her. It would be a source of gratification to me to restore to the arms of my beloved parents in person this idol of my heart. She will teach you to forget the loss of all your absent children. My regrett at the thought of parting with her is more than I can express. I could in no way reconcile myself to this event but from the consideration that your claims are paramount to mine. I flatter myself you will excuse my detaining her so long when you discover her complete restoration to health. Should her health again become impaired let no time be lost in giving me information for a change of climate is perhaps the only restoration. Dear Mother excuse my occupying so much of my letter on the subject of my sister & do not consider for a moment my attachment to her detracts in the least frm the love I bare to you. On the other hand it is to you I am indebted for having such a sister & for the many virtues she possesses. I have only to add, whatever her prospects may hereafter be, I earnestly hope in the selection of a partner for life that no mercenary motives may influence her friends or her in such choice.

I long to see you all once more. I do not wholly despair of making you a visit this fall. Be pleased to accept this assurance of my fondest affection & gratitude to each of you, & thro you to our family respectively.

Ward B. Howard

Capt'n Seth Howard

Leeds

Me

<> by Lucretia Howard

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38 10/3/1819 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Doct Thomas Bridgham

RBH-0e22

Peekskill

Leeds

Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

via Winthrop Post Office

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Peekskill Oct 3d 1819

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you of our safe arival at Doct Baileys on Friday Evening but making thirteen days from home. We arived at Bridgwater the Friday after we left you. We remained their till Monday morning, it raining without intermission Saturday & Sunday. We had extreme good luck whether it was oweing to the very particular & obliging prayers of Mr Barrel or my own good fortune that naturly attends me when I am journeying I cannot say whatever cause it may have originated from. It would not in the <least> diminish the excelled opinion I entertain of his sincerity I should have felt myself under equil obligations let the occult have been what it might.

Mary stood her journey remarkably well considering all things, the Horse was rather inclined to fail towards the last but like Hudebrasses warier he is determined not to die yet. The carriage performed remarkably well & underwent no more dislocations.

We had the happyness of finding all our friends in very good health & seemed pleased to see us. Please excuse the word seemed - a deep & thorough knowledge of the world has put this & other words of the same meaning in to my noddle & unless I am very circumspect they will come out where in some instances they are entirely useless & perhaps ungenerous.

Everet & Ward came to Doct Bailys on Saturday Evening & last Evening I returned with them to this place leaving Mary at the Doct's for a few days. Rowland is here, & talks some of going to the state of Maine. I have no advice from the Southward in consequence of which I shall remain here longer than I did expect. I fear I shall suffer great losses from the failures both at New Orleans & Charleston. It is useless to attempt to discribe feellings that are the inmate of every bosom that possesses a heart of sensibility particularly one who has been the child of misfortune. I refer <you> to the partial knowledge you have of my <[torn page]> & disposition & the principal that regulates my actions. I cannot say my feellings because they appeal to a higher source of originality & then fancy to yourself with what care I can stem the wildest torrent of adversity, that independence of soul which god has condescended to bestow on me can never fail, whither I am possessed of every luxury that affluence can give or whether I am confined to the dreary walls of a prison, I shall remain steadfastly the same. There is none can know me but those that can feel like me & to Such only will my sentiments & opinions appear rational. How frequently have I been amused or rather disgusted with the sarcastick & illiberal observations of some, of company I have frequented before this, on my sensability & want of life & animation. Believe me I do not envy them their enjoyments but rather pity their infatuations knowing they never enjoy that refined sense of feelling stored in a mind conversant with itself.

Please excuse my haste. Remember me to Aurelia & all my friends. I shall write to my parents when I have some leisure.

<Ada> yours affectionately  
Seth Howard

[Envelope]  
Peekskill  
October 4

Doct Th<omas Bridgham [torn page]>  
<Leeds>  
via Winthrop [Post Office]

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39 11/20/1819 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* Dear Perents [Capt Seth Howard]

RBH-0e23

Peekskill

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Nov 20 th 1819

Dear Parents

I have the pleasure to inform you that all your relation & friends in this part of the country enjoy very good health at present, contrary to my expectations when I left you. I think it pretty likely I shall not go to the south this winter, in consequence of letters recvd from New Orleans no longer ago than last Evening. I have made up my mind to tarry here for a short time at <?erents>.

Mary enjoys her health tollerably well. I have moved my furniture from New York here & commenced keeping house. Mrs Howard is often wishing for Lucretia to spend the winter with her. If she was here, I have no doubt she would if Possible enjoy herself better than she did last. I occupy one of Wards houses which I have fitted up in very handsome stile. We had quite a party last Evening & company more or less every evening.

Pamelia is now here, came from Newburgh day before yesterday in Company with Miss Johnson. We had the pleasure of her company one Evening & yesterday afternoon. Ward took her to her Fathers. He has not yet returned. Pamelia will remain here some time. She left her Parents & friends in good health, & says her Father is doing very well. Ward is a building his New house. Times are very hard & money scarce.

Everet started from here day before yesterday for the South. He has conducted so imprudently, that I think he has not so friends in Peekskill except his brothers. From what I can understand Ward has conducted very <> & liberally towards him, paid him principal & interest for every thing he ever had of him & charged him nothing for any expence he has been to him since he has been living here. I am sensible he never will be thanked for it. Rowland I believe is preparing to return to the State of Maine pretty shortly.

I am waiting to receive some letters that have through mistake been forward to Hallowel after which if I do not go to the South I shall commence the study of the Law. This perhaps may surprise you, but all the business is now at a stand & nothing doing & being situated as I am with the advantage of an excellent library I have taken every thing <[hole cut in paper]> & flatter myself it <[hole cut in paper]> do. To be shure it <[hole cut in paper]> , but have I <[hole cut in paper]> to go through with it? <[hole cut in paper]> more than 27 years <[hole cut in paper]> & perseverance by the <[hole cut in paper]> can commence the <[hole cut in paper]> you a gain before long <[hole cut in paper]> our friends & relations we <[hole cut in paper]> to hear from you often <[hole cut in paper]> write to Mrs Howard <[hole cut in paper]> I remain your

Seth Howard

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40 3/7/1820 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Cousin Patia [Bailey]

RBH-0e24a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 7th 1820

My Dear Coz,

I being left a lone for a few moment I thought I would set down and write, and to write what was last in my mind, but not least in my esteem would be to write to and of you. Indeed I have your miniature before me when I go to sleep and when I wake and were it not Painted it is imprinted with an indellible stain on my heart and ever prominently visable in my minds eye.

I may have spoken reproachfull, May have wrien "admonitions" to you my Dear coz. Yet I always possessed that sinsability toward you that should cause me to be a partaker in your joys and a companion in your sorrows. To say I feel for the happiness of Pamela would be superfluous. Perhaps she does for mine. What shall I say of myself? That I am almost in a state of enui! Neither business or pleasure, hope or fear, love or hatred seem to exercise any dominion over me, but now and then a little resolution of late seems to come fully over me and I am in some hopes I shall shortly look about me and endeavour to find a little fortitude and ambition and once again make some kind of figure in the wide world.

Some part of the past winter I have spent very gay and lively, have been to many parties, sleigh rides &c, have conversed, played, sung, <> &c. - and have seen many lasses interesting and more or less entertaining have not improved much in the art of Politeness or in the skill of wooing have seen but little to interest the heart the eye or understanding except what the great volume of nature unfold to view on which in a leasure moment I cast an eye of inspection where we always find something new and pleasing to mankind, but stay says you! Your letter is all a dirgression! I beg pardon - your kind letter I received dated Peekskill Decem 14 and not having any thing to interest you will plead my excuse for not answering you sooner and now I have nothing to write. I begin - Nothing did I say. I have everything to write. I often call to mind how much pleasure we enjoyed in Peekskill, real solid comfort of which I was then sensible as well as now but more forceably when deprived of it. Oh that I could now take hold of your right hand I would tell you, — nothing but.

What strange things immagination will put in ones head but come my Dear P- you will take my arm I hope and we will take a walk down to our log by the Hudson where we will set ourselves down and meditate. Now Mr Pray informs me in the great room where the noisy <> of Yankees would salute the ear together with the sweet melodies of the flute violin and clarinet have dwindled to Ward Aunt Fanny and steward and the mewing of one solitary cat. How unlike the former house of joy and mirth where I have met Pamela oft with a reciprocated smile that would seem to bespeak our hearts at ease. Oh what incoherent sentences my imagination is so prolifick. My heart is so full. They so confuse my head I can not write. The very reasons that should urge me to say more.

I saw your letter to my Beloved sister (who by the way talks of her Dear cousin Pamela almost every hour in the day). It contained a great many little incidents pecululearly gratifying to my feelings and you can not write any thing that would not be. So "you cant help yourself" when I can steal time I set myself down and read over our course of letters together which pleasure I have indulged myself in eight or ten times since I arrived in this place . When I have no fresh supply of thoughts of future happiness I go back and partially live over those hours that I have found away. I must introduce you to my cousin Ann a young lady who has (notwithstanding my drowsy writing) such a flow of natural talent that would almost animate a statue. She has wit sense Beauty and a musical poetical talent nothing but cultivation wanting to put her in the superlative degree. I wish you had her as a schollar. You would be so pleased with her. If you see my yong friends at Peekskill you will not forget to say to them for now all the good things. I should were I there myself. I have more than once resolved to burn this letter and reresolved I have thought how <ironically> you answered mine from Redhook which was written in the deepest sincerity. I have again though what obliging letter you have sent me how much your last did please me how corresponding with my friends is the last pleasure I am not yet deprived of.

[R. B. Howard]

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41 9/1/1820 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Doct R. Bailey

RBH-0e24b

Harrisburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Harrisburg Sept 1820

Dear Sir

I Received yours of August 25th five days from the date. It was the first letter that came to hand with which I was much gratified and am highly pleased to think that I can have intelligence from you so far in so short a time. As it respects the \$5 bill I sent you it was not of the Allen money in that was only one 5 doll Bill which I took particular notice of at the time. It was of the <Nowhaten> Bank & Guard. And as it regards Wards Note you write you thought of sending it to me. Now if he has not money of his own he has of mine in his command to pay two such notes as that and you know I was in want of money when I left your house. However if you choose send the note and I will forward the money and interest immediately as I never intended (God know) that any of my friends should loose any thing or suffer any inconvenience from me. As for Crawford his bargain is good enough if he had lost the Allen note. My horse to be sure is a very good horse old & heavy and I could not sell him for fifty Dolls. And it will cost me that to Winter him. I have not heard from Evert yet. I want you to write me very often. It will not take you but a few minutes and afford me hours of pleasure.

Yours affectionately,  
R. B. Howard

Doct R. Bailey

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42 9/1/1820 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Cousin Patia [Bailey]

RBH-0e24c

Harrisburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Cousin Patia

I was very Agreeably surprised when in opening your Papa Letter I found my Dear cousin Arvilla (seemingly in unison with you) had been so good as to send me a few lines. I suppose She has left you before this or She would claim of right this return. She writes affectionate and sensible to coz sarah too. I have many acknowledgements to make especially for her thoughtfulness in requesting Arvilla to write. I feel too sensibly the loss I sustained in leaving my such good cousins and as for my "returning in a few years as happy as fortune can make me" is altogether Problematical. All at present is that I am comfortably situated and am as yet in good health while they are conveying many to the silent tomb about me. It is now very sickly and one half of the inhabitants at least are sick with the fever or the fever and Ague but I never was so well in my life. I was quite unhappy when I was last with you because I was poor and without business. Now when in business to spend my leasure hours with you would be the delight of my life, but it seems, I must still remain a pupil of adversity for every thing is adverse that carries me from my friends. Altho deprived of your society there is nothing shall deprive me of your good will or at least I am resolved to deserve it. Make it your study my Dear Coz to be a kind & dutiful daughter an obliging and affectionate sister and ere long you may be a worthy and happy companion. At any rate if you will be a good Girl you shall have a beau when you wantt one. Now if I should not live to see you again.

This will remain as an other prof of love from your cousin R.

Cousin Joseph, altho last not least in my remembrance since you lived with me you have ever seemed to me like an other brother I feel much intrest in your welfare and as I think much in your future life will depend on your Education I would press the propriety on your mind of improving it as much as posible while you are yet under twenty. That being the best time for improvement. I know you have a good heart and Generous feelings and a mind susceptable and capable of improvement. Therefore as you grow older there will be much expected from you and I trust all expectations will be agreeably answered. It requires much to make the man and that knowledge which is most beneficial in life is to know yourself. Had I been successful in life I would never have willingly parted with you. But as it is you must rest assured of the love & esteem of your cousin R.

P.S. I shall write to Benjm. When I hear from Everet and know whether I leave this City this fall or not. My love to him and all the family. Remember me to Ward Seth &c. I shall write to Ward.

Dear Brother

I shall inclose this in a letter to the Doctor.

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43 10/18/1820 *From:* Larry Dusenberry

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e25

New Orleans

Harrisburg Pennsylvania

Forwarded to

Lexington Virginia

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*Source:* Bowdoin

New Orleans Oct 18th 1820

Mr Rowland B Howard

Dear Sir,

I have this day received your Letter of 16th ult. and was not a little surprised to find it dated at a Town so remote from the place where I at first had the pleasure to become acquainted with you. I very much regret that your mercantile pursuits in my own dear native state, were not crowned with success, and wish that I could give you encouragement for coming to this place in order to retrieve your former losses.

This City is a great place for trade I assure you, but there are so many Americans stepping in for a share in it, that I scarcely dare invite you to take up your residence here.

But this much will I venture to say that if you was here at this time I could get you a pretty good situation with a Grocer, who wishes to engage a young man immediately. There are many situations vacant at present owing to so many young men having died with the Fever the past Summer, but as the Merchants are now returning <[torn page]> proceed with their business immediately,

[torn bottom of page]

you would also be informed that they were erecting a tomb for him or getting a coffin made. I have taken great care of myself, and have been remarkably preserved through the sickly season, and another year I shall not feel much apprehension as to my fate, considering myself as having become somewhat inured to the Climate.

Now Sir, after all that I have said relative to the uncertainty of your getting in business here, six weeks or two months hence you should think proper to come here for that purpose. I and my friends will try what we can do for you. I mention six weeks or two months hence because I suppose you could not reach here until some time in the month of Decr.

With much respect,  
I remain truly yours  
Larry Dusenberry

[Envelope]

Forward

Mr Rowland B. Howard

Harrisburg [was crossed out] Lexington

Pennsylvania [was crossed out] Virginia

[Postmark] New Orleans Oct 22

[Postmark] Harrisburg PA Nov 29

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44 12/20/1820 *From:* Pamela [Phillips]

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e26

Peekskill

Lexington  
Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Dec 20, 1820

My Dear R

You have no doubt ere this received a letter from cousin Ward containing the afflicting intelligence of your brother Everett's last illness and death. I would my dear cousin if it were in my power endeavour to console you under this dispensation of Providence. When I consider your lonely situation, as I should term it, I think the death of your brother E must be doubly afflicting to you and conclude that, though I can do but little towards mitigating your sorrows, my letter will not be unwelcome, and I really wish I had something to send you that would serve as a cordial to your spirits, but alas! all I have to offer is a sympathizing heart. Undoubtedly you very well remember my inability to express my ideas as I could wish. I am sorry to say I have not improved in the least since you left here and I fear I must always leave my friends to imagine my sentiments.

When I wrote to you last I had no idea of spending the winter here but have been persuaded so much by a few that I have at length yielded to their entreaties and have taken my winter quarters at Mr Birdsall. The present state of society in P.K. has been no inducement I can assure you. You will naturally conclude so when I inform you that in point of talents it has made a retrograde movement for months past. Tis true we have some few persons of the first rate natural and acquired abilities, but you know the same few seldom associate with the young people of this place, consequently we derive no benefit from their superior knowledge, which with me is a matter of deep regret. However I spend my leisure moments very pleasantly in reading and have recently read some of Doct Johnsons writings, and must say if I could write with as much ease as his writings appear to have been written, I should desire no more in that particular. I have not read any new productions of late except Mr Irving's Sketch-Book and of course I must be delighted with his sketches, for that is the fashion and if it were not I should for once in my life be extremely ungenteeled and admire his writing.

Thursday Dec. 21st. Yester even Mr Birdsall and lady with myself and their young son Daniel took tea at Mr Mcdad Raymonds, had a very pleasant visit, was introduced to a brother of Mr R, who arrived in this place a few weeks since and remains here in the character of a Pedagogue, whether he will be an acquisition to our society or not I am unable to say. I understand however that he excels in singing. By the by what think you Cousin R I, who in former times, sang so much for you have almost abandoned the practice. Sometimes two or three weeks pass and I do not sing one song. I have added but few new ones to my list of songs, this season.

A thought has occurred that you may not thank me for my egotism I will therefore try to give you something about your old associates. Mr Pray is in our town but never troubles any person - I mean he seldom goes out. From every appearance his office is the only attraction for him in this place. I do not see him often, but since his return from Maine I think him unusually agreeable and ascribe his good humour to his extreme good fortune in obtaining the "Joy of life".

I know but little concerning Dr Strang's family. The counsellor is quite as attentive to his business as ever and nothing more. I have not visited Miss C.A. since last August and have not had the pleasure of meeting her at any party but once since that time. I hear she had been to town this fall and has returned with the fashions a la mode New York. Judge Constants niece and daughters are almost my only associates in this place. I frequently spend a pleasant hour with them. Well here we have Uncle Seth and lady & Mr Gilbert and lady. I know but little concerning them, and care as much.

I go to Judge Johnston's very often and am happy to inform you that Lucia enjoys very good health which is something new for her. I presented your remembrances and love for which I received something equal to them for you. You must pardon me but really I have forgotten what she said, however rest assured it was no small compliment.

My sisters are studying the French language this winter, and I have taken several lessons but do not profess to be as proficient in that accomplishment. However by what I have learned lately with the little I knew before I am enabled to read French with a little satisfaction, and as my sisters have the advantage of a Teacher, I hope to profit by their knowledge when I go home.

I have spent a fortnight very pleasantly at Newburgh this fall, left all friends enjoying good health about ten days since. When I arrived at P.K. I had the pleasure of perusing a letter from you to your brother W and am happy to learn that you have once more found society that accords with your taste. Your brother Valentine sent cousin Ward a detail of cousin Lucretia's marriage, which took place on the eleventh of November [Lucretia Howard married Jabez Leadbetter]. You of course have heard the particulars from Maine. As for Mrs Leadbeter she has quite neglected me the past summer and I intend to pay her in her own wise.

Uncle Bailey's family are in good health. Cousin Benjamin is engaged in the study of Physic with Doct Wait of this place.

Cousin's Seth and Mary are very well. Little Laura walks and is a very interesting little girl.

I can think of nothing more to tell you that would be in the least entertaining.

With my best wishes for your health and happiness I am your affectionate cousin.

Pamela [Phillips]

[Envelope]

Peekskill

December 22

[Postage] 22

Mr Rowland B Howard

Lexington

Virginia

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45 1/30/1821 *From:* Pamela [Phillips]

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e27

Peekskill

Lexington  
Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Jan 30 1821

Would you not my dear cousin like to know what the Yorkers are about this winter? I have no mind to wait for an answer to my question, but feeling in a very communicative disposition shall proceed to tell you all the news and nonsense that enters my head while I am writing.

You no doubt have received my letter dated some time in December, long ago. Why you have not answered it I cannot imagine, and I suppose some young ladies, more precise than your cousin Pamela would wait a long, long time before they would write a second letter without an answer to the first. However taking all things into consideration I shall now, and ever, write "while I'm in the humour".

The greatest piece of news and the prevailing topic in our town is the marriage of your brother Ward to our friend Miss Lucia Johnston. It is wholly unnecessary for me to enumerate her good qualities to one who knows and esteems her as highly as does my good cousin Rowland. Perhaps you wish to know a little about the Wedding and as I had the honour of standing bride-maid, I suppose I can give as just an account of the proceedings as you could wish. The marriage took place on Thursday evening the twenty-fifth Inst in presence of the family of the Hon. Robert Johnston, and myself the only invited guest - both bride and groom looked extremely well, but as my correspondent happens to be a gentleman I will not undertake to describe the dresses. We spent the evening very pleasantly and the next day W B Howard Esq and lady, R. H Johnston Esq. and myself had a very pleasant sleighride, but the weather was "Bless my heart how cold". We returned to Carmel and the day passed off in good style.

Mrs Mitchell and I exerted ourselves to make all things lively. Saturday morning Cousin Ward and Mr Johnston came to P.K. called for entertainment at Cotters Hotel, sent for all the gentlemen of the town I believe, after having received the congratulations of friends the gentlemen returned to Judge Johnstons to dinner and Sunday evening cousin Ward brought me home.

We have delightful sleighing and have had for a long time; I have seen but few Post-coaches this winter. From New York to Albany the sleighing is fine and the stages have no use for wheels. A party of ladies and gentlemen from P.K. have been to Fish Kill to dinner this winter and propositions have been made for another party to go to Somerstown. To the latter I have had an invitation but declined going. When the party went to Fish Kill I was absent. Cousins Ward, Lucia and myself were on a jaunt to Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, Kent and Carmel. If I had been here I should not have been invited I conclude, for with many of the "concern" I am unacquainted. The beautiful Miss Mary Brown was one of the company, the last arrived Mr Raymond was her beau on the occasion. I have attended but one large party in the village this winter and that was at Dr Strangs on Christmas night. Catherine entertains her friends very much in the style of days that are past and has about as many admirers. As you know quite as much as I do of such matters I will pass over the subject and write about some other good friends. I visit Judge Constants family more frequently than any other in this place. The young ladies enjoy good health, and are as lively and engaging as ever. Miss Emma is by some persons called very pretty. The other girls are as handsome as any others in our town you know.

Besides the wedding I have mentioned, there is Mr George Sellack, who has taken Miss Fanny Thorn to wife. Then as several pieces of news, I would inform you that Mrs Seth Wait, Mrs Gilbert, Mrs William Lowell, Mrs P. Raymond & & have each recently become mothers of fine sons and Mrs Nelson has another young daughter. Now you cannot say that I write no news, when I have been so particular to relate all the births & marriages I could think of & I hope you will be sufficiently thankful, but I beg you will not go far out of your way to express your gratitude for my kindness.

But do tell have you become so enamoured of the Virginians that you cannot spend a half hour in writing to me? or is my dear cousin brooding over his sorrows for the loss of his brother and lamenting his own lonely situation - in such a case you may think my nonsense untimely - but be assured I respect your sorrows and would divert them if it were in my power, however as I have written thus far and but mentioned your loss you might conclude that I had almost forgotten your affliction but I can assure you I often think of you and consider your sorrows must be doubly grievous because you are so far removed from your friends. If I have committed

an error by writing this, I know your goodness will forgive it.

Wednesday Jan 31.

Cousin Ward goes to Albany today - at least, he will start for that city with the stage.

Last evening J.H. Strang with Miss C. Hyatt Dr Hoit with Miss L. Constant & J Strang with his cousin Caty Ann took tea at the widow Hyatts in Yorktown. This evening the gentlemen of P.K. and Mount Pleasant unite to give a ball at Mr Lacoeks, you know where that is better than I do. Who is going from our town I know not. I have had no invitation and I am very sure I want none. Mr Pray tells me he has been solicited to join them, but I conclude he will not attend. Cousin Lucia desired me to give her love to you and I would send you a piece of cake if you were not so many hundred miles from us.

Do you think you can find time to write me a letter this year. I promise you I will steal time to read it if it is necessary. Possibly you would be glad to hear something about the Politics of our country. In such a case I must refer you to some of the gentlemen. This much I know there are several candidates for Sherriffs office in this country. You must wait patiently till the Contest is over and then I will try to tell you all I know.

Adieu dear cousin. Believe me very affectionately and sincerely your friend.

Pamela [Phillips]

Wednesday afternoon. Would you not like to be in our <midst> cousin R. This morning arrived your father and now all are engaged talking about Leeds, Boston, Newburg, Kent, Peekskill and friends of all sorts and sizes. Our friends in Maine are in good health, but no one saw fit to address one line to any connexions here. Oh what yankees they are.

[Envelope]

Peekskill

January 31

[Paid] 25

Mr Rowland B Howard

Lexington

Virginia

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46 1/5/1822

*From:* VR Howard

*To:* Capt Seth Howard

RBH-0e28

Fincastle Bottetourt Co  
Va

Wayne  
Kennebec Co Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fincastle Bottetourt Co Va

Dear Parents

I received Brother Rowlands letter the 15 of October with no little satisfaction but having just directed a number of letters to the neighbourhood of home, I did not answer it. I thought I directed my letters to Friends, But alas I have been wonderfully disapointed six monts since I left Leeds & not but one letter have I received from <Nurseryland>. There is Jason has he forgotten me? who would have thought it, Jeremiah Lothrop & others whom I have written to, but so it is. I will wait no longer for their answers, for I know my Parents are anxious to hear from their unworthy Son. I have been in perfect health ever since I left home. I have to inform you that I was some what unfortunate in geting in to buisness in Lexington & also was disapointed at other places. But now thank heaven! I am in business which is more agreeable, instructive, & <Popelar> although my salary is not very grate yet It is preparing me for active business.

When I came to Lexington I was flattered by the people that I should get a profitable school there in the fall & if I would wait I had then an offer of 400 Doll per year in Pendleton but did not except thinking to do as well or better in Lexington. But there was a young gentleman whose Parents resided in Town, were People of a good deal of influence being very respectable though rather poor. Of course the people in town wished to do all for the young man they could. Therefore I did not succeed after waiting three monts.

There was a Gentleman in this place who was in great want of a young man & I being recommented to him by a Gentleman in Lexington he sent for me. I came on immediately in the stage (it being 40 miles) & engaged with him for one year. My buisness is mostly writing and riding. The man whom I live with is George Backus formely from Connecticut. He being Post Master has made me <his> Dept which buisness takes the most of my time. We have mails that arives & departs from this place once or twice every day. Mr Backus has one of the stage routs on the United States Line & an other on the Western Line. He is said to keep one of the best public houses in Virginia. He gas a good deal of buisness in the country which I have to attend to. I don't know but I shall have to go to Carolina next week to attend to a Law suit <depending> there. He has a Son that assists him in the office when I am absent. I hope you will not be uneasy about me as it is my determination to be faithful in whatever buisness I undertake. Perhaps you thot that a Public House is not suitable for <a young> man like me. But you <> I never shall forget the counsel of my Parents.

I am much better pleased with the society here than in Lexington. The People are very friendly & familiar. This Town is about the same size of Lexington but the buisness done here far exceeds especially in the spring seasons being situated nere the sweet, hot, warm, white sulpher, read sulpher, & salt sulpher Springs, all of which are resorted to by great numbers in the sumer seasons. There is not one quantum of the People that attend the Springs for their health, but merely for amusement. I by chance came accrost a young Gentleman in Lexington from Georgia. He informed me that he rode in the Carriage with Everet about one hundred miles & previous to that he went on to Alabama & hapened to fall into Colyers company & traveled with him some distance & in the time he left <Pioniso> with the <same> man that Colyer states he did for Everet which proves that Colyer told the truth.

Tel Rowland to write me when he receives this all the news. I know not whether there is a Post Office in Leeds yet. I shall there fore direct my letter to Wayne. Please give my love to Rowland Franklin & my Dear sisters with with their husbands & Stillman & wife Uncle Barney family & all all, all. Rest ashured that my love for Parents has incresed rather than abaited so farewell for the present.

VR Howard [Valentine Rathburn Howard]

Dep PM has not the liberty to Frank letters. Therefore I shall mail this. Yours &c

[Envelope]  
Fincastle, Va  
5 Jan 1822

Paid 25  
Capt Seth Howard  
Wayne  
Kennebec Co Maine

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47 1/8/1822

*From:* Thomas W.  
Bridgham  
Portland

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

RBH-0e29a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland January 8th 1822

Sir,

It is my pleasure to inform you of the proceedings of the Legislature, thus far, in order to which I enclose you the Argus, in which is contained the Governor's message and the principle business which has occurred in both branches of the Legislature. It cannot be expected that much business could be transacted within this period; but having got organized and the Joint and Standing Committees chosen, the probability is, that the session will be brought to a speedy and happy termination.

As it respects myself I enjoy my health remarkably well and should feel to enjoy myself very well if I could know my little Family and friends at home were in health. This is, really a Theatre which exhibits, to the mind, a great source of information; not only in the science of Politics, but in the various <Takeromines> of human nature. Being in the room where there is a number <wabersing> upon various topics. I have not an opportunity to say much, but will observe to you that I together, with a great number of the other Representatives have a billet from the Governor to assemble to his house to-morrow evening to take tea &c. you will also observe upon viewing the standing Committes, that I am on the Committe of bills of the third reading.

Please to address this to Aurelia, Pa, Stillman and to whom so ever of our other friends that you think proper, and I must implore your kind protection of my little Family during my absence.

From yours affectionately,  
Thomas W. Bridgham

To Rowland B. Howard

N.B. Please to write to me the first opportunity, being anxious to hear what news from home.

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48 2/11/1822 *From:* [Ensign] Otis

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

RBH-0e29b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Feby 11 1822

Dear Friend,

According to my engagement I called and enquired concerning the school as soon as I arrived in town, but the agent had not returned from Portland and the district had done nothing. I have just waited on Esq Buvington, who arrived here Saturday. He says he wishes you to keep the shool, and will give seventeen dollars per month, for six months, he thinks. But while at Portland he talked with a Mr Griffin, and give him some encouragement before he heard you wished to keep it, and says he must hear from him before he can give you a certain answer. The probability, however, is you will have the school as I find a number very earnest for it. If you receive no word to the contrary they wish you ot begin in two weeks from to-day at which time I shall expect to see you.

My sister write me very melancholly news and I am now quite sad in heart and dejected in spirits. The loss of our friend, Mr Lane, will be severly felt by his relatives and acquaintances. By what I hear to, my Grandmother is probably no more. I however have been for the most part cheerful since I arrived. I recollect with pleasure our fine slay-rides, and think our variety of amusements peferable to the dull monotony of study. Robinson frequently talks about his tour, and the delightful acquaintances he formed, and none hear him but wish they had had the good fortunes to visit Leeds. The term has begun under favorable auspices, students have mostly returned and began their studies with vigour. I am now writing at Mame Tucker's tavern and it is so dark I can hardly see what letters I make and see no prospect of getting more light, so you must excuse my breaking off abrutly,

Your Sincere friend,  
Otis

P.S. If you see Cinthia remember me to her, and tell her I have not gone eastward yet, but hope to soon. Give my respects to Ann to the Dr & Mrs Bridgham. Tell the Dr I should be hapy to receive a line from him.

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49 7/19/1822 *From:* Pamela [Phillips]

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e30

Newburgh

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Newburgh July 19th 1822

My Dear Cousin

On my return from the City where I have spent three or four weeks this summer, I was greeted with a letter from you, which circumstance was so very unexpected that I could hardly realize it. A thought occurred that it might be one of ancient date that had strayed from my cabinet, but on closer inspection I found that you had once more found a pen and a disposition for addressing me. Enough said on that subject.

I have so much to tell you, and have forgotten so much that I would be glad to tell you that you must not be surprised to find this scrawl almost incomprehensible. As Peekskill was the theatre where we have played our parts so often I will endeavour to give you a little insight to their scenes. And as your brother's dwelling stands nearly at the head of the town I will first tell you of his family. Undoubtedly you have heard of Lucia's extreme illness and loss of her son in Feb last but as you are all so very backward in writing I conclude you do not know that she is now in very ill health. While I was in town she and cousin Ward came down, and I accompanied them to Bath and Rockaway on Long Island. Cousin Lucia appeared to receive no benefit from her jaunt, but if I had continued bathing in the Atlantic a few weeks I think I should have felt much better than I do now, not that I am sick in the least, but I am afflicted with most dreadful fits of laziness. You would be astonished to see the alteration in your cousin Pam, and you will hardly credit what I am about to tell you, but "it is a fact", notwithstanding Lucia has been ill so much and is now so weak that she cannot walk three times the length of the house without great exertion. She is much larger every way and has more flesh upon her than ever I had, and "vice versa" with me. I am just about nothing. I am so very thin - something like a shadow of the cousin you once knew.

Doct Hoyt and Susan Constant have been married about two months and it is asserted that James Nelson and Cammilla Hyatt, think of matrimony, as does also Mr Van de Water, a book binder, with Miss Kate Ann. I hope you feel no jealous symptoms arising from the last mentioned circumstance. If you do I beg of you to pacify yourself as soon as possible for it would be a sad thing for you to visit Hoboken with the gentleman when you are on the way south. Mais entre nous, I do not think Kate will be married very soon, and this Mr Van, has been acquainted with her nearly a year so I think her union with him is very doubtful.

Mr James <Driven> died while I was in New York, His remains were carried to P.K. to be interred. It is said that he left property to the amount of thirty thousand dollars which is a nice little sum if rightly managed. His sons are much the same as when you knew them.

On Monday next there is to be a great parade at Goshen. The bones of heros who were slain at the battle of Minisink and which have lain bleaching on the field forty three years, have lately been collected and are to be buried on that day. Every body is going to witness the ceremony, all societies, civil and military are invited to assist on the occasion. A battalion of Cadets is going up and - but I cannot tell you one hundredth part of the regulations and orders on this sheet of paper.

Cousin Patia has been with us nearly two months. She was quite out of health when she came, nor is she now perfectly well. Our family remains in such health as it always did. I sometimes think Papa is better and then again it seems almost impossible for him to exist many hours. Thus are we driven about with hopes and fears. Cousin Benjamin practises with Doct Gidney and boards with us. I think he bids fair to make a very useful member of society. Joseph is yet in Red Hook. The bar has so many attractions that he had when I last saw him determined to be a lawyer. He is preparing to enter Mr Nelson's office this fall.

The family including cousins join me in love to you and all friends. Be kind enough to tell Lucretia that my memory is very good and she is in debt to me for two or three letters. Moreover that I am resolved not to intrude on her domestic affairs so long as she cannot spare a few moments to write to me. May every blessing attend her and every one connected with her (you see I bring myself in) is the fervent wish of your sincere friend and very

affectionate cousin  
Pamela

[Envelope]  
Newburgh  
July 18  
[Postage] 25  
Mr Rowland B Howard  
Leeds  
Maine  
July 29th forwarded Greene

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50 1/26/1823 *From:* VRH [Valentine  
Rathburn Howard]

*To:* Mrs Lucretia P.  
Leadbetter

RBH-0e31

Christiansburg Va

Wayne  
State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Christiansburg Va Jan 26 1823

Dearly Beloved Sir

Who could resist such a command as the following? Sit yourself down & anser this immediately, says that Sister of whom I am proud. It is Lucretia, Yes Lucretia has condescended to bless me with a long communication. Nearly six months had passed with not a word from home.

Whenever I would think of my relations, this consolation burst on my mind that their anxiety was not so great as mine. For I had always had an idea that I was beloved the least of any branch of the family. But since the reception of your letter I am almost compelled to believe I was mistaken.

I gave up the idea of your answering my letter at all. But to my undiservabe satisfaction I was blessed at last. But Oh it informed of the death of our Beloved Sister! Though not so bad as I expected, yet it is enough. Little did I think when I saw accounts of the raging mortality of that country that either our Brother or Sister would survive the Demon.

Alas death will com & I am resined to any of Gods desires. Oft times with pleasure I anticipate the day I shall meet my relatives in that country. But heaven knows when that day will come. Perhaps not for years But live! live! untill I come. Yes I must see my Parents once more. I love them indeed I love! not only as a duty but with voluntary affections. But a person of my age & situation requires fortitude which I never <> to banish childish dependencies which has got the better of some of our Leeds Boys. There is cousin Jason J Gould & others can go to Boston City or some big town & return to Mama with a satisfied mind. They get no business & are afraid of starveing & back they come. They will some day find that the knowledge of human nature is not so easily acquired. Jason might have done well in this country but I never shall invite him again.

I have told you that I was always possessed of fortitude & my next qualification you have often accused me of not possessing. But you were rong. Industry. Yes Industry. Thou art my constant companion I never was fond of labouring with my Body but with my mind was & ever will be my blissful employment.

Hardely one Morning this winter has presented the reflections of her luminary without finding Rathburn seated in his study with half of his candle consumed. In the middle of the day when my fellow students are at the hotel hearing the news & taking a glass of toddy. I am in a retired room room listening to the recitations of five or six dutiful little children.

Is Rowland my brother? Yes: has he answered my letters? No: what is the reason? Why he is in love: with whom? For God's sake say no more! (Thunder struck, Shine enough) I—, once fell in love! But it was with an Angel. And when I saw wife in your letter with so many exclamations around it an agreeable question struck my mind. Thinking that M—with three letters would follow, but alas, what a contrast! Who knows but fortune will preserve her for Rathburn on some future day. Could I think so! I dare not: Then I shall ever remain in one respect as I now am.

If you can understand me, well. If not I am the only one that knows the secret. At awful distance I must entertain my grief. But still in pain but dare not ask relief. And too too fain to let my l'll languish in secret & with dumb surprise. But no more: I said I was possessed of fortitude & I may betray my self. May Be says Rathburn: I shall before many years be situated on the banks of that beautiful Missouri that tumbles through the Western World.

I am determind if possible to attend the medical lectures at Brunswick if not Philadelphia or New York. I have read of medical authors. Murry & Materia Med <[torn page]> two large volumes, two authors on <anatomy> & Daveys Chemistry. I have <> Minutely. <> name is Doct. Alexander <> a fine man & possessed of <>.

Tell our Parents to be as easy as possible about me for if I can get through with my studies as I had ought I am

safe. I may have to get the loan of a small sum of money to attend the lectures. But I expect it not from any of my relation but some more able patron. I may get throug without. God only knows what has become of that ten Dollar United Sates Bill I sent you. I sent a Negro boy to the office with the letter & he says he put it in the letter box on the out side of the house unmolested. I have informed his master of it who has threatened to whip him to death if he oes not tell the truth. He still continues to deny that he took the money from the letter & I can hardly think myself that he is guilty. I wish you would inform me if the letter was marked double postage. If it was he is certainly innocent. I have not the money by me now or I would send it in this letter but you should be paid with four fold interest.

Remember me to Mr Leadbter & kiss that little boy of yours for me. Tell Papa & Mama I think of them as much as it is possible for them to think of Rathburn. Give my love to all. Doct, Aurelia children our brothers Franklin & Rowland particularly Stillman & family Esq L's family throughout & kiss one <branch> at it for me & much oblige your affectionate & dutiful Brother  
VBH

P.S. I find a friend in Mr Crowden F Roweson family of Paris Me. Who is Practicing Law in this Country.

I am in tolerable health this winter except now & then a bad cold the weather being so changeable. It is impossible to prevent it. I was blesed last night & took a <First page sideways writing too faint.>

[Envelope]  
Montgomery Co  
1st Feb  
[Postage] 25  
Mrs Lucretia P. Leadbetter  
Wayne  
State of Maine

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51 8/27/1823 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* J. R. R. Pray Esq

RBH-0e32

New Orleans

Livermore  
County of Oxford  
State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans August 27th, 1823

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you I still enjoy as good health as when you left. I have got moved in to my new house, where I am very pleasantly situated, my room being high from the ground. I enjoy the luxury of so much to be wished for in this country, a free circulation of fresh air. Since you left here, we have had some pretty warm days. The thermometer I think however has not ranged higher than ninety four, but for the most part the weather has been remarkably fine.

The yellow fever has once more made its appearance. The first report from the board of health three days since, & before two months are at an end, the probability is that thousands will traverse that old & beaten track to the Swamp. The May's Carriages I see begin to be in motion & no doubt before the Season is expired hundreds will take their last airing in this cellibrated <neighade>. Our communication with Natchez is compleatly stoped, by a quaringtine being established four leagues past the coast, where a health officer is stationed, & every person who shall pass there without first reporting himself is subject to a fine of one thousand Dollars besides imprisonment. From all reports the Town of Natchez does not contain one quarter of its usual population. Nearly all that are not sick & dead have fled to the Country. This is really unpleasant news, that ill fated city suffered beyond account in the year 1817. I don't know what contagionists will say now, the fever undoubtedly has originated there.

I remain as when you left over head & ears in business. There is hardly a day since that you could crawl through my furnace without singeing your hair. My men seem to stand it remarkably well. Some of them now & then sick a little, but owing more I presume to imprudence than any other cause.

Holms is well & happy as ever, but poor Whitman is completely done over. About three weeks ago he & our black boy Joe, was carrying off a ladle of iron & from some cause or other they let it fall & Whitman got both his feet burned. They are however getting better & by the assistance of a couple of wooden legs he can manage to go about the house, but I don't think he will ever dare to venture into the Foundry again. I was standing near the ladle & escaped with a very slight burn, but had it taken another direction it might have injured me in a very tender point. I should judge at least 2 lbs hot iron went into my bosom & past out at the bottom of my pantaloons. You know how I am drest while at work, my shirt collar open & pantaloons what there is left of them very loose.

I seem ever so poor in pocket in my life my clothes are all worn out & I have not time nor money to buy new ones. But I have 1400 barrels of good coal & a pretty good stock of iron besides a great many other little nick-nacks that no small sum could purchase. This is a fine demonstration that industry & perseverance will accomplish successes.

I believe you never knew the capital we commenced on. I have smiled often to myself when I have reflected on it? Whitman's sofcapolate stock were this negro, that lost him seven hundred dollars, from the sale of him at auction he expected to realize four or five hundred. This was to go for his share. Holm had a lawsuit from which he expected to recover four hundred dollars. This was to go for his share. Poor Till Garlick, you know his capital. This was a great prospect, poor Garlick, no money & no friends, but there was something better than all this - a thorough conviction in my own mind that the thing would succeed, & a determined resolution to carry it into operation at all hazard.

I don't know but my ambition carried me a little too far, as it was the cause no doubt of my late sickness, but thank God I was never in better health than at present. Finally the amount of Capital actuly invested was simply this. It took fifty dollars out of the common stock to pay the Doct bill & buy the negro, & Holms Law suit was put off & the day of judgment how long that will be you Lawyers best know. However it matters not now the works we have erected if a fair valuation was taken of them, would amount to at least eight thousand Dollars & we have enough on Books that is good to pay our debt. This is not to cause taking every thing into consideration,

but what is all this to me, sometimes I think myself the biggest fool in the world to make a slave of myself in this way.

My prospects as it respects my engagement in life are compleatly <aborted>. Poor little Laura remains in good health &c but I think much thiner than when you left. I am very anxious about her health. If she should not live I believe I should finish off myself.

I saw the General the other day. He says he wont get many to go over the lake, poor fellow. By the time you read this you will have past the fatigues of your journey & I hope reaping the rich reward you so justly merit from a long & protracted absence from all that is dear to you in life. Oh! That happy meeting you cannot find language to tell it and neither can I, but I know it all. One bosom friend is worth the world besides.

You must not fail to bring Mrs Pray along with you, & then I shall hold you to your promise. I think if she knew the half you suffer in her absence she would not hesitate a moment.

You see I have no more paper or I could write a month. Do not forget to say all to my Parents & friends that I could say to think if I was present. Give my best Love to Mrs Pray & children.

Yours forever  
S[eth] Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postage] 20  
P. R. R. Pray Esq  
Livermore  
County of Oxford  
State of Maine  
[Postmark] Sep 20

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52 8/29/1824 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Capt'n Seth Howard

RBH-0e34

New York

Leeds

County of Kennebeck ME

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*Source:* Bowdoin

New York 29th August 1824

Dear Parrents,

I beg that you will pardon me for not having written oftener to you. It has not been owing to want of respect or affection or a proper sense of the many obligations I am under to the best of parrents for the numerous favours they have bestowed on me, that I have thus neglected them. I am myself a parent and absent from my child & consequently have some little experience of the various anxieties that you must naturally have felt for years past.

It falls to my lot however at this time to afford you some consolation with respect to one of your children who has been sometime absent. My Brother V. Rathbon met me a few days since on board the Steam Boat on his way to visit me in Peekskill. He had landed but a few hours before in a packet from Richmond Va and not stoping to inquire in the City for me took passage immediately on board the Steam boat. It so hapened that I was going up in the same boat after Mrs H. who was then on a visit in the Country. He recognized me the moment he saw me. I had not the least recollection of him after making himself known. It was not long however before I could trace a family resemblance in him. I assure you I was extremely hapy to see him and highly pleased with his appearance & deportment. He accompanied me to Peekskill & back and spent a few days with me in this city. He expressed a wish to attend a Course of Medical Lectures at Castleton Vt for which place he started yesterday in the Steam boat as far as Albany. He will remain there 16 weeks & will probably be able to obtain a practicing License at the expiration of the term from some Medical society in this state. Let me assure you that he is every thing that his Parents Brothers or Sisters could wish & I think deserves great credit for his perseverance & industry in prosecuting his studies. He will undoubtedly write to you from Castleton.

Mrs Howard has not yet recovered her Health, and my own has been miserable during the present summer. I attribute it to residing in the City during the Hot weather. I have however traveled considerable, have been myself to Saratoga & Ballstown Springs. Mrs H. did not accompany me as her Physician did not approve of the waters & a northern climate as a remedy for her complaints. We are not at house keeping owing to her ill health. We [are] boarding at 8 Dollars per week & furnish [hole in paper] room. I have let out my house & lands [hole in paper] for the present. I want much to see you all and seriously intended making you a visit this summer, but my business would not permit. Our little daughter is at the Red Mills & has not been with us during the summer & infant has never been under the care of her mother since she was first born. She is now 16 months old & a very fine healthy child. I can add no more at present.

Mrs H with myself wishes to be remembered to every branch of our family respectively & joins with me in much love to our dear & beloved Parents

Ward B Howard

[Envelope]

Capt'n Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck ME

[Postmark] NEW YORK AUG 31

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53 9/4/1824 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e35

Castleton Vt.

Leeds,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Castleton Vt. Sept 4th 1824

Dear Brother

You will be surprised to hear from me at this place where I arrived a few days since for the purpose of attending a course of Lectures. I left Christiansburg Va about six weeks since. I traveled on horsback to Richmond where I remained a week. My hors then got lame & I exchanged him for a three years old colt unbroken which I sent by a friend of mine back to Montgomery who will brake him & take care of him - without expense till I return or give order for him to be sold.

I then took water to Newyork where I arrived on the twentieth of August, went immediately across the town & took the Steamboat for Peekskill not knowing that Ward lived in the City, but accidently Ward came on board going to Peekskill for his wife who was there on a visit. I recognized him as soon as I saw him & immediately made myself known. The meeting was a happy one indeed. I went with him to the Red Mills, from there to Uncle Bailey's where I found that Joseph had left for this place the same day. I returned with Ward to the City where I remained till last Saturday. Then took Steam boat to Newburg where I remained till Sunday evening. I then saw a letter from you to Pamela where I first learnt the death of our dear cousin & your most affectionate & boosom friend. It was news of a most disagreeable kind to me although I was warned of her fatal diseas some-time since. We must all some day or other pay the great debt of nature. & as for my Part I am resined at any time that God is pleased to summon me. This is a world of trouble & disapointment. The next can be no more.

I took the boat from Newburg to Albany. From there in Stage to this place, 78 miles from Albany where I shall remain sixteen weeks.

Those notes of Lindsey's I sent to him for collection. He let the Gentleman have a horse which I rode to Richmond (as I told you before) for the Largest note. The other he could not pay. I left it however with Dr Chapman. His circumstances are not very good for paying money at this time. Had just been brought on the notes. They could not have been collected at all as they are outlawed according to the Laws of Virginia, their being no witness nor Seal.

Ward is one of the finest fellows in the world & he has a no less amiable wife. Uncle Philips family I was also much pleased with.

My health is not good but better than when I left Virginia. Had I remained there till this time I fear I should have had a severe attack of Bilious fever. It has been remarkably hot the past season & is now very sickly in that place.

I am in great hast. My bell is now ringing & I must close. My love to Parents brothers & sisters.

Yours &c  
V.R. Howard

PS Write me immediately without delay. It is a long time since I heard from home. We have about 150 students from all parts of the United States & five fine Professors &c.

[Envelope]  
Castleton Vt  
Sept 4  
[Postage] 182  
Mr Rowland B Howard  
Leeds,  
Maine

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54 1/9/1825 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e36

Kent N.Y.

Leeds  
State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kent N.Y. Jan 9th 1825

Dear Brother

I left Castleton at the close of the Lectures, called at Newburg where I spent a few days at our good Uncle's in the Society of some of the finest cousins in the World. I then went to the City where I remained a few days with Ward & sister Lucia whose health is very bad. I then came to this place where I have been two weeks. I have taken a Diploma from this State for Practicing Physic & Surgery after a very strict examination by the Censors, but thank fortune I have enough to answer every question. I received a letter from Seth not long since. He invited me to come to Purlington Mississippi where Mr Pray now resides, who is getting rich fast. I expect however to go into Partnership with Benj Bailey in the City of New York till Spring, who is doing a good business there. I think then I shall go to Purlington unless I can do better in the City.

I am very sorry that I could not visit our dear Parents when I left Castleton but my circumstances would not permit of my spending more money that was absolutely necessary. Therefore I was obliged to deny myself the happiness. I have used every exertion in my power to procure a profession which I am in hopes will afford me a living. But this country is overflowing with professional characters & unless I do business in the Cities I shall abandon the idea of settling in this country. I have talked some of settling at Put Court House but I fear I could not do business for some time there therefore I have relinquished the ideas as it is necessary for me to do enough at the Start to pay my way. I shall go in a few days to Newburg, from there to the City.

There could nothing have afforded more pleasure than to have seen my dear friends in Maine before I settled but I am in hopes if I am fortunate to be able to see them once more. Tell my dear mother to rest easy about me for I am determined to pursue a steady course of life & if any thing ensures me success it must be that.

Uncle Bailey & his family are all in tolerable good health. Joseph returned with me from Castleton & with me <took> examination & received a Diploma. He will remain at present with his father. He wishes me to remember his love to you &c. Uncle Phillips is doing tolerable good business at Newburg but his health is very bad. Uncle wishes to be remembered to our dear mother & father &c. All send love to Lucretia & all the family.

Write me at the City soon. I am yours affectionately  
V.R. Howard

[Envelope]

Kent N.Y. Jan 10, 1825  
[Postage] 25  
Mr Rowland B Howard  
Leeds  
State of Maine

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55 7/16/1825 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e33

New York

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York July 16 [1824?] [See Note 1]

Dear Brother

I received your letter a few days since & am happy to hear once more from home, a favour I have been long deprived of. Ward & Lucia have also been complaining for a long time of your neglect.

My business is increasing & I have now but little doubt of doing well. This city is the best place for a Physician, of any in the northern country. My health however is poor & I think it is probable we shall have the yellow-fever. It is now very hot. The thermometer has been from 98 to 90 for six-days. We have parted with our gest LaFayett not without a great parade &c.

Ward left my office a few minutes since. He requested to give his to all the family. Len is at the Red Mills. They will start in a few days for the Springs. Ward in company with Joe Snowden of this city has purchased the Red Mill Plantation at 30 thousand dollars. They are anticipating a great speculation.

Ward recd a letter from Seth not long since. He was then well. Your acquaintances in this country are frequently making inquires about your well fare &c.

I was at Peekskill about ten minutes this week but could not leave my office longer than 24 hours & then on business. I visit none but the Sick except now & then by the way of increasing my acquaintance in the city.

I exchanged your money but through my carelessness permitted them to take a percent whereas at some other offices I could have exchanged ever for New England paper.

I had some difficulty in geting it off as it was supposed to be two dollar Stamp.

Should any of my friends visit this city again, they will find my office No 112 Chapel Street. I will send you this mornings paper & was the Post Office nerer I would send you one every morning. Noan charges me nothing for his. I take the Statesman. Therefore I have two papers per day.

You probably have seen the account of the ascension of Mr Robinson in the bolon. It was the most awful & sublime scene I have ever beheld. Such a crowd of people never were assembled on the battery & in the Castle Garden before. I was in the Garden at the time with nearly four thousand.

My love to all Parent Brothers Sisters &c

Yours &c  
V.R. Howard

P.S. I enclose three notes one five, one three, one one.

[Envelope]

Mr Rowland B Howard

Leeds  
Maine

[Postmark] New York July 16

[Note 1. The date 1824 was written in later. General Lafayette visited New York City in July 1825. Thus, the year should have been 1825. "Contemporary newspapers reported temperatures exceeding 100 degrees on July 13, 1825; the city and its environs were prostrate with heat and drought as the Nation's Guest prepared to take his final leave of Manhattan. According to an account published by the Newark Sentinel on July 19, 1825, it was early on the morning of Thursday, July 14th, 1825, that General Lafayette was escorted by military parade from his lodgings on Broadway, New York City, to the Hoboken ferry, where he crossed the Hudson River into New Jersey." From the Bergen County Historical Society.]

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56 4/11/1826 *From:* S. Howard

*To:* Seth Howard Esq

RBH-0e37

Pearlington Mississippi  
State

Leeds  
County of Kennebeck  
St Maine

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Pearlington Mississippi State  
April 11th 1826

Dear Parents

Being so much engaged in business I have delayd writing for some time. I did flatter myself with the hope that I should receive letters from some of the family when Mr Pray returnd but I was disapointed. I continue to enjoy good health, with the exception of one very serious misfortune. I have nearly lost my eye sight. I can immagin no other cause but from casting of brass.

I had made every arrangement and was determined on visiting you this Summer, but I regret to say that it will be impossible. I have erected a Steam Sawmill in this place, which is now in opperation and unless I can get some one to supertend it, which is entirely out of the question in this Country I cannot come but I have made up my mind positively to come in one year from this if I have to shut it up.

If my sight continues to get worse as fast as it has for the last two months I shall very soon be obliged to give up business. Even now I cant keep my own accounts nor read a word. My words that I write I am obliged to have read to me to know what I have written. It is a most unfortunat thing to me as it has deprived me of all kind of enjoyment. If I had have had any idea of such a thing when I sold out the Foundary I should have given up business then, but as it is I must make the best of it. I have been advised by every body that knows me to do this and sometimes I agree with them & think it best for me with a constitution brocken down and impaired as mine is to do no more, and then again I know I should be unhappy, but let things go as they will.

I do not live for myself. If I can educate my daughter, as she deserves to be, it is all I want to do with life. So far as money can effect this there is nothing to fear, but this is not all. I would prefer to have her under my own eye. I had a letter from her a few days ago. She would have come down this last winter had not the small Pox been very bad in New Orleans. When I come to the North I shall certainly bring her with me.

Unless you was to see it you have no idea of the immense Labour, anxiety, and trouble of mind, that it requires to manage the concerns of a large Steam Mill. The proffits are very great or I should never undertaken it. I have forty men imployd altogether in the swamp and about the Mill. She cutts to average six thousand feet of cypres Lumber per day which is all ordered before hand at \$35 pr thousand board measure so that she <executes> work dayly to the amount rising of \$200, but then there is a great many other parts of the story. In the first place the works cost a great deal of money and now and then a piece of machinery breaks that costs me from one to five hundred dollars to repair. Notwithstanding from any reasonable calculation she must with my management clear eight thousand dollars a year. But I don't mean to be troubled with her longer than I can help. I would sell her tomorrow together with all the land and property I have attached to it.

Sometimes I fear that you will blame me for not coming to see you this summer, but really if you knew the singular train of circumstances that has taken place you would not blame me. Mr Pray and family are well. Give my Love to all. I am your affectionate son.

S. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] Pearlinton  
18th Apr, 26  
[Postage]25  
[To] Seth Howard Esq  
Leeds  
County of Kennebeck  
St Maine

---

57 3/24/1827 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e39

New York

Leeds  
State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York March the 24th 1827

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 28th of January a few weeks since. It accorded me the greatest pleasure to learn of the good health of my friends in that part of the country. It is a blessing that I have never till lately known how high to estimate. Within the last six months I have for the most of the time been incapable of attending my business in consequence of ill health. My prospects here have & are still very good, but in consequence of my health I have resolved to leave. A Suthern climate will suit me best & I have not the least doubt but then I shall be perfectly well in a short time.

Seth has frequently written for me to come to him but I have always refused till I received his last letter. I have now concluded to go to Pearlington (Mississippi) where he now resides. He last Spring got a situation on me which was worth three thousand five hundred dollars per annum & was very angry becaus I would not except of it. It was Surgeon to one of the fortifications at that place with permition to practice out of the fort. That situation is now however filled but he holds out other prospects which will perhaps be equally as practicable. It is quite healthy in that part of the country where he resides & there is not the least doubt but that it will be better for me as it respects my purse & more to be considered than all my health.

My complaint appears to be primarily of the lungs & bowells but I flatter myself there is nothing permanent & that on my arrival in a Suthern climate I shall be perfectly restored. I shall leave here in a packet for New Orleans tomorrow morning where I shall probaly arrive in the course of sixteen or twenty days at the longest, when I will also write you immediately.

My Dear Parrents must not be the least uneasy about me, as it is the opinion of my best friends here that it is the best thin I can do.

Ward & family live at Peekskill when I left there a few weeks since. He has two fine girls. Lucia is in tolerable health only. Ward is in the lumber business & is doing considerable business. He has not seen your letter yet but I will enclose it to him today. Uncle Phillip's family remain at Newburgh yet & I believe get a very good liveing. I have not been there since last spring. None of the girls are yet married, but all are very amiable & worthy of the best of husbands. Uncle Bailey's family are nearly as when you left here, except that Benjamin has settled in this city in the practice of medicum. Joseph has moved to Peekskill & occupys the situation of Dr Hayes who has moved to this City. Harry Rundle has married Miss Emma Constant (Judge Constant's daughter) & a Mr Birdsall has married Miss Jane the other daughter. None of Doct Shnnon girls have married since you left. I believe seth will proabaly come on to the north this summer.

As it respects the Rowland Linsey debt I thought I had given you the particulars long since but I must have been mistaken by your letter. At any rate I got a horse for the largest note which I exchanged for a butiful two year old colt, which colt I left with Mr John Robinson near Blacksburg (Montgomery County) who promised to break & take care of him till he received some further instruction from me , free of cost. I wrote to him last spring to sell him & forward the money to me. He informed me in his answer that the colt had got hooked by a steer a short time since & he was afraid would never recover. Since that he wrote me that he was dead & mentioned that he had been offered \$100 for him before he got hooked. The other note I left with Doct. David J Chapman or rather Isac Chapman & Sons Merchants Blacksburg Va. for collection. I have their receipt which I can send to you any time if necessary. You had better write to them immediately but I am certain they have not collected it yet as I believe Rowland's rather poor. I never have received one cent of it in no way except the hors <[torn page]> you see how he has gone. <As> it respects the money you lent me. I am realy ashamed to make any excuse for it ought long since to have been <sent> but just at this time I am wanting every cent I can rais to pay my expenses which will be very high on the journey. I have debts to a considerable amount due me here that I shall be obliged to let stand for a short time. I hope however to have it in my power to pay you before long as it was a favor I shall never forget.

My love to our Dear Parents & every branch of the family. I expect to return to this city in one year from this

time when I may visit you. In great haste I remain your affectionate Brother.

V.R. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] New York [date unreadable]

Mr Rowland B Howard

Leeds

State of Maine

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58 6/1/1827 *From:* R.B.H.

*To:* My Dear Eliza [Otis]

RBH-0e38

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[1827? - written in pencil. Assume July 1 1827]

My Dear E

I know not with what terms to address you! How uncertain and transitory are all our imaginary pleasures. I have long anticipated on answer to some of my letters and long expected to have such news from you as would induce me immediately to cross the ocean that divides us and clasp my Eliza in my arms. I have passed in a kind of suspense day after day week after week & month after month until it is too late in the season to go to Georgia now and no news of you has arrived. If you are still alive and should read this and call to mind the writer I yet indulge a hope that within your bosom beats a pulse yet replete with true affection and that in your answer (which if not written this must be my last) you will excuse your self for this neglect and write me what I long to <hear [torn page]> that you are well and happy as you can be while so far <[torn page]> him that loves you. I should have written recently had <[torn page]> convinced that I could not receive an answer in time <[torn page]> Georgia in October which has been my intention <[torn page]> and not receive any letters at all from you has <caused me [torn page]> to give up the idea of going this fall and to try once more to hear from you. I named to you that I had some some duties to discharge to my parents that called me home. I now see them comfortably and pleasantly situated and they and my little brother Benjamin Franklin constituted our whole family and to tell she hath I am sometimes lonesome but yet sleeping or awake my mind is often anticipating the pleasure I might enjoy in the society of my Dear Girl but next I look at the immense distance that part us as a mountain at whose summit I may never arrive were you here perhaps we might be happy. I had a fortunate voyage but twelve days from Savannah to my fathers house. Could I be sur of such a one again I would soon be with you but to go to sea is dismal except to see Eliza. Do write me something of everything of all your affairs and whether you still remember me what I can do to live with you or you with me I still have a gratifying pleasure in the <expectation> of my visit to Georgia and especially to the house of your hospitable mother whom I much esteem and long to see as well as all the family whom I greet with my tenderest regard and now almost despairing of any news how you'd write but short and will only remind you again of my everlasting affection and esteem for you and ask if you have so soon forgotten your warm professions of attachment to your dearest friend .

R.B.H.

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59 3/14/1837 *From:* Ward B. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard Esq

RBH-0e40

New York

North Leeds  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 14th March 1837

Dear Brother

When I left you I intended writing immediately on my return, but I cannot recollect having done it. On the 4th of Jan'y I had the misfortune to break my leg since which time I have not been out of my room untill within the last 10 days I have with the aid of Crutches been down in the parlour & dined with the family. I am now fast recovering & intend going up the river to see my children in a few days. I hear from them frequently and have the pleasure to inform you that they are all well with the exception of the whoping cough. My youngest daughter & little boy have been afflicted with that during the winter but Mrs Mitchell writes me that they have it favourable.

I am with my sister in Law Mrs <Niuen> who has been more than a sister to me, every comfort and every attention during my long confinement has been bestowed upon me with a lavish hand so much so that I must confess that my sufferings have been light and trifling to what I at first anticipated. It has been a temporary inconvenience in relation to my business but it will soon be over & my Leg as sound & as straight as ever.

The great scarcity of money during the winter has affected my pecuniary concern a little. I purchased rather too much real Estate the last Season. My Highland Granite Quarry is however likely to turn out well. Mr Puck from Winthrop was here in the fall & left a day or two before I broak my leg. He went up to the Quarry with me, & can give you some particulars when you see him. A Mr Barrett from Hallowell our foreman on the Longfellow Quarry has been here during my confinement. That Quarry has not done as well as I expected the last year. It has however cleared 10 per Cent on the Capital.

I should like to dispose of my interest in that Quarry, if I could do it without loss. I find that I am liable to sickness and accidents daily and the sooner I close my affairs the better it will be for myself & children. I have no longer any ambition to gratify and should feel content to settle down in peace and quietness the short time that remains for me in this transitory world.

Let me hear from you, your family and all our friends around you to whom you will please remember me affectionately particularly our dear father. It is possible that I may visit you during the coming season. I should be happy to see you or any of my friends here at all times. I shall probably be in a better situation to receive them when I am settled at Peekskill where I intend going ere long. Let me know how our dear sister Lucretia is & her family. I feel great anxiety about them & have thought much of them during the winter. My love to all.

Your affectionate Brother  
Ward B. Howard

R. B. Howard Esq

[Envelope]

Rowland B. Howard Esq

North Leeds

Me.

[Postmark] NEW YORK MAR 16

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60 7/1/1840 *From:* W.B.Howard

*To:* Mr Seth Howard Jr.  
[Care of]  
Thomas W. Bridgham  
Esq  
Post Master  
Leeds Me

RBH-0e41

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 1st July 1840

Dear Brother

Your letter announcing the melancholly death of our Brother Rowland was rec'd in due course of mail. I ought to have answered it long before this, and can assign no just cause that I have not, other than my own bad health & depressed spirits has for the last few months unfitt me for almost any kind of business. At the time I received your letter my health was improving. The melancholly news your letter imparted & the derangement of my private affairs has very much retarded my recovery. I had been for three months confined to my room & to the House the whole winter and am at this time far from being well. I have been & still continue to be under the Doct Charge & the influence of medicine.

I cannot express my feelings of sympathy for the widdow of Brother Rowland & her family. When I received his last letter I had every reason to expect that long before this my children would have been deprived of their only parrent. My affairs in a wretched condition & they left without a protector, fortunately for his children they enjoy the kind protection of a mother's care. And I hope ere this both sister & children have become reconciled to the will of divine providence in thus depriving them of a Husband & father.

Remember me affectionately to her & her children, our dear father , and our family respectively, in respect to your means of visiting your family as expressed in your letter I wish that it was in my power to aid you. I am aware of your great anxiety to see them and can but think that brother Stillman will assist you, on this subject you know more than myself. I am happy to hear that your health has improved & hope that you may soon be restored to perfect health. It was said that Franklin would come on here on his way South in June. I thought likely you might accompany him but not having heard from him I presume that he has not passed through the City. Let me hear from you on the receipt of this. I feel anxious respecting the health of you all, particularly our aged father to whom the death of Brother Rowland must have been a severe blow & very afflicting. Please write me respecting Sister Lucretia & her family. I was much surprised & mortified to hear that she was reduced to the necessity of leaving her home to work in a factory & wish that I possessed the means of relieving her in any way from such imbarasment.

From a letter I recd from Everett H Bridgham I observed that Doct Bridgham was P. Master. I will take the liberty of enclosing this to him or superscribe it to him for you and as it contains no secrets may read it & hand it over to you.

Your affectionate Brother  
W.B.Howard

Mr Seth Howard Jr.

[Envelope]  
Thomas W. Bridgham Esq  
Post Master  
Leeds Me

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61 10/6/1848 *From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard] *To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-025

Bowdoin Coll.

Readfield  
Wesleyan Seminary

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin Coll. October 6, 1848

Dear Brother

I have returned to "Old Bowdoin" and am now seated to fulfill my promise, to write my brother a letter. I liked the old gent you board with better the last time I was at Readfield than before, and moreover, I was pleased to find that you agreed with him in "Politics" so that there is no fear of your quarreling with him on that "score". Your Chum appears to be a fine-good hearted fellow, resembling Perley somewhat I think.

But to begin from the time I left you to relate my doings. First as you know, we started in the rain. Well with some wet and a good deal of mud, we put up to Arza's house the first night, and the next day being fair, we proceeded as far as Col. J Gilmore's where we made a long visit. They made me wash the carriage, which I can tell you was a "job" indeed. A day or two after that our folks resolved to have a pump and sent me to work to dig a ditch extending from the well to bottom of the "Back Room" floor. I accomplished that. I also mowed "Buck-Wheat" all one day. I might tell you many other labors of mine, but it would be tiresome to you to hear them.

There was a ride I must tell you about. I started from home one morning to make my friends a visit at Leeds Center. Uncle Ensign's and Aunt Aurelia's were to be my destination. I started and met Benjamin Turner going to Mr. Brewster's. Well, I turned myself about and went with him, for the sake of having his company after taking a few more such turns I arrived at Uncle's about 11 o'clock, stayed till after dinner and Laura Howard having begged Uncle's horse, we took a ride to the North part of the town. We returned and went to Aunt Aurelia's to tea and Laura said she must have another ride. Accordingly she got Everett's horse & Mr. Racle's wagon, & taking me as Teamster she went to "Leeds Slab City" and spent the eve at Mr. Pfenning's.

About half past nine o'clock we left for home. In the first place it was so dark that we could hardly tell ourselves from the horse. Next the horse was blind. We headed the way we thought was home and brought up against the wall. I got out and felt for the road and put my beasts into it. Again we drove and again we stopped at the wall. Well what must be done, my girl was frightened my horse was blind & it was so dark I could not see. She begged to go back and the more I swore I would go ahead. I felt the road again and led my horse about half a mile till we came to where the road was hard, so that I could tell by the sound of the wheels whether we were in the proper place or not. I got in again & it began to rain in torrents and I laid on the whip careful when we got into the ditch to get out again, but when we got up to the utmost speed our rein broke, this time I said nothing but leapt & caught my horse & brought him to. My girl knew nothing of what had happened. I tied the rein and we got home at last-badly wet, badly muddied, and excessively angry at our bad luck but we possessed whole necks. Let me try ever so much, I can never equal in words that adventure, when I think of it all myself command is required to keep down my "<risables>". Especially considering the way we got out of the wagon when we got home. We knew not the ground from anything else and hence rolled over together in the wet & mud.

I have taken a school in Livermore a little south of the Camp Grounds at \$18 .00 per month & boarded. Our folks were all well when I left home. Write me soon and tell me how you get along. I have some idea of sending a fellow from college to teach one school, so that you can study your Latin & algebra.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O.H.

[Envelope]  
Mr. Rowland B. Howard  
Readfield  
Wesleyan Seminary

Via Augusta

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62 10/31/1848 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* R. B. Howard Esq.

RBH-026

Bowd. Coll.

Kents Hill  
Readfield Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Oct. 31, 1848

Dear Brother

You will be at home before me and hence, I would like to have you come after me. I shall be obliged to carry home many things which I cannot put in very good shape to be conveyed in the stage. But I will write the particulars to mother and also when I wish to go home. I'm afraid you go to the extremes in your judgment of Gancello. Once you were loud in his praise, and now you attribute his conduct to selfish, if not mean, motives. He is a good hearted fellow & surely would not injure anyone for the sake of himself.

I think, myself, that a recommendation from Kents Hill Preceptor would not go very far in influencing the government of Bowd Coll. But if a person is well prepared, it matters not whether he has studied at an Academy or not. But a recommendation from a preceptor, whom they can put confidence in, lightens the examination much. I would not have you go to N Yarmouth. If you prepare yourself well, get a recommendation of good moral character, and come here, I will be responsible for your getting in.

Stinchfield is doing very well and probably he does not care much for one or two scholars. Be careful and not judge too harshly for you might wrong a good hearted friend.

I did receive your catalog, but, as we did not get out one this term, I thought I would not send an old one. I don't know but I shall be obliged to stop writing to my friends if they cannot read their own letters. Perchance I might write something which ought to be kept silent. I grant I am not much of a poet, but I like to read some poetry very much. Goldsmith's "Deserted Village", I think, is the prettiest poem I ever read. You will like Shakespeare better one of these days, after you have studied a little more. I have read considerable prose writings this term, nearly all Irvings works, Scott's novels on the Crusades, &c. I am now reading the history of England. You spoke of some of your young gent's speaking original pieces, thinking they would surpass our junior fellows. If they can I wish I had them here to get our mathematics. We shall begin tomorrow, a book which is said to comprise the hardest mathematics in existence I cannot tell whether Mr. Townsend understands your manner of teaching by analysis or not. But I guess he can analyze, so as to make the common branches sufficiently simple. I rather think he will be contented at Leeds.

I thought when I saw Frances Turner, that he looked very "poor" and thin. Don't you think that sickness has stopped his growth? Between us (*entré-nous*) I do not think that he is capable of studying too hard. He might not take exercise enough (which would be very probable). Does he learn Latin easy?

Our Junior parts came out not long since (I don't know, but I wrote you about them) and for some time there were long faces and deplorable visages. There were only four this fall & we expect five more next spring. I expect there will be more unhappy ones then than now, as those who do not get one then will lose all hope upon which fickle deity a great many now rely. I suppose you have made great advancement this fall in your studies, but if I were you, I would not get any Latin or Greek "out of" the course of study necessary for a preparation for college, after you read the reader. That is, if you ever intend to enter college.

Give my respects to your Chum & TF Turner. Tell mother I am perfectly well, when you go home, and if she does not believe it, she will when she sees me as fat as a pig.

From your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

I shall not make any excuses for bad writing for I always do things in a hurry and never do them well. So I should have to excuse myself all the time.

[Envelope]  
R. B. Howard Esq.  
Kents Hill

Readfield Maine

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63 3/17/1849 *From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard] *To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-027

Bowdoin College

Kents Hill Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Mar 17 '49

Dear Brother

I was glad to hear from you this morning and learned that you were prospering so well. My health is pretty good, but I must say that I never have known what studying was before. Not a moment can be spent in idleness. We have three long and hard lessons every day and in addition a Spanish Lesson twice a week. Themes or Compositions require much attention. To prepare ourselves to write the most of them we are obliged to read "all creation".

We also attend Cleaveland's lectures on Chemistry which are about one hour in length. These are very interesting, accompanied as they are by experiments. There are about 100 medical students who attend these Lectures, the Senior & Junior Classes also. Yesterday they rushed "en masse" for the door from different parts of the room, and there meeting a reaction was produced and sundry medics lost their hats, a few their equilibrium and consequently were overturned. Old Cleaveland jumped upon a high seat as fierce as a tiger and ordered them out. He said "the like" had never been known for thirty years. I went back (after I got out) for my hat, and I must say I never saw such a looking man as old Cleaveland at that time. His features looked hideous. His brows were contracted and his eyes glared upon one as if a demon directed them. Such is the old gentleman in anger, but he is very pleasant and kind when unprovoked.

In Latin we are reading Tacitus, truly the most difficult to translate of any Latin extant. It is so concise that one half of the sense must be supplied. Tell Frances after he gets a little accustomed to the style of Sallust it will be as easy as any author which is read in the preparatory course.

Some polite individual has had the extreme kindness to "hook" my German Undine. And what I shall do I do not know. I do not like to buy another, as I still have a slight hope that my old one will return.

Spanish is one of the prettiest studies which I have attended to since I have been in College. We began to translate the very first lesson. Probably it comes easier from our having studied so many other Languages.

You spoke of Roland. I have thought much of him since he went away, and hope he will do well. But I fear that he will see many hard times ere his return. He has been very little accustomed to the world and its ways. Everyone however must live and learn for themselves.

Tell Thomas F your "Chum" that I believe he is already indebted to me for a letter. I will write him, however, as soon as I can. When you write to me do not fear for my interest. Write on whatever suggests itself first. No matter if you do write about strangers, my curiosity will lead me to take interest in those with whom you associate.

My health is now very good. My cough has almost left me. Mother was very anxious, but she must have received a letter from me before this, which will or has let her know that I am yet "up and sound." Give my respects to all my friends whom you may meet and none others. Don't let your "chum" criticize my hand for my pen catches "loud".

From your affectionate brother  
O.O.H.

[Envelope]  
Mr. Rowland B. Howard  
Kents Hill Me  
(Pleas ch'g No.30) (O.O.H.)  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME MAR 18 Paid 5

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64 4/9/1849

*From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-028

Bowd. College

Readfield  
Kents Hill Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. College Apr 9 '49

Dear Brother

I seat myself later than usual after the reception of your letter to write you a reply. I have been to Portland since I received your letter, and on returning found a letter from home. Mother said you appeared to enjoy yourself very much in your present situation. Our class had no recitation from fast-day morning till to day. The most of us got leave of absence and went away. I went to Portland, in the little steamer, called the Flushing on Wednesday and returned Saturday after-noon. I had an excellent visit. Perhaps you will ask me where I went. I should not dare to tell you. Suffice it to say, I found friends and had a splendid good time.

On Thursday night between the hours of 12 & one, I was awakened by the ringing of bells, & the cry of fire. I got up and looked out of the window, and the fire appearing so near induced me to dress me & venture out. I went but a short distance, before I saw four or five buildings all on fire. The blaze poured out from the windows and ceiling around the roof, enveloped it in a sheet of flame. It was a beautiful sight to look upon, almost compensating the loss of property. I staid about an hour & returned to find a good fire built, which I could approach without burning me. I also found two beautiful girls sitting by the stove. They had been frightened from their sweet dreams by the cry of fire, and sat trembling for fear, the fire would come nearer, but it did not and at two o'clock I retired.

The day I came away, there was quite a strong specimen of female heroism. A man had been for a long time wont to desert his better-half and seek friends at a rum shop, as many other foolish men sometimes do. Well, the rum seller sold him intoxicating drinks-he took the beverage. And when he was a little tipsy, his implacable wife made her appearance, and wielding a huge club broke canisters and bottles, Windows & glasses of all descriptions. And then escaping those attempting to lay hands on her, she triumphantly led away her silly husband. If all wives who have drunken husbands would do likewise we certainly should have less trafficking in poison, for men would flee the moral suasion of woman's anger.

Mother says Roland Alger has not written since he left, although he must have stopped in N. Bedford two or three weeks. I fear it will be hard for him to begin to write letters. Our family were all well. Mother said Charles could sing correctly more than 40 tunes. I rode home, yesterday, a long letter of three & a half pages. Give my respect to Thomas F and tell him, that he will have to write me the first letter, for I have written so many that I cannot find anything to write about.

If you can study out this hastily written trash, write me an answer. If you cannot, write and ask me, and I will write plainer. Peleg & Townsend send their respects to you. Study perseveringly and you will one day be glad. Be idle & you will soon regret it. Write me when you are intending to Go home.

I must get my mathematical lesson.

From your brother & friend  
OO Howard

[Envelope]

Mr. Rowland B. Howard

Readfield

Kents Hill Me

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME APR 10

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65 4/15/1849 *From:* O. O. H. [OO  
Howard]

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

RBH-029

Brunswick

Kents Hill  
Readfield Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick April 15 '49

Dear brother

I have felt some criminations of conscience since I mailed my last letter to you. And I now begin to fear that I shall not get an answer from it, for it might take you many years to "make it out." However that may be I will give you another trial in a plainer hand perchance, though probably more nonsensical than any preceding. For I am not one of those scrupulous individuals, who always wait a reply even from a friend. I believe "amor fratrum" exists between us, hence there is no need of ceremony in our relations or correspondence.

I am half resolved to tell you a secret. I will if you will promise yourself instead of me not to reveal it. I think it would contribute more to our mutual happiness, orphaned brothers as we are, to be confiding with each other, and make our joys & sorrows known to each other, that we may enjoy the sympathy of brotherly affection. In some "after day", we shall look back with pleasure to times when harmony existed between us. It seems strange to me, that I ever could be unkind to my brother, and nothing pains me more than to see brothers quarrel. But to my secret. Do not laugh at me. I cannot tell you better than to copy a portion of my "Journal."

April 10. Time flies on its rapid pinion, but the mind employed counts not the passing moments. Study seems to keep the mind from reflection, yet our thoughts while pouring over Text and Lexicon are busily at work. Some passage, some sentiment, calls forth a comparison of our own ideas with those expressed. How pleased are we, often, when we meet in another a thought which we believe had originated in our own breast! How often, when we love an object are we reminded of that object by some circumstance which apparently has no connection with it. The power of Association will constantly present us with things which we thought were forgotten. The image which resides in our hearts is reflected from all that surrounds us.

I seem to have a beautiful image ever present with me, when I think, "she" is ever present in my thoughts. When I reflect upon the past the past is full of "L\_\_\_". When I permit myself to plan the distant future, her interest connects itself closely with mine. Why may I not dwell on so fair an object? It is the ideal embodied in the real. Her dark eyes, revealing in their depths a feeling innocent soul, seems ever to rest upon me speaking the language of devotion. Her sincerity seems ever to plead with me, and say, you must not deceive & break the trusting heart. Her purity makes me ashamed of my vices.

When with her, a sweet hallowed influence hovers around my soul, and when we are parted, the spell is not broken. I now seem to have something to live for - something to strive for. True, my ambition has ever been aspiring and grasping after something still higher. But to feel that you are not laboring for self alone - to feel that a dear, cherished object hangs upon the strength of your arm for support, gives a new vigor to your soul, a new impetus to your action." -&c-

Perhaps somewhat of the above will take you by surprise, but I intended that no eye should see it, and hence wrote what I felt. That is not so much to the point as some other passages, but it will give you an idea. I usually lock such thoughts & such feelings in my own breast or entrust them to my Journal. But I thought I would share them with a brother, so he would respect & enjoy my confidence. Her name is "Liza"- does not live within or about the environs of Brunswick. You could not help saying "she is beautiful." I am no enamored, blinded admirer, but love a worthy object, one that can feel & return my affection. You must not ridicule me, even if you think me foolish, for there is much I could tell you and I should not if you disappointed me. Our family were all well when mother wrote.

Believe me you are affectionate Brother  
O. O. H.

[Envelope]  
Rowland B. Howard  
Kents Hill

Readfield Me (via Augusta)

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66 6/11/1849 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard, Esq.

RBH-030

Brunswick

Kents Hill  
Readfield Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick June 11, 1849

Dear Brother

I am much obliged to you for the piece, which you sent for I shall be obliged to declaim for the prize soon, and, if this suits, shall take it. I shall not send you the "Dead Christ." It is too hard a piece for you, and any one who speaks it will need two or three months to practice it. So you must excuse me to your friend who wanted it. I might enjoy it to day & send it; but I could not get it before.

My health is quite good. You must write me how you succeed at exhibition after it. The best advice I can give you is "keep perfectly cool". If any persons tell you strong drink will help throw off all diffidence, do not believe them. Stimulants are more apt to make a man appear like a fool on the stage. I have had great opportunities for observation on that subject.

I've made preparations to keep school at Wayne Village next fall. You may do as you like about going to school to me. Perhaps, if I have a large school, I shall want you to assist me some. People might think, if my brother would not go to school to me, that I could not be much of a teacher. If you will go we can room together and have some very good times. I shall be obliged to study considerably. It may be the last opportunity we shall have of studying and perhaps of living together. Yet as I said act your pleasure, and do what you think will be most for your own advantage.

I presume I can keep a better school now than I did on the "Ridge". I am older & have more experience. Write me how many speak for the prize and if mother comes to your exhibition.

I must get my lesson now. I will try and write more very soon.

From your brother  
OO Howard

[Envelope]  
Rowland B. Howard, Esq.  
Kents Hill  
Readfield Maine  
(via Augusta)  
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME JUN 11  
[Paid] 5

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67 9/19/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [R B Howard]

RBH-031

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. September 19, 1850

Dear brother,

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to find that you had really arrived at Yarmouth and got settled. Robinson is a good fellow & a good teacher. I presume he has told you that he is well acquainted with me, we having been together in College three years. Give him my respects, & best wishes. It must be pleasanter for you at Yarmouth than it was for me, when I went there, for there is Mr. Jewett my friend, classmate & companion to keep you company & make you less homesick. I shall reserve all my respects for him, to fill a letter which I shall write him as soon as I finish this.

To give you any intelligible account of my discipline, & of the "West Point System" is pretty difficult. You should be subjected to the same to have a correct & well-defined idea of the independent Cadet. I will give you the history of a day, or that part of it in which I take a part & that will suffice for the same things are done, the same order, observed day after day, & week after week, except occasionally on funeral days, when the regular exercises are suspended. (Two officers have died since I have been here, whose funeral exercises have been held in this place.) Suppose you can see me in bed, warm & comfortable, sleeping soundly, or tossing about, in the vain belief that I am taking part in some lively scene surrounded by friends. From some such state of "somnolency" at just the peak of day, am I suddenly aroused by the morning gun. Drums and fifes, immediately give forth a very inviting "call." I jump from my hard bed, put on my clothes & run down three pairs of stairs, as quickly as possible, & fall into ranks. The role is then called, after which we return to our rooms, wash & study till 7 o'clock.

At 7, the drums & fifes call us again to ranks, roll is called, & we march to the Mess Hall. We stand around the tables near our respective places, and at the command "take seats", down we drop. We stay there ½ hour & at command "rise", all get up, & take places in ranks as soon as possible, and are marched back to the parade ground & dismissed. One half hour after breakfast is allowed for recreation. At 8 o'clock all are called to "Quarters", i.e. rooms.

A part, however, of the cadets recite at this time. Each class is divided into sections. The first sections contain the 1st scholars, the 2d sections the next in rank & so on. At half past 9 o'clock I recite. Then all the sections that recite at that time are called by the bugle to the parade ground, where they all fall into ranks having each a "Section Marcher", who calls the roll of his section & marches it to a "Section room". On arriving at the section room we take our seats in alphabetical order. The instructor calls upon an individual. He must move quickly to the middle of the floor, stand "attention", (without moving) until he is told what to do. Then he goes to the board and performs what he is told, (which is, usually, to deduce some rule). The highest mark given for a recitation is 3, called a "maximum" or "max". No individual gets this Mark, unless he behaves in just such a manner, uses no word incorrectly in his demonstration, and does everything with the precision & brevity of the text. This mark I have got twice & come within one, two or five tenths of it every time. I am gaining in confidence & hence in rank. I am bound to be among the first soon. After we finish reciting (at the end of 1 & ½ hours) we are marched back to the Barracks. Called to dinner as to Breakfast at 1 o'clock, recite at 3. At four o'clock comes "drill". The battalion, (all the Cadets except the "Septs") have the band to play for them sometimes & sometimes not.

We (Septs) are taken, five in a "squad", and marched away into some private place, and there are drilled to our satisfaction. This is the second afternoon that we have drilled with muskets, and my back and shoulders ache more than they ever did after mowing all the forenoon, for we are obliged to put our shoulders in such a constrained position, that, that of itself without the heavy gun is tiresome enough. After drilling about an hour & a half, without speaking or moving unless ordered, we are dismissed. Again, at 6 o'clock is parade, when the arms are inspected, delinquencies read to the Battalion. After this we are marched to supper then back, have recreation ½ an hour. Then comes "call to quarters". At half past 9 o'clock the drums & fifes tell us to prepare for bed. At 10, when there are three taps on the drum, all lights must be out & every individual in bed. During the day, the room is inspected twice by an Army officer, to see if everything is in its exact place, & twice a day by a Cadet officer. In the evening the Sentinel puts his head into the room twice & sings, "all right" to which we reply,

“all right.”

All these officers of different grades are sworn, & thus bound to report any absence or delinquency in the performance of any duty. Every absence or nonperformance of duty, or violation of the smallest regulation, is reported before the Battalion, and if no good, substantial, credible excuse is rendered, the offender gets marks of demerit (200 of which “send him”). There is a great variety of talent in our Class, running from absolute stupidity, up to the highest grade of intellect. About 20 will be “found” (deficient) in January next.

Write me how you are getting on, as often as you can find time. Never rest satisfied with a partial knowledge of things. Here the most of the Cadets study all the time from daylight till 10 o'clock at night, and it is necessary for those so to do, who have misimproved their former advantages.

I was glad to hear from home through you, for I had not heard a word since I started. You may give my respects to Jewett, & tell him I will not try to write him tonight, for fear that I should fail or write a very poor letter from sheer fatigue. I'm really glad Peleg has got a situation to suit him. I have been in good health all the time since I left Maine, and I am now in good spirits. My greatest enjoyments consist in receiving letters from my friends.

My physical examination was nothing. I stripped myself & went in before three Surgeons. They looked at me, measured my height, size round the chest (34 inches). One Surgeon looked at another & said “he is a stout man”. And said that was sufficient. I looked them in the eye without trembling or blushing.

Have you got your shirt from Portland yet?

Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

Uncle Ward came here the other day to see me, but could not find me, for some cause or other. He was obliged to leave immediately, but sent me word that he would come again in a few days.

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68 10/26/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-032

West Point N.Y.

Yarmouth Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 26, 1850

Dear brother,

I received your last letter with much pleasure. I'm glad that you were thoughtful enough to open my eyes to the folly I committed in writing home about all my little perplexities & difficulties. I really enjoy myself here, now. I have to study very hard, it is true, but I know that this is what I came here for. Had I not come to this place, I could not have enjoyed all sunshine. On the whole then I am very well contented. I hear you have been into Portland (from Peleg). How did Miss Lizzie treat you? How did you like her? In fact you need not give me your opinion unless it is favorable. Tell me all about your visit, your studies, your class &c. &c.

Has Uncle Henry Strickland moved to Portland yet?

I made out to get permission last Saturday to visit Uncle Ward at Peekskill. The way I got permission was as follows. Uncle came to see me & while here he told me that his oldest son was very sick & wished me to come & make him a visit. I told Uncle that, if he would write me on his return stating that my cousin was very low, & desired me to make him a visit, I might, perhaps, get a short leave of absence. He did so, and so, with his letter & with much soliciting of my own, I made out to get permission to be absent from Saturday noon till 1/2 past nine o'clock in the evening of the same day. I went over the river to Stony Point and from thence in the Cars to Peekskill.

I soon found Uncle's family, which in all consisted of three or rather four individuals, himself inclusive. His oldest daughter, a Lady between 25 & 30, remains at home with him as yet unmarried. His oldest son, Augustus, is one year older than I, a little taller, with my hair, eyes & four head. I rather think that he & I resemble each other more than you & I. His complaint is of a peculiar kind. Something similar to Laura Fisher's, only he never makes a noise when the spasms come upon him. He is very intelligent & before this attack was called as fine, promising a young man as you may seldom find. He can get no help, but he says he hopes to get well. He is deprived entirely of the pleasures of society, of reading, writing, and in fact of everything almost that makes a part of our enjoyments.

Tell Jewett that I received a letter from Townsend this week, who finds himself prospering finely. Townsend is really doing well for a young man of his energy, or rather want of energy, but as he is a good hearted boy I wish him well.

I have lately been put into the Battalion & hence feel a little more like a man, a little more independent. I remain pretty nearly at the head of my class.

How is it? Have you found any of Virgils so celebrated beauties as yet? You cannot enjoy Virgil much when you are obliged to study your eyes out almost & then get but a faint idea of his meaning. When you get so familiar with Latin that you can translate with ease & rapidity, then you may take some pleasure in reading Virgil's writings, but all the pleasure you can derive from them while fitting for College, you will earn.

I saw while at Peekskill the place where our father once traded & was in the very same store. A lady came to Uncles just before I left in the evening, to whom I was presented as her cousins son i.e. she is cousin to father. Uncle says that I have many relations at Newburg. Thus you see I am surrounded by relatives in any part of the world, even at the Military Academy of West Point.

My respects to Jewett, tell him I shall write him soon. I have had to study tremendously lately, but I expect to have an easy time when I get to studying Geometry & French, instead of committing five or six pages of Blair's rhetoric every day & of preparing myself to explain the hardest thing in all mathematics, viz.: the Binomial Theorem & its consequences. My head is full of m's, n's, & q's. I have now got the greater part of Algebra beaten into me so that I could not forget it if I would.

Now Good Bye. If you do not write a better letter than this of mine is, I shall say you don't know much.

Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

[Envelope]  
Mr Rowland B Howard  
Yarmouth  
Maine

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69 11/19/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-033

West Point N.Y.

Yarmouth Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. 1850 Nov 19

Dear Brother,

Considerable time has passed since I have received a letter from you. Perhaps you think me rather negligent in answering your letters. You must not stop writing to me. I count much upon receiving letters from you and shall write myself as often as I can. Seldom does anything new transpire in West Point. So I have no news to tell you. West Point with all its beauty is a dull, monotonous place during the greater part of the year. The same routine, day after day & month after month. All that keeps us alive is the excitement of study, or rather the emulation that must exist in an institution like this, when everything depends on rank. It often looks rather discouraging to me, to look forward to four long weary years of confinement, but I am by no means cast down. I have come here with the determination of staying if possible, & of taking the very best stand possible. I have got some very hard cases to compete with, but I probably shall come out right.

Now as enough has been said about self, I wish to know what your prospects are. What kind of young men you have got in your Class & how you are making out with your studies. Make the most of your time Rowland. You must do better, take a higher stand in College than your brother has done. I feel now that my education is superficial. I might have accomplished more than twice as much as I have done during the last four years, & this with ease. I am expecting much of you. You are virtually older than I was four years ago. You must have more judgment than I had & with my experience before you, you may take every advantage of time & circumstances. I fear, however, you will be lazy in moving your body about. If a man is going to study to any advantage, he must have exercise of body as well as mind. You must learn to pick up your feet & walk off briskly, or, as a soldier, I shall have to complain of you when I come to walk with you "on furlow."

Let us see, you will graduate (if we live & are so fortunate) you will graduate only a year behind me. Supposing you had spent four years in College, how would you like the idea of entering the Military Academy of West Point to spend four years more? No matter how much knowledge a man may have, if he is not a natural mathematician he cannot do anything here. I have not the least doubt that many of my classmates who took a good stand in College as scholars, would be "found deficient" in mathematics, should they enter here & try the course. I was considered a good mathematician. So much so that the Sophs would come to me for assistance after I got to be a Senior. But here in "Davies Bourdon" amid roots, radicals & theorems I have to exert all my ability & all my persevering power & then I often fall short of the highest mark.

Next January comes the examination, which is to try our strength. Every man who cannot pass that ordeal will have the privilege of visiting his mother as long as he chooses. I am not sure but I shall envy some of the poor fellows after all. Those who are to be "found" are called "Immortals." The whole seventh section bear this name. I happen to be at the other end of the Class & therefore have no fears & but very little hope. Our next examination will be in June next, when Congressmen will examine us. By that time our class which now contains over 90, will be reduced at least one half.

Have you heard from home since Francis Lothrop arrived from California? He thinks Roland will return soon. When he gets home if he has made his thousands I shall put in for him to visit me. Every thing you learn from home, you must write me. I wrote a letter as I promised to our friend Mr. Sampson. If Jae & Bill Carey are at Yarmouth give them my best respects. My respects to Robinson, my love to John N.--

Good night. Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

[Envelope]  
Mr. Rowland B. Howard  
Yarmouth Maine

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70 12/22/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-034

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec. 22, 1850.

Dear Brother

I've received two letters or rather one & a half since I wrote my last to you; and therefore I think it becomes me by this time to answer you. Friday brought me a letter from home from which I learned that Roland Alger had got safely & fairly home. On the evening of the same day I wrote a letter home of 6 pages, which so exhausted my epistolary treasury that you must not expect much of me. Perhaps I can do as many Cadets do in Rhetoric: take someone idea & that a pretty good one; and turn it over & over, & present it with all its different shades. What interests me particularly is the prospect of having a good time on Christmas, i.e. on Wednesday next.

I made our white-headed Captain & Superintendent a call the other day bearing him a note from Uncle Ward. He did not make any objection to my going to Peekskill, provided that I did not wish to be gone more than one day. He said that he would let me know time enough beforehand.

Uncle John Otis wrote me a letter that I received the other day. He said that I had as yet no demerit recorded; that our Adjutant, Brevet Capt. Williams, of Augusta Maine, said that I stood very well in my class; and that he expected to find my name among "the five" at or after the next January examination. I hope he will too; and he probably will if I do not make a failure on the next examination.

How are you & your little class making it in Virgil? I never have heard you say anything about Greek. I presume you must have studied it somewhat before this. I hope you will love Greek more than I ever was disposed to do.

I made Warren Lothrop a call yesterday afternoon. He said that he had just received a letter from his brother Elias. Elias does not expect to return to Maine before spring. He said that his health was somewhat improved. Speaking of Elias, made me think of Addison. Mother sent me a letter which he wrote to her. In it he spoke of Charles Turner: said that the latter was with him, but had not as yet engaged in business: and also that Levi Foss of Wayne was there & very sick, or rather had been very sick: and that it was doubtful whether he would be able to do any work very soon. Poor Levi. He is the man you know who drove us on the "husking & grape expedition"; wherein I lost my character for morality & sobriety. Didn't we have some precious good times in that little village? This makes me think of Jo & Josephine, of ropes, of Lyceums & of the queer little, curly headed Russel Nelson. Laura too, fat Jolly & exquisite. You remember her, occupies no small place in my recollection, but a precious small place in my affections. She was a strange child, but not more bewitching than the over-effeminate Ellen H. But Macomber: where is he? That man so soft so smooth such a pre-possessing "bore"?

But speaking above of Elias L made me think of Addison: Addison of his letter: his letter of Levi Foss: Levi Foss of Wayne, & Wayne of our mutual interest in the place & also of the thousand "souvenirs" clustering around the same. But at first there was another branch to my reflections. Thinking of Addison suggested to my mind our cousin Martha Ann, his sister. What kind of a thing is she: large, homely & agreeable? Or beautiful, retiring & disagreeable? Is she fat, lazy & generous: or meager, active & selfish? I wish to know what kind of a combination of qualities serves to render our redoubtable cousin so particularly interesting.

I used to have some high times with Lydia, her sister, before she was so fortunate as to get married. Once or twice the pious girl would take me for a beau, & carry me to a Methodist inquiry meeting. I wonder if Elder Fuller ever thought, while I was at Wayne, that I was the very child, who once gave him such indefinite answers respecting the welfare of my soul. How many times the wicked Harriet B & I would torment the poor girl, about things that acquired delicacy & modestly would now forbid me to mention. How Association will lead a man by the nose. Without being aware of it, I have I perceive upon looking back, touched upon events in California in Wayne, Leeds & Hallowell. Either of which places would furnish a train of reflections, sufficient to fill a common letter. But thought is a privileged character. He is at liberty to run over the world at pleasure, & return to give a man the "blues", because he cannot be thus free & speedy.

Have you been in Portland lately? What has become of Peleg? I've not heard from him for a long, long time! Mr.

Jewett writes me that you are doing well: & that Vaughan is with you. Give my love to him & tell him he must try & be as good a scholar as he is a smart boy.

I should have stopped at the end of three pages, but as three pages of my writing is hardly worth 10 cts. I will try & fill up another after Church. The mournful Bugle is now sending forth its enticing call. I must go to Church & listen to a very dry sermon. This is poor soil for ministers. Military piety is on the whole rather dry. In the first place there is but precious little encouragement to a minister. He never gets any converts: & no sympathy ever warms his soul; but plenty of criticism keeps him stirred up. But you know criticism seldom awakens the benevolent dispositions; and almost always makes a man a little bit vexed & perhaps I may say a little bitter in his forthcoming home thrusts. Good luck to you till after Church

I now think of a subject that may interest or disgust you. The habits & principles of Cadets.

The aforesaid church is over. There is scarcely ever any studying here Saturday nights and seldom if ever any sleep. Cadets keep sober, & study steadily the whole week till Saturday night, and then they make up for lost time. The Sentinels are always taken off Post at 10. In about one half an hour after inspection at 10, the wild ones are up & "round". A set of miserable boatmen skulk into some cove or corner with their boats full of Liquor. At first everything seemed to go straight: but I find that nearly every Saturday night over two thirds of the Corps are essentially drunk. Every Officer on the Point drinks, and therefore they are not disposed to be over watchful. If an officer of the Army should discover a cadet intoxicated, he would most certainly be obliged to report him. The cadets have been laying in stores for Christmas for three or four weeks. There is now liquor enough stored away under the floors & in other impenetrable places to get three Corps like ours drunk three times over. I am in no great measure pleased with this state of things, but it is no more than anyone could expect of the wildest set of rogues in the country. Things are carried on here mostly in secret. I never have said anything in my letters home of this interesting feature in the life & character of our embryo officers. The fact is nevertheless true, that I never have found a more licentious, dissolute set of young men in my life. I do not wish mother or father to know the exact state of things. I wrote my first impressions & honest convictions, and shall not correct them.

Give my respects to John N. Tell him I shall write him after Christmas. Give him my best wishes, for his school & for his comfort. Does he go into society any in Yarmouth. Give my respects, too, to the Carey boys, if they are in Yarmouth. Also remember me to the Dr. & his wife if they are there too. Everything goes on here as far as I am concerned about right.

Uncle Ensign wrote me a good long letter, one of the best I have received since I have been here. He spoke of you, said that you were growing taller, but that you stooped a little. Be careful & keep those shoulders of yours straight, for nothing disfigures a man more than round humping shoulders. And again you very well know that it is very essential to the health of the student to keep straight in every respect. I shall be glad when you get once fairly entered upon your collegiate course. Be just as well prepared as you can. I experienced some considerable inconvenience from a poor preparation. Give my respects to Mr. Robinson. Good bye for this time.

Your affectionate brother  
Oliver O Howard

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71 1/3/1851 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-035

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan. 3, 1851.

Dear Brother

You must be aware that I am now writing two letters to your one. Are you sick, lazy or seriously engaged in study? If sick or lazy you are inexcusable, but if imperative duty prevents you from writing, I cannot complain.

Since I have written Christmas & New Year's have passed in succession. I told you that Uncle Ward had written a request to our Superintendent Capt. Brewerton, that his Cadet Nephew might visit him & spend Christmas with him & his family. A day or two beforehand I went with my permit to the white-headed old one. He took it, read it over, shook his head and said: "I am disposed to let you go on Christmas, but hardly the day before". Why Capt. Brewerton I have no recitation and am on no duty: "very well we will consider it, Mr. Howard". And Mr. Howard takes his hat & leaves. I went again, the day that I wished to go. "No! Can't let you go till Christmas day." O.O. Howard bit his lips, looked respectfully angry & left his office. In the afternoon after I had given up all hopes of going when I wished, the "officer of the day", came into my room with my permit signed as follows:

West Point N.Y. Dec. 24th, 1850

Cadet O. O. Howard has permission to visit his uncle at Peekskill from ½ past 3 o'clock on the 24th to ½ past 7 on the 25th inst.

N. Brewerton

Superdt Corps Cadets

Signed: BH Alden

Comdt Corps Cadets

I changed my shirt & was off in less than no time for the ferry & crossed the river with two other Cadets to Cold Springs. One, Mr. Rundell, went down river with me. To our surprise we found that we could not go down that night in the cars on account of some breakages in the track. Whereupon we got a horse & sleigh. And what a ride. It was more than half bare ground and by the road we took the distance was about 12 miles. Maine can't produce hills half so high, or roads half so rough. The poor horse had to go though in my hands. Mr. Rundell left me at my Uncle's and promised to call for me early the next evening. He came at the time, but said that his mother did not wish him to return that night. That we could not cross the river that night if we should return to Cold Springs. I gave up going that night, but not with a very good grace. However the evening passed very pleasantly. One of the prettiest young ladies of the village came in & we had a game of whist.

Your cousin Augustus continues to have those horrid fits or spasms five or six times a day and often during the night. He can get no help. Our Cousin Elizabeth is between 25 & 30, as plain as any of the Howards, but good hearted, lively & sociable. The other, who is perhaps a year younger than you is a little pale boy. He has a very good situation in a store in his native village. Uncle says that he has been rich several times, but that he is now "devilish poor". He is a "staunch old democrat". I believe a candidate for Representative to Congress. I went to bed that night, only to dream of Courts-Martial & of walking extra tours of guard duty.

I arose about half past three o'clock, found Rundell & off we came. We reached Cold Springs about day-light & immediately crossed the river. I ran & reported my return to the Commandant, the Adjutant & the Orderly Sergeant & afterwards to the Old Superintendent. They directed me to write an explanation. I did so after I was reported for being absent without leave from tattoo on the 25th till 7 AM on the 26th.

As good luck will have it I was excused. It is dangerous business, this staying over time. One young man for stepping into a room when he was on post (i.e. on guard as a Sentinel) was sentenced to walk 12 common tours of guard duty: 12 tours of Sunday guard duty: & be confined in the guard room from the time of coming off post till tattoo (at 10 o'clock at night). Some are confined in the light prison, some in the dark prison, some are put in arrest, others in confinement, all according to the degree of the offence. If any less demerit was the result of these punishments they would be endurable, but the demerit increases in due proportion. I have escaped as yet unscathed.

Yesterday the January examination commenced. The first section of the fourth Class was the first on the floor. I was fortunate enough to do first rate in mathematics. In English Studies we have not yet been examined. Just before the examination, Mr. Abbott was 2 marks ahead of me. Mr. Lee three tenths. Mr. Lee & myself did better on examination than Mr. Abbott, but we cannot rise him this time. 3 is the mark given for a perfect recitation. From the first of November the whole number of recitations was 31, hence the maximum mark for the whole time is 93. Mr. Abbott's Mark was 91. Lee's 89 & Howard's 88.7. I shall stand No. 3 in mathematics No. 2 in general standing if I do as well in English Studies, as I did in mathematics on the examination. I shall pull for No 1 strong between this & next June: but it is doubtful if I rise Mr. Abbott. He has never studied French, but he is a splendid Latin & Greek scholar. There are five or six men in our Class that can speak French, as well as they can speak English. Don't you think I shall have to be active? It is such a prominent place to stand at the head of a class here, that there always will be fighting for it. I would give much to do it, but if I can't, I can't.

Write me as soon as you can and tell me everything you hear from home. I see by the papers that our State's prison too came near burning up. Maine is indeed unfortunate.

How is Vaughan getting on? Have you heard from Maria? Where is William this winter. I wrote a letter last evening to Mr. Jewett. My respects to Mr. Robinson. Perhaps I shall get a letter from you this noon, I hope so at any rate. Lizzie wrote me that she was on her way to Livermore. She wrote at her Uncle's in Lewiston. Do you know whether she has returned? Or whether she made mother a visit? Uncle Henry I learn is in Portland and with his family boarding at the United States Hotel. If you see Peleg, just give him a schooling for not answering my letter. How much money did R. A. G. bring home with him, 1800 (?).

Write as soon as you can. Your affectionate brother  
Oliver O. Howard

PS

My letter is so long & tedious that cannot read it over to correct errors. Please make allowances for laziness.

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72 1/10/1851 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-036

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 10th 1851

Dear brother

I received your letter yesterday with mother's & Dellie's and was somewhat startled to find that you had been so sick. I thought you might have a very bad cold & cough, so bad as to unfit you for your duties as a teacher, but I did not imagine that you had been so much prostrated. Yet since you are convalescent I will not assign any thing bad, but hope that you ere this reaches you, you will be entirely well. It may be all for the best, perhaps for your ultimate good mentally & physically to be thus tripped up & sent home.

Our examination is still in progress & will continue till the close of next week if not longer. Examination of our class in mathematics commenced yesterday & ended to-day. The standing in this branch was read out before the battalion this evening. Your humble servant came out best again in mathematics. It has not been accomplished with ease, however. I have crowded into my head since last September 600 pages of pure mathematics & the most of it entirely new to me, which amount is now so thoroughly mastered that it is at my tongue's end.

Mr. Lee has risen me for two months in succession, and bid fair to dislodge me from my position. He tried his utmost, but some way or other I kept my place. All the Corps began to think I was down, and I began to find many a welcoming smile where I least expected it. You can't imagine the interest betrayed among Cadets respecting us two, at the approach of & during this examination. All eyes were upon us. Lee's friends excited & hopeful, mine I did not observe. When we came from the examination hall, we were met by "how did Howard do? How did Lee do? How did you do? How did Lee do? Till I got provoked & would answer none of them. We were both too much excited to do quite as well as usual, but excitement never drives real knowledge from my head. Hence I did full as well if not a little better than Lee.

It is rumored that I have studied Calculus & therefore the only hope of Lee's friends was that he would get above me this January, for they said it would be useless to try hereafter. You see I can pull steadily, when I do all. Why! I will not give up in despair, but "bone" a little harder. You may think it odd that I feel satisfied to be ahead in mathematics alone, when demerit & drawing will throw me in general standing. But ah! We graduate in math this year & this counts towards the final graduation. You know, all I ask is to be 1st or second two years hence.

Mr. Browne has had another hard trial, but he is again saved, whilst three of his section mates are found deficient. You can form no idea how that man will study as the examination draws near. I have been over & over again with him problem after problem. After taps last night I questioned him through the course, lying on my bed & he on his. He could answer everything, all the hardest most puzzling questions, and after all he did poorly at the examination, and came back swearing he was "found". But he was not, he came out next to the foot. I don't fear he shall be found deficient while he is with me. He does not lack in talents, for if he did he could not get this stuff any how; but he is remarkably unfortunate. When there is one thing out of 500 in the course that he does not know, he seems is bound to have it given to him. And another thing, when he does not know a thing well, he often says to his instructor "I cannot do it sir!"

This I seldom do. I watch my teacher's eye & language, & often by an indirect answer, appear perhaps not to have precisely understood the question. By the time he puts it again I have reflected upon it or he puts it plainer. Often by some such expedients I avoid betraying the true state of my head, but if I really did not know anything about the question asked, I would plainly say I do not know, but this has not occurred I think more than once since last September.

Don't you think your brother has got a little perseverance? How would you like to try a game at West Point? If you will be No 1 in mathematics, you cannot relax your efforts for a single week. If you feel sick, forget it, if tired never mind it, if you begin to feel discouraged, shame yourself, hold up your head & go on. But after all I enjoy this strife. I begin to take pleasure in taxing my intellect to its utmost.

Thus you see I have filled my letter with myself, but the time of an Examination is a selfish season & you must pardon me. Give my love to all, don't let mother exert herself too much, for I want to find her in good health and spirits next June. Tell Dellie he writes very legibly; & his brother Otis hopes soon to receive a long letter from his pen. Tell him & Charlie to be good boys & learn all they can & be sure & help father all they can, for nothing is lost & everything is gained by industry & kindness. Perhaps I shall write mother tomorrow, but be not surprised if none of you hear from me till after the Examination is over.

When I folded this I did not know that I had any wrappers, but I found one. Ask father if he thinks of it, when he buys himself some letter stamps to send me some, for I am out & if he pleases to charge the same to the account of OO Howard, Cadet U.S.M.A.

We shall be examined in French next Wednesday or Thursday. Only 10 plebes were found deficient this January, two having anticipated the event by resigning. The class was very much smaller than ours to begin with.

Warren was well when I saw him last. He had a little ill-time, but very soon recovered from it a few weeks since. You will receive my standing at home very soon after the examinations. Write me as soon & as much and as often as you can consistently with those weak legs of yours.

Tell mother not to be surprised at my stand in drawing. I'm going to rise in that between this and June. Good bye, good luck & good health to you.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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73 1/19/1851 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-037

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan 19th '51

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good season this time, and another at the same time, both of which gave me much pleasure. I believe I have got all your letters, some of them however being much delayed. Sometimes I have written you a letter, scolding you for not writing & the very next mail has brought me one from you. My recitations, as well as yours are all in the fore noon. I like the arrangement since I can spend the afternoon in writing letters. Our afternoons are, however, very short, i.e. if we call dinner noon, as we dine a little after one o'clock hardly ever getting fairly back to our rooms till two. Our parade is a little after four, so that I have two spare hours, in which I usually write, sometimes read, at other times study.

I think Roland, whether he gets married or not, would hardly have the courage to make another voyage to California. He will be taken considerable notice of in the town of Leeds where he will find so many eager listeners to California tales, and so many admirers of the hero, who has visited that far famed country. This will please him. Our young ladies, few though they be, will meet & greet him with a sweet smile & open arms. This charming flattery always makes a man swell with his own importance & seldom fails to make him content with self, & on good terms with the world.

You spoke of mother. I have averaged more than one letter a fortnight, written to her, and seldom do I write less than four pages, hence, you see I must crowd in a good many words, be the ideas what they may. I expect mother will be lonesome, both of us being away. But she will be obliged to reconcile herself to our absence, for I am very certain that I, at least, am destined to spend but precious few days at home again. While in College, you will go home at least once in three months. Sons are sons, and if they are ambitious, the wide world must be their home. Peace, quiet & the family circle must be renounced by the youth who would carve his fortune, or satisfy the cravings of an ambitious spirit.

You gave me a few hints respecting your companions & the feelings that they entertain & sometimes show towards you. This is bad. You are independent. That I like. But sometimes when we aim at independence we overstep the mark. The most independent man is he, who can mould others to his will, and to this end it is far better to have both the respect & the favor of others. You know how to gain both, and it is better to do it, for unpopularity or rather a feeling that you are neglected has first a bad effect upon your heart. It is attended with a sort of bitterness, which has an unfavorable reaction upon the whole character of a sensitive young man. I have noted its effect, both here & in College, and therefore I seek first the respect & then am careful not to excite the jealousy & enmity, which a very little act will sometimes excite.

Here, there is more jealousy than elsewhere, because there is more rivalry. Almost every action as well as every word of the man who stands at the head of the class, has to be noticed & spoken of. He will be disliked the best he can do. And it is somewhat the same with those who stand near him. I have, however, as yet managed to get the good will of my classmates. There is scarce any doubt of your being able to enter College next fall, but the better preparation you have, the easier will your College course become, & the higher you can stand. Who is your Chum? If you see Peleg, tell him I have already written him two letters, for which I have received no answers. I heard that Mr. Jewett went into Portland to hear a lecture from "Prex. Woods", but was disappointed.

(Wednesday Jan 21st) as you perceived by my change of date, I have, somewhat after your fashion laid aside my letter half finished, and resumed it again after skipping one day.

I received a letter yesterday from Mr. Sargent (Sarah's lover). He writes a fine letter, says Silas is well & doing very well. I received a letter from Peleg today, filled to the brim, just as much as could be crowded into six pages. He writes after the same old fashion. You would be fortunate indeed if you could get such a chum to be your companion & friend through your College course. He says he has attended the Portland Lyceum several times, but has not been able yet to listen to a man, who could equal our old President.

Our section in mathematics is now running over geometry (Series Legendre) at the rate almost of a book to a lesson. Every man but one in our section has studied it before. How I wish now that I had been obliged to get mathematics in College, as we get them here. I could stand higher with half the exertion that I now I am obliged to make. But what is past, is past, & it is the height of folly to be looking back with vain regrets.

There's hardly any snow; the hills bare, the weather like spring. The winter in fact does not begin with ours in Maine, as you may judge when I tell you that I have no great coat and have worn no vest. Remember me to Jewett. Perley thinks he will not stop in Maine much longer. Give my respects to Mr. Robinson. I used to like Robinson very well, while we were together in College. He is not, however, very pre-possessing nor at all times very agreeable, owing perhaps to a want of ease of manners, & more to a certain inflexibility of character, which he shows often, when your views clash with his own. But still I respect him, because I think his intentions honest, & his principles good though unbending. Be respectful & kind to him and you will like him as an instructor & as a man.

Do you take as much interest in political news as you used to do? Uncle sends me papers almost every day. It appears that our rulers are not doing much. However, the more they reduce the postage, & the sooner the better for me & my friends at a distance. This is the business which seems to be agitating the House, together with the existing Patent Laws. Uncle John made quite a speech on the bill for the reduction of postage. Although not a production of great genius, still it is characterized by good reasoning & good common sense. Think you or I will ever have the opportunity of raising a voice in the halls of Congress? Perhaps we may. Such unaccountable things have happened. But we will not anticipate too much, especially as I am in a fair way to be a warrior, and you have first to get through College.

My respects to all my friends & acquaintances. I believe you said you went into Portland & returned, without making Lizzie a call. All I have to say is, I shouldn't have done so. Tell me how you like Lizzie. I shall not be able to write more today. Study hard, but take sufficient exercise. Try and do as much better than your brother as you can, while you are following in his track. This will please him & be of lasting benefit to yourself.

Your affectionate brother  
Oliver O. Howard

Please omit the A. B. In your direction.

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74 2/8/1851 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-038

West Point N.Y.

Yarmouth  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. February 8, 1851

Dear Brother,

Saturday afternoon has come again after another weeks toil, and it is surely welcome. I opened my portfolio just now and found no less than six unanswered letters. This superabundance of labor before me almost staggered me; for writing letters, although but a pleasant recreation compared with mathematical study, requires time. I was in a dilemma too, not knowing where to begin, or rather whom to write to first. But as I have already addressed myself to you, you shall have the first effusions of my lazy intellect. I took a letter of mother's from the post office, this noon, and I am happy to find our family all well.

You appear to have taken your unexpected ride to Portland rather coolly, notwithstanding your dirty shirt and dishabille. I believe I told you how I once went to the same place, somewhat out of order - in the outer man. When I started from Brunswick in the dirt cars, when the engine belched forth muddy water & smut, and blackened my white coat, my white dickey, my white bosom, and more & worse than all my new, nice book, just purchased for a present. All this between the towns of Brunswick & Yarmouth; how at Yarmouth a Paddy woman furnished me with a Paddy shirt, collar 8 inches wide; how, notwithstanding my pride, I was obliged to visit my lady-love with a wilted Dickey & a spoiled present; how I came away in a little better trim than I went. Well, no matter about that for it is an old story, while your pleasant surprise is of comparatively recent date. There is one part of your story that appears a little like exaggeration, and that is, where you speak of walking very swiftly up one street & down another. The "swiftly" I object to, for that must be (pardon me) a moral impossibility (?).

Well, you say Mr. Perley comes, a propos, and takes you to a private dwelling, containing people, kind, hospitable. Very good! What next? You advise a United States officer (in embryo) not to slight this place. This is funny? Who thinks of slighting those kind, hospitable strangers.

After a sermon one half mile long on the utility & expediency of patience well exerted, I find you among my dearest friends - and now the road becomes perfectly clear, for notwithstanding your dirty shirt, your stay over Sunday, stay away from Church, reading all day with Lizzie from religious books (?), and in the same breath tell me you are scarcely acquainted with her. I don't object to all this, but you must remember that it is wise both in fact & in fiction, to make your stories hang well together.

You said Mr. Jewett was sick! Has he yet recovered? It is something unusual for Jewett to be the least indisposed. I hope for his sake that it has amounted to nothing more than a bad cold. Give him my best respects & best wishes, scold him a little for not having written me lately.

Yes, most certainly I remember Spaulding, Pike & Webb. Give them my best respects if you see them. Mr. Webb is one of my especial favorites. I consider him a fine scholar and smart fellow. Pike is a wild one. How does he carry himself at Yarmouth?

Mother describes her cold journey to Hallowell, her visit to the Reverend Donation Party with Roland. It seems from this that the latter must have become a little more polite & domestic than of yore, since he can carry mother to a donation party & that at the Minister's. Mother laments Mr. Martin's course, especially his unnatural, niggardly conduct towards his children. How different this man, from the humble scrupulously pious Mr. Martin, whom I used to revere 10 years ago in his blue broad-cloth suit & bright buttons!

Mother says she has been writing to you to get you to carry Lizzie home with you when your term is out. I have forgotten when that period is. Lizzie said she should visit mother when her school was done, but whether she would go before or not I don't know.

Mother writes also that it is rumored that Orville Jennings (tell John) has married a lady owning slaves & that he finds the animals very convenient to wait on him &c. I'll warrant you, if our friend Orville is married that there is something more than love at the bottom of the matter. He is thoroughly practical, & in such matters very friendly

to expediency.

Mr. Sargent's brother i.e. Sarah's Frank's brother, was here to see me last Thursday from New York City. His name is Epes. He has a medicine store of his own in the city & is a pretty smart young man. Silas is well & as steady as one can expect. It appears that William Otis has not had very good luck with his school. Do you know the trouble? Maria wrote me a letter from Gorham which I received the other day. She writes an easy pretty letter. She says she shall spend her vacation in Bath.

You never have said anything about Dr. Carey's family but once. Are William, Joseph, at Yarmouth? I cannot write anymore this afternoon, so good bye.

Yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Mr. Rowland B. Howard  
Yarmouth  
Me  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 11 FEB

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75 3/23/1851 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Dear brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-039

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar. 23, 1851

Dear brother,

I perceived by your letter to Warren that you were & perhaps are laboring under a sad mistake. I should have written to you at Yarmouth long before this had I not thought that you must have been at home, when my first letter arrived there after I began to recover. I never have been so that I couldn't read or be read to. What in the world gave you the impression that I was so badly off? They put us in the Hospital here for a cut finger, or for a bad headache.

I have recited now over a week & scarcely any body in the class has got better marks. But for your especial information I will give you a short account of the time I have had. I was exercising as Warren said in the Gymnasium, with a few others, & trying on a pretty high pole (perhaps 9 feet from the ground) an exercise which I often try. The pole turned & my head brought up on the ground "full tilt", giving a gash probably from a sharp stone of about four or five inches in length. I got up bleeding profusely. Every body was frightened, but OO Howard & myself. I found that I was hurt somewhat, felt my wound to see if my skull was fractured, thought it was not, called for my great coat, drank some water, & started for the Hospital attended by two young men. I got there, found the Surgeon, had my head half shaved, sewed up & dressed, which operations took over an hour.

I slept the following night very well & got up as bright as a dollar - studied some, wrote a letter to Sarah Lee of three pages, thinking I was going to be entirely well in a week or less. But as good or bad fortune would have it, the erysipelas got into my head & face, & soon put it out of its natural shape. The Drs., for there were two of them, had to cut open my wound which was already closed up, run their probes down the well side of my head & make incisions. My head was so unaccountably out of fix that it wouldn't lie on the softest pillow. I could have had a leg or arm taken off with half the pain I was obliged to suffer, from their various operations. They burnt my neck with caustic to keep the dangerous friend from visiting my chest. They burnt the skin all up about half an inch wide. They burnt me between the brows & on the side of my cheek. All this was done to fix the limits of the disease.

Well I had a serious time. My classmates watched with me & I was treated very kindly by all, especially by Dr. Cuyler, the principal Surgeon. He staid with me two or three nights over half of the night. Uncle Ward heard that I was hurt & came to see me. Now I am in most perfect health. Just as soon as I could crawl I begged the Dr. to let me return to the barracks, & go to recitations. He did not think I would study or recite, but I did. I soon made up what I had lost & went on fairly. My head being shaved is a funny looking thing & pretty well cut up. I keep it bound up yet & wear a little figured skull-cap, which I never take off. I am now a very independent man. I don't have to get up at "Reveille" (morning roll call) nor attend any duty, except Academic, & that I attend from choice. These are the good fruits of my accident.

I have written to mother two or three times. I told Warren to write, that my injury was nothing, but that I had no conveniences to write while in the Hospital. I wished to prevent all anxiety on the part of mother, till I was well, but it appears that I could not do it. News spreads from this place like wildfire. But let this subject drop.

I am glad Charlie is with you. Be very, very kind to him. Every unpleasant word you speak to your brother will ever after give you pain. Tell him, his brother Otis, wishes to see him a fine scholar & a fine man one of these days. Then he must improve all his time. If he can help it, he must not imitate his brothers in one respect: he must try not to get angry and out of patience. Give my love to him & to John N. Tell him I shall answer his good long letter soon. Warren sends his best regards to you, & thinks that it is better that I should write you then he, & speak for myself. Perhaps you cannot make out the above for my pen has got outie, but here is a few words that I will write better. Your brother is well but he has a queer looking head.

Yrs affectionately  
OO Howard

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76 4/15/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-040

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr. 15, 1851

Dear brother,

I received yours & Charlie's letter some time ago and ought to have answered it before, but as I seldom find more than a part of the day out of each week in which I may write letters, I have to neglect my friends by turns. Many of my old friends certainly think me very remiss. I did not lose but a fortnight from my studies and I am now as rugged as of old. You asked me if I could not get a furlow & visit Maine during my convalescence. During my convalescence I was obliged to study. Should I go to Maine I should lose my stand; this I would not think of unless I left for good. Now I am doing very well. I was told that I had averaged the best mark in the class in math since January. There is, however, only a few tenths difference between the marks of Mr. Lee, Mr. Snead and myself. Mr. Abbot has fallen far below us all. In English studies I am near the head, I believe second, and in French doing very well. If I continue to do as well, my general stand in June will be first or second, which I can't determine - neither do I care. It depends much on luck, & the main object is to be registered at the June examination among "the five".

I received a letter from mother the other day. She says Stephen Wing is dead and that Sarah Turner was engaged to him in all probability. Sarah is indeed unlucky.

I visited Warren Lothrop a week ago last Saturday afternoon, but fear that I shall not be able to do so again, for while at his barracks I met an Army officer who was kind enough to report me for being off limits. I did not know that it was off-limits till I heard the report the next evening read out. "Howard off-limits 3 & 4 P.M." I gave ignorance as my excuse, but Old Bull (as we call the Commandant, Capt. Alden) said I should have known, so I presume I shall have to take the demerit, 8 I believe. They will not give me extra tours of guard duty or confinement for the first offense, though I laid myself liable to get both - so independent is a man at West Point.

Give my love to Charles. Tell him mother feels the want of his presence & assistance at home very much, and is impatient for the time to come when he will return to her.

My hair begins to grow, though I am yet quite bald. I have got, I assure you, some pretty deep scars. Enough I think, to secure me a pension should I retire from service. Did you know Charles Harville, who used to live at Col. Lothrop's. He is now here in the Sapper's Corps. Some months ago he, all of a sudden, got married (privately). The next day he was taken down with the Small Pox, made out to just live through it & had hardly got well before his wife had a child. He is an awful looking object. I would scarcely have known him, had I not known that he was there. I should say that he was very foolish and mighty unfortunate all at the same time.

I'm glad to hear that William is doing so well in College, but hope that you will soon do better. You must make up your mind to take a high stand, for you are capable of it, and get a good substantial education.

I received a letter from Sarah Lee a few days since from Hallowell. All our friends, she said, were well. I hope Grandmother will continue as smart as now, and live so that I may see her again on furlow. Mother and Lizzie both write me that the latter has made a visit to our father's. She said that she intended to stop & see you and Charlie on her way home, but for some reason or other could not then.

Remember me to Jewitt & Robinson (I believe the latter is now your Latin & Greek instructor). Write me as soon as you can. Tell me how you & Charlie are prospering in your studies, and I will soon have time to write you & him a better letter.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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77 7/2/1851

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-041

West Point N.Y.

Yarmouth  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 2d, 1851

Dear Brother,

My father, my mother & Lizzie have been here & gone leaving me alone in my glory, but I have not been left long enough to myself to feel their departure very severely. You know my luck. I am now in hot water all the time. The majority of my class hate me for my good fortune or for my "unlovable" nature. They report me continually for the slightest mistakes & often where there are no mistakes, giving me some little thing that I cannot well deny. Oh! how very pleasant, ones life can be made by an over-affectionate set of friends. To crown my vexations, poor plebes hover around me & my tent, as though I was the best fellow in the world. A tent is a noisy, disagreeable place for a man out of humor with himself & everybody round him - no place for reflection: but as usual never mind. There are better times coming boys!

I am now at the head of my class, a much coveted position. But I would be a thousand times happier man, did I stand ten files below the foot: for I would then be quietly ensconced in my mother's kitchen, surrounded with sympathizing friends with naught to regret & nothing to mourn for but want of talent. There I am & I must take the brunt of the battle. I may be sent home on demerit & shall unless I speedily put a stop to the insidious designings of my bitter enemies.

I am very thankful to you for your miniature. I did not know that you was half so good-looking, & I fear the artist has a little flattered you, but it is better that he should err on the side he did (?). How do you make it studying the warm weather? I wish you all success.

Mother says Charlie's health is rather poor. Oh! I hope he will yet be a strong, hardy man.

West Point is now a beautiful place, yet all the beauties of the place can hardly make amends for the tediousness of a military life. We go on guard each twice a week, & walk 8 hours out of the 24 & sometimes more. In the heat of the day it is no pleasant task to walk backwards & forwards from Sentry box to Sentry box, the hot sun pouring unsparingly upon your head a little more of the blessed heat than you would relish. Your heavy hat & 10 times heavier gun, growing all the time heavier, with no chance to rest your weary legs or ease your blistering feet. Such is the fun of walking "post" by day. By night it is almost as bad. You cannot sleep during the night more than two hours & then it must be done with your big cartridge box upon your back & bayonet scabbard by your side, with the camp floor for your bed, & your musket for a boon companion. In the night no live man must be allowed to cross your post, excepting the officers of the guard with the countersign. Day before yesterday I walked four hours by day & four by night, & was turned out several times besides for other duty, got reported for saluting the officer in charge after "retreat", that is, after the evening gun was fired. Thus weariness & vexation combine to irritate a foolish boy.

I wish it were so that you could come to see me this summer, but I cannot receive my friends decently here, and perhaps it is better that they should let me struggle on with my small difficulties. I will come out right yet, if I can keep my temper!

Let me know how you are getting on in your studies. I expect you to do very well after you get into College, where I shall be most likely to see you one year from this date. Tell me if you have a good time on the fourth of this month & how & where you spend it. Perhaps you will go into Portland & hear Lizzie describe her journey to West Point, which I fear was not very pleasant on the whole. I myself was so full of ignorance & perplexity, joy & fear, mixed up with every other feeling you can imagine, that I scarce knew what I was doing. But then as she is a good girl, I am sure she will forgive me any want of gallantry, whilst she censures the circumstances which rendered me foolish. Oh! How I did long to be perfectly free to do as I pleased for one week at least! Wouldn't I have capered with joy? Tell me what they say about their visit.

Give my very best regards to Jewett & tell him if he doesn't write to me I will flog him. While mother was here I was reported for visiting an improper part of the Hotel. The truth is I was "taken short" & went to the "sink" there. Lt. Jones saw me & reported me for it. But my excuse took off the report I think. I was not reported for going up

stairs as we thought. All right. I shall certainly lose the head of my class if I cannot stop this demerit. Write as soon as you can & remember me,

Your very fortunate unfortunate brother  
OO Howard

[Envelope]

Mr. Rowland B. Howard

Yarmouth

Maine

[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 3 JUL 5

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78 7/28/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-042

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. July 28,'51

Dear brother,

I am rather out of humour this morning, so you must pardon any unusual dullness recollecting always the real motive, which makes me write, which is not so much to interest you, as to show that I am not unmindful of you, that I remember that we are brothers and should always support & assist each other with mutual confidence and council. My situation has been for the last few months most deplorably disagreeable & degrading, but with friends at home and hope for a better state of things, I plod along. But never mind my trouble which have got to be an old story.

I presume you have some considerable anxiety with regard to the coming examination, for such a feeling is natural. Yet there is not the least danger of a failure. My old course from Yarmouth through seems now almost like a dream, and I really believe nobody would surmise that I had been College Educated unless I told them so but notwithstanding my discipline and experience under the tutor ship & direction of those good old professors may have done me much good which is now scarcely perceptible, because there is nothing to call my past knowledge & acquirements into exercise.

I have now been away from home long enough to feel that it would be something more than a common pleasure to go back. Oh! I would delighted to peep in all unexpected, to see father sleeping over his paper, as though care was a stranger to him, to see Roland A. singing or humming in the stair way some air, a true criterion of his inward-self, sometimes mournful sometimes dark & disconsolate and less often cheerful, always modulated according to the ebb & flow of his spirits. Charlie with his abstracted look, or his quiet laugh. Dellie more boisterous, and very little disposed to gratify father & mother by making less noise. All seems to possess a more lively interest than ever before. I place them all in my conception in all the different positions, give them all the different employments that I have ever seen them engaged in, and dwell upon the scenes that I conjure up now & then introducing myself in the midst.

This is a part of my business when I walk backwards & forwards on Post, after the night has closed in, after the active beings around me have become hushed in sleep. The encampment is now over half over. You ought to come and live with us here in camp. Your face would grow blacker & blacker every day, until you would be surprised that people ever called you a white man, and methinks your bones would grow hard, or else you would not enjoy much rest. I believe I could not lie on a bed and sleep if it was anyways soft.

I believe I told you, when we were on guard, and not walking Post, we were obliged to remain at the guard tent all the time with our cartridge boxes, cap boxes, bayonet scabbard & belts on. We must sleep with them on, walk & sit with the same uncomfortable appendages. The relief that I have been on, goes on Post 1/2 past 10 & stays on till 1/2 past 12, again at 1/2 past 3 and stays till half past 5, and a corresponding 4 hours by night. This breaks up the sleep into small portions. The Officer in Charge (an Army officer) visits the guard tent at least once during the night, and the Officer of the Day once. At these times the guard must be turned out & inspected, and if the least thing is out of order, or any accoutrement wanting, the delinquent is reported.

The Camp ground is about 80 yards wide & 50 long. A path surrounds it. One Sentinel walks across each end, and two meeting halfway upon each side. When the officer in charge turns out the guard, he takes a sergeant & two privates, the sergeant between the two privates puts them ahead of him & goes what is called the "Grand rounds". When the Sentinel sees someone approaching, he must sing out "Who comes there." The answer is "Grand rounds". He says "advance Sgt. With the countersign", whereupon the latter advances and gives the required word; then Sentinel says "the countersign is right, advance rounds". Then the sergeant, resuming his place advances across his post, or waits till the Army officer has passed between the two privates, and asked the Sentinel "his orders". The same operation is gone through with at each post. If a Sentinel is "hived" asleep, being an old cadet he will probably be dismissed, or made to walk 20 tours of extra guard duty, which is equivalent to a dismissal in my mind. Our countersigns are usually the name of some beautiful lady, or I should say a pretty name, one night it was Ella.

You must halt every body after "taps" - holding your bayonet so as to pierce them through if they do not halt, which the plebes generally carry out to the letter. If you could be here two days and notice all operations from "reveille till reveille" again, you would find many odd things to interest you.

We now have two company drills a day, one of an hour & a half before breakfast, and the other before evening parade at sunset. An Artillery drill from 10 till ½ past eleven. It is mighty hard work to drag those heavy pieces about in a hot day I assure you. We have in camp a morning dress parade, just after breakfast, when the utmost neatness is required. These parades & drills keep us pretty constantly moving.

Write me as soon as you can. Give my love to Jewett, tell him I got his letter & shall answer him immediately. Now with good luck to yourself, I bid you good bye.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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79 9/13/1851 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-043

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept. 13, 1851

Dear brother

You perceive I have delayed answering your letter a much longer time than usual, and you may well ask why. The truth is I can find but precious little time to do anything beyond my ordinary routine of Academic & Military duties. We are in the recitation room reciting in mathematics and French from half past 9 o'clock A.M. till noon, in the drawing room from two o'clock till four, half of the week and at riding during the same length of time the other half. At four we go to drill, return with hardly enough time to prepare for parade, after which it is night. You must see that for a man who stands at the head of his class & who would remain in the vicinity of that slippery place, that the intermediate portions of time i.e. the evening & the morning must be spent in pretty close study. In fact I do thus spend it. Saturday evenings & Sunday mornings I allot to writing letters. So you need not grumble at it, if your turn does not come as often as it used to do.

I am squad marcher of the first section in mathematics,  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the class in drawing, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the class in riding. This too gives me responsibility & some additional trouble. But every thing now goes on smoothly. I don't get any reports, and have it in my power to give a great many. I never have given one yet, since I have been a cadet, not even as a Sentinel. Why I have been a little out of fix the last encampment but I magnified my troubles, & now am ready to laugh at my own dejection. If the true state of my mind was known, there would have been found there but very few thoughts in favor of resigning. It was a sort of expediency, a ruse, if you please, to bring the officers to terms if necessary, that my father's written consent to a resignation was to be obtained. I knew that the officers would never let me leave on the plea of not having justice done me. I knew that if I should tender my resignation that the causes would be investigated, but this did not become necessary. You are right, I would not yield to difficulties, unless my reason showed me that those difficulties were insurmountable.

I will tell you of a young man in this Corps. His name is Otis. I forgot where from. There is not one individual in the whole Corps who ever speaks to him. He has no word of sympathy, is never admitted into the sports & recreations of others. Nobody lives with him, nobody visits him. Solitary in the midst of 200 social beings, he is never cheered by one friendly glance, excepting when he makes friends of some plebe who very soon meets him with a peculiarly cold & distant look. This is what is called, "being cut." "Cut by the Corps". This young man two years ago is said to have been detected in "making an improper use of the vicinity of his neighbors tent" while in camp. I don't know that he has been guilty of an improper action since: "He is cut."

None dare to risk themselves in society of such notoriety. Few ever ask why he is "cut", few care. The fact is enough. Several others are in much the same predicament. The state of things lasts, follows a man into the Army through life. It has and must have of course a degrading effect upon the man, unless he has more than ordinary force of character. If he has, he may hold up his head cut his way to the right and to the left and redeem the lost reputation. Mr. Otis' character is gone. They say he denied the act attributed to him & that he lied in doing so. That he is mean-spirited, no particle of a man. He is over 6 feet tall, well-made, with a good natural open countenance. He looks kind of forsaken, but not bitter as I should look.

Do you wonder then that I would feel a little chagrined when I saw friend after friend drop off; when a young man hardly dared to be seen in my society, for fear of his own reputation. When at the dance, if I would go to it I put a damper upon the sport, when young men of the highest families in the Union would not sit at the table with me, when I began to meet coldness in every look. Was I a criminal? No! But this treatment began to make me feel like one. Well, I set my wits to work. The question with me was: will it be for my ultimate good to remain? Was I strong enough for all this? Yes! & ten times more could not make me swerve from a steady, straight forward course. I bore everything, every implied insult, every hint, every slander, with a little impatience sometimes, but generally with apparent carelessness. It began to take a turn, the furlough class came back treated me as a friend, a gentleman, an equal. Those from Maine, always have stood for me pointed out the folly of the accusations preferred against me. In fine I now get along as pleasantly as any one, there being about 20 whom I never speak to unless on duty. This perhaps will explain away all that strange mystery, which

seemed to rack your brain.

I very often write to you about things which I think I have previously explained to you when in reality, the subjects have been treated of in letters to mother. Now let the subject drop. Be assured I will come out right, or if I should ever find the Army too hot, why I know where to find friends, friends too, who will not be blown away by a breath of vile slang, who will not fear to give me their sympathy & their counsel, because my star of popularity is waning.

You have got into College - good! When you return be sure & give my respects to Professors Goodwin, Packard, Upham & Boody. If the President should stop you & ask about your brother, tell him he is well & doing well. They will be likely to inquire for me, in order to make themselves sociable with you. Prof. Upham likes to talk with a young man about his father, mother & brothers if he knows them. He took me one day in the senior recitation room & talked with me about my coming here. He gave me much good counsel which I have not forgotten. I have a peculiar reverence for my old instructors, which seems to increase as the time I was with them grows more distant. Prof. Cleveland in particular, with his age, his sprightliness, his natural dignity combined with his clear ideas, will always dwell in my remembrances as the model of a man; I care not for the often repeated fish stories about him.

Now, my dear brother. You are about to enter upon a life, a little different from your previous life as a student. You will be continually obliged to be on your guard. I don't mean to lecture you, or advise you to avoid drinking, gambling, rioting &c. &c. the peculiar bad habits of college life, for I know you have got wit & principle enough to preserve you from those extremes of vice. But while you are a freshman promise me or promise yourself not to get angry at every little word, which is not intended for you but against your position. Bridal that little tongue, till you get to be "cock of the roost" when you can say & do with impunity. I really want you to do well, to stand high. To do it of course you must be industrious. You need not follow my example in regard to secret societies, though I think it is best in the end to be a neutral. After you return and get easily settled in your room you must write me, telling me with whom you are rooming &c. &c.

When you wish to know any thing about my experience there, so that you may act accordingly, avoiding my blunders or patterning from my success be sure & write me. Above all Rowland take a steady independent & upright course then you will not only have the respect of your classmates in the end, but the respect of your professors and this hereafter if not in College will be of more advantage to you than you may imagine now. In money matters I know you are more naturally prudent than I. It is my opinion that I might be over one hundred dollars better off now, had I exercised a little more care.

I am glad you part with Mr. Jewett with as high an opinion of him; for I believe him far above the medium of young men. His talents are superior but they do not by any means equal his strength of character. This letter is the secret of his success in every position he is called to occupy &'tis what gives people confidence in him. I have often coveted that natural independent spirit which guides him quietly & steadily on. But it is not in me. I shrink from boldly contesting my rights, till I have nearly lost my footing, then late I have to redouble my energies to gain the place that I should have gained with little effort, had I been at first more independent & less timid.

The wall-layers say it is easy to place the heavy binders if you go to work aright. I was ere known to go to work about it the hardest way & by pure force make up for want of care & skill. So be it. Each man will have his peculiarities.

Give my love to Dellie. Let him write, never mind the looks or the spelling accuracy comes with age. My love to Charlie too. I have not received a letter from him for an age almost.

The Professors (a la West Point) are now transferring & arranging the plebe class. Mr. Littlefield was transferred to the lowest section. He has no education & I fear is now too old to learn. I have helped him some, but I think it useless - he must be found. He is not so smart & energetic as Browne with whom I am living in a new nice room, as pleasantly situated as a room could be. The latter studies very hard & is doing very well. I have made out pretty well but must do better. Write soon. Give my respects to Kendall. He always means well, of coarse material & unprepossessing & has a good heart. Remember me to all the old friends who inquire for me at B.C.

Now wishing you good health, good courage, I bid you good bye.

Otis

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80 10/26/1851 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Mr. R.B. Howard

RBH-044

West Point N.Y.

Bowd. College  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 26, 1851

Dear brother,

I have at last found time to write you, but I feel remarkably dull & fear my letter will partake of my spirit. I received your letter a day or two ago, and I am glad to find from it that you are doing so well at Bowdoin. I am really anxious for you to take a high stand there. This last week I have had a visit from Mr. And Mrs. Sargent & also from Dr. Lord. They happened here the same day. Frank & his lady were on their way to N. York & the Dr. Was bound for some town in this state towards Buffalo - I don't recollect the name. I was fortunate enough to get excused from recitations & military duty the most of the time that they were here.

Warren returned from Maine the week before, brought me a piece of Lydia Turner's I should say perhaps Mrs. Brown's wedding cake. If she could get a husband at her time of life what young lady need despair.

Charlie sent me his miniature. It is either not well taken or Charlie has grown old very fast. I can't make it look very natural but you needn't write so to him or mother, for he is sensitive you know. I can't conceive how you could get a better one than the one you sent me. I would judge that you dress a little neater about the neck or as mother used to say have a little more ambition about your dress & your person than when we used to be slovens together.

Sarah says you have grown taller. I'm sorry to hear you speak in such style of your cousins. William you know is reserved towards everybody, but I never knew Maria to be so. I am sure they like you. Silas spoke very little of his exploits "about town" while here. Probably for two reasons one is that he knows that he would not find me much interested in such bostings & recitals, another that he was too much taken up with the place to think about his past high times. You're mistaken if you think Silas is possessed of bad principles. The truth is he has none at all, neither good nor bad. He is governed by his companions entirely, and seems to be too susceptible of influences from all quarters. These goodhearted men who have no strength of character, who are incapable of forming any resolutions by which they can abide are like the ship at sea without any rudder. They may not run aground, but in all probability they will. Silas will never make much of a man of course, yet I am in hopes he will be kept in check by his good friends & not become an unprincipled rake like his father.

You mustn't take up with all the tales they tell you about the professors, believing them implicitly. Now I don't believe half they say about Prof Upham, that he fibs, tries to catch men by leading them off their guard, &c. &c. He has a peculiar way of talking with you on any subject. He would be very likely to introduce it by telling you that he knew your father & mother, or your brother. I never believed these introductory speeches had any particular object in view. You need not fear his pumping you. He is certainly the most lenient man at heart of all the professors. He has interceded for many young men & procured their release from many a hard sentence. Taking his writings & what I can remember of his character from observation, into the account, I conceive him to be an upright & liberal minded man.

Give my respects to Kendall, Joe Howard, &c, &c. tell any who inquire for Stevens or Webb that they are in good health and spirits after a glorious furlough & a high time.

Lizzie wrote me that she was disappointed in not going to the wedding. Sarah says she looks in fine health & spirits now.

You must write me where you room, and with whom you are living. I believe you did not tell me about your avowal of independence to Thomas, how was it did you have difficulty? I am studying very hard, get no time to write letters, and doing well in every thing but drawing. I do pretty well in that branch, but others do infinitely better.

They say Aunt Aurelia has been spitting blood. Everett has thrown William and Mary Ann on the town. The railroad is rather up a stump, the overseers in rather hot water & the subscribers mighty stubborn. The doctor gone, & Lydia Turner married gives the climax to the important news from the place of our nativity. Study hard &

write often - is the best piece of advice I have for you.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Mr. R.B. Howard  
Bowd. College  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 26 OCT 3

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81 12/14/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mr. Rowland B Howard

RBH-045

West Point N.Y.

Cape Elizabeth (via Portland)  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec. 14th, 1851

Dear brother,

I have already written five letters since yesterday noon, but since you are so poorly off, as regards the comforts of life, I will try and fill another sheet. You have got a large, and I fear a hard school before you, but the only real unpleasant thing that I see is that bad cough. Get rid of it if possible, for the incessant talking, which falls to every School-Master's lot, irritates the lungs, as much as is consistent with health, without adding thereto a bad cough.

I was in hopes you were situated nearer Portland, for I know it would be very pleasant for you to spend the Sabbath with Mrs. Waite, Lizzie & Peleg. It would seem almost like going home & the winter would glide away more swiftly. I would like to drop in upon you this winter after you get well "under weigh", but it is not possible. You must pay as little attention to the gossip as you can, even though it be flattering. If you could keep my stand for me here, it would be almost a pleasure for me to keep your school. I might foot it into Portland occasionally, but you know that I let neither passion nor pleasure conflict with duty. I might not do as well as you can now in the way of government, for I should expect, in accordance with West Point principles, implicit obedience.

When I return home I shall be most likely to go to Brunswick after you, or have you meet me in Portland. We will decide that when the time comes round.

I fear I shall not stand among "the fives" this year, for I am now 41st in Drawing, and am likely to lose the head in Mathematics. But never mind all this, we will come out right side up yet

I had a letter from Dr. Lord a day or two since. He has established himself in the town of Lancaster, this state, near Buffalo, has a fine situation & excellent prospects. I think Dr. Lord more than an ordinary young man, but he appears unconscious of his own merit. If he continues to observe, think and study, with his wonted care & tact, he must certainly make a scientific man, whether anybody knows it or not.

You say you are boarding at a public house. Is it sufficiently retired & still to suit your studious habits? Are there any children, young man or young ladies at your boarding place? Lizzie will be much disappointed if you do not go into Portland occasionally, for she counted much upon your going to Cape Elizabeth to teach. You can walk-in sometimes if your health is good, or get aboard of some old "codger's" cart, or have you got to be proud? Yes, you must be frugal if you wish to clear anything. Try not to dislike teaching too much. Make it as easy as you can, by making yourself happy in your work. One can go to the school room every day, feeling that his school is a bore, or he can, begin his day's work with a cheerful heart and then when he gets weary, there is not added to his weariness, discouragement, disgust, heart, sickness. As bad as I used to fancy I disliked school teaching, I usually entered upon my task cheerfully and threw my whole soul into my work. But no matter about this subject, you are a School-Master yourself, & do not lack in tact or judgment.

Do you know how Uncle Henry is thriving at Portland? I wrote him once & have [not] received an answer. My correspondence is already too extensive. I don't dare to increase it, for fear that my friends will not any of them get a letter from me at all. Mr. Butterfield, who graduated in William's class, wrote me a letter from Orono Me, said he had a young man, a scholar, who is to enter here next fall, and wished to know what studies he must be proficient in. To answer this took a little more from my corresponding time. I have tried, but I can scarcely get off a letter on any other days excepting Saturday & Sunday. Mr. Littlefield, the Hon. Mr. Littlefield's son has resigned and is on his way home. He may go to see you, but I think he will not stop in Portland long enough. January is most here, that time so much dreaded by plebes.

Good bye. Good luck to you, take care of your health & write as often as you can. If Lizzie can get a horse & sleigh, perhaps she will be after you, I will not object.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

Mr. Rowland B Howard

Cape Elizabeth (via Portland)

Maine

[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. [paid]3 DEC 15

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82 2/1/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-046

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point February 1st, 1852

Dear Brother,

Have I really neglected you a long time? How comes on your poor health. You were convalescent, write next, well! You do not return to college till the 14th of this month I believe, so I shall have to direct to you to Leeds. Leeds! You don't know how a body longs to see his home, his native place! Nor will you know till you have been obliged to visit it for two long years only in dreams.

But we have begun the second month of the new year - four months more of solid study will bring me near, very near my home. This past week I have studied your miniature. It flashed upon me that you were a very good-looking boy, discovering more than ordinary intelligence, & particularly that you were my brother. Are you flattered? You need not be, for while I was with you daily I never once dreamed that you were handsome, and a man need not feel elated because he is told that he looks intelligent, for the countenance I find very often deceives the man of but common observance.

Charlie would like to be praised, but I will not undertake, lest he feel flattered being like me very susceptible of the delusive spirit of sweet words. To us brothers, "looks" should be nothing, talents nothing. They should not be allowed to enter a moment into our estimate of each other. "You are my brother!" "He is my brother!" And such terms trusty consists the measure of our esteem & affection. The word brother is simple & significant, and like the word mother should ever awaken gentle thoughts & tender reminiscences. I have not got my mother's miniature. I don't know why I have neglected to ask for it, but I must have one when I go home on furlough.

My class has now completed mathematical drawing & commences Church's Calculus tomorrow. Again comes "boning" as the Cadet calls hard study. This verb "to bone" is a very sententious expression & of various application at West Point. When the Cadet pinches himself, goes thread bare, with holes in his stockings, & rents in his shirts, in order to lay by money for furlough, he is said "to bone furlough". If he keeps his trimmings bright & polished, his "pompon" (little black plume, sort of) slick, his shoes shining & his coat nice, he is "boning" office - a corporalcy, Sergeantcy, lieutenantcy according to which he may be eligible. If he curries favor, he is "boning" it; if he is very smiling, affable & over-obliging he is "boning popularity" &c.

Another very significant word is the verb "to hived". A Cadet is "hived" when he is discovered by a reporting officer in the act of violating any rule or regulation of the Institution, that is, when he lays himself liable to a report. Thus, two young men who got a Cadet officer to excuse them at roll-calls, & see that they were not "hived" absent, in order to "River it" to New York on New Year's day, were hived in New York City by an officer from West Point; and are now in arrest waiting for their trial by Court-Martial, whilst a few other wild birds who accompanied them were not hived, but only suspected. Again if the Cadet gets asked the question in the section room that he cannot answer, he is said to be hived.

One of the most common reports is that of visiting. Several cadets are hived visiting in rooms not their own everyday. We cannot visit each other during call to quarters, that is are not allowed to do so, and if you visit across a Sentinel's post with the consent of the Sentinel, you must perform four extra tours of guard duty & the Sentinel six. If without his knowledge you perform the whole eight and the Sentinel gets reported for want of vigilance. I visit every day in my immediate vicinity, but have never got hived visiting, or reported for letting a person visit on my Post when Sentinel. I attribute it mainly to good luck. I am pretty careful about venturing out when there is any danger of an inspection. The novice gets "hived" at every step, but the old Cadet becomes wary & keen. He knows every crook & turn, can distinguish the step of an Army officer, and knows the peculiar rattle of the sword of the Officer of the Day, and hides his pipe, or runs to his room & becomes instantly deeply & seriously engaged in his studies. I have now given you a partial idea of two important idiomatic expressions in our West Point vocabulary - "to bone" & to hive - in order to prepare you to understand my language when I get home.

I have been reading Irving's life of Mahomet yesterday & to day & could hardly make up my mind to leave it to

write you this. I had formed a very different idea of Mahomet, than the prophet there set forth. I did not know that he conformed his doctrines & his conduct at the outset so nearly to those of Christ, that he believed in one God & only one God and rejected all Idolatry. From his history one would conclude that he himself was a sincere believer in his own doctrines, that a peculiar disease had at times taken all bounds from his imagination & that, like Vandenberg, in dreams and trances, he fancied his own thoughts, revelations from God. It seems too that his followers, Moslem writers, have ascribed to him more than he ever claimed, since he never claimed to be anything but a prophet from God & his only miracle the Koran.

His character however was inconsistent. He ceased to emulate the character & doctrine of our Savior as soon as power took the place of persecution; and though a much better & much greater man than my former knowledge would give him the credit to be, yet he let a worldly & kingly ambition enter his heart; and permitted the sword to take the place of those mild precepts which he at first promulgated, and which it would be well for many Christians to emulate. Who knows but I may become Moslem? There is a little too much of genuine unregenerate human nature in the character of Mohomet under the most flattering point of view for carrying conviction to my mind.

Never mind talking about Mahomet. I only wrote of him because his life is now fresh in my mind. Give my love to all. Tattoo is beating.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

I haven't time to read this over & make the necessary corrections. I will leave this task to you. My health & courage are good. How are yours? Every thing goes on well here & will if I can only rise a few files in Drawing.

Good night. Yours affectionately  
O.O.H.

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83 2/27/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mr. R.B. Howard

RBH-047

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y February 27 1852

Dear brother,

I intended to have written you a letter last Saturday. In that case you would have received one either Tuesday last or tomorrow; but Mr. Browne had a brother & cousin here that day, which caused me to put off my letter for a day or two. To day I received yours & mother's letter. I am sorry still to find you so poorly. I don't know what to make of your illness. Just as quick as it is possible for you to go out without danger from the cold, you must make it a point to take all the exercise you possibly can. Don't for mercy's sake! Let a want of energy & proper exertion sap your entire strength. I think mother's idea of frequent bathing & rubbing far from being a whimsical experiment. I know that. That means kept Peleg from taking new colds & thus renewing the inflammation of his lungs; & that it added tenfold in a very short time to his health & strength. You must have sealed your letter with a double wafer, for it (the letter) was broken open, the wafer apparently being split when I took it from the office. Probably there was no money enclosed, therefore no great loss.

Addison did not visit me & the reason may have been that I did not express any very urgent request in any of my letters that he may have seen to that effect. The reason is this, that I can offer but poor hospitality to a friend here at all & especially is that the case at this time of year. I could spend but little time with him, & unless he might be in love with rugged scenery, the Point now offers comparatively few attractions of any kind to the visitor.

Dexter A Hawkins, who graduated two years before me at Bowdoin, was here day before yesterday. I went about with him a little. He being thoroughly versed in erudition & well acquainted with the minutest details of our Country's history, took much interest & pleasure in searching out the places of which he had read. He visited all the forts, redoubts, batteries, monuments &. Saw everything with his big eyes in an incredibly short time. He has a classmate here, Mr. Ives, in our present first-class, one of the prettiest, smartest & finest young men of the class. He took Hawkins to the laboratory, where mother went with Langdon, to see some of the relics of antiquity, and the more recent prizes of Mexico.

You will see by the next monthly report that my demerit are again on the increase. Lieut. Jones, "old Ruin", returned from his furlough, had a fit of sickness, from which I am sorry to say many cadets expressed a hope that he never would recover & now comes forth as well as ever & 10 times more military. He reported me about as soon as he got his head out of doors; although I had crept up & down stairs on tiptoe for a month for fear of disturbing him or aggravating his fever. He seems to be my evil genius. I have now about 50 demerit. It will take 100 more to deprive me of a furlough. Lazelle one of my former roommates has been deprived of his furlough for being caught playing cards. They can't deprive me of furlough any way, because I will go, if I cannot go unconditionally, I can go conditionally: i.e. on a pinch I can leave West Point & the hopes of a Lieutenancy "for good."

Your language about the division of the town I did not precisely understand; though I could appreciate your remarks upon the eloquence of our quondam cousin Lloyd Gould. You nor mother said much of Roland's sickness or of the causes of his fever. Does Roland think or say much of California now? It has been quite a long time since I have seen him; perhaps we would hardly know each other, but then, he has some very peculiar traits which three years could hardly efface. I think I would know him as quick as he would me. Give him my best wishes for his speedy recovery, if he is not already well when this reaches him.

I am on guard & shall be obliged to walk post this evening, so that you must excuse me if I do not fill my letter very full. Give my love to mother, father, Charlie & Dellie. Tell them I am waiting impatiently for time to speed away that I may return to them. I am glad that Charlie seeks to improve so much & that Dellie is getting so wise. Remember me particularly with Grandmother when you see her. Take every care of your own health. I shall not cease to be uneasy till that is restored & you yourself reinstated in your class. I received a catalog from Mr. H.C. Wood of Winthrop, requesting a register of this institution. I have not yet been able to procure one. His handwriting resembled yours so much that I thought before I opened it that you had returned to College. The second thought was that you had improved in writing. My health is very good. I fancy however I am growing old.

Mrs. Rundell says however, that our father appeared to her to be much older than I now do, when he first came to N. York. But she was then a child & is now almost an old lady. My cousins above at Newburg, the Misses Phillips, can't manage to get sight of me, the wonderful child.

Write soon.

Yours affectionately  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Mr. R.B. Howard  
South Leeds  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 2 MAR

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84 3/19/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [R.B. Howard}

RBH-048

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. March 19th, 1852.

Dear brother,

I have just mailed a letter to you, but as I have received one from you since & owing to an unusually easy lesson in Calculus a few moments leisure is left me. I will be thus early in my reply. Mother may be a little jealous, because I write you two letters, to her one; but you seem to be in a sort of disagreeable uncertainty touching yourself; a state of mind seems to possess you, in which duty, inclination, pride, ill-health and perhaps a superfluity of advice on the part of others, are all wrestling together & pulling you in different directions. You ask my opinion & wish me to give it candidly; recollecting the difference in our natures, so as not to confound the course which would be most advantageous to you, with that I would follow under similar circumstances. Your brother will not advise you, but will look at matters a little with you, reason upon your situation & the duties you owe yourself at this crisis, when each step is of importance, it may be of the highest importance to your future career.

In the first place from your statement, I judge that you are totally unfit to pursue your studies now, especially is this the case considering the additional labor of making up. Of course any wise man will place his health above his education, for without the former the latter will be of little avail & is often but a curse. What then? Give up acquiring the benefit which a college education might confer. No, unless you are contented to do so. A college course is by no means essential (either in literature, in the pulpit or at the bar) to the highest degree of success.

But knowledge must come from some source. For you I know Nature has done much. Observation & reading have done more perhaps; but you can never make the man I wish to see you, unless, by some means I don't care how, you can bring your intellect under your own control if I may so speak. Enthusiasm, spirit & a confident bearing are inestimable qualities. They belong to the most brilliant orators, & procure for them perchance more than half of their success. But the young man, without influence, just setting out upon his career in the law, cannot trust to them. He must be able to think, & think systematically. He must be able to put his mind where he may be called to do it, without consulting his fancy. He must certainly be able to apply himself & that energetically.

All this you know. You are very proud, ambitious. If you are in College you blush at mediocrity. What would you do in your profession in afterlife? Young men as gifted you will meet. Would you not feel it deeply, should you find that an education had placed them a few steps ahead of you when you felt conscious that they could not otherwise have risen above you

All this you know. You know that mere reading furnishes you with facts & with statistics, but that the understanding wants training, before it can combine them & reproduce them forcibly & advantageously. Reading gives polish rather than power; you need the depth, the bottom, on which you can calmly rely under all emergencies.

Now as I said it matters little how, or where, you purchase your armor. It would be the height of folly to think that you can live always in honor, without ever sacrificing pride to your true & real interest. This you must do: "obey that you may command" is our military rule. Strive to suffer crosses for a time & you will soon rise above them.

But to the point. What is the object of going to another college? Will it make your tasks easier? Will you have more friends? More respect, more privileges than at Bowdoin? Think of it. Take pride away, stomp on it if it troubles you. You can begin with another class just where you left off. In a new class it is true, but what of that? Peleg, like you, lost a year. Many & many a young man has been subjected to the same misfortune.

Brown University I know nothing of. Harvard & Yale are too costly & you would gain nothing in point of education in either in preference to Bowdoin. You can study somewhat during this year. You know the studies pursued & you can with very little exertion prepare yourself to take a fair stand in another class & do it too without being obliged to overtask yourself.

Here then is my opinion, that if you feel desirous of taking a degree at College, the best way is to lay by quietly, study without over tasking yourself till another year comes around. Then return if you are well & strong & resume your studies at Bowdoin. Let me know if this is not your honest conviction respecting the matter. If not tell me why.

You are mistaken about the radical change in the estimate of worth at College since I was there. The superior scholar would even then emerge from insignificance, & attain the universal respect, if not always the smiles, of his fellow-students. Would you be popular? Popularity at College I believe a curse. Extreme unpopularity is, though not as dangerous, certainly very undesirable. But, my brother, do your best, do right, let what will come & fear not for the consequence. I don't mean to rehearse to you idle maxims, only those principles which you & I must plant at the foundation of the moral & intellectual structure which we purpose to build. These we must cherish. One of mine is to fix my standard ahead & employ every proper means to attain to it. You have your standard probably, or at least a certain desire for some definite good, for the acquirement of which you are ready to make every effort.

If you have such a standard, I hope it is some ways ahead. When a young man says first I will get a college education, without other aim or object, never looking beyond, except to dream of the glowing, luscious fruits, that he will pluck in the beautiful world; he will find himself, it is more than probable, full of indecision or wild ogling fancies. I like to see a young man like Dexter Hawkins, with a definite course marked out, which, if Heaven permits he will pursue to the end. Jewett too has his life-time fixed in a frame-work, penciled in outline; the design is in his brain, & time & labor are to perfect the picture. These young men have faults, & perhaps are even censurable for their confident, self-complacent airs, but we feel sure that they will make men & men of the first stamp. But good bye this theme.

I read Charlie's letter with pleasure. He is ingenious & I hope always will be so. I like to read his simple narration of facts, ordinary events. You can't think how it throws an interest into a letter, when it comes from home, for the writer to enter into detail upon all that is transpiring around him. Charlie tells me of the horses, the cows, his work &c. Encourage him to write thus.

Give my love to grandmother, if she is with you, tell her I shall certainly visit her on furlough & I wouldn't wonder if Lizzie accompanied me. Give my love again to all. Tell father not to work too hard, for he is getting to be an old man, or will hasten the period, when we shall call him an aged man, if he continues to work so hard as Charlie says he does. I shall write to mother tomorrow or next day.

It is after taps as you may suppose. My quilt serves as a thick curtain, my ear as a safeguard! I could be in bed in no time did I hear the least sound. Good night. Write soon. & Do not let my opinions at all restrict your free action, for I am as liable to errors in judging of probabilities as any other. You must think, decide & act & your brother will aid you all in his power.

Yrs -Otis

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85 5/30/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [R.B. Howard}

RBH-049

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. May 30, 1852.

Dear brother,

I presume you begin to grow tired of waiting for a letter. Yet you need not be impatient for there is one forthcoming, so soon as West Point &c is written; for I believe you & I always have a sufficient amount of "gas" secreted in our pens, to make them fill the sheet that is placed under them, at any & all times, under any & all circumstances. But Mr. Rowland, you should not banter me on having a gossiping correspondence, for I disclaim the honor most essentially. The gossip that I repeated to you came from a different source than you as before fancied. Know now that my correspondence, rank higher than "gossips".

Our examination commences Tuesday next. When you get this I will have been already examined in Mathematics. That wondrous course, which is foolishly supposed to test the young man's abilities will have been completed by your humble servant. I have the best mark in that branch in the class & have the advantage of being already at the head. Therefore if I do well I will remain where I am, but since I am but two tenths ahead, a failure on examination would set me a going down.

I have now all told 70 demerit, a goodly amount is it not for one who had 0 demerit last year? I have striven twice as hard this year not to get demerit, but it was of no use. All the good resolutions, all the precautionary measures that I have taken, have been rendered null. Never mind. Standing does not make a man, nor does the loss of a few files by demerit subtract from his knowledge or intelligence. My heart is not set upon it, though I may take a little pride in being first in my class. Few in the long run take the "ups & downs" of life with a cooler or more philosophic spirit than I. You think perhaps that I fret & worry myself over these little matters. I used to, but I found that my nonsense got no sympathy & quit it. I can now regret a folly, brooke a disappointment or undergo a misfortune with a stoical silence. This result in my impatient constitution has been effected by discipline. Good! How wise we are getting. Still methinks you will find your brother the same old sixpence, brightened or tarnished, as you please, by various handling.

Lizzie wrote me you were in Portland, said you looked so much as I used to when I was in College that she had to stop & think before she spoke to you when you came to the door. Good again, or as the Frenchman says Eh! Bien! How much you must have improved! I fear you must be now the best looking man of the two. I console my vanity by the remembrance of former days when I was young. Mother says I was once a pretty boy.

I had a letter from Frank Sargent, Sarah's husband the other day. He writes me that his business has been almost as good as nothing, that Addison has made him a tempting offer to induce him to set out for California very soon. He had not determined to go. Sarah wrote in the same letter that she feared he would go, did not fancy the idea, but she did not know but it was for the best. It seems to me I would exert myself very much to get business nearer home before I would leave a young wife so soon after marriage for the uncertainties of a voyage to California.

Those young men at the Mess Hall, are sentenced to be confined to their rooms from the first day of June till the battalion go into camp, walk post equipped as sentinels every Saturday afternoon from two o'clock until retreat - between five & six hours, in the hot sun before the barracks, without relief or rest. Then to be confined within the chain of sentinels in camp & walk post in addition to ordinary duty every Saturday till the 1st of July. Severe, is it not? If you would shoulder father's old blunderbuss that was carried by Washington George in the "Madawasky" war, limiting your post by the bars near the bee-house & the road, where the post-box used to stand, tramping steadily with a heavy hat on your head for <> hours without speaking or stopping a moment, you could appreciate the pleasure of this extra duty. Yet Cadets make nothing of it, a few oaths muttered now and then against the oppression seem sufficient to sustain them. Some get so used to it, that they walk out in the evening at release from Quarters for exercise after it.

I presume you will be looking for me between the twentieth and twenty fifth. I shall write home after my examination in Math. Hoping you are all well, with my love to Dellie, mother, father, Roland & all, I will bid you

good night. I received mother's & Dellie's letter with the money the most of which I deposited immediately. The new Cadets are flocking in. I shall be detailed in a few days to instruct a section of them in the fundamental branches of learning, being on that account excused from all military duty till I leave for furlough.

Good night. Your affectionate brother  
Otis

[Envelope]  
Mr. R. B. Howard  
South Leeds  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N. Y. 1 JUN 3.

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86 9/4/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-050

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 4th, 1852.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter Thursday and was glad indeed to hear from you, though I had not been long from home. You are right, that week after I left home did pass rapidly enough, especially the first part of it. I came back to West Point rather reluctantly, but now I am back, I'm glad of it, for every week that passes brings me on to the close of my term. I care less about rank than I used to, but since I have been away & seen a little of society & of men abroad, I feel more than ever a desire to increase my stock of knowledge.

I have been doing pretty well this week - study does not come hard, though now & then thoughts of those I have left behind, a sort of longing to have again the same respect, attention & kindness bestowed upon me that I have had for the past few weeks, will make my open book become dim before me, and you need not be surprised that the tears do sometimes start to my eyes when I think of the change. Yet it is all well. I am well situated compared with what I might be. Of course every man has his hardships & his trials, and he is a man, mathematically speaking, in the direct proportion that he nerves himself up to an effort sufficient to overcome them. My lot has sometimes been hard, but now it is easy.

To tell you the truth my standing at the head of my class is of very little consequence, it serves to flatter my vanity & to please my friends, but to graduate 1st subserves hardly any other purpose. If my object is to be a Civil Engineer, supposing I had an equal amount of knowledge to graduate lower, to stand 1st would do me little good. If I wished to remain in the Army, promotion is so slow in the Engineers, that it would be better that I should be in the Artillery. And again an officer in the Artillery can get a post at West Point as instructor or assistant professor as readily & often more so than an officer of the Engineers. So you see I have a little common sense to console me if I fail to stand as high as I have wished. It is best to be prepared with a little sound philosophy in your head to counteract at all times the effect of these little failures & disappointments.

Mother spoke in the few lines that she wrote of my afflictions, which I term Job's afflictions. Well, I, with violent intent, stopt those two that were making their appearance when I started from home, for I did not want the plague of the things while traveling but last Tuesday a new one began to come, in a new place, and I have been quite lame with it as it was on my leg. I have however been the gainer to a degree, to compensate for all the pain that I have suffered, for I've been excused from drills, dress parades, marching, & writing till today when it broke, and it being Saturday I do not have to go to drills. My health has otherwise been excellent. I prescribed for myself Sulfur & Cream of Tartar, but I believe they have sent me clear Sulfur. I have to take it in water, in which it does not dissolve very well, so that it makes queer medicine.

Gen. Scott was here yesterday, and our class fired a salute of 15 guns. He did not get any more than his rank entitles him to, though he be a candidate for the Presidency. I did not see him for I was not at the firing of the salute.

I have not seen Warren to speak with him since my return for Capt. Alden has keep me in confinement ever since. You know I presume that all we mean by confinement is that one under this punishment must keep his room except when on duty. A breach of confinement is 8 or 10 demerit & a very grave offense. So all I have to do is to keep my room. This does not trouble me much, for I can find as much to interest me here as elsewhere. Capt. Alden has really no right to keep me in confinement, for no official notice has been taken of my offense, but I keep pretty still in hopes that he will by & by let me off without giving me any demerit. I might complain of him to Col. Lee, but I reckon it would not be good policy. Col. Lee the father of my class-mate is now the superintendent, as I believe I told you in mother's letter.

I have not heard from Charlie yet. You have already been to Commencement I shall expect a good long account of the proceedings, a description of the Generous Pierce, one of my Alumni brethren. How does mother do since I left? Give her my love. If she could make it so as to come & visit me next summer, nothing would give me more pleasure, but I thought that considering the many calls upon her for money that it might be

asking too much. Lizzie says she will come, and perhaps her mother & wants to know if you will not go too.

I found a good long letter here from her when I arrived which was very acceptable I assure you. Give my love to all. Tell me what you intend to do, if you have given up going to Kents Hill. I felt bad about leaving you without bidding you goodbye, but perhaps it was the easiest way of getting off. Take good care not to catch cold. I do really take an interest in these approaching state elections. My Advertiser has not come this week. I found lots of documents & all my old Advertisers at the Post Office when I returned. I had already read the most of the latter at home. We are having beautiful weather & have had since that long storm, that met me on my arrival & rendered my first Camp tour of Guard duty so very agreeable.

Mr. Rundell says that he draws 65 dollars per month, and he is in the infantry, so rations & all the pay put together for the second Lieutenant in the infantry amount to sixty five dollars per month. Tell father if he looks in the proper place of the Army Register, he can find the pay, the amount of rations & the total amount for an officer of any rank.

We now have to go to drawing everyday & draw two hours, from 2 till 4 o'clock, and if my duty is tiresome this is especially to the young man who has after experience discovered his want of talent for the fine arts. I am now drawing a cottage scene & feel quite interested in my work. I hope I shall get a letter & a paper today at noon, for I am as yet a little homesick, these things are more than ever agreeable.

If you saw Lizzie at Commencement tell me about her, how she looked & seemed & what she had to say. She managed to keep pretty cheerful before I left and I was glad. Again remember me to all the family, to Aunt Lucretia's family, one & all & to all my friends at Leeds. Especially to the one with whom you seem to like to sing Sunday evenings. Ask mother to write me as soon as she can find time. Goodbye from

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

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87 11/10/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-051

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N. Y. Nov 10, 1852

Dear Brother

I received your triple letter the latter part of last week, and was exceedingly glad to find that Charlie was able to write. This letter should be written to him, but Lizzie wrote me that he was expected in Portland about this time, so that if he happened to be there it would be better to write him the next one that he may have it fresher when he gets home. Since you are such a politician I presume you are wearing rather a long face. Whigs are rather badly defeated at this Presidential election, worse than could possibly have been expected by any previous to trial. Did you ever know of such a fall as we have had before this?

My birth-day generally comes on a colder day than it did this year. I can hardly realize that I have passed the age of 21 forever. Yet such is the fact, and though I have passed the age of boyhood & youth and have reached the period where one is expected to be a man, I believe myself just as much of a boy as I was six years ago. You too are getting on in years, 18 & over. What grand farmers we able bodied young men could now make, had you been less lazy & I less ambitious.

Don't you wish we were settled down, living quietly & happily, as prosperous young farmers, enough to eat & drink & where, respected by our neighbors for our virtues & our industry, and particularly eligible to the smiles of the blooming, marriageable fair ones. Supposing you wanted to get married you would have somewhere to put your wife. You wouldn't have to live on your neighbors errors & quarrels, like the lawyer, or like the literary man taxing your poor brain instead of your right arm for bread. But after all, everything considered, we are well off as we are. It is a difficult matter to curb a restless spirit. With an education, though we may not contribute much to our own personal comfort, though the sum totum of our happiness may not be increased, yet we are better enabled to do good; that is if we put our education to a proper use, if we let knowledge have its legitimate effect, the circle of our influence will be much widened and thus we may have a better opportunity of carrying out our nobler purposes, then if our sphere of action was narrow.

What are you doing nowadays? Reading perhaps, & if so what? I do not read much. I do not get time to do so. I wish to read more, but my lessons must come first, and military duties are not to be got over anyway. After I graduate & go to my station, provided it be in a civilized region as it probably will be, I will endeavor to read & make a business of it. My health is now very good and I am getting on very well in everything. My standing for last month says 2d in Mechanics, 5th in Chemistry & 11th in Drawing. Mr. Ruger was 1st in mechanics. It was owing to my getting one or two bad marks. Mr. Lee was third. Mr. Ruger is going to give me a hard try & will perhaps be put ahead of me in mechanics, since I seem to have the ill-luck to do badly when Prof. Bartlett comes into the section room. He visits us about once a week & usually on Monday. I am not apt to have my lesson well Monday morning since I never study Sunday, & I believe my instructors are beginning to discover the fact. Week before last I got 2,6/10 Monday & the maximum every other day for the week. Last week I got 2, 4/10 on Monday & a max every other day. Last Monday, my birth day, I did better than on Mondays in general, & probably got a max (three). But these details are of small moment, though of such little things is our life at West Point made up. These little marks have a direct bearing upon our general standing & it becomes us to get the best marks possible every day. You will perceive that I did not get any demerit last month. I got one, but since I did not get any more according to the regulations it came off.

I hope you will be as fortunate every time you get run away with as you were the last time. We sometimes see some pretty good runs here. But they do no damage since no carriage is behind the horse.

Give my love to all. Thank Dellie for writing me so long & so good a letter. He must try hard. I fancy Charlie is in Portland, if not tell him he shall have a letter in a few days.

Write soon. While you are all at home, you can get me up a letter pretty often. Do not make them quite so heavy as the last, or put on a double stamp, because as you say it is a dear loss to pay an extra five cents. I am much obliged for the money you sent me, for it enabled me to settle my debts, have one dollar left & feel quite independent once more. Do not tell anybody, but I keep that dollar hoarded up, in gold, in the bottom of my

watch pocket. Give my love to mother. I shall write her soon.

Yr affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Mr. Rowland B. Howard  
South Leeds  
Maine  
[Postmark] [ too faint]

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88 12/17/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-053

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N. Y. Dec 17, 1852

My dear brother,

I received your very good letter yesterday, and this is the first opportunity that I have found of answering it. I say very good letter because I like the spirit of brotherly confidence in which you wrote. It may seem to you that I have rather neglected you of late & perhaps with reason you may say it. When you were at home I gave you your turn with Charlie & mother. I have not your convenient capacity of writing rapidly though you can bear me witness that I do not take very much pains with the mechanical part of my letter. The truth is that I am a steady but slow thinker. While you are away from home I will try to be a more faithful correspondent, because as you say such things as letters are very acceptable to boys like us when away from our father's fireside.

As I said I'm glad to have you express your thoughts, your secret thoughts to me, and if I return the favor, our correspondence will tend to develop a reflection and perchance that desire or feeling which you say is lacking, which prevents you from being a practical as well as a theoretical believer in those great, eternal truths of which you speak. I am and always have been a sort of intellectual Christian, that is my intellect asserts to divine truth, but my heart is not engaged, my affections do not affix themselves to that Savior, whose mediation, Christians & the Bible tell us is our only safeguard. I have at times put in practice the various methods proposed by divines for awakening an interest in my bosom concerning things that common sense tells us are of the first consequence & of pressing urgency.

I read my Bible. I attempt to pray to my God & my Savior before I go to sleep each night. I try to do right, to eschew evil thoughts, to forgive injuries but it's no use. Yes it is of use, I am a more cheerful, more contented being, for exertions to do & to think and to feel right, must have a beneficial influence, but I mean I seem just as far from the goal I would reach as when I set out. Where then is the remedy for this perfect indifference in a matter of vital interest? The cause is here my heart is pre-engaged. I love those things which are at variance with the principles that I would espouse.

I am ambitious of distinction. I love praise. But reflection tells me that my worst enemy is vanity which you know accompanies selfishness or is the result of it. I am selfish when I look to Heaven for a blessing, and this same vain & selfish spirit hinders that simple, genuine feeling of trust, which those should have who seek their Savior to good purpose. In brief then I believe I never will be a Christian, till I am prepared to devote my whole soul to the Service of my Father above, for while I mingle in common pursuits I have an ambition which is common to us all, and this ambition generates an inordinate love for the fruits, which you are led to believe are the certain rewards of the ambition of those who have become great.

How easy it is to understand this Scripture: "seek first the kingdom of God & his righteousness and all things else shall be added unto you." And yet you & I my brother are now very much disposed to seek everything else first. You once said I wrote sermons sometimes for letters, and I fear this may proximate one. It is no use for me to try to work myself up into a blind enthusiastic state, and wildly talk & wildly act. I believe common sense aided & directed by Scripture truths, that is, conscientious common sense, should direct a man in seeking religion as in all things else; so soon then as his faith has become strong, so soon as he has with decision & candor devoted his heart & life to the service of his God, a retrograde is little to be feared. Strong excitement the terror of an imagination, set on fire, by the depiction of the horrors of future punishment, is attended with little love, hence when it subsides, we are surprised to find those who were ardent Christians know better than ourselves.

You & I, my brother, may be & undoubtedly are similarly circumstanced to those, who have acquired distinction in state, in literature or in Science, our feelings & the influences at work upon us are what theirs were at our age. Supposing we yield to these influences, supposing we let the love of eminence, and hence very naturally the love of self, press us on & on, to gain ambitious ends, at the expense perhaps of unwearied exertion, incessant toil. Would it be wonderful if our souls became absorbed in our occupation, if we gave little thought, & consequently wrote & spoke very much less upon Religion? Would it be wonderful if we yielded to doubts & skepticisms, since being practical Atheists it would become us to convince ourselves of the falsity of theoretical

religion?

But Daniel Webster was not such a man. Whatever may have been his conduct as a practical Christian, never in all his writings, never in any of his speeches, have I found one sentiment that would reflect any dishonor upon the religion of our country. He always seemed to me to have a firm belief in an overruling Providence & in the truth of revelation. He was a great man. The God of Nature gifted him with many talents, hence it may be he will have much to answer for, for his responsibility was great. In the private letters & journals of John Quincy Adams may be found much to attest the truth of the Christian religion and he was no mean statesman. The purity of his private life too gives one exception to your general rule. But as you say it is a lamentable fact that intellectual men, those who are eminent in the departments of State, literature, the arts or Sciences for great power of mind are too often either lukewarm Christians, or those who ridicule all things sacred.

Those doubts that you expressed were very natural, but I would not admit them because my common sense would not let me admit them. I know there are Christians in the world. I know the Bible is true. I know furthermore that I may become a Christian. It would be a beautiful feature in our lives to become Christians. Is it possible to sacrifice pride, to become fully conscious of guiltiness to see clearly the purity of the Savior we would apply to?

Suggest any subject you please, talk freely to me, with me you will never find ridicule, or the derisive smile that chokes all confidence. You may always be open with me, and if my failings, my trials, my hopes & strong desires may be of service or interest to you in the rehearsal, you may know them. The letter you directed is the last that I have rec'd from home. There are many things that I would say, but my time is very limited. Duty here, is you know not left to one's own discretion. Remember me affectionately to Adams. He & I were always the best of friends. He can tell you how very much we were together. Does Lizzie write you a good letter? If she does not she does not use you so well as she does me. You have a fine place at Mrs. Frosts. I would like to live with you this winter. I have to study a little too closely here. The examination is near. I continue to do pretty well in my studies.

From your affectionate brother  
Otis

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89 1/14/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-054

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Jan. 14, 1853.

My dear brother

You may be wondering why I have not answered your letter before this, or rather why I have let so long a time intervene between this and my last letter. You would have to be here at West Point during one of our long & tedious examinations, to know how all absorbing they are to those who are to pass the ordeal. I am now entirely through, finished today.

In Mechanics my luck was not very good. Each individual has to be called up twice in any study of the Mathematical kind. On my demonstration at the board I did well, but on "Questions" after missing one I got into a state of excitement as is my wont, spoilt my recitation and as a consequence fell from the head. I came out second. In Chemistry I did first rate today. The instructor gives you a subject thus: "take the subject of "Specific heat" for instance." You must take up the subject and discuss it in full till he tells you to take some other. We have to take metals & gases, tell their constituents, the compounds from which they are derived, the substances which precipitate them, all their properties & uses and their tests on the floor without assistance. A single gas would give you little trouble. You might remember all this in detail, but when you come to take a book full of them it becomes no easy matter to prepare yourself thus.

I would about as lief commit as many pages in the Latin Lexicon. But when I found I must get the subject thus I set about it with a good will. But I have had to study harder & more hours than I ever have on any thing else since I have been in the institution. It may seem strange to you, but they seem to have a peculiar propensity here of making things easy to be understood hard. But I am glad of it, for I know Chemistry can be of little practical benefit to a man, unless he has it in his head. Lil G had it thus by heart when we began, and never has made most beautiful recitations. He is now ahead in Mechanics, & will be in Chemistry. I will probably be among the first five.

In Drawing I have risen from thirty-five to fourteen, that is where my mark puts me. Our pieces have not as yet been inspected by the Examining board. You see by this that there is little chance of my being ahead again, but you may know, that this standing ahead is rather a game of chance. It is well known here that there is seldom much more than a shadow of difference between the first four or five men in a class. Now in Mechanics there were over six hundred pages, and had I happened to have been questioned anywhere else than where I was I would now be first instead of second in that branch. But enough of myself.

You speak of violating the rules of epistolary writing. I did not know there were any such to be observed, or if there are any, it would be stiff to observe them between brother & brother. You say you consider yourself & doubtless your friends consider you a bundle of inconsistencies. This is a wrong & foolish fancy, but one into which I fell during the first part of my College course. It arises in part from attempting to estimate your own abilities before your talents are properly developed. You say very truly that it is easy to advise. You can tell another what course to pursue, how to spend his time, &c. It is easier certainly to advise than to act, but it is possible to act.

I can tell you how to remedy every defect you mention, not by preaching and giving moral lectures, which one day you would resolve to heed & the next forget. Lay aside as your brother has done all this pondering over the elements of your composition, this constant estimate of your natural abilities & defects, these futile attempts to ascertain what you are fit for and what you are made for. Choose from the employments of men, a vocation which you would like supposing yourself as capable as anybody. With this end constantly in view without wavering labor for it.

You will say to yourself "this is possible for a mind constituted like yours but it does not apply to me." I do not believe it:—with a will, few young men failed to mould their characters to suit their purposes. Now is the time for you to store up knowledge & you are doing it. Never mind the heterogeneous mass, it will some day come straight. I would not dissuade self examination by any means, but this studying one's capacity and measuring it

by comparison with other men. It only makes a young man unhappy, fearful of making a failure, fearful of setting off from the shore, & filling him with dread of being wrecked if he is once in the open sea. I am comparatively contented & happy when I strive to do right, and perform with a good will my present duty. I dislike to advise you. I would rather not, but I have often had fears that you would not do justice to the mind which the God of Nature has given you.

Once I feared that a partial success in getting the attention of others directed to your "early promise", might tend to render you superficial. Then I feared the very reaction which seems to be going on in your mind now. The discovery of a want of system & regularity in the various materials that you have gathered into your head. I never thought you would be vain or conceited, but that you would become averse to all, that cost exertion, wrongly thinking that permanent success could be gained without it. I am at times filled with doubts & forebodings. I have scarce money enough in the world to carry me to Washington & back. I do not know whether to remain in the Army or not after graduating. If I attempt to fathom the future, it is dark. I know nothing of the world. I could not buy a suit of clothes without getting cheated. I do not know how to keep or make money. I have plenty of dry, useless abstractions in my head. Here I might go on till you might laugh heartily over my simplicity; since you think me a man, because forsooth I speak boldly & full of hope, usually concerning the present & future. Now I just say when I get to reflecting thus "here young man what are you about." "Take care of the present & let the future take care of itself."

Lizzie scolds because you do not write her. She goes to school. I am expecting you to visit me next summer if Providence will permit it. Remember me to Adams. He is an example of a man who "takes the world easy". Ask him if he is not going to get married before me. Tell him he must hurry for before the close of 1856 I hope to be a married man.

I had a letter from home a short time since. All well.

Yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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90 2/7/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-070

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Feb. 7, 1853.

Dear brother

I received your letter of the 29th ult. In good season, but will have to beg your pardon for a want of promptness in answering it. I had been when I received yours, only one to Perley for some time, and so by "odd jobs" I managed to make him out a full letter last week. I presume you laugh in your sleeve at all my poor apologies and say "I know where your leisure time goes to" I have a particular time for writing those especial letters and I allow nobody to encroach upon it. You will, being a sensible young man, readily acknowledge the necessity & propriety of such a private arrangement with myself.

Nothing made me feel worse than the hint that you might not visit me next summer, for I had counted upon it strongly & laid it by as a certainty. I do not think I can let you off. Certainly I will not take you from your studies, but you will have vacations. Either of which you can spend by coming to see me. It is expensive it is true, but it may not be made much so, and if you are moderately careful you will or may save more than enough to defray your expenses between this & then, over and above what you might otherwise spend & think nothing of it. How quickly I would let you have enough for that, if it was possible. It is difficult to conjecture, where in the wide world you will be able to find me after I leave this place. Perhaps I am wrong to urge you to do what you would do with the greatest pleasure if it becomes possible.

Yes, my playmate Melvin Howard has left us forever, and I believe with you that he is in a happier & better world than this.

Methinks you had quite a nice time with Miss Patten, a ride to Bath and a sleigh-ride to Bowdoinham Village. I have consulted with Lizzie about the propriety of telling Aurilla. Yes I would have liked a sleigh ride too, with a pretty girl. I would want my pick, however. You see I never do such a common everyday thing as to step into a sleigh - it is unmilitary.

We have some fun nowadays at riding "cutting heads." Without some explanation you might imagine that we diverted ourselves in the sportive process of cutting off each other's heads, or perchance, that we hung ourselves up by the legs on cross-polls, & slipped off cutting our heads on sharp stones. Oh, no! We do not often enjoy that fun. Very seldom do we indulge in the pleasure even of throwing tumblers at each other's plates. It is something that occurs in the regular line of duty, this cutting heads. Imagine two ranks of horsemen mounted & drawn-up in battle array. Each rank facing the other in a large rectangular drill hall. You see six men with soft heads made on purpose to be cut off, arranged at equal intervals round the hall. Two men start from each outer flank with Sabers drawn, pass each other on the right, first a walk, then trot, then gallop. Go round once till the horses get agoing at full speed. Then they each begin to cut off the heads of the stationary men each on his own side. He cuts the head of the first by a front cut, the second by a right cut and the third by a pierce which operation is called a tierce point. I have cut off every head yet and sent them rolling on the ground. Now you must not imagine there is any blood spilt for there is not. The bodies of these stationary men are made of wood, and the heads I reckon are bags of sand. Now you perceive these are the kind of heads to practice on, and heaven preserve me from cutting off any others.

I did not understand what you meant by uncle Henry's last stroke, unless you meant his charging father with telling of his offer of a thousand or two thousand dollars when in truth he ought not to have had a red cent. Is there anything else remarkable that he has done? I expected he would be in New York or Philadelphia before this getting rich very fast & moving in the first circles of the Social world. I do hear from home occasionally, but not so often as when you were there.

I am tired of studying, tired of drawing everyday. Oh, you can scarcely imagine what a bore it is for a man with my artistic skill to bone away over that drawing & painting day after day & week after week. Before January however, I rose from 35th to 16th. This encouraged me a little, but I am very tired of the operation.

You wished for a register. No registers are ever issued in January - none are published excepting in June. Then five a piece are given to the first five in each class. The rest have one each.

Do you ever see the President to talk with him? I wish you would ask him why I did not receive my Diploma. Mr. Perley was to pay for it and take it for me. I never have yet been able to find out why he did not. If you will ask the President, after presenting my compliments, if the reason was because I did not perform my part at Commencement or because I did not hand in the one I had written. I think he will tell you. I hoped the College Government would write for me to come & take my second degree next summer, it being at the end of three years, and I supposed that I might get a leave for a couple of weeks or ten days to go to Commencement. But of course a man cannot take his second degree before he takes his first.

Remember me to Adams, ask him if Georgianna is married & see if he does not laugh. Ask him what he thinks of his old room-mates course of procedure.

Mother wrote me that George Jones had started for California. She thought he would take a ride up to see me but I have not seen him.

We lost three men out of our class this January - one from New Hampshire. He did not think of being in danger of being found deficient, but he did very badly on the examination and had to leave. Three were sent from the first-class, one from the third & 14 from the fourth. This is the first Jan. anyone has ever been sent away from the first-class. Cadets generally think themselves safe when they have reached the first class & they ought to be.

I think you take a wise course not to go into those cold rooms this spring, but you do not learn one half as much as you would by listening to others reciting every day but it does not matter. You can make it up by & by.

From yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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91 3/13/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-055

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar. 13, 1853

My dear Brother,

I am very sorry that I did not keep my promise to you so that you might have a letter on your return to Topsham. I intended to have written it last week, but instead I wrote a very long one to mother & Dellie, intending to have written yours, as soon as I finished that, but I cannot write fast enough "tattoo" comes now before I think of it.

Lizzie wrote me that you were in Portland on your way back. I wish you to tell me how she seemed, if she looked as well as when I was on furlough. I suspect she does not. Is it as pleasant calling there now that they have a big family as before? She said you told her that Uncle Henry talked of going to Australia, but you did not think he had the courage to go.

Is old Bowdoin very highly elated at the elevation of one of her sons? President Pierce made a fine inaugural address. I think I will like him pretty well. He has given us a Secretary of War, who will not spare as much Jeff Davis. Already he has given orders that no more Cadets who are found deficient shall be turned back but all such must leave. The secret of his severity to be is that he is a Graduate of this Institution himself. CM Conrad was a splendid man for Cadets. Yesterday afternoon I called on a Graduate of Bowdoin & an Athenaeon I believe, Horace Williams, Capt. Seth Williams brother, the latter is the adjutant of this Post as I may have written you & my particular friend, a very fine man indeed. Horace Williams has been to California & returned wealthy. He seems about 25. He may be older. He was in the class that threw acid in Professor Goodwin's eyes. He was at the celebrated bon-fire. I never met a more thorough gentleman, or a more amiable man in my life.

How did everybody seem at home? Is mother well - Charlie & Dellie growing out of my knowledge? It is wicked to shut me up here, so that I can not run home and make a short visit, like you, but then I had my time.

This month of March is an awful month at West Point. I believe it is about as bad at Brunswick, though Topsham must be a nicer place, since the melted snow & ice will flow down from its steep hills to the old Androscoggin, but here we have a deep snow one day, a fair & warm day the next which generates liquifaction & evaporation a little too rapidly for comfort, and the next a nice rain, so that we tramp about in mud & water & snow the whole time. Why I have not had dry feet after ten o'clock each day for a fortnight, but it does not seem to hurt me.

You passed your examination did you not before you went home? My diploma is of no great consequence anyhow? You need not trouble yourself to inquire about it. When I need it I will easily get it.

What did you find of interest at Leeds besides our own family? Was Aurilla there? I presume you had plenty of music did you not? Don't father think we have a set of Sows in the Maine legislature now? They have some queer times to see. The Advertiser & Argus seemed to continue their political feuds. But I perceive the Maine girls are getting brave, especially in the town of Stillwater. If all young ladies would be as prompt at defending their honor I presume the country would not be as full as it is of dishonorable, contemptible, cowardly rakes.

No, I go too far the country is not full of them, but she contains a number sufficient to change our terrestrial angels into fiends, to people our cities with prostitutes than which nothing in human nature is more pitiably vile. I like the honor of cadets & officers. They always respect female virtue, and they discard with contempt the man who does not respect it, and I believe many Southerners would put a bullet through his heart, though I regret to admit that vice in other forms is allowed & even popular, still this principle, and the deep & habitual regard for truth in an officer, cannot help impressing you with respect for him. This as I once imagined is not the worst school in the world. There are many virtues acquired & cherished here, a peculiar dignity manliness & high sense of honor characterizes almost every graduate.

I hope indeed you will come to see me next summer. A visit will do you much good besides the pleasure of

meeting your brother. You can gain much information that will be of use to you, and will probably enjoy visiting places & scenes that are already familiar on the pages of history. I will leave nothing untried to make your visit profitable and interesting to you. It will cost you something but it need not much.

Here comes tattoo. This will make fourteen pages of letter paper, covered with my scrawl that I will send out by tomorrow's mail. Perhaps you may think that I write very slowly from what I say. Oh, no my pen glides on pretty rapidly unless I take pains, as I sometimes do, though seldom in my letters to you. I am not going to take pains till you do. If you will sit down & write me the best letter you can, I will give you a more careful reply & perhaps a better. I like, however to read your free & easy style, when I do not have to stop too long on a queer character & by so doing lose the thread of the story.

Mr. Williams says, Mel Fuller is doing great things at Augusta as Editor. He thinks him a smart man., Says he will always be called a smart man methinks, but never, probably a distinguished man. I like to see our old Alma Mater turnout worthy sons. I hope you will do honor to her name, by doing full justice to yourself. Is your health good? I hope it is. I am not going to write about my little ill-turns any more, when I get right decently sick I'm going to write home about it or get somebody to not before. It only gives mother useless anxieties to tell all my little ailments. I am well now. May God bless you & prosper you in all things right, my brother.

Yrs affectionately  
O.O. Howard

I have not time to read this over. Correct errors for me.

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92 3/30/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-056

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. March 30 '53

My dear brother

The reason I have found time to write you in the middle of the week is between you & me, that I am afflicted with one of Job's comforters & and in consequence excused from drill & dress parade. I went & took a bath after returning from the Drawing Academy at four, and am now enjoying myself as well as possible under the circumstances. I received your good long letter & in a day or so afterwards one from Charlie. I was particularly gratified with the good news that you will visit me next summer.

I have not been doing so well in my studies as I could wish, especially in Chemistry. When we come to review, taking four lessons at a time I cannot stow away in my memory everything in detail and consequently get "hived" now & then, but it does not matter much. I am not going to study myself out of the world for a file or two in standing.

I am glad you got my Diploma. President Woods was always disposed to flatter me somewhat, but he remembered me on my return to Brunswick rather better than the majority of my old friends and teachers, and seemed very glad to see me. You will like him when you come to recite to him, for he is a pleasant as well as superior instructor. Did I tell you the reception my old Griffin gave me when I visited Brunswick on furlough? He thought I must be one of the Portland Band of Music because I had bright buttons. He told me he believed he had seen my face before somewhere, but he could not tell who I might be. McKeen the College treasurer made the same flattering mistake and rather than rise any higher in the Aristocratic Scale, I wished that I had been more modestly attired. I intend to put by the military insignia on my next furlough, that is, if I can get a citizens coat that will button all the way up to my throat.

Each class before graduating, some four or five months before, is allowed the privilege of enjoying both uniform & citizen clothing. Mr. Earl of Boston, or Wyman of New York, usually comes on here & takes the measure of all who want clothing & has them ready-made for the members of the class some weeks before they leave. It costs nearly every man between three and four hundred dollars to fit himself out, buy his uniform, his sword, his trunk &c. The Military Trunk costs twenty-five dollars, Great coat forty. Now I am not going to submit to such prices for myself. I will buy just what I am obliged to have and when I get in Maine I can get the rest for half the money.

I wrote a letter to mother last Sunday. I presume you & Charlie find time to write her oftener than I can. I received a letter from mother & Dellie last week which I answered Sunday evening. She is talking of visiting Portland, and perhaps she is already there. I hope father's business will take him as far as N. York, for I believe it would do me a "heap" of good as the southerners say to see him. I see by the papers that the Maine Law has under gone revision, and that the reins are in no way loosened, but are rather drawn a little tighter. I do not know what will be the final issue of all these measures, but I hope they will not by reaction generate any retrograde movement in the cause which they assumed to advance.

Professor Sprole has made me as a member of his Bible class a present of a book entitled Nelson on Infidelity. Nelson was originally an infidel himself, and he did so much evil by spreading his doctrine that after his conversion he resolved to spend the remainder of his life in turning aside man from infidelity. He was a very powerful & vigorous speaker, and went from one part of the country to the other, stopping & speaking wherever he found skepticism in vogue. He is as vigorous a writer as he is said to be a speaker. He rises up the geological infidel and the learned infidel, admirably. I have gained a great deal of information from reading the book, particularly with regard to the prophecies of our Savior, in revelation, which I did not understand. He shows how to the letter these as well as numerous prophecies of the Old Testament have been fulfilled. For the sake of avoiding Christian partiality, he takes for his authority infidel & heathen writers in the majority of cases. I think you would like the book if you could manage to get it.

There are two objects in reading a book of this character - one that we may be posted up on such subjects, so that we may not be silenced by a scoffer at the truth for want of knowledge, and a second is that it gives interest

to the perusal of Bible history, leaving out of account the solution of many doubts & perplexities, which fill the soul, at times.

Our new Commandant is making a complete revolution in the process of drilling. It is almost impossible to go to drill or parade without getting reported. Major Garrett (the Commandant) himself does not report badly, though he makes us "toe the line", but the Infantry instructors under him often report to cover their own ignorance i.e. they fancy they can make men learn to drill well by telling them that every mistake will be reported, but do not know how or do not take the trouble like the Major to explain each motion in detail. I have got reported twice within a few days for not "dressing properly". You think perhaps that refers to clothing - far from it. I was very neatly dressed as I always am, but it refers to a want of accuracy in aligning one's self on the men on his right or left at some company formation.

Give my love to Charlie. Tell him I will write him soon. He wrote me a very good letter. I want him to try hard to do well. Tell him there is not the least danger of his falling behind me in scholarship, if he will but half try. Remember me to Adams. Tell him I would like to take a walk out home with him again, as I once did. You have a very good sized school it seems. Do not work too hard.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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93 4/17/1853 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-057

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. April 17, 1853

My dear Brother

I noticed many things in your last interesting letter, in the one I wrote to Charlie immediately on the reception of yours. I cannot realize that George is really gone to his Eternal home; that I never will again behold his mild & pleasant countenance again, while I live. And is it really so?

How little one thinks when he is mingling in a little friendly social circle, that that is the last time he is to see some one of those bright faces, beaming with intelligence and bespeaking an active spirit within. Yet every body dies and nobody thinks of the matter after a few tears, a few words of regret, and the single thought that I too may be the next victim to the fell-destroyers dart. Not so there are even here in this forgetful, careless world those who are more deeply impressed. There are affectionate hearts left pierced and bleeding, whose wounds are not so readily healed by the busy things of active life. Those who are taught valuable lessons by these afflictions, who learn not to put their trust in earthly hopes. Still did you ever think of it in your hours of gladness, when every man seemed kind & friendly. Did you ever think that these same smiling faces would smile on when you were taken from them. A word of praise, one shadow of regret & you are gone from their remembrance? It is not a pleasant theme for reflection and I will change to another, hoping that George is in a better & brighter world than this, and leaving it to a merciful God to assuage the wounded spirits of his parents & friends, we will pass to think of other things.

Since I wrote you my military relations have undergone a wondrous change, from being a private in ranks I have come to be the second officer in my class. At Parade last evening we heard the following order. "The following appointments are made to take effect from this date - O. O. Howard is hereby appointed Quartermaster Sergeant, vice Colquit resigned". And so it is. Now you have a curiosity to know something of the duties & responsibilities of my office. You have had some idea of the hardships I have had to undergo at times and the continual routine of innumerable & inevitable little duties that I have had to perform which in the aggregate consume much time and often procure demerit. All these things are got rid of. My duties are as follows: inspect one half barracks every Friday night for damages, open the storerooms every other Sunday morning, go to Sunday morning inspection when it is fair, so that we can have it on the plain.

I have a pair of Chevron's one on each arm just below the shoulder of the form of which you may judge by the accompanying figure or better. The dark part is black broadcloth & the yellow stripes are gold lace. The vertex is put uppermost and just touching the lip of the shoulder and the lower part reaches over in front from seam to seam. I do not have to attend any roll-calls, any drills, or parades. I can sleep over reveille, have a light after taps. Besides my academic duties, riding and Artillery I have nothing to do. I have the best office for "otium cum dignitate" in the Corps. It is odd, I have been a private and now I rank above all the 16 sergeants in my class but one. I did not expect this honor and it makes me right joyous. Perhaps you can get a reply to your letters more readily than you have for some time past.

Monday evening

The battalion is at drill and I am here strange to say enjoying the dignity of my Office. I will be Quartermaster next year if I behave myself, will have no guard-duty to perform while I am here. I have no musket but a sword & sash. I got a new pair of Chevrons today. They cost three dollars, and a sash will cost 17 or 18 dollars. This is bad, but I should have to get one as soon as I graduate. When you come to see me I can now go where I choose, cross sentinel's post & be saluted, instead of saluting. Capt. Williams says he was never gladder of anything in his life. He thinks I never have had half a chance and thinks I will now show a brighter side. It seems odd not to be obliged to jump into bed at the three taps, not to start up & hurry on my clothes at reveille, not to go to drill while the others are being put through, I can tell you. I thought from certain favorable rumors that I would be made an officer next year but I did not dream of this sudden & high promotion. I never knew the Corps of Cadets to manifest so much pleasure at anything of the kind before.

Give my love to Charlie. I presume he thought his letter was never coming. It has reached him though before

this. Good night. I will write you soon. Remember me to Aurilla & Mr. Adams.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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94 5/8/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-058

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. May 8, 1853

My dear brother,

I have expected a letter from you this past week. I have been anxious to get a letter either from you or from home, since mother was sick & still far from being well when she wrote me; but I did not get a letter from a living soul for the whole week, something so unusual for me that my anxiety is increased.

I told you I had been made in officer in my last letter, and anticipated having an abundance of time for corresponding with you. The first week & a half I did have to myself during the battalion drills but since I have been obliged to go to Artillery drill every evening between four & six. The time I had I spent in painting, reading & writing but now as the examination draws near I have to be preparing for it as usual. I am very poorly prepared for this examination not because I have been idle but because we have such an extensive course to be examined on. Two thousand pages of philosophy & chemistry are not easily retained in the mind at once. You may it is true have a great many ideas about them, many subjects may be as familiar as your alphabet, but it is hard to retain an accurate knowledge of everything in detail. Will I not rejoice when this ordeal is passed. Two more such and another course is completed.

I wish yours was as near its termination. I am counting very strongly on seeing you next summer. I may go to Maine myself if Prof. Cleaveland will write for me to come and take my diploma, I mean my second degree. Otherwise it would be useless to try to get a leave.

How is Charlie's health now and mother's. I fear too Lizzie may be sick for she did not write me all last week. I usually get a letter Saturday, but I was disappointed yesterday in finding none for me. My health is pretty good. I have not much flesh, but I am getting a better complexion by bathing in cold water every morning. We have ten small bathing apartments with a bathing tub in each, into which we can let cold water or warm at will. When I commenced lying down in pure cold spring water, I would jump out as quick as a flash, but now it does not chill me more than it does to wash my face. It is worthwhile to take a cold bath, you feel so finely all the day after. You think it requires nerve & courage, but it does not. I used to cry & writhe when father would wash his little boy's face & comb his head, but it was not long before it became a pleasure to wash.

I believe I have not told you I was elected vice-president of the Dialectic Society three weeks ago. I have had to act as president for two meetings. It is quite a dignified position here, but it is rather irksome with its responsibilities. I suppose they will elect me president but I do not care whether they do or not. If they do & also elect me orator for the Fourth of July, the honors will be put on rather too thick. I would accept the latter for it would make me read, write and prepare myself to do partial justice at least to the occasion.

You asked me some time since what office Uncle Ward has. I do not know. I have not heard from him for a very long time, nor have I been fortunate enough to meet with his name in any paper. Yesterday our class was taken out to measure the height of Fort Put by using the barometer. You may be aware there is a long list of observations and subsequent calculations to be made. I make it 322 feet above the level of the plane. It is about five hundred feet above the level of the river at high water.

It is alternately cold and warm here. The weather changing suddenly and going to extremes, but vegetation has advanced rapidly. Already the cherry trees have blossomed & dropped their white covering. The trees are leaving. The foliage & the ground look fresh and green. I think you would be delighted with West Point for a time at least. I will give you some fine tramps & show you some beautiful scenery. I presume Charlie sighs & wishes to come too. I would that he could. Sometime he shall go to West Point. I may live here. Perhaps I shall come back here as an instructor. If so when I get a home, a little wife & c. he shall come and live with me; since he probably with his peaceful turn will never be a Cadet. I do not wish him to be one either. It is sure to transform a man be his nature what it may into a military character of some kind. I believe my tastes & habits will always verge this way whatever I may hereafter do, whatever field I may attempt to cultivate.

Since I wrote the last sentence I have been to church, returned, had a theological discussion, an earnest if not a learned one, have been to dinner, returned & lighted my calumet - it has got a reed for a handle and a meerschaum bowl. Did you ever see such a one?

We are having a smart rain now. Cadets prefer that it should rain on week-days. They think they do not gain very much if it rains on Sunday. We had a very good sermon to day - a part of it touched upon profane swearing, a vice which you may know is rather prevalent here. This very thing tends to prejudice visitors & strangers more against this institution than any other one thing. Yet Cadets never use an oath in the presence of ladies or of their officers. A few in my class are trying to break themselves of the ungentlemanly habit. I am very glad to see even an attempt, for it is certainly more inexcusable than any other form of depravity.

Give my love to Charlie, tell him he shall have a letter soon. Remember me to Adams. Write soon, tell me all that's new. I shall expect to hear from you all this week and I hope indeed to find that mother is well again, entirely. May God bless you, supplying you with health, strength & a goodly portion of happiness.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

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95 6/26/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-059

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. June 26,'53

My dear brother

I am almost ashamed to write you, it is so long since I have done so. I forgot that vacations have an end until reminded of it by a letter from Charlie which told me of your return.

Our examination closed with the close of last week. We moved into Camp last "Saturday-muk" as Southerners say or in our tongue a week ago last Saturday, and are now making the most of Camp life under Bob Garnet as Commandant. He is a tyrant. One by one he is cutting off our privileges, and the encampment instead of being as it has been intended, a time of recreation, is to be a period of imprisonment.

I shall not be able to visit Maine this summer. Perhaps I might, had Joe McKeen written for me to come & take my degree, but as he only signified that I would have A.M. by enclosing three dollars, which amount I have not in the wide world, or at least at West Point, I do not think I can go. So, if you think you cannot pay me a visit, I must bear the unhappy thought of not seeing any of my friends for another year and perhaps not then. But I will not be low spirited. I do wish to see Lizzie for many reasons, and I am yet in hopes that some of you may come to New York & bring her.

Perhaps you are wishing to know the result of examination. I came out 2nd in Phil. 5th in Chemistry & 9th in Drawing, which would have made me 2nd in Gen. standing if I had had no demerit. As it was I came out third in general standing.

I was not made Cadet Quartermaster but a Lieutenant, first Lieut. of "C" Camp. I have to drill plebes at the manual of arms an hour before breakfast, and an hour & a half in the afternoon. I have to go on as officer of the day once in 8 days. His duties are now made very irksome, since he has to be on the watch all day & all night & has to report every violation of the thousand & one regulations. He has to certify to the Commandant that he has reported every violation of the regulations that he has observed & discharged his duty faithfully during his tour. This he has to give in writing above his signature. He has to be present at all roll calls, to turn out & inspect the guard by day & by night, to inspect every relief of sentinels after they have been posted &c. &c.

The most disagreeable of all duties is to report Cadets for swearing; this he must do, or refuse to sign the certificate, in which case he would be reduced to ranks & have 12 demerit recorded against him. Fortunately, cadets avoided me while I was on as officer of the day, and they seldom swear very much in my society anyhow, so I did not get a report of that kind. I only handed in four reports, One a plebe for attempting to pump water from the Sundial, two for cap visors out of uniform and one for an absence from Reveille roll-call. I shall have to exercise my military talents every day now for the whole year. I believe new cadets like me, since I treat them as gentlemen & do not put them in the guard tent. They have to move though when I am drilling them, & those whose tents I inspect have to have things in order.

We who are officers have some privileges which we can appreciate better than you. We have a good large tent, can have a light after taps as I have now, have a table & a desk, &c. Army officers treat us with much deference. We can cross the posts of sentinels & be saluted between Reveille & retreat, that is from 5 o'clock A.M. till sun-set. No citizens are allowed to come into our company grounds or tents. They have built a reception tent, at which any lady or gentleman who wishes to see a Cadet is sent, while a member of the guard goes for the Cadet in question, Every cadet except Cadet officers, have to report at the guard tent when they leave camp & when they return, where they are going &c. They can only go to the library & the <Rink>. Now if this is not tyranny what is? I cut across the post of sentinels & go where I please & shall till the order comes that first-class officers will report at the guard tent their departure, purpose & return.

Judge Goodenow, the father of John H & "the little old man" was here & brought John with him. The Old gent introduced me to all the members of the board, many of them took all the notice of me I could wish & more too. I <fenn'd> their daughters & nieces, that they were wise enough to bring with them, did not study, but had good

luck & did well on the Examination.

This June made sad havoc in our class, they cut off 8 of our fellows, all of whom are good fine young men. These are now waiting for orders from Washington to set out for home. We hate to part with them. One young man from Philadelphia has been my particular friend. They found him I think unjustly. He knew almost as much about chemistry as I did & yet they found him in that. They have been here so long it will ruin many of them. Another very amiable, good principled young man from Vermont, Mr. Hyde was found deficient.

One in the fourth class from Maine, Mr. Frank, who has ever been remarkable for imbecility of mind, studied himself almost to death to pass the June Examination. When he came on this floor a sickness came over him & he was sent to the Hospital. Ever since, he has been growing worse & now lies there near the point of death. I sat up with him last week one night. I found the robust man a weak, helpless, imbecil child. He has no sense & no energy. His disease is a Congestion of the brain. He has a large body & well-developed. He is muscular. No man could find a man better suited to manual labor, & here with an energy worthy of better success, he studied himself into his grave. Will men never learn better than to send such young men here. They cannot get through and if they could, they are not fit for American officers.

My Oration, such as it is, is completed & committed, & waiting to stir up the patriotism of West Pointers. I shall have to speak to a crowd. There is chance for much credit if I acquit myself well, & for much shame if I should fail to do so. My speech is not good & I am going to make up for deficiencies by speaking it well. I shall not get the credit that I obtained from Mr. Barrows a year ago, but I would rather speak here than to a Leed's audience. We have had two grand speeches here during the Examination; one from Maj. Ward of Florida, a splendid extemporaneous effort & a second, written oration by Mr. Raymer of N. Carolina. Maj. Ward took much notice of me, after my examination in Philosophy. He came to see me in Camp twice, & I walked & talked with him many times. He is one of the most popular men in Florida, though he got beaten when up for U.S. Senator. He fought for Scott's election. Oh! What a speaker! I did have no idea of what was meant by an eloquent stump speaker before I heard him.

Good night. I must indulge in the luxury of a few hours sleep on a soft plank floor.

Yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

I cannot read it over - it is so late. All been written since taps ten o'clock.

Remember me to my friends. I spent very pleasant memories with John H. Goodenow. It is pleasant to meet a familiar face.

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96 7/15/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-060

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N. Y. July 15th, 1853

My dear brother

Yesterday I got excused from drill on account of a bile and I wrote a long letter to mother. To day I am also excused on the same plea and I will endeavor to make you out one. Now Rowland nothing would be more gratifying to me than to correspond with you regularly, but if you do not get a letter, you may not imagine that you are forgotten -for a day never passes but I think of you, but you must recollect that I am in Camp and that the whole time is taken up from morning till night. At present from about ten minutes after four till ten minutes of five, I have to myself, and if it did not come in the afternoon, I could employ it in writing, but the afternoon is a bad time for me to attempt to write anything, and I get so dreadfully tired every day that I cannot think of writing after taps. Nevertheless I will do my best to fulfill my part.

For the last few days we have had some very hard & dirty work to do at the laboratory. Each set of three makes a fire ball. We first take off coats, roll up our sleeves to the elbow & grease our hands & arms. Then we pulverize 10 lbs. of niter (salt-peter), 6 lbs. of sulfur & two or three lbs. of antimony & mix them together. Melt 1 lb. of beeswax & pour the former mixture into it. Then we take large pieces of canvas & saturate them with boiling tar-pitch-oil &c & lay them together. Then we drive these pieces till they are as hard as leather & sew them after the shoe-makers fashion into the form of a large ball with a narrow neck. This we then put into boiling water, till it is soft & with our hands turn the thing inside out & it is harder & dirtier work than skinning a slippery eel, in a satin vest. Then we place the ball in a block with a mould just big enough to contain the ball, the block being secured with iron hoops. Through the neck that first composition is inserted about a pint at a time. After every dipper full we have to strike twenty-one blows with mallets about as heavy as our old sledgehammer, upon the end of a piece of wood inserted in the neck. This takes a long time. When we get the ball full, it is taken out of its case, looking right plump & round, then we suspend him by the neck and plait around him a network of tarred rope &c. This when complete is what is called a fireball. It can be fired from a mortar to any elevated position where it will burn for some time with an intensely bright light, or it can be thrown into a place, the object being to set something on fire.

We have besides these to make cartridges of all kinds, 300 or 400 apiece, rockets, Roman candles, matches, grape & canister shot &c. My class are now drilling at the mortar battery. As soon as they return, I will have to go with them to the laboratory & work till noon. In the afternoon we have to recite in tactics, infantry one day & artillery the next. We get 30 or 40 pages at a lesson, and have to get it right after dinner when a man is heavy-headed & sleepy. Why I do not get time to read at all. I thought I would have a fine time reading this encampment, but I was mistaken.

I did not know that Lizzie had been sick till you wrote me. I received a letter from her at the same time. I could not tell why I had received no letter for so very long time.

They are firing at the third class battery now, and also at the first-class mortar battery. The latter are firing shells to a barrel set up on a post for a target just to the right of Camp. You can hear the shells whistle along as they come over. A part of them weigh 90 lbs. In war they have put into them about 2 lbs. of powder so as to burst them just after they reach their destination, but we only put in 4 oz. just sufficient to blowout the fuse. The third class are making music, firing just as fast as they can one after another. It would amuse you to see ladies jump at the firings, and it does not help the silly disposition at all to tell them there is not the least danger.

I have received all the papers you have sent me and read them with pleasure. It is queer that I have not told you of it. You know I cannot send you papers in return unless you would like to have the Portland Advertiser, which would get to be an old paper by the time it got to you through me. I believe I gave you an account of my success on the Fourth of July. I do not know, whether it was to you or Charlie that I wrote that. At any rate I got more than the usual amount of flattery, had a bouquet sent me by the ladies from Cozzen's Hotel &c. &c. If it is not too late I wish you would "take my second degree" & pay the price, for you see I have not the three dollars to enclose & I cannot go to get it myself.

Since it will be such a tax upon your finances, I must not urge you to visit me this summer. I wish to see you very much & I wish to see Lizzie too. But I must think of your interest as well as of my pleasure. How long has Lizzie been sick & how sick has she been. They do not tell me such things. I expect it is because I myself am apt to be silent about my ailments unless I am very ill.

Remember me to all my friends. Tell the President if you should happen to talk with him that I wished much to spend this next commencement at Bowdoin, but it is impossible. I hope you will do very well, but I fear to have you study too hard.

I wrote a letter to the last Advertiser giving an account of the death of Cadet Frank of Maine. The editor Mr. Carter prefaced my letter by some appropriate remarks. He himself was here two years, went home on furlough & certain circumstances prevented his returning. Perhaps he got married. I do not know. At least that is a circumstance which would hinder his return most effectually.

Goodbye. I cannot read this over. Write soon.

From your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

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97 8/3/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mr. RB Howard

RBH-061

West Point N.Y.

Brunswick, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Aug. 3d '53

My dear Brother,

You ought to have had a letter before, but as you know very well the reason of my not writing you oftener, you will excuse it. When I get again in Barracks I will surely write more frequently. Everything at West Point goes on as usual. I am Officer of the day today, for the day & night following. I rank every cadet in the Corps & have the wonderful privilege of reporting. It is however no longer a privilege, but a duty since we have to certify in writing that we have faithfully discharged our duty during our tour in accordance with the Academic regulations &c.

I had a letter from Lizzie yesterday. She says she is almost well. She & her mother are just about starting for Lewiston for their health. She said she had just written you a few lines, so you know all about the journey probably. How are you getting on in College nowadays? How does studying in warm weather agree with you? I hope better than with me. Our studying comes in the afternoon from 1/2 past one till four and during that time I take sundry naps & go to recitation with a lesson that is hardly passible. One afternoon I got to sleep after asking somebody to wake me a few minutes before four. He forgot to do so & I got an absence, which is three or six demerit. This is all the demerit I have recorded as yet. I have been remarkably fortunate thus far.

We have as I have told you parties Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings of each week. I go to them very regularly. I never dance anything but Cotillions, but I like to talk with people. It tends to relieve the monotony of our everyday life. We shall very soon return to Barracks and will have to study even harder than ever before for we have more to get.

I take things very easily now and although I have a long lesson to get every afternoon, I scarcely exert my mind at all. I fear to get into indolent habits, which may hang on after we get to studying in good earnest. But it is not best to borrow trouble. I have not given up all hopes of seeing you this summer or fall. Lizzie is not able to visit me now. I am not certain, but I think it would be full as pleasant to visit me after we go into barracks as before, only you could not see so much of me. Now you could see me in Camp several hours every day. To day you might have been with me all day, excepting when I was forming classes & visiting the sentinels.

Sawtelle has a mother & sister here now, and I visit them often when not on duty. She (Miss Sawtelle) says I have been engaged eight years, thinks me a wonderful prodigy of Constancy. She is of course mistaken about the eight years, and I hope I am not such a prodigy as she would have me.

Being a Cadet Officer I have to make new acquaintances every day, and I find some of them very pleasant. One day I get introduced to some ladies from Cuba, next from Ohio, next from Maine, next from Philadelphia, etc.

It is now late in the evening, tattoo is just beating & I must leave you to see that no one is absent from the roll call. Nobody was absent. I got acquainted with a lady the other day Mrs. Blix of Philadelphia. She is the mother of a classmate of mine, took quite a fancy to me, and sends me all kinds of nice things, cakes, apples, peaches &c. Once she sent me a bunch of Havana cigars. Dr. Carr the father of my tent mate from Virginia also gave me a bunch of right nice ones.

I will tell the countersign. You can come into Camp if you will come before morning. It is seventy-six. Now you must not tell anybody. If you conclude to come, the Sentinel will challenge you: who comes there? Answer: friend with the countersign. He will say: Advance friend with the countersign. If you are right military he will let you pass thinking you are some officer, but if he halts you & calls the Corporal, tell the latter you wish to see the Officer of the day, and he will be forthcoming, rubbing his eyes & wondering who can be calling him.

Good night. I have not much to tell you, except I am well. I want to hear that Lizzie is entirely well. God bless you.

Yr affectionate brother

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
Mr. RB Howard  
Brunswick, Maine

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98 10/11/1853 *From:* [O O Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-062

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 11th 1853

My dear brother

I am Off. of the day to day and being stationed here in the Guard room, I can find no better employment during my short intervals of leisure than writing you a few lines. I have not written you since you returned home, and probably you are already rating me for my negligence. I have been expecting every day to hear from you. I wish you to give me a detailed account of your journey. I did get a few lines from Lizzie soon after she reached home. She said little about her journey, said "Rowland will tell you what a poor miserable girl I am."

Your visit here was not so pleasant as it ought to have been. Tho. I had considerable time to see you at the Hotel, I did not show you round West Point so much as I wished & had previously intended. Yet you will forgive it as you know how my hands were tied. You have formed a good idea of my situation & of West Point generally. You visited the Crystal Palace, have seen a little of the city of New York, and perhaps on the whole your visit paid pretty well, if it left your health unimpaired as I hope it did. You have long before this in all probability resumed your studies at Bowdoin, and are now like me poring over your books.

I have had anything but good luck in my studies since you left. We finished (Civil) Engineering the first of last week (over the first time) and commenced the first class drawings. The first thing we draw is a Canal lock in plan elevation & cross-section. To give you some idea of my success in this department I will describe to you in a word my week's work. We commenced Wednesday morning and drew daily from 8 till 11, three hours. I was apparently doing finely. To be sure I had made about every other line over twice or three times. And one less experienced in my drawings than myself might have had difficulty in determining "which line was which". At any rate I had some hundreds of lines drawn, when yesterday I discovered that a couple of my principle lines were slightly out of place. I carried them to my instructor & told him of my mistake & asked what I should do. "Rub out all your work Sir & begin again." I did so, drew three or four lines. The bugle blew & we left the Academy.

Here I am to day on duty as Officer of the day; a week behind the whole class with my drawing paper creased all up with deep pencil marks. Now you see I have broken of smoking some time since have nothing to console me. Yes I have somewhat. Next June keeps getting nearer & nearer. Nil desperandum! I will come out somewhere & live just as long as if I had done this year as well as I ought to have done & was expected to do.

(Thursday, Oct. 13)

I could not get time to write you more while on duty until I was altogether too tired to think or to write. Inspecting barracks so many times almost uses me up. But I am rested now & embrace the first opportunity to finish my letter and acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you which I got yesterday. I was very happy to get your letter, but was a little disappointed because you said so little about your journey. This however is only because I am so silly.

I remember Prof. Boody with all his eccentricities or, if you will, with all his faults. We see the professors in a little different light after we are free from their immediate supervision, and come to look upon them at a distance. Their failings vanish into air, or are remembered as pleasant distinguishing peculiarities which hardly are thought of when we estimate the men under whose tuition we have been. I wish I could never have a worse man to deal with than our Rev. Rhetorician. Pomposity & vanity can be pardoned, while it is laughed at, when it can do you no harm. But in one of our instructors here or Governors, it becomes more malignant and oppressive.

There is a little matter Rowland that lies close at my heart, that I would like to confide to you. I did not mean to do it and for the world I would not have you mention it to any person living. I am almost ashamed to broach the subject, because my character is open & unsuspecting & I would least of all impress my brother with a contrary opinion, but I will not excite your curiosity. It is this. Lizzie has been for a long while very unhappy, different from her former self. She has acknowledged the fact, but has not, as she should have done, confided to me the cause. She has changed much, very much in the tone and manner of her letters. I have conjectured everything,

imagined that something I had said, written or done was the cause. She has often expressed the wish that she was only my sister. Now of course I would get in a passion, but when I found from every indication that her love for me was in no way diminished, I would get over it. Now this change commenced at the time Perley's difficulty & separation from Annie Bartlett took place. I could not suspect her loving him, but she spoke in terms of Peleg, that did not arouse my jealousy, but made me fear that she was not sufficiently guarding a heart that should be mine. I told her so and forbade her to speak this again. She said it was wrong & she would not & that she did it merely that I might write just such a letter as I did.

This is merely preliminary to give you some idea why I would feel badly from the following. The next day after you left I took from the office a telegraphic dispatch directed to Lizzie in my care. I feared something unusual had happened & I opened it. It contained these words: "Act deliberately without regard to me, I have done wrong. P-." I was astounded. How to interpret such a message I knew not. At first I was angry. Upon reflection I concluded it must have had reference to some business of which I was ignorant and which did not concern me. Else he would not have been so imprudent as to have directed the same to my care, and after all, I asked, was he not the best friend I had out of my own family? The next day I received another dispatch with these words "Fear my note of yesterday will be misunderstood. Consider it had never been said."

I received the catalog of the Ath. Soc. [Athenaeon Society] That history of her rise & progress was quite interesting. I hope her present members will cease wrangling & promote her interests at the same time with their own by helping her to fulfill the legitimate object of her establishment.

Chap my roommate wishes me to give his best respects, or as he says - remember me to him kindly.

Tell Wood if he thinks of coming here (I believe he is with you yet) to pay great attention to his first-class or rather senior course. Before getting through here he will find it of the greatest advantage, especially all he may know of the exact sciences.

[No closing]

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99 10/20/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-063

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Oct. 20th 53

My dear brother,

I received your seasonable letter this noon, I am sorry that what I wrote you should have troubled you, for I know that the student above all human beings should have a clear head & a mind unoccupied by things foreign to his studies. Do not imagine my dear brother for an instant, that I believed you would trifle with my feelings. When I have been serious with you I have never known you otherwise. What I meant was what I wrote, that I would as lief you laughed as not. You know one in my circumstances may suffer himself to be carried away by his feelings, and I thought perhaps you might look upon the matter I presented to you in a less serious light than I was disposed to view it. I meant to imply nothing. I always smile at Lizzie's idea of your predisposition to ridicule or to criticism as she terms it.

I received a letter from her yesterday. She said: "I will say a few words on a subject I could not broach if things were not just as they are. You must not entertain hard or unkind feelings in the least towards him. I can say that he has never done anything to injure you in any way although some things may look dark & suspicious to you, to me they are perfectly plain and no blame can be attached to him. Believe what I have said, and did you know more you would say if anyone is faulty it is wholly I, and you would not repeat "I have unshaken confidence in you Lizzie." This is all she wrote in answer to my letters. Her letter was long and a good one. She has been confined to her bed the most of the time since you were there. Her cough is much worse. What will become of the poor child I know not. If she were well and able to bear it you know what my reply would be, for tho it tore my heartstrings asunder I would write: Lizzie, You do not consider me worthy of confidence and unless you explain to me all from the moment of your reception of this we are separate. I would do it at once but I dare not lest perchance I may be deceived, and she could not bear the shock.

No, you must not ask her to tell you. I would not wish to know that way. It must come from her lips or her pen directly to me. There is really no deception in Lizzie's character. She could not deceive me did she purpose it. I have followed it all. I have known the untoward influences under which she has been thrown. I have in part caused her to love Perley or caused her sisterly affection for him to assume its present aspect; because I was hasty and perhaps irascible - sometimes even peremptory. Yes Rowland I have driven her heart from me and for this I am to blame. She knows, however, that I would sacrifice my life for her, that I love her with a whole heart. She still has an affinity for me, if I could be with her I could soon by gentleness & kindness win back her entire confidence. But I am too independent in spirit to share her affection with another.

I will tell you honestly that as much as I love Lizzie Waite, tho the bonds are tight around my heart, tho she is part & parcel of every hope, of every thought, still if it could be brought about I would be willing to see her the happy wife of P.S. Perley, for I know that if she loves him it is for her happiness, and my happiness is of little account in the balance. I do not hate him - I cannot. I have written him a short letter demanding an explanation. He will give it for he knows me too well to refuse it. Say nothing to anybody, to mother or Charlie. I shall always act with judgment, for when I am in a rage I will not write. I will continue to write to Lizzie, perhaps differently than before, but if she does not love me over-much she will scarcely observe the change. Do not think I intend any continued deception, no I am open as the day, but I would not harm her, let her course be what it may.

In this confiding in you I do no wrong for if I did not confide in you in whom should I. It would frighten mother to death, for she does not know my stability of character or my fixedness of purpose like you or if she knows them she will always let over-anxiety destroy her peace. Not long can any reverses keep my spirits down. I am not like Perley. I do not need his sympathy as he once did mine or his advice & conversation to keep me up. This life is before me and an Eternity towards which I am verging or rather the beginning of which is now. I must be an upright & useful man. Let not dissipation or gloom over shadow my spirit. But oh! The hopes the dear cherished hopes of a domestic character, almost were they fulfilled & God in his wisdom sees fit to dash that cup of happiness from my life.

Maybe not. My likeness is still on her bosom, hundreds of letters, the outpourings of a heart full of affection &

earnest love are in her little box. She cannot move without being reminded of the past, unchanged and unchangeable I have stood by her. She cannot point to a single unkindness or neglect. Before me is my treasure box crammed full of those gentle messengers that have allayed all asperities in my path, that have made my spirits spring forth exultant & my soul bound with joy, that have lightened my task & bade me onward; right onward! The book of poems marked for my eye alone, the little Bible that I have loved to peruse; when not for itself because it was the word of God, for her sake it has not been neglected. Her miniature to me so beautiful lies quietly before me in my box. I can not move but I am reminded of Lizzie. Why! Why should this dream be broken. It may not. Yet my brother I am a man. I will act as a man. This trial may be the making of me, it may teach me not to idolize anything but Him who is pure & holy.

My little brother is wiser than I. He has fortified himself this early against all contingencies. He will if he lives make a good & useful man. He said in his letter to me that he should write to you. He is very happy, not excited for it is not his nature, but he is a Christian with enthusiasm in its place, pressing in steady & calm determination to lead a Christian's life.

Do not be anxious for me. Let what will turn up I shall remain as I am, with a heart full of affection for my brothers, neither over gloomy & not in the least misanthropic.

Your affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

My room-mate wishes to be remembered to you kindly.

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100 11/13/1853 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-064

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Nov. 13th '53

My dear brother

I owe three letters, one to Mother, one to Charlie & one to you. The two former I ought to write first because I received them first, but as it is Sunday afternoon & I have a bad cold I can write you better than them, for I have made a confidant of you & not of them respecting the recent occurrences which I confess have been slightly tinged with romance. I must again insist that you mention nothing of what I tell you in this matter though you felt you were doing the same for my good.

The second letter I wrote Perley he did not receive before he had replied to my first. The first reply was couched in a style similar to the letter he was answering, which was not written in a very mild or conciliatory spirit, but the second one which I received a few days after was very different, and showed in a striking manner how miserable this unhappy affair has made them both. He says "I have just reread your kind, manly & more than frank letter and the tone of it so frank, so friendly, so forgiving & forgetful of self brought tears to my eyes, burning tears, and sadness & self reproaching thoughts to my heart &c. &c. and now Howard I will tell you the truth so far as I can make it appear to you & so far as I shall attempt now, for I cannot tell you all I feel & think and know about it tonight &c.

I was not aware that Lizzie cared anything for me till a day or two before she went up to Leeds preparatory to her setting out for West Point. This is the fact. I had long known that she was interested in my welfare, felt attached to me as her friend & your friend, but I never suspected that she loved me till then, never dreamed of the thing, that such could possibly be the case, until one evening just as I was going to the office Lizzie was unwell & I stepped into the parlor to see how she was. I found she had been crying & insisted on knowing the cause; and then the thought which she would not own broke upon me. I said "for God's sake what have you been loving me for". She said she could not help it, revealing to me the fact fairly and I broke down, giving away to a burst of grief for her & for you as I thought of the unhappiness & suffering that might be in store for her & perhaps still more for you, such as I never indulged in for myself, &c. After I had discovered that she loved me, that her heart was not wholly yours as it ought to have been, I must confess, presuming somewhat on my past faithfulness, I suffered myself rather in spite of myself I could not help a love awakening for her in return & sorry am I to say it did not conceal from her the fact--"

He acknowledges this & then tells me of the conflict he had before the right gained the mastery in a very affectionate & touching manner. "I did wrong, Howard, to give way for a moment to a love which came to me so unexpectedly & at a time when I thought it existed not for me, but literally have I atoned for the wrong & now my aim is to make you reparation by endeavoring to restore her health & by taking her thoughts from herself and forcing them on objects without her to break up the morbid & monotonous tone of her ideas. I do look, Howard, to her happiness & to yours, and I know that I could never be happy; that she could never be so, without the consciousness of having done right &c. He says, I wish Lizzie to love you. I know she does much etc. I will strive to teach her to give you her whole heart once more as of old & do you not reject her love." I answered this letter some portions of which I have copied. I made a greater effort in doing it than I ever did before in my life.

I had already written a long letter to Lizzie stating plainly the whole thing, and how much misery was in store for us if things continued as they are & then I asked her three questions. 1st if she wished to continue our connection &c. 2d if she loved me & would be happy that our union should take place & third if she loved me more than her cousin. These were the questions in substance which I insisted on her answering if she was able. I felt while I was writing that it was the last or nearly the last letter I should write to the one I had idolized so much. When I answered Perley's letter, I showed him how futile were his kind efforts in my behalf, how they would produce just the result he wished to avoid. He said this had made him resolve to leave Portland. I showed him how useless that step would be. I did not let him see my heart at all, but employed all the reason I could muster, to prove to him, if possible, in what direction his duty now lies. I told him that my course would not affect Lizzie's consciousness of having done right or wrong - to assure her that no great unhappiness could be in store for me situated as I am. I could fill my mind with other objects &c. I told him that our (Lizzie's & mine)

connection was dissolved & warned him not to spend his time in trying to turn me, for I saw in what my duty to Lizzie & myself consisted., Had made up my mind that we must part. The last sentence of my letter was the hardest to write. You cannot think you are robbing me of my own, for Lizzie W is no longer mine. I told him to seek an opportunity when Lizzie best could bear it & break this news to her, to save her the pain the bitter task of answering my letter. She received my letter Wednesday or Thursday & he got the one I wrote him Friday or Saturday

Do not, I pray you, speak of Lizzie as indelicate etc. She was trying to do her duty as she conceived it. Perley's kindness to her while she was ill & at all other times won her affection, though she struggled against it. And had he been other than kind to her I would have resented it. It is an unfortunate & an unhappy phase in our lives but I trust Providence will overrule it to our best good. I want none to know the cause of our separation, except that I have done it. Me it will not injure, but she could not bear to have the report go forth that she had jilted me, or Perley that he had betrayed the confidence I placed in him & supplanted me. This might be the construction that others would put upon the matter, but the truth is here. I discovered that it would not be for our ultimate happiness for Lizzie & myself to marry & so I break the connection.

True if she should wish it or demand it I will keep my engagement, for I hold my promises sacred, but Rowland, I presume it is over. I loved her deeply & truly, but I have shed less tears than they, and my cup has been less bitter. I have been schooled in bearing disappointments & having my wishes controverted. I have forgiven Lizzie her weakness and Perley never has willingly done me an injury. I do not yet fully realize the step I have taken, for I have all her letters, her miniature, the book of poems & the little Bible with hundreds of little keepsakes, the last struggle I will have before I have entirely conquered myself will be when I have to give them up. She may come back to me & even fancy she loves me as of old when she sees before her the consequences of all this, when she thinks of the scandal it will create, but whether this be so or no the cup of happiness in its fullness that I have coveted & expected has been dashed from my lips.

Perhaps it will be better for me & for her in the end. It will teach us many a useful lesson. I do not wish you or Mother or Charlie to think hardly of her & you will not if you know her character as well as I. I know it is unusual for one in my fix to speak thus, but it is as I feel. She has intended to fulfill her vows to the letter & would have done so without a word of complaint, but fortune has ordered it otherwise.

Be not troubled for me, you would find me the same as you always have - cheerful, hopeful, & far from discouraged.

Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

I will tell you if I hear more from them. Keep dark. I will tell Mother & Charlie myself in my own way if the matter is closed as I anticipate.

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101 12/4/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-065

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Dec. 4 '53

My dear Brother,

I am wondering why you have not written me for so long. I hope it did not result from anything I wrote you. Perhaps what I told you caused you surprise & disappointment. Since that letter was written I have interchanged letters with Perley. He did not agree with my decision at all & said such a thing could & should never be, that after our part he never could or would consent to take my place in the manner I proposed. Then came an affectionate letter from Lizzie which bore the marks of great sorrow & contrition for the past, telling me why she did not dare tell me the suspected truth, if I may so speak. I wrote a letter in reply, asking that the past might be buried in oblivion as far as related to our differences & disagreements.

I am glad of a reconciliation. I would not expose Lizzie to the cold mercies of this world for a trivial fault which she committed in weakness. It touches my pride in a tender point, to feel that I am bound to share Lizzie's affection with another, let that other be who he may, yet I hope I am not governed by pride entirely. I will trust to the influence of my presence & disinterested attachment to call back what once was mine but which has been by various circumstances alienated. I have been happier since Lizzie's letter than before.

I have done better in my studies though we have had for two weeks past the hardest branch of study that this institution can furnish, viz. Machines. It consists mainly in applying all our previous mathematical & philosophical knowledge to the action of forces upon machines. We have to prove positively why each & such forms of machinery are preferable to others. Why such forms are given to the teeth of wheels, or what forms shall be given to develop the least amount of friction. We are made to discuss water wheels &c. In this branch calculus is applied freely, but wherever we find calculus' principles involved the subject is abbreviated & simplified. My instructors have for over a week treated me admirably & I have shown them that, as long as they continue to use me fairly, I have a measure of good sense that they had not previously given me credit for.

I have had some pretty hard times this year. In fact when have I not had such! What do they amount to after all? It is an excellent maxim to turn all things to good account. Every trial that I have experienced thus far has in the end rebounded to my advantage and so I keep up good courage. Mother expresses the conviction that all my difficulties are in a manner providential, their tendency being to preserve a proper degree of humility in my heart and hopes that all this is gradually preparing me for some work that shall be for the glory of my Lord & Master. A mother's hopes run high striving to keep pace with her affections.

But I confess that little humility has been the result of my difficulties at West Point. Humility will result from a thorough conviction of the possession of a sinful & grossly wicked heart. A mere cold admission of the fact is far from being sufficient to produce any feelings of abasement & contrition. Though I concede this as a general principle that God in his infinite wisdom turns the actions of his creatures to meet his own wise ends. Still I can but feel that the part I am to play must of necessity prove insignificant, unless perchance that part receives efficiency & power from that directing Hand which causes the foolish things of this world to confound the wise.

I fear you will have left Brunswick before this letter reaches there, since you are going to engage in the pleasant recreation of teaching school. I have not forgotten the time when I wandered up & down that big hill & breasted the cold North Wind. Those times still are connected in my mind with unpleasant reminiscences. Would you not like to have me for your pupil & give me a few solid thrashings in compensation for past favors, now that your physical capacity has overbalanced mine? I would be most happy to enter your school some time this winter & trace among the grown-up scholars the likenesses that a few years ago belonged to Children. How many bright eyes would sparkle in recognition of their old schoolmate & teacher. I shall claim as my privilege a specific account of some of my former pupils.

There, I do wish I could go home & spend this coming winter "forecul regaties", but I cannot cut my wishes short. "A good time is coming boys" - though for me the good time will be a brief one. I saw Warren night before last. He came to see me & talked with me about matters & things for half an hour. He is well & in his usual good

Spirits. If you get this before you go home & should happen to go to Portland keep dark. May God bless and protect you my brother.

Yrs affectionately  
O.O. Howard

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102 12/18/1853 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

RBH-066

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Dec. 18, 53

Dear Mother

I received your letter inclosing the money \$10.00 in due time. As you truly say, you have written me very few letters this Term, but when I have been growing sober and a little neglected, I have thought of all that demanded your attention, and been most ready to forgive you.

If nothing new occurs I shall reach Leeds by the first train Thursday morning. If one of the boys could come up to the Depot, at that time, and take down myself and trunks, without inconvenience I should like to have them.

Otis writes in better spirits than for a long time.

You mystified me some about Addison, Mr. Sargent &c., but I will clear it up when I get home. I will not write more, but will see you in a few days.

I have got a cold and a sore throat, so look out for a little doctoring if I don't get better before Thursday.

Your affectionate son  
Rowland

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

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103 3/11/1854 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-067

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar. 11, 1854

My dear brother,

I have just received & read your last letter, and since you have touched upon subjects that are near my heart, I will answer you at once. I intended to write you as soon as I should be apprised of your return to College. Some way I could not make out precisely whether you had returned or not.

First I will speak of some business before I forget it. I wish you would call on Carroll Everett, present him my compliments & pay him two dollars unless he says it is too late, that is, if you have the amount & to spare. He will tell you what it is for. Of course you will place the same to my account with the other Kindnesses of the kind that you have done me.

The question whether I shall remain in the Army permanently or not has not been finally settled yet. Capt. Boynton says if he could make as clear & elegant a speech as I delivered a week ago last Saturday night, he would leave the Army at once & study a profession, and very much more was added to this high compliment. Now this flattering success has not turned my head or altered the estimation in which I hold my talents. But I verily believe if there is anything more than another to which I could give my whole heart & energy it would be to anatomy. But there is so much drudgery & so much time that must be spent before one like me could come into notice, if the happy time ever did come, that I shrink from the risk & the trial. I do not doubt the justness of your remarks, but I do not see very plainly the bright opening for the American Soldier. Our Army is extremely unpopular with the mass of the American citizens, and her power under the present organization of our Government will never be for a long time in the ascendant. Demagogues & true statesmen both unite in keeping the Army as small and inefficient or rather as powerless as may be. It is only Intended as a nucleus - a gathering point in case of extreme danger.

The European excitement will not be likely to generate any such necessity, though the people may feel the contagious spirit of excitement & the papers be filled with laudatory or deprecating articles which like murders & steamboat explosions will be devoured with eagerness. And yet we know not what is our destiny as a people. There may be ere long events big with interest transpiring in our midst which may turn the attention of the world upon us. There may be ere long a shattering of this so promising a fabric of Government and a consequent opening for all the energy & daring which such revelations give birth to.

You are a young politician & cannot have failed to observe the gradual changes in the sentiments of our people upon the great & momentous question of Slavery, particularly in the North. Abolitionism under various names & covert phases gradually widens & deepens, till there is scarcely a public man that northern men are willing to acknowledge as a fair exponent of their principles who was not tinged with these opinions. Our present Administration & Northern representatives afford by no means a proper illustration of our prevailing sentiments & principles. And I regard the prompt & ready dissent from their public acts and the unanimous voice of hostility & warning which they excite, as convincing evidence that a breach will sooner or later be made between the different Sections of our Country. It is true the consequences of civil strife will be awful, incalculable, and wise men will long adhere to a government that has showered so many blessings upon them, but Christ says that a house divided against itself cannot stand.

I believe this Nebraska bill which has caused so much excitement & contention in Congress & drawn the attention of the people, will be far from composing in its tendency. At the first glance one might think it a triumph of the slave interest. But how is it? Nebraska by the acknowledgment of Southern men stands but a poor chance of becoming finally a Slave State. It will soon be crowded with free men who are ready & prompt to migrate, and another Northern State will be added to this Union. The very means & manner in which the bill gained its passage will give birth to a feeling of opposition to the interests of slavery, which will pervade subsequent elections & foster more & more the spirit of dissension & jealousy which has so unwisely been awakened. When the elements of strife have been broadcast who will pretend to estimate the resulting increase of sectional hostility? What power is so efficient that it can arrest it & reestablish national quiet, when once the

passions of men have been aroused?

The providence of God it may be. Some other great & potent disturbance may meet the torrent & like a returning tide, and check its onsets. We know not, we hope, while we cannot but fear. This ominous state of things in the old world, may be the very thing to turn our thoughts & our passions in a new channel, and the very responsibility & watchfulness which the concerns of this war in the Old world will devolve on Congress may allay bitterness & sectional difficulties & unite her members for our common protection, but this is enough.

I am not prepared to dabble in politics or calculate probable events. So I might talk at random with an eminent superfluity of gaseous nonsense, and I will stop.

You may think I have wandered from my question. No, it is by considerations of this nature that a young man should form his conclusions with regard to the career that he would choose, these taken in connection with a fairer & impartial estimate of his own talents. Probable success is our main incentive to action. We must carefully take our bearings & distances, before we can solve to any degree of approximation the problem of the advantageousness of our position. Many a wise head has made a mistake even after a careful consideration of all the pros & cons of a proposed course of procedure. The views which determined me to a particular profession are more narrow and more immediately practical than any I have offered. I am poor and dislike to drag myself on encumbered by debt, or toiling to make every end meet, dabbling in little things, while my prospects of ultimate success grow dimmer & dimmer.

A second Lt. in a staff Corps gets all told about 80 dollars per month, and in time of peace his time will not be filled up with onerous duties. If I can get located near a library I can pursue study of law to advantage & not neglect my duties in the least. The only difficulty lies here. My heart will not go hand-in-hand with my profession. What will a man in the Army do with a wife? This question has often occurred to me & it is one I cannot answer. The one who decides to become my wife must be willing to run my risks & be subject to all the inconveniences & trials to which her choice had condemned her. If she shrink from the risk well & good; if she loves me as my wife ought she will be willing to share with me my fortune be it what it may. I shall not <opine> over the matter & invest my prospects with an unreal Halo. I did think I would take Lizzie to myself and do by her as well as lay in my power at my earliest opportunity, but from a recent letter, I find her a little disinclined to an early consummation of those ties which are to bind us together for good & for bad. She wishes to see me & talk with me first. What will be our natural contract will not be known till I return home.

I may never marry Lizzie. I fear she has not the physical strength for a wild bird like me. I should dread a parting if active service should call me into the field - yes more far more than the canons roar or the clash of steel. I can conceive of no poorer husband than he would make whose guiding star is Ambition. But as you once said "be guided by circumstances". When you contrasted women & circumstances, you did not seem to think that woman is a circumstance of ordinary moment. I shall give her a place in my combination.

I wish you would send me your theme on the Missouri Compromise. I like to read your thoughts on National Questions. I wished to write much with regard to Dellie & Charlie but I have not time or place to put my thoughts in this letter. Write me soon. My views you will not find very extended or pointed. I lack reading more than reflection. It is a good thing to think but you must first get the material to think about before your ideas will avail much. Good night.

Yr affectionate brother  
O.O. Howard

You might write on this what Prof. Mahew did on one of my problems - "very carelessly done" but I trust you will be more generous than he.

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104 4/4/1854      *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-068

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. April 4 54

My dear Brother,

I have mislaid your last letter and cannot find it. I am sorry for I wanted to be more specific in my reply than is possible when I am obliged to depend on a treacherous memory. I have found the letter.

I might fill my sheet with remarks on the Nebraska Question. But this Question is in my opinion of vastly less consequence to us, who are in favor of all practicable restrictions on the institution that has stamped our National character & pretensions with the blot of inconsistency, than many others, that excite less enthusiasm & receive less attention. I will merely say and the opinion may startle you, that, upon reflection & careful balancing of the reasons pro & con, I am rather in favor of the passage of that bill independent of its amendments than against it.

Our present Constitution undoubtedly sanctions the institution of Slavery, and establishes the independence of State Governments. Whatever then either does or tends to shackle those powers that are delegated to the States by the general government bears on its face a violation of the Spirit of the Constitution. These sort of compromises that were undoubtedly the only pacific measures at the time of their adoption do indirectly curb the free legislation & limit the powers that have devolved on the Separate States. To us they may seem of a desirable nature as respects slavery, and it may be as respects the end we wish to attain. But they will not admit of unusual application & being established as a principle would soon lead to palpable violations of the letter of our Constitution. Any prospective legislation which must extend beyond the admission of the State into the Union has the tendency I speak of. You can clearly see the operation of the principle if you substitute for Slavery any other institution - as the institutions of Religion or if these are not fair - any institution promotory of education, causing such & such restrictions to be adopted in the primary State Constitution, as will forever close the door against these institutions; for such is the avowed object with regard to Slavery. It behooves us to consider well the principles we advocate and the precedents we establish, as well as the end to be obtained. I would be happy to see the useless strife, that has arisen & will continue to be rife in our National legislative Halls so long as there is a chance to agitate the Question of Slavery, cease forever. We work & work and arrive no nearer the goal - Emancipation is not yet near its consummation unless by some Providence of God the tables are turned.

There is much I would like to say. I would like to give reasons for my views and show that they are not based on limited knowledge. I have decided against my prejudices & my sympathies, but it has been from pure conviction that the grounds I desired & attempted to take were untenable. I fear you met with some such difficulty while attempting to write on that question. In college, however, something besides dry logic is deemed essential to a writer. A lively imagination under good control will ever carry off the palm in Academic halls. Your complaints or rather your self-deprecations are similar to mine when there. I thought I lacked everything essential to a writer. I had neither knowledge or the habit you speak of of close connected discriminating thought. If discouragement does not seize upon you, and cause you to slacken your efforts, I regard this keen sense of your deficiencies as the best earnest of your ultimate success. Among equals critics, among those who would rather like yourself be a little superior, and often omit to extend to you well merited praise & never pass over your faults in silence, you must feel a little bitterness and want of confidence in your natural powers, but these are the spurs that excite your latent energies & awaken new ones. These are the stair ways upon which many an ambitious youth has wound his way to the heights of distinction.

I always have felt a want of confidence in my natural abilities & strongly deprecated an ignorance that is deplorable & would seem to me who was acquainted with the opportunities I have had for the acquirement of every variety of knowledge, quite remarkable. But it is difficult to discourage me. I am glad that you have one gift which I have not viz: a retentive memory. I know that the immediate tendency of a memory more than proportionate to the other mental faculties is rather antagonistic to originality of thought, and makes you incorporate the sentiments of others to an undesirable extent, but it will not always rule the roost. It may throw together a mass of incongruous materials, but be assured that the judgment will mature in time and you will be

astonished to see the order that will grow out of the real or apparent chaos.

You are mistaken about the passage of the bill for increasing the rank and pay of the Army. It has passed the Senate, but such bills have a hard rub in the House. We are watching it with no little interest. I think it will pass, that is so much of it as secures the increase of pay. I do not care whether they increase the Army at present or not. It is my opinion that the necessity of so doing will soon be apparent.

I had a letter from Mother to day. All well. She got three letters the same night from her three boys. It does not seem possible that we can ever be to each other as our uncles on our father's side, so selfishly indifferent to each other's interests, as that each shall hardly know the whereabouts of the other. I pray God we may ever be affectionate & brotherly, that we may ever be able to repose in each other the utmost confidence and not blush to own that the warmth of fraternal affection does always stimulate our feelings & modify our actions.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

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105 4/20/1854 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mr. R.B. Howard

RBH-069

West Point N.Y.

Bowd College  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr. 20th '54

My dear brother,

I have received two letters from you neither of which I have answered yet. Our class has some time since commenced general review. The lessons are long and require study, even more than they get from me. So you need not be surprised at my dilatory method of corresponding. I shall not be able to write many more letters of decent length hereafter till June, that is I may not.

I would like to discuss the Nebraska bill with you, but it might be unprofitable. I did not feel that you answered my objection, that the evident intention of the Constitution is to have the States perfectly free & unshackled by any legislation of the prospective kind by the General Government. Now just fix a portion of territory so that the Slaveholder with his property cannot settle in it (this is your object). Do you not violate this article: "The citizens of each State shall be entitled to all the privileges & immunities of the citizens of the Several States"? Slave property is legal undoubtedly under the present Constitution, if legal it must have the same protection as other property. If the property ought to be illegal, the Constitution should be amended so as not to recognize it as such. But enough of this. Those engaged in arguments, particularly of a political nature, where great latitude of opinion is allowable, are not often disposed to yield or meet on common ground.

I took into consideration arguments like yours & all others upon this question, before coming to a conclusion upon it. I have been obliged recently to memorize the entire Constitution, and study Kent's Commentaries on International Law & the Jurisprudence of the United States. I have recently read too the life of Randolph, and part of that of <Hirt>. These readings have promoted reflection upon such national questions as the one we have been considering. I would like to discuss them with you too, but it requires time to consider such themes properly, and it takes my attention too much from the long & burdensome course that must be learned before June.

Our Instructor in Artillery Maj. Thomas has been ordered away. We have completed his course consisting of no less than five books, one of which is a large volume in French (Thiroux). Now you see we had no idea of remembering all this trash in addition to the vast amount of other things, with which we are examining ourselves, for Maj. Thomas like Professor Upham, knows how to ask leading questions & will always help a hesitating lad out of difficulty, but now some unsparing officer will have us & what pray shall I get it all. Why it is too late by all odds. I will try to give the course some little attention. You can hardly fancy what a load will have been taken from my heart just two months from this day.

We will have to be examined in six different departments. First & foremost Engineering with its various appendages. 2d English studies - Law, Logic, Moral, Science etc. 3d mineralogy & geology. 4th Artillery. 5th cavalry 3 volumes. 6th infantry 3 vols. We know much of the latter two, Cavalry & Infantry & a small part of Artillery from our continuous practical lessons on the field. But when you come to evolutions of the line of 8 battalions, and get 50 pages for a lesson and go over the same but once, you would find it rather stretching your capacity. We have to take that number of battalions and be able to tell all the separate duties of each officer from the <general> to the lowest subaltern, and repeat verbatim the commands of all. One could not do it unless he had got so accustomed to military commands as to learn them at a glance.

I'm glad you went into Portland & glad to hear that Lizzie's eyes are so much better & that she is so well generally. I heard from Charlie yesterday. He thinks I must be sick because I have not written. It was after half past 9 when I commenced this letter, so you may imagine I have written in haste, for I must needs go to bed early, for I have to commence my lesson in engineering at 5 in the morning. So good night. Tell me who is my plebe, i.e. who is to follow me here if you know.

Yr affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

Mr. R.B. Howard  
Bowd College  
Maine  
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 22 APR 3

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106 5/11/1854 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

RBH-071

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll May 11 [1854]

My dear Mother

Your very affectionate & welcome letter was not received until a day after I wrote you, but, coming at any time, they always give me pleasure. You spoke of many things which I should like to answer at length but I shall be with you so soon, and talking is easier than writing, so I will defer my reply until I meet you "tete a tete".

You may be assured mother that Otis will do well enough. The source of the most of your fears for his success is in his lacking a little World wisdom. Contact with the World-actual experience alone can give him this, and I have no doubt that he will be an apt Scholar. In the first place, his impulses are all on the right side, and then, when he does reason, he thinks methodically & correctly. He has a steadfastness of purpose, a frankness of disposition which will always win and retain Friends. While he lacks those brilliant talents which are calculated to astonish and dazzle, he has more valuable ones which will secure him a quiet but certain advancement in whatever he undertakes.

If I understand, you fear that he is not economical enough, that he is too pure hearted, too generous, or as you would say, too thoughtless. I know that your ideas and mine differ a little on this point and I will not enlarge farther. It is true that neither Otis nor myself are rich enough to indulge in that amount of expenditure, which many of those with whom we associate are accustomed to do. Otis will never attempt this. If alone, he will have no pecuniary troubles after his graduation. How a man is influenced by a "family", I don't know, and I regard the experiment too dangerous for one of my weak mind and weaker purse to try. Otis will probably consult his heart alone, and try it. But no more of this till I see you.

We went after our Trees yesterday, and they have been set out today in the College Yard. We went about 12 miles and had a hard days work. The whole class engaged in it and there were no recitations. The Sophomore Classes always get trees one day in May.

I am in hopes that these warm sunny days are settling the Roads and fitting the ground for the spring's work. We saw one man planting corn in Bowdoinham.

The mail goes in a little while and I have no time to write farther. My wants as to money are, as near as I can estimate, as follows. I have the items on paper but will not set them down as it will take time. I shall need fifteen dollars to pay the bills necessary for me to pay this Term. I wish father to mail this on Monday if he can, for I am in hopes to get away Wednesday noon, so as to reach Leeds in the P.M. train. If I cannot, I will come Thursday morning.

Never mind sending to the depot. I will walk down, and then my Trunk can come anytime. If there is anything you wish me to do for you in Brunswick, just mention it in the letter. With much love I remain

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

Mrs. John Gilmore

P.S. I intend that you shall receive this Saturday. If you do not till Monday, send a letter as early as possible and I will come home as soon as I can.

R

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107 6/19/1854 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-072

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. June 19, 54.

Dear Mother

I left you so poorly that I am anxious to hear how you are. Is your health improving? Do you feel in better Spirits than you did? Charles has reached home now, and I hope that he is better than when I left him in front of Mr. Barrows. I have heard from Mr. Crawford the result of the exhibition. He must write me about it, whether it was generally satisfactory etc. I have received no letter from any of my friends except Frank, since I have been here. I feel as if somebody ought to write. From Otis I haven't heard a word. How does his Examination go? When will he come on? Will he come directly here or to Leeds. Tutor Everett tells me that he has written him to come directly to his home - that will make his stay in Brunswick more pleasant than if confined to my poor room up three flights of stairs.

I board this Term on Pleasant St. nearly 1/2 mile from the College in a Club of my own getting up. We have a good set of fellows and live very pleasantly.

I attended meeting & Sabbath School yesterday in Topsham, which, in spite of the long walk, I preferred to going here.

I am much obliged to Dellie for the catalog. Tell him I am on the lookout for him. Probably someone from here will take the school at Monmouth. If he is a good teacher, perhaps Dellie may go. I have but little time this morning and must make my letter short. Charlie & Dellie must both write if you don't feel able.

When I came here I settled all of my bills, but there was a book bill of \$3.00 & an Ath. Soc bill of 3.50 that I did not make calculations for. I had money enough to pay the first and \$2.00 on the last. Have not had a cent since. My German Teacher's bill is three dollars and is now due, and the \$1.50 to the Society must be paid or I cannot vote next Friday, when my particular friend Tom Clark is candidate for President. So I must have some more money. The medicine and books that I have had this term will come to \$3.00 more. This will make about \$9.00 & Charles must also send the pay for his books. As Fourth of July is coming I ought to have a dollar for that. So I think father must send me \$10, besides Charles money, this week

My love to all the family, with much for yourself. I want to hear precisely how your health is. Have you consulted a Dr.?

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

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108 9/12/1854 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-073

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept. 12th 1854

Dear brother

I presume you are about ready to scold me for not writing you before, but we have been too busy to allow me to write. I returned from Hallowell yesterday. Lizzie and I went to H. last Thursday or rather to Augusta, for we went down in company with William Lothrop & Emma Turner. Stopt at <Joshua's> all night. I went to the Arsenal Friday morning. We intended to return to Leeds on Saturday but it rained too hard to admit of it. We found grandmother quite well. Maria not home - almost starting for Boston to buy her wedding dress. Charlie went to Yarmouth last Wednesday, says he is slightly homesick. Father & I spent one day over his books & records. I could do nothing that would be of any particular avail in law. I will give you a copy of the certificate. <I don't expect his [too faint]> It is the first draught. This certificate would be our instrument to substantiate mother's disposition in case of father's death. I <could> not fix matters any differently without <> father's house entirely and this is beyond <> <advisable>. I have done what I could - but it is not possible to do anything now. You will see how much mother has in <> remaining to herself, and where they are, and over which father's acknowledgment <> &c. I shall visit you before I leave if possible. [Many lines too faint to transcribe.]

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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109 10/5/1854 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-074

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy Oct. 5, 1854.

Dear brother,

I received a Catalogue from you yesterday, which is in fact the first message I have had from home since I left. I pursued my journey as I intended only I did not reach this place until Saturday instead of Friday as I proposed.

I find everything here to suit me - a beautiful place indeed, fine quarters, and a most excellent commanding officer. I have a little more to do then I was led by Capt. Calendar & others to anticipate, but withal the duties are light, to go on as officer of the day & shops once in three days & at that time to drill the company one hour in the morning before breakfast. Maj. Symington gave me some drawings also, which I have just completed. All are very kind to me and I am made to enjoy myself very much. There is now one young officer here & two more soon to come. Boggs is the one here & my companion. He has a beautiful sister here from Georgia. Besides this young lady there are three or four others, guests at the house of Maj. Symington, the commanding officer. Two are quite pretty, & one Miss Picket is the most splendid singer I ever heard in the private walks of life. I wish you could have heard the little thing warble last night at a party in Troy, where they prevailed on her to sing. Last night was my first party out called a "sociable" - dull, borous things at best, where conversation is forced & smiles are meaningless.

The Arsenal grounds comprise about 100 acres of land. They are cut in twain by the Erie Canal after it bends southward on its way to Albany. There are several large machine shops here in operation, for the purpose of constructing all kinds of Artillery carriages &c. There is one company, which furnishes men for Guard & for the general police of the grounds. The shops, officers, Lieutenant's quarters, hospital etc. are on the eastern side of the canal, and Maj. Symington's house & Maj. Ladely's on the other side. There are several large gardens producing now an abundance of grapes & peaches. The former are beautiful. West Troy itself is not much of a place, though the McAdamized roads that Jed Lane spoke of are no fiction.

I have a silver watch for you. I shall send it by mail as soon as I can think to get a box to protect it. I trust you are in good health & spirits. My love to all. When you write, write soon.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

Oct. 6

I have come to the conclusion not to let you have so short a letter, since I have completed my drawings and have now nothing particularly urgent on hand. I am anxious to hear from you, how is the health of you &c.

There is a large double house on the western side of the canal. Maj. Ladely occupies one half of it at present, but will soon be relieved by Mr. Benton a bachelor officer, who will join the mess & room here. Then the entire house will be vacant. Maj. Symington says if I will get me a wife I can have that. The greater part of my fuel would be supplied me gratis, & house rent cost me nothing. It is a beautiful building, stone outside & finely finished inside. Two large high rooms below besides the kitchen & other departments of domestic use & three rooms above. The rooms are all lighted by gas. It would cost something to furnish it, but I would not take more rooms than was necessary & could live as frugally as I pleased.

In the mess, we have each a private room & a common parlor & dining room, besides the kitchen etc. We have a family of three besides a hired girl who take care of the whole house. They have their board for the trouble. I pronounce them to be the best servants I ever saw. They do everything for you. Your board varies with the price of provisions. Charlie could come here & live in the mess & study till he entered college, but I fear he would not be so well fitted as if he would to remain with his class. If I was keeping house, it would be different. It would be very pleasant for me to have him with me. I think now I will be allowed to remain here three years at least.

Mr. Boggs & I both went to drill this morning. We had cartridges & had some sport. He acted as instructor & I as Captain. I don't know as I will be able to study a profession, excepting my own this winter - can tell better by & by.

Have you heard from Lizzie lately? I trust she is well. I suppose you will go to Maria's wedding. I shall not be able to. I visited her new house in Philadelphia. It is fine but not by any means equal to the one offered me for nothing. I have not written Charlie yet, but shall as soon as I finish this. Laura was never so happy as when she got to Phila. She was almost crazed. Mrs. Brewster & her four daughters cried & fell on her such, she was not behind them in this respect. They are quite poor, but most estimable people. The Merricks are very wealthy - have a summer residence out of the city & live in the city in winter. I went to see Sarah in Brooklyn on my return, found her pretty well, and quite cheerful & the same with Frank.

I have drawn two months pay & will receive ten dollars more for mileage from West Point here. Though not rich, I owe nothing & feel quite independent.

Yours affectionately  
O. O. Howard

I have boxed up the watch, guard & key & got them ready to send by mail. I broke the crystal a few days ago. You can probably find one that will fit the watch at Brunswick. I think it will go safe. Get the watch regulated.

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110 11/19/1854 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

RBH-076

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Nov. 19, 1854

My Dear Mother

Charles just wrote in a catalogue that he sent me that you had been sick and were getting better. I am anxious to know the particulars as to how sick you have been, and how far you have recovered. Strange that Dellie did not write!

I wrote three pages to you last Sabbath but did not send it thinking perhaps I might hear from you next day. I have not heard from Otis for a long time. I hear from Charles very frequently. He is doing finely in his Studies and seems to enjoy good health & Spirits. They will have an Exhibition at Yarmouth on Tuesday and I shall attend and hear Charles perform if I possibly can. I think now that I can do it without losing any Recitation. Our Term closes one week from next Tuesday. I have got no School yet, but shall take one if I can get a good offer. If I do not obtain a School in Some other direction I shall be home, and I rather think I shall be home at Thanksgiving anyway.

Lizzie wrote me a good long letter a few days ago. We are getting on very intimate terms, and I am liking her better as I get nearer to her. It would be just so with you. She feels fearful of doing or saying something that we may not approve, and that fear has kept her more aloof than her warm heart & affectionate disposition prompts.

Now, Mother, if you don't feel able to write, do get Dellie to do so, and tell me about your health. I can not well write more today, but you must always remember me as

Your very affectionate Son  
Rowland

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

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111 11/23/1854 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-077

Watervliet

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet November 23d, 1854

My dear brother,

My health is very good and has continued so all the time I have been here.

I am assisting a young French exile in getting out a book in English, one he has written in French. He understands our language but not perfectly as you might suppose knowing that he had been in the country less than six months and could not speak a word of English when he came. He was an officer in the French army about my age - poor & friendless as an exile. I thought he needed someone to help him & I have done so. Well I undertake to write a chapter a day besides my other duties. This gives me so much labor with my pen that I am too tired to write letters, when I get through.

This has been the cause of my silence. I will write more soon. I am affectionately  
your brother  
Otis

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112 12/9/1854 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-075

Watervliet

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Nov. 9th, 1854 [This was written after the one he wrote on Nov 23 and probably the one Rowland wrote on Nov 19. I assume it should have been dated Dec 9th 1854.]

Dear brother

I received your last letter to day, and glad was I to get it. I ought to have written you before, but as my last you are pleased to call an excuse, I must make sure that this shall not be.

The Frenchman De Courcillon has gone to N. York with his book started this afternoon. I have yet about thirty pages to write before it is entirely completed. Those I am to send him sometime tomorrow. It was too much of a task for me to undertake just now; but I am glad it is so near done, and trust he will do well with his book, though I have my doubts. The title is The Unfinished Curate or The Religious Customs of France. It is written in a very simple, narrative style in the original and I have endeavored to preserve the identity in this respect in the translation. No, this has not been of much benefit to me, nor have I yet learned to speak French. He could speak English so much better than I could French that it became more agreeable for us both to converse in English. But I mean to make him teach me to speak French before long.

You asked if I have drawn any pay. Why I had to draw my pay at N. York on my return from Philadelphia to pay my debts. I have since had to buy a Unf. overcoat \$43.00, a citizen coat, vest, pants, winter boots, all the furniture of my room, my part of the mess furniture &c. &c. I have drawn my pay regularly at the close of every month. I am out of Debt, or have the money to meet all I owe, but thus far I have not laid up anything. I know it would be better for me to be married on many accounts, but I have been bothered so much been maddened, rendered jealous, morose and whatnot so long (& when I am ready nobody else is) that I fancy that I would make but a poor specimen of a husband. I am particularly calculated to render a lady unhappy. I do not say this in a blue mood but as the result of soul consideration & some little unpleasant experience.

But my word is given and when Lizzie is ready I am, though I expressed my conviction to her that we had better separate. It will cost me at least \$500.00 to fit up my house or Quarters, and where shall I get the money? Shall I borrow and have a debt dragging upon me? Or shall I allow Lizzie to do it and curb my peculiar pride and notions of honor? There are many things in my present life and associations that do not suit me, and marriage will obviate all these inconveniences while it gives rise to others. There are many things in the hospitality that one officer has to extend to others, that I should have objections to.

But I will not speak of these things now. I shall be home I expect in January. Then I will try to give the Epitome of my reasons for & against getting married.

Give my love to all. I thought you were going to teach in Topsham, now you say you are going to teach in Uncle Ensign's district if I read right. On mother's account I am very glad but how much money can you possibly get there. Eighteen dollars per month perhaps. I believe your brother who preceded you there as pedagogue, received the full amount of seventeen dollars. How is Charlie's health? Tell me the result of your visit to Lewiston.

Your affectionate brother  
OO Howard

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113 2/8/1855 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mon Frere [RB Howard]

RBH-078

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feb. 8th, 1855

Mon Frere,

I have come to this city for the purpose of getting married. The card enclosed herewith will inform you of the fact & the when. The that's to be the happy bride. Has some very bad pens or I would not have blotted your letter. I think of going to Hallowell tomorrow, shall call on you on my way back. Hope you will get this so as to be at the cars as I pass on. I have my dear brother a secret to impart to you - keep it close. I shall rely upon your assistance as well as your secrecy in case of failure, it is this. Lizzie is making her wedding dress & not quilting.

Votre frere  
O. O. Howard

Alice & Helen's card is enclosed also. Make them come. Lizzie more than wishes it. Display your persuasive powers.

Lizzie's Love.

[Otis & Lizzie were married 14 Feb 1855 in Portland.]

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114 3/18/1855 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-079

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. March 18, 1855

My dear Mother

Roscoe, or as we shall soon have to call him, Dr. Jennings, went up to Leeds yesterday and said he should go to meeting today if there was any and promised me he would speak to you if you were there. So if you hear from me Sunday you won't probably care much about it Tuesday when this gets home, but as I have got through going to Church for today I will write.

I have not heard a word from Otis since he left Maine. I wrote him an account of Grandmother's death [Elizabeth (Stinchfield) Otis died on 3 March at the age of 81] & funeral immediately on my return from Leeds. I requested an immediate answer as I was anxious to learn how the Army increase bill which had then just passed Congress was to affect him knowing, as I did, that he had petitioned for a Captaincy in the Dragoons. I rather suspect & I guess he hopes, that he will not get it. Such an appointment would now deprive him of a home & make him a Rover, a kind of life which a married man would not relish even if he did get double pay & double honor. I shall certainly expect a letter from him the first of the week.

Our engine gave out up in Greene, that morning I came down, & detained us an hour. So I missed the Train at Yarmouth & so had to make Charles another compulsory visit. I found him with a pretty bad cold, which this damp weather and sloppy going is not calculated to help much. So I did not reach Brunswick till Friday Afternoon & had nearly a week to make up.

I have had a cold in the head, throat, &c most of the time since I came back, but it is more troublesome than injurious.

In want of something better I believe I must tell you of a practical joke which was unwittingly played on me the other night. I am one of those who enjoy a good joke about as well when it falls on myself as on somebody else. Well, you see, an old singing master of mine, Mr. Rice of Bath, was to give a concert here on Wednesday night, assisted by his Glee Class, and a singer of Boston who is an especial favorite of mine - Mrs Hattie C. Long (got the most heavenly voice you ever heard).

As was natural I made up my mind to go, in fact I was very anxious to go, & as I had a musical friend here who has spent the winter in New York, who has heard all the great singers & who knows all about music, who is very pretty and very agreeable, I naturally enough took it into my head that I would like to have her go - only just to see, of course, whether our tastes coincided in regard to Mrs. Long, because if they did I should consider myself quite a judge.

Well, I hurried home from Supper, resolved to dress as soon as possible, that I might have a short call & chat before Concert. On reaching my room, and having partly dressed, what was my surprise to find that of five pairs of unmentionables, not one was there, but had holes in the knees or in a still more embarrassing place. I was in despair, but after hunting some minutes, which seemed like hours, I found under the bed a pair, which although they were more greasy & threadbare than I ever recollect mine to have been, yet they seemed to be entire. These, I concluded were the lost pants. I tried them on, & o horror of horrors!! My legs stuck through farther than Ichabod Cranes, and when I attempted to bring the waistbands into anything like proximity, it was a dead failure. Three inches at least did they lack of a proper union. Now, Mother, you know that being of a nervous temperament I am not over patient. So I fell to fretting, snarling & sending all the pants to his Satanic majesty by turns.

Job must have cussed had his situation been half as provoking. But it was no use. So after exhausting myself in vain efforts to unite the reluctant waistbands, I laced the fronts with an elegant Shoe-string making very much the same display of Linnen as some ladies do in a different place. I mean these muslin bosoms with their cord lacing. In the mean time, the hour lost, and my unlucky appearance with my short legs & open fronts, destroyed all my hopes of meeting my fashionable acquaintance, and almost kept me from the concert itself, but Hewitt

came in, lent me his cloak, and, at last I went, and enjoyed the music in an obscure corner, unnoticed and unknown. The secret was, Waterman slept with me the night before & by mistake had worn my pants to Topsham and had left his own little short, greasy, narrow contracted things behind.

Remember me to Father, Dellie, Roland & Lucia, & as

Your very affectionate Son  
Rowland

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115 3/18/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-081

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal March 18th, 1855.

Dear Brother

I received your letter in good time, but I had already been apprised of Grandmother's death through a letter from mother that came to hand a few days before. I regret very much indeed that I did not go to Hallowell as I at first intended, but the past cannot be helped and it boots little to recall such things to grieve over. I was glad (that is it afforded me a sort of mournful pleasure) that you were thus particular in describing the last moments of our dear Grandmother; for I loved her very much and anything connected with that time when she was on the verge of eternity could not fail to make me pause in my levity & point me towards the same inevitable terminus in my own journeyings onward. Would to God my end might be like hers! But enough of sad thoughts, it is not a part of my philosophy or religion to be dolorous. Our grandmother was a faithful & trusting Christian and she has gone to a better world after a life of usefulness, in which her children & grandchildren will do well to emulate her example. Is there not then, (if not the cause for joy) little cause for abiding sorrow?

You say I know what you wish to know better than you can tell me. Well we came through safely from Portland to Springfield the first day (Monday) & the second day arrived at Troy. Instead of finding my friends at the Depot to welcome the bride, I could not find a carriage there fit to take her in to the Arsenal. I left her at the Depot went & procured one at a Livery Stable & we set forth for her new home. The most interesting objects we met on the way (that is to Lizzie) were pigs. She saw a pig at every corner, on the streets, on the side-walks, everywhere in fact excepting in pens where she thought they ought to be.

We crossed the Hudson over the Troy bridge, which expands no, spans the river by two sections - the first to a little island & the second from the island to the opposite shore. This is just above the junction of the Mohawk. We then turned south, crossed the latter river then a branch of the Canal & found ourselves in the filthy city of West Troy. The only redeeming features of which are the McAdamized roads & Watervliet which it chances to contain. We followed the river down for a mile or more till we came to an iron fence, which Lizzie's observing eyes guessed belong to uncle Sam. We soon came to the gate & turned to the right, passed through up the road across the canal, again to the right a few steps, she comes to a large stone house with mortars in front, their huge mouths pointing outwards - one half of this double tenement, Otis tells her, is to be under her supervision.

We entered, found Mr. Boggs, who had made preparations to meet us that night at Albany & come up with us, have a carriage for us at the Depot, and a good dinner for welcome, but we got the start of him. I had written that I did not expect to get farther than Boston the first night & therefore could not reach Albany till evening. The birds & plant came safely, the basket also though I dropped it and spilt some of the seeds contained. So also with the shawl & bandbox & bride -all arrived safely at the Arsenal on Tuesday, the 27th of February 1855.

We are now quite settled, though my laziness & Lizzie's carpet require a lounge to make all complete in the furniture line. I packed piano chairs &c. &c. at Portland. They arrived by freight train on Thursday following safe & sound. Costs for three large boxes only \$10, carting & inclusive. We now have those rooms fitted up, two above & one below. Lizzie's parlor is beautifully furnished, an elegant new carpet, a center table of rosewood & a settee of the same with her former nice mahogany furniture. The room above looks forth to the East with two windows, to the South with one. She has upon this room the carpet that was under her feet when Mr. Moore stood before her with such knotty words. I am in this room. Lizzie is in the rocking chair by my side.

She has been pretty contented, though she rather longs for her girl-friends in Portland. If she gets homesick with such a fine even-tempered, good-natured yielding husband as she has, I shall send her back to Portland. But she is looking critically over me so I must stop talking about her. She was to take my correspondence - to show you how little obedient she is. I will tell you, sub rosa, she has not written a single letter for me yet.

Undoubtedly there are thousands of things you would like to know that I have not told you. I don't mean to satisfy your curiosity for I should thereby shorten your subsequent epistles & lessen the probability of your

visiting us next summer. There is much to be seen. A favorable impression has preceded you in this quarter. Lizzie says she is making out a list of purchases. It is Sunday, she must have forgotten. She sends her love to you. She sends love to Alice & Hellen. If you see them, she is going to write them soon. Remember me to the <> tutors individually & by name.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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116 3/28/1855 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-080

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Mch. 28, 55

My dear Mother

I hesitated some time before I concluded to write this, knowing myself to be in rather a "blue" state of mind. I was afraid I should inflict some of my bad spirits on you. But, after all, human nature wants something serious, nay almost gloomy now and then just to keep the "balance of power". Besides if we should always write in an apparently happy mood, we should begin to suspect each other of a want of confidence, for the mind must have its "downs" as well as its "ups", and if we do not deceive, if we would show that confidence which is the true test of affection, we must make each other acquainted with the sad & sorrowful feelings as well as those that are bright & mirthful. Here lies the great pleasure of writing my Mother. I need not feel that it is necessary for me to be sprightly & amusing when there is nothing mirthful in me, but I need only to feel & to speak the true emotions of the heart.

My mental depression today is almost entirely the result of physical causes. I have a serious cold & my whole body feels dull & stupid & as usual my mind refuses study or to think. After sitting, rocking to & fro half the forenoon, I have taken this sheet to trouble you with my listlessness - but, I hardly think I ought to do so. Sometimes it almost seems as if the intellect, the soul, being so superior in its essence, is too closely connected with the body, too sensible of the latter's ills & aches. I know Once, when I was very sick, that the saddest moments which I experienced were those when I was conscious of my inability to think, reflect & reason. No merely physical weakness is half so sensibly felt. The loss of a hand or foot could never so affect the feelings of a man as a sense of mental inferiority. He then loses his sense of superiority or even equality with those around him. When some young woman is mourning for her lack of beauty, if she lacks nothing else, she ought easily to be consoled. Give me the consciousness of a superior intellect & I should need no beauty of person, or acres of land to make me proud.

But alas! The World does not so estimate it. Wealth & fashion will always air their flaws at that kind of pride, from <verging> of its superiority to their own pride of pocket & pride of appearances & down it must come, unless let off by what the world calls necessary. So in order to success, the intellect itself must set itself to work to acquire the arts of Fashion & "sweet cash".

It is no use for boys like me to dream, although dreaming is much pleasanter to my youth & temperament than thinking, but I have got to think & act like the rest of the world (who, honestly, look to me as if they were all two thirds mad) or be called a Fool & a Dunce for my pains, but enough of this for the present. I shall feel better tomorrow and go into Recitation, no doubt.

Charles has lately written me a good & long letter. He went home with Merrill last Sunday. I want him to come down here before he goes home & spend the Sabbath. Otis has also written me. He keeps pretty still about domestic affairs, as he should. Things are at a sad pass when there is a third confidant to man & wife. He says he tells me little in order that I may write often in order to learn more. He touched my vanity there, and so misses his calculations.

Love to all.  
Affectionately  
Rowland

Charles speaks of getting a very superior kind of a letter from Dellie. He must do me the same favor.

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117 3/29/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-082

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
March 29th, 1855

Dear brother,

"Of course I don't expect a bachelor to be reasonable." I was a short time since one myself & know well how to estimate them, particularly with regard to their reasonableness. They are entirely unsettled in mind and in heart, full of vagaries and strange fancies, bound by no tie or "compact" as you call the bond of union that exists between me & "L".

[The next paragraph was written by Lizzie]

I will use the pen in order to keep it moving and if Mr. Howard don't get back too soon I will give you particular for writing such a letter to your worthy brother, who has, by the way, gone into the other quarters to have a little smoke with his friend, Mr. Shunk. (Isn't it too bad his wife won't let him smoke at home.) You did not think I should read that same letter first "domestic Bliss when." Sour grapes. He is coming. I have been doing nothing.

March no April 1st 55

Dear brother

Be you well assured entré-nous that over-plus surveillance can easily be avoided, and that that extreme timidity that you impute neither belongs to me or Lizzie, but you may know that that same honey-moon is unfavorable to the full development of common sense or to the importing of information that would be of interest or comfort to a bachelor. Now I have reached the candid part of your letter - "I can't for the life of me see why you need let L read your letters to this individual or you hers." To be candid in reply, if there is ought to write that she might not see, why she wouldn't be likely to see it, and she writes letters, does them up and sends them off and I do not see them, so also she receives letters, tears off the top or bottom as the case may be, wherever the secrets happen to be located. If my assertion is not sufficient on these important points, why prove me.

As to the matter of history, the recent changes in the Army do not affect me much. Major Harding's death which occurred a day or two before my marriage, took my brevet off, rendering me a 2nd Lieut. By the new arrangement, the 1st Lieut. Symins of our Corps was made a Capt. Of Cavalry. This brings me along a little nearer in 1st Lieutenancy. Two years from next July I shall be a 1st Lieutenant by regular promotion; any casualty will bring me up before that time. I did not apply for promotion in a new regiment unless the Ordinance Corps was disbanded as we were led to anticipate by the original Army Bill. Mr. Shunk has come in to pay us a visit.. He is entertaining Lizzie while I continue to write. Lizzie is trying to smoke. She has a cigar proportioned to her own personal dimensions, to wit-8 inches long 1/8 inch through. They continue to bother me. Lizzie is sea-sick now as I judge by her faltering tones.

We have had a Court-Martial here the first week, and I was recorder, had to write one day from 6:00 A.M. Till 12 P.M. or midnight rather. Nothing has arisen to give me so much labor in a long while, as I had in the 1st place to back myself up on Martial law, then to learn the duties of a Judge Advocate. A poor fellow got to drinking too hard to attend to his duties properly. Having been reported he was put into confinement & remained there but paper or the want of it makes me forbear for a week or two. He is now in confinement awaiting the sentence of the court-martial with considerable anxiety. We know that same but he has to await the order from Washington. This reminds me of my experience at West Point, the time when I waited patiently for a decision, not knowing whether I was to have a furlough or not.

I believe I wrote you before about our elegant rooms, how they have been fitted up according to the good taste of Mrs. H. Shunk is very much like you, so says Lizzie, full of nonsense & fun. He teases her about her birds & various things. He says "poor little things, I must set them at liberty."

I am very well satisfied with Pres. Pierce. I believe there is much humbug & gas, about all the representations to

his disparagement. He seems to do things about right. His appointments couldn't have been fairer or have given more general satisfaction to the Army. The country seems to be in a very prosperous condition &c. I regard these times of assignation, which are sometimes terms of reproach and sometimes not, as the case may be viz: locos & Whigs, as of the least consequence in the world. If my page was not down, I would enlarge more upon politics & show why I don't care a copper one way or the other & how I have reason to doubt the advantage to the country of our man more than another.

I haven't heard from mother but once, from Charlie I believe not at all. Write the news, and don't fill your letter with abuse, for Lizzie's edification - though she thinks she has a perfect right to laugh at it.

I want you to come here if possible this summer sometime during your vacation. You can go from Boston to Troy for \$5.00 remember. Lizzie says "I will write to you if you will write to me "a private letter" if you are very desirous of having one". They take much pleasure in criticizing my personal experience, no, my personal appearance. So you see I am a little confused, but this is better than a rope round one's neck.

Lizzie's love.

Yours affectionately  
O. O. Howard

Good or bad this will be an April fool.

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118 4/8/1855

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-083

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
April 8th, 1855

My dear brother,

Already having helped write two letters tonight you cannot expect me to finish a third. Your last letter was received today. I liked it very much, but to own up, I did not feel more pleased with it than with the former over which Lizzie and I had quite a domestic contention & a hearty laugh. You deprecate our strong predilection to flattery & go straight to work to make your brother pleased with himself. This is hardly fair. I will not call it flattery for you seem too candid, but do not my dear brother draw too many comparisons & contrasts. You can always make yourself low in the estimate, but be well assured that you have no reason. You & I both seem predisposed occasionally to underrate ourselves, though if you could get at the actual amount of our self-esteem, you would not find it so very "small".

Monday evening. You perceive by that interloping phrase, Monday evening, that I did not finish your letter yesterday evening. Now I confess if I had been a bachelor I should have done so, for I should have lighted my pipe or cigar and got revived, but I am too polite to smoke in ladies society and our smoking room in the other tenement is not a fit place to write in.

I took up your letter just now & reread the first page. Now the question with me is, is it earnest or not. You say I took the earnest part of your former letter for fun & vice versa. On the contrary I took neither the one part or the other for earnest, though undoubtedly under the guise of jollity there were a few sly hits. Now my answer from its very commencement was intended as a serio-comic concern, pretending to abuse & complain of abuse. "Abuse" there was none in yours.

This last I have written as if your 1st page was a good sober earnest. Yes, I lay no imperious condition upon you, nor do I intend to palm off upon you a harsh & pointless joke. (You can trace my chagrin in that under scoring [harsh & pointless were underlined]). Know that <fundinage> is a sort of past-time between me & my companions, and that method of humbugging which consists in aping simplicity, and answering a slur, or cut, as though it had no more meaning than its literal interpretation would warrant, is of every day occurrence. So you need not interpret all that I say as dead in earnest.

You say "truly a man must look forward to a progress in some direction or he will lose his ambition." & I would add his energy. But I fear this good-for-nothing quiet life will make me unfit for anything. I'm getting clever, tame, kindly disposed, affectionate & lazy. In short I am what they call in the Army somewhat of an old fogey. But as you suggest, there is what ought to be one of the chief aims of a man domestic comfort.

You say "you must be conscious of a clearness & power of mental vision which I shall always be a stranger to." You are mistaken. Your head is as clear as mine and very seldom do I realize in the least that my mind has been disciplined more than it was when I started for Brunswick the first time. Really I do not feel so energetic as I did then. I don't seem to be accomplishing what my beating heart then was dreaming over & cherishing as something a little more than ordinary.

As age creeps on, after having been deceived, humbugged, cheated & disappointed, after having become acquainted with the falsity, ingratitude & folly of men, I presume I shall lose my high hopes, my impulses that were generous towards all will become deadened and my whole soul turned upon me & mine. Undoubtedly a copper will soon increase in value & a dollar cause the muscles of my hand to contract.

I will see & do see already what money can do, how it seems the chief end and aim of almost every man's life. Don't think I have already got penurious, for I have not yet got up to prudence, but you know you told me once what a treasure I have. She will be a check upon me, not as you may suggest by saying no, no, don't do this or don't do that, but because she is that sort of a treasure, that requires & unconsciously solicits my devotion if I may use such a lover-like word. (I believe this H. moon is not set yet.) With something to care for besides

myself, surely extravagance will abate.

I will stop here. There was much I was going to write you, but gas has filled my shee, & supplanted, no, taken the place of that solid, common sense that my West Point education particularly enjoins.

But good night, God bless you. Lizzie is almost asleep, says don't fold it up tonight for I want to write a little in the morning.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

[Written by Lizzie] I am only going to say that I don't love you because you laughed at me when I called you brother on my wedding night.

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119 4/29/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-084

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
April 29th, 1855

My dear brother

We received your letter last Wednesday and were surprised to learn that you had been sick and recovered without our having heard a word about it. I know a little of the comforts of being sick away from home and friends and can fully sympathize with you. I trust you will hurry up and recover your strength. It is bad indeed to have a vacation spoiled with that oppressive thought ever on your mind, viz "making up". It never set well upon me, but your happy disposition can perhaps prevent anything that concerns the future from taking off the flesh. It is good philosophy "laugh & grow fat."

I think you were wise to decline the honor that they would extend to you at Lewiston. I am glad that my labors were so useful in this, that you may grow wise through my folly.

Laura is with us. She came Thursday and we intend to keep her some little time, as long as she behaves well and enjoys herself in our delightful society. I wrote uncle Ensign a short letter while Laura was resting after the fatigues of her journey & sent it before she knew ought about it. Please then communicate to E. Otis Esq., his wife Martha Otis, his heirs the following verbatim (Laura's evidence) "I received John's letter last Tuesday evening at five o'clock and found the money safely enclosed. I started the next morning for Troy, where I arrived safe and sound. (I will add while Laura is telling over our old mishaps to Lizzie, that Laura's coming has let loose Lizzie's spirits. My rooms formerly so quiet often ring with the musical laugh & <tonguing>-vibrations of the two united. Oh! How they pester me with the spring fashions - tis bonnets shawls, skirts, "delusions" &c. &c. to say nothing of the quiet way they blackball those girls who don't wear the right kind of things.)

Laura adds with some hesitancy & a peculiarly telltale laugh: "I am coming home sometime, some Monday. The two seem to decide. (You know Mrs. H is decided.) I asked what more, answer, "I don't know; nothing important. O! Aunt Martha will say why don't she come?" I will anticipate and give the desired answer in parentheses (Everybody at Leeds knows me "Obstenantus Mulis". I will not let her go till we have had a visit.) She says that the mud you speak of is frightful. They are "nice" people, those Philadelphians. You never see dirt there. I think they must mop the streets & keep their horses' feet clean.

Laura has forgotten an important item, an item that women and men sometimes dabble in. Tis a certain nothing that is so light and airy that its going marks its coming, yet so heavy as to bring the fond lover on his knees or prostrate a poor fellow on his back, so affecting as to make men sigh & women cry or laugh & <> as the panic takes them. I read. The girls (beg pardon) the ladies guess - Lizzie affection, and Laura love. Now I have a right to draw a sage conclusion from this. They answer quickly. The words on the tongue are the ones uppermost in their hearts. I don't confound the two terms as I used to. My conclusion is that the state of affection follows as a sequent to the state of love. What think you. Girls overflow with love, madams with affection, primarily for the husband, while he is young, yielding and attentive, subsequently for the children, scarcely ever with the slightest alteration, or diminution of intensity while life lasts.

I wrote a letter to Dellie a short time since. I mentioned every body but you. I didn't think you could be at home. I had some queer times in going after Laura. I was to meet her at the wharf in Troy, exactly when I did not know, so I went to meet three successive arrivals. The second day last Tuesday morning, I went to Troy at about ½ past 5 A.M. waited till after seven, & returned. The river was so high & swift that they could not land with the big ferry boat, the wharves all completely covered with water. The lower stories of houses near the river filled with water, the upper parts of the windows being visible. I went in a little skiff. We were rowed nearly half a mile up river on this side and then took a diagonal course to Troy. Whew! Didn't we go [bottom of page cut off] started back. The boat from N. York was delayed by the high water & fog. I got to the ferry just after one of the little boats had pushed off. The boat man had to return for me. He had done so once or twice before it appeared, so he consoled his impatience by cursing like a trooper. I forbore to knock him down, but looked mildly in his face while he abused me, & I replied not. He exhausted his vocabulary of oaths and rowed on, splashing us, (some

ladies were with me in the boat at the time & were frightened) I quieted the boors by inquiring their employers name. I soon reached the wharf. The boat had arrived, and was letting off its passengers on a temporary staging, the wharf proper with all its appurtenances being underwater. I looked up and down stairs and in the ladies cabin but found no Laura. The Rip Van Winkle (the boat's name) had to go over to the opposite shore to deposit her freight. I thought I would have a ride and save two cents ferriage.

You shall hear the result of my economy. The Rip went along side of the wharf, where there were apparently three vessels in a row. The boat after snorting & splashing a long time got close to the up-River vessel, a fair chance, I jump aboard, captain cries you can't get back. I look about me, water on all sides three or four rods to shore, wharf covered - no boat - Capt. Man & boy on board the craft. Capt. Says can't get ashore sir from this vessel today. See a skiff in the distance, call after it, no attention is paid, goes out of sight. Myself [bottom of page cut off] shore and get me a boat, give him a quarter so to do. Bad rule paying before your work is done. Boy didn't get ashore. Crows on the land laugh & jeer. Asked how much baggage have you aboard that craft. One steps forth & says what will you give to get ashore. I told him, get me ashore & I will pay, if you do not intend to try you need not trouble yourself. He was a rowdy sort of man, laughed & hooted, got a couple of joists - constructed a <skimpy> raft & it knocked himself about a long while trying to get to the vessel. He did not think I could go ashore on that but to his surprise I jumped on almost whacking him & we went ashore together & I gave him a 1/4 more and hastened to Lizzie to tell her of the dangers to which her beloved had been subjected.

Your br  
Otis

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120 5/20/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-085

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal May 20th 1855

My dear Brother,

I have just finished reading aloud the first volume of Pendennis, when it pops into my head, Rowland ought to have a letter, and as I am quick at acting, especially after "original suggestions" of this kind, here is at you. Your letter was received about a week since, it was welcomed & eagerly read by your admiring brother & sister. Entré-nous, it is one of your sisters weaknesses, in common with cousin Laura to style yourself very much of a man, and I always join them heartily in praises and forebodings of success except when they run antagonistically against my own peculiar weakness and draw comparisons as I in jealous egotism may fancy, to my own disparagement. But you know me of old, and that next to myself even in the regions of talent there is no one that I place above my brother. I presume there is truth and nonsense enough in the above lines, the which extended, would fill one letter, but your kind letter so full of information would be ill repaid & poorly answered. But I cannot write sense or nonsense till I get a new pen.

I was happy to learn that our mother Mrs. W was in so good health, and exhibited that true philosophy of life which makes one conform with a happy heart to all the vagaries of fortune and young people. Again another secret between us. My mother may consider herself fortunate in getting such a daughter, you such a sister and I such a wife, and wouldn't you think Mrs Waite fortunate, nay more than fortunate. Could you take posts with us a few short days and see the mannishness budding and blossoming in her son-in-law. I don't like to boast and especially not to you, but I do consider myself as a model of a husband, but more of this anon. I am afraid some few of the opposite sex might take exceptions to this position. I had better be down at the office where bright eyes are no constraint, and the diffidence of a yielding nature as a respite.

Lizzie is near me, she looks as she used to (I won't praise her, lest she should by some mishap read it & get vain. I don't want a vain wife.) She has her birds, her nose in the jar and her numerous flowers out-of-doors to amuse her, her husband to edify her & read books to her when he is not about important duties. She has her duties too, goes "shopping", makes visits when she can't help it, for she prefers home-society and makes fixings for the family. Does she make expense? What an unromantic question. This very night she has taken a card, covered one side with figures most completely, and says this will cover my summer fit-out. Good gracious!

That's all, we're going to Albany tomorrow. I should like to have had a brief account of "Harvey Rose, the injured husband". I cannot reconcile the idea of a man being an injured husband, and of being about to pay a visit to Thomaston. May be in retaliation he too did wrong, knocked down the injurer, committed assault & battery on his wife or some other innocent female in his rage (?)

I have heard from Perley twice. He wrote in good spirits & seems to be getting on finely. He says he gains in self-confidence which you know he needed much. It is a different thing he intimates to stand up and plead where he now is, where he owns few equals & no superiors in knowledge from what it would be among old heads at the East, where you are conscious or fearful that every opinion you advance is being criticized & will be completely annihilated as soon as you sit down. But it seems to me if I was a young lawyer with a head as large as his, I should be apt to despise a weak enemy and prefer to clash steel with a strong and brave, but again I will be silent for you understand my precocity.

You speak of Henry Clay Wood. I would not like to go into the Army thus, without preparation, but he will soon learn, the duties that appertain to his particular company. He will meet with crosses & irksome duties and hard fare, that a West Pointer wouldn't think at all unpleasant, and his ignorance of Army regulations, tactics, as well as of Army life, in toto, may cause some of those who have been more fortunate to laugh in their sleeves at his mistakes & be a little tantalizing to a graduate of College, but he is young & experience will give him instruction. He will be likely to be general sooner than pauvre moi, but I don't believe he will be so situated as to have a sweet wife this many years.

Politics I don't engage in you know but I am glad to see your zest & earnestness in such things. I look upon

Frank Pierce in a different light from yourself. He has used the Army well, and I can find no material fault with his general administration. If I entered the political arena against him, the whole face of things would be changed, but now I hardly can remember the flaws that are picked. "His Cabinet." Why strange as it may seem they suit me well enough. "Greytown". Why those accounts I believe full of humbug. I have not the least doubt he acted as duty prompted. You think me narrowminded, interested in the Army & nothing more. Oh no. Don't mistake me. I stand above party feeling completely & think upon such matters entirely independent of self-interest. I believe the country will be no worse off at the close of Frank Pierce's administration than at the beginning. Popular sovereignty notwithstanding. I would gladly have you express your opinions freely though I may not be politician enough to answer them.

All are well at home by last accounts. Lizzie has left me for bed. Gives her love to her brother & says no more. I expect she is sleepy. Good night.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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121 5/23/1855 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Frank [Gilman]

RBH-086

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. May 23, 1855

My dear Frank

I don't know but that I might as well answer your kind and welcome letter while the first impression from its perusal is still vivid. About this matter of Religion I will tell you frankly my past & present impressions & thoughts in regard to it. I have had during my life several seasons of deep conviction. I have felt that I was doing wrong in the sight of God and in my own consciousness, but I never made known these feelings to anyone until I was deeply affected by a view which was presented in a Saturday nights discourse on the folly and worthlessness of even the very best & highest of Earthly Goods. The view seemed to me a clear one, and the arguments were to my mind unanswerable, and from thinking of the subject, I was soon led to think of myself and to ask myself several questions which I could not answer without doing violence to my self-respect. I said to myself - if these things are so, why do I act as I do? If the World & Self are so mean and contemptible objects of pursuit, why do I center my whole thoughts in them? If God & His Religion are only worthy of a true man, why do I ignore them?

I say, I could not answer these questions without injuring my self-respect, for I had to acknowledge that I was that fool & that coward in dealing with these matters that I would be in regard to no others. I did not meet and follow my convictions of Right & Duty in regard to these matters as I did even in regard to the common avocations of life.

I felt ashamed & rebuked & resolved to no longer lead a life that was at variance with such plain principles & reasonable requirements. After trying to pray (an almost vain attempt) I sought a classmate whom I had always believed to be a humble, sincere, conscientious Christian, and conversed with him on my own State. I laid open all my feelings and was met with a truly meek & Christian spirit. He talked with me, prayed with me, and I felt a new earnestness in my endeavor, while under his influence. We separated & I conversed with a number of my Classmates who professed religion. I had a very interesting and instructive interview with Prof. Hitchcock.

I kept up my habit of frequent Prayer and readings of the Bible until I was taken sick. The Dr. said I was very sick & the sick are proverbially selfish. At any rate my thoughts gradually drew themselves in from God, religion & eternity & became more centered in myself, my personal pains, wants, troubles &c. the young man who stayed with me (and he cared for me like a brother devoting his whole time and attention to me, night and day) was not a praying man & I felt some diffidence about pursuing my duties in his presence. These things combined led me to neglect them in a measure. I did not as at first feel then obligation & necessity and they have never since reasserted their old supremacy.

My vacation was passed without any special religious influences. Nobody seemed to care particularly about these things & doubtless Christians did not take that interest in me that they would have done if I had informed them of my state of mind, but I have told no one out of College except Charles and yourself not even my mother. I have attended my class prayer meetings here and mean to continue to do so. Many of my classmates & other friends have seemed to take a deep interest in my conversion and I know that they feel pain that my interest has in any way abated.

I might give you very many reasons, Frank, beside the above for this declension, but I know you do not care to hear. For your answer would be as every Christian should. Shall these "things" separate you from the love of Christ"? You will say, think what you lose, and what you are exchanging it for! This consideration always staggers me and I resolve anew not to abandon the service of God for the mean and pitiful things of the Earth.

What I feel now the most want of, is a desire for, and a pleasure in religious duties. The Bible & Prayer seem hard to approach and hard to enjoy, so that I feel convinced that my heart still craves the success & the honors, and is buried in the selfishness of the World.

The daily class prayer meetings are to commence soon and I have about made up my mind to attend them. The occurrences of the term are peculiarly distracting. Tom probably told you that I was up for president of the

Athanaean & this fact and my knowledge of society matters, with the recent troubles has kept me employed all of the time lately that was not occupied with my studies. If you knew the high state of feeling which these elections excite in College you would understand the difficulty of my position, but I have pretty much concluded today that I will find room for my Religion.

I am sorry for the misfortunes of your house, and should be more so for your sake did you not seem to look upon the matter as regards yourself so calmly and philosophically. Easy duties & happy hours to you Frank, wherever your lot may fall. I have not answered much in your letter that I would like to, but have filled my sheet with the subject in which you manifest so much lively interest & real sympathy. Have I done right? Had a letter from Otis tonight. He speaks of himself as a happy husband of a happy wife, considers domestic bliss the crowning delight of a man's life &c.

Remember me to your friends & always Frank as your true friend.

Howard

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122 6/19/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-087

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
June 19th 1855.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter a few days since and ought to have replied before but I will have to beg off on the score of being a married man. I was going to explain how, but never mind. Hope you are well, & well over the Election. These exciting elections are the greatest of nuisances I know by twofold experience. What did you let the day prescribed by the Constitution pass over for? As a stroke of policy so as to get more friends. Ah! You young politicians. I hope you are not imitating the political stars of our country.

Yes I had heard the news from home, Roland's marriage and Arza's death. Poor fellow. He is out of pain. I am glad to hear of his frame of mind in his last moments for the sake of the consolation it affords his friends, and trust that the 11th hour was sufficient for true repentance and acceptance.

What do you think Roland is going to do with his wife, a funny place to keep her at her father's. I believe I would bring her home. He got married when mother was gone & didn't invite me - just think of it. Well I'll have my revenge.

Lizzie came back last Friday and I laid aside the grass-widowers habit. Perhaps you know what that is. I shan't tell you for I have quit telling things which are not creditable to myself. She had quite an eventful journey for her, found Lieut. Boggs in Boston, was escorted to Springfield by Col. Craig the head of our department and from Springfield to Albany by Majors Symington and Hagner. In this grand company I found her at East Albany. I think she is bent on writing you a letter if she is another man's wife, but she is very, very busy to day. Lizzie sends her love and regrets very much she did not see you while in Maine. Her mother was better before she left. She inquired for Charlie at the depot of Charlie Haines, but did not get a glimpse of him.

We have a band of ordinance to assemble here to day. Col. Craig will be along to make his annual inspection this week. Our grounds are looking finely now. Notwithstanding the cold, our gardens bid fair to give us good crops. The strawberries are ripe and green peas & gooseberry sauce &c. &c. furnish us with something good even this early.

I am sorry you cannot come & see how happily we live & how welcome we could make you. Little Ollie Hazzard stayed with me over two weeks while Lizzie was away. He was very homesick after he got to his home proper. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to have you come and Lizzie would be as happy to see her brother as can be.

I cannot write you more this morning but will give you my word you shall very soon have a longer letter. Our kindest regards to Alice & Hellen and don't forget Mrs. Sands. Our love to yourself <Honey>.

Your brother  
Otis

I had finished my letter, but speaking of Maj. Thornton's family who are here, on the post, I happened to think of an argument against making excuses & explanations. Miss Thornton the Maj's sister is an old maid of the true stamp, very simple, a little opinionated, rather thin & tall, straight as a pipe-stem both in physical structure and in moral deportment. While I was enjoying the chagrins of my widowhood I passed one evening at Maj. Symington's. Mrs. Thorton, Miss Thornton, Mrs. S & Boggs were present. Miss T took me all to herself. I had a straight back chair that rivaled Miss T herself in uprightness, sat near the sofa where Miss T sat on the sofa bolt upright (excuse tautology) facing me & pouring into my ear some of the most simple & trite remarks imaginable in a very affecting manner. My mind was off where my heart was in the meantime (don't tell Lizzie). I looked pleased, said yes, indeed, I'd often thought so, why surely that was surprising, &c. Put in a few ejaculations out of place as an absent man will. My back began to ache and I moved away to a comfortable chair at the other

side of the room. Boggs noticed it and willing to give me a chance to keep my conduct from seeming rude, made some pertinent remark. I replied that I changed my seat for relief, meaning my back. Miss T didn't take though the rest did or at least Boggs did and we had a hearty laugh after we got home over one of my usual Irish blunders. Have I any Irish blood in my veins?

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123 7/21/1855 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

RBH-088

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. July 21, 55

My dear Mother,

I was pained to hear by Dellie's letter that you were ill. I hope that it was but a passing difficulty & that you are by this time fully recovered. I received a letter from Charles today. He is very well & thinks he shall be here on Tuesday of next week & remain till after his Examination which is on the following Friday.

That awfully hot weather has made a great many sick and I hope you have recovered while breathing the pure & invigorating air which yesterday & today have afforded. It seems today as if I could do something & I have accomplished considerable. I have written a theme of seven pages this afternoon, but I had to write it hurriedly & I fear that the Prof will get as impatient while reading it as Dellie did over my last letter.

I think it is quite a compliment to me that three of my classmates have borrowed a large number of my themes to copy this afternoon. They preferred taking mine to writing them themselves. If they could read them I should have no objections, but I don't like to read them over so many times. I have got sick of them. Now if these friends could only return the favor in Calculus, I should be much obliged to them. For I am as deficient there as they are in themes. We are made for many purposes, but I was not made to enjoy the highest branch of Mathematics as Otis says he did.

I dread examination as much as I would a horse whipping with my hands tied behind me. A new feeling with me! I have always felt very confident of success heretofore but as to that calculus I am confident of one thing and that is that I know nothing about it. I must take a leap in the Dark.

I am very glad to hear that you have settled a minister & now I hope the people will support him decently, not for form's sake nor pride's sake, but because they ought to do so. If I had my say I would revive the old parish here. It is too bad for farmers to get rich while ministers starve.

Tell Dellie I am ever so much obliged for his good long letter & I hope to pay him, in kind next term. If you will consent for him to come to commencement I will try to make it pleasant for him. Our Declamation is a week from tomorrow (Monday) night & I shall not leave for home until Friday after Charles' examination.

Tell father that I shall want \$15.00 to finish my expenses this term & get me home.

Hoping to soon see you well & happy. I remain ever

Your affectionate son  
Rowland

Mrs. E. Gilmore

P.S. I shall want the money as soon as this is received. Our class supper being now due & our Declamation Expenses.

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124 7/22/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-089

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
July 22nd 1855

Dear Brother,

I received your kind letter in good time and was glad to hear of a success, that gratified you so much. Allow me to congratulate you for your good fortune which you seem to regard as a harbinger of that which is to come. Undoubtedly you may judge in some degree of what you will accomplish by your success in the miniature politics of College, for there peculiar talents are brought in requisition, stump-speaking, maneuvering, intriguing influencing others by the smoothness of your tongue, or by the fertility of your researches. You learn to keep cool while others are excited, take much exercise, short walks and long ones – you talk much, read books bearing on points at issue, and make your recitations.

My opinion is, my brother, candidly expressed, that these exciting elections are the greatest sort of nuisances, and that the little good that may be derived, the little knowledge that may be gained by them, is more than twice counterbalanced by the effect they have upon the college, the society itself, and the individuals severally that compose it. Politics is the last thing that a man of high principle and a worthy ambition goes into. Don't be too fast if you want permanent success. We will rejoice at Charlie's success as a scholar, but Rowland you must make the remaining time you are at College tell. I don't care much to hear from the President or others that you have done well. I want you to tell me: Otis, I feel that I have laid the foundation of becoming a good lawyer. I have got just what I need discipline of mind.

Don't think my dear brother I wish to throw cold water and speak discouragingly to you. I will join heartily in congratulation and ever swell the chorus of your just praise, but I know you will feel so much better satisfied a few years hence, when you can see and feel the influence of your College discipline, that I can't help urging you to think less of these things that will bring immediate praise, and make you a smart man at College and think more of the substantial. You know, Rowland, there is not the least danger of your becoming a book-worm, and I wouldn't like you to be in any degree superficial. You must turn upon me and say: "Physician, heal thyself!" So I will. I'll try.

Charlie is going to Brunswick. How I wish I could be with you. I don't wish to recite any more, or pass anymore examinations, but I would like to review the studies that you will have once more and perhaps <injure> Charlie by reading Livi with him. I was requested by Mrs Maj Thornton to hear her son in Latin an hour each day. Her husband is now crossing the Plains on his way to New Mexico, and she cannot well spare her boy from home. He is about fourteen now and his mother thinks him much behind hand. I could not muster courage to refuse her request; and I think it will be beneficial to me to review my Latin, now that I have considerable time on my hands.

Lizzie sits near the table, has been writing her mother. We read to each other much. We have rather confined our reading to light works - as Thackery's works - Goldsmith's Vicar of Wakefield, &c. - Johnson's Roselas, The Heir of Radcliff - Kenneth Beatrice, Charles O'Malley &c. We did attempt a little history, but got lost in the Decline and Fall, completely prostrated, but when cold weather comes on, we will have grown older & wiser, and will try if McCauley will not revive us. Lizzie and I read the New York papers daily, read the Arrivals, the Army news and the war news. We spend much time pleasantly and profitably together. Mind you, our particular strife is to quarrel less than any other two beings in such relative positions.

I don't hear from home now much. They all seem to consider me hopelessly lost since my marriage. Why I am as much the same as of old as two tubs are alike. I want to know everything – can enter into the details of home affairs as much as if I hadn't a bright-eyed little load-stone here, for you know I am the bigger magnet myself. Lizzie says it is all "humbug". This is a common word here, how she can apply it to a load stone or a magnet is more than my cleverness can explain. She sends her love, says she has to work so hard she has not time to write.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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125 8/8/1855

*From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-090

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
Aug 8, 1855

Dear brother,

Allow me to congratulate you on your success in obtaining the prize. I suspect you are considerably vexed at the equal distribution of the dollars between yourself & your honorable contemporary on the stage. It appears also that your whole class did equally well, but you & Mr Watson were elected by a majority vote to fill the high place of prize recipients. Tell us if the Brunswick paper is to be relied on.

Seth B. has now gone out from his Alma Mater. I hope he will have the wit to behave himself a little more creditably hereafter. He didn't seem to have had a part at Commencement.

What fools these young men are to pay \$800.00 for Dodworth's band. Are there not many in the Class who are poor & in debt? The Portland or Augusta band would give music good enough for anybody to listen to, and but for the Dodworth on the bills more than half the people would be at a loss to distinguish it, from another. I forget though, you are a musician and I am not. I have'nt learned about Charlie's entry yet. I am still under the impression that "the Greek Grammar" is to be "made up". Tell him to correct me. I am anxious to hear from mother. How does she look this summer and how is she? I want her to write me about the places that our father visited in this vicinity. Saratoga is but an hour & half's ride by the cars. I know he was there, but the name of the other town I have forgotten. I would like to know if he mentioned any acquaintances or friends in his letters from this part of New York.

Uncle Ward sent me a paper from Kansas, where his natural and acquired Greatness seem to magnify. He is Col., W. B. Howard, the original proprietor of the Hudson River R.R. And apparently a man of the highest standing & a great political acquisition to the growing country of Kansas. This paper containing his previous notable points & a slight puff was the first intimation I had that he had migrated,. Tell us any more particulars if you know any.

I have forgotten to speak of the book that I assisted Monsieur Eugene De Courcillon to prepare for publication. It has been before the public about three months. It is Entitled, Le Cure Manque, or the unfinished Curate. The book is a very readable one and to give it a recommendation to you. It is dedicated to "Lieut O. O. Howard, my friend in adversity." I tell you Rowland it is right hard to be a charitable man and not get humbugged. Courcillon has left for Europe. If you were here I could inform you of a few experiences after the style of Oliver Goldsmith, but it is not wise to make an expose in black & white.

I visited Harper's the other day when in N. York. They have a very extensive building at Franklin Square. It is built of iron throughout, fire-proof & splendid. What particularly struck me, was the host of young & hopeful Americans on the broad stairway that leads to the principal room of the Establishment. You have been in New York, and have met at Car-stations & steam-boat landings, boys of every description, crying in every sort of style & on every key of the <Garment> - "Last Harper for June, 20 cts! "New York Herald only 2 cents! &c &c". You have had them with impudence put their papers in your face at every corner, or with humbug humility, beg you to purchase. Just imagine all these beings collected on the steps of Harpers building - some with knees protruding through breeches - some with elbows out - some with one leg covered & some with another - some with tattered caps too big & some with them too small. The Harpers keep one man at the head of the stairs to keep them out. Just imagine Dellie standing in the door of the barn with some corn, which he is dealing out to the hens, by small handful. You know what a muss they would occasion & how difficult it would be to keep them at a distance. These boys wanted the August nos of Harper - and they flew at the man keeping them at bay - one would get past, then another, while he was putting one back two would get around him. They were boxing each other, throwing their hats and riding down on the banisters, and were on the whole the raggedest, dirtiest, noisiest set of little monkeys I ever saw. Soon after I could hear from every direction: "Harpers for August 20 cents!"

Give my love to all. This letter has been written before breakfast. I took a walk just after 5, returned to the office & here I am. I suspect Lizzie is not up. She don't know I am writing. Yesterday morning I worked two hours & over in the flower garden before breakfast.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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126 9/21/1855 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-091

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Sep 21 [1855 was written in pencil]

My dear Mother,

Do you get times to feel lonesome any nowadays? I thought that perhaps you might now that we are all gone. So I am writing you as soon as I can. Otis came down here in the morning train yesterday, as he proposed, and remained with me till after dinner and then we went down to Yarmouth. Otis was well & in good spirits. He seemed to be thinking of money and looking out for his finances a little more than usual. He says he will lay up half of his pay, and perhaps come home next Spring for a day or two. Prudence comes with age, mother, and I have no doubt that if Otis and I live some years, you will find us as close-fisted as any friend could wish. But now it is a painful fact that money "takes to itself <ningo>". Otis went into Portland last night at ½ past 6 o'cl, thus making Charles quite a visit & I returned to Brunswick at 7 ½ o'clock, having lost no College exercise except prayers, as we have Wednesday afternoons to prepare our Themes,

Charles is well situated in every respect. Mr Wiggin is an excellent teacher and a pleasant affable, gentlemanly man. The school is large & flourishing & under good discipline. Otis will go to Boston in tonight's Boat, but I think Lizzie will not go with him as she would like to. The journey would injure her and surely the parting would be as hard in Boston as Portland. Charles and I took dinner at Mrs. Frosts last Sabbath and found her family very well. Charles will write you about his visit here.

You recollect David Crawford who was deformed. You saw him at Kents Hill I was one of the bearers at his funeral last Saturday. He died as peacefully as he lived. He was the most Christlike person I every knew – always good, always happy, never doing wrong, and apparently never thinking wrong. His minister said truly that in his death "Earth lost but Heaven gained".

Dellie wrote me almost three pages yesterday & told me about his school affairs. I shall answer him soon. Remember me to Miss Collier, if She is still at Capt Turners. You will now see her and your other neighbors oftener since you have been relieved of a part of your care.

Tell Father that I think that if some Whigs had known that Mr. Morrill would have come so near an Election and missed of it, they would have voted for him. Mr Forswith, to whom I gave that elocution said he expected to have the money a week ago last Saturday, but I have not received it. The man said he would pay \$25.00. I should like to use the money towards my Expences here, if agreeable as it will cure some troubles of sending home.

Write me soon, Mother and tell me about yourself & your family.

Your affectionate son  
Rowland

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127 10/1/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-092

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
October 1st 1855

Dear Brother,

We have received two letters from you since either myself or Lizzie has written you. I wrote to Charlie as soon as we learned from you that he was ill, but have heard nothing since. Has he recovered and returned to his studies? I am still anxious about him, but I think mother would write if he were not convalescent.

We are still getting on bravely & independently. I say independently, for we have a house & carriage of our own, and can ride where & when we please, go off on short fishing excursions or attend Barnum's baby show at Albany. You know everybody's own horse is the best – the same holds true with ours. His name is Malech, the Grand-son of those Arabians that were presented to Van Buren I think. Malech was brought up by Maj Symington from a colt. Is between 8 and ten years of age, finely proportioned and purely white. He is active and playful and yet very gentle, and as good a saddle horse as I ever saw. Lizzie likes him very much, pats him & feeds him and rides after he when he goes full speed without looking terrified.

My carriage is what they call in this country a "covered Buggy", we call it a four wheeled carriage. It is quite a nice second-hand one that I bought for seventy five dollars. I wish you would come and have a ride after our horse. I would take you to Cohoes falls on the Mohawk, to Saratoga springs & lake, to Albany, to Waterford, &c.

Waterford is where father stopped when he was in this part of N. York and where Edward came from. It is about five miles above on the Hudson. I learned the other day that the proprietor of the Hotel when father stopped at W is driving an Express between that place and Troy. I thought I would look him up but have not seen him yet.

I generally ride Malech about the post on horse back, the day I am Officer of the day, and drive Lizzie out somewhere every second day. This gives me plenty of exercise in the open air which makes me feel stronger & beautifies my countenance with sundry coats of tan. I have had quite a fishing mania of late and manage to keep the breakfast table pretty well supplied with a variety of the scaly tribe.

Lizzie has threatened to tell you that I have the toothache (tobacco tooth-ache) very frequently and that I have had a slight touch of it to night, but I believe she concluded to cry over it instead. I had the above without minding the parentheses that she inserted while I stopped to think. She is writing to her mother at the same table with me. The latter is coming to us as soon as she can make the necessary arrangements, perhaps in two or three weeks. I think she will enjoy herself here now we have a cow for milch & butter and a horse & carriage to ride.

I don't care now how long we are supposed to remain here. It is inconvenient to have too many articles for a distant removal, but I could easily take my horse to any place excepting to West Point. Maj Symington is now away on a Court of Inquiry at West Point, has been gone about a week; so there but two officers of us on the Post. The duties however are not arduous at all.

Perry & Silas have both visited me since I wrote you, though not at the same time. Perry came here I think Friday morning & staid till four in the afternoon & Silas came the Sunday following (a week ago). The latter was on his way to visit his mother, before she left in Perry's vessel for Calais. Both were in fair health & spirits and seemed much improved. Perry is master of a small vessel, but is making money very fast. He has been more than usually fortunate. His wages are \$150.00 per month, and he has a grand chance to speculate in various commodities.

How did you get on at the Exhibition? I am glad to hear that you are doing well in your studies, for this is your last year of College life, and most likely you will never have another drill in the Elementary branches. You

cannot possibly retain all that you are crammed with, but you will have at your disposal if you are diligent much that will come in play hereafter. I presume you are purposing and prognosticating a little. You are 21 in seventeen days from date I believe. Tell us something of the inner man.

You spoke once of the improvements that you propose in our little burying ground. I have nothing ahead just now, father has my note for 200 00/100 dollars. Still you will have my hearty cooperation in anything of the kind and I will try to give whatever pecuniary assistance is requisite.

Lizzie sends her love to you. Write soon & tell Charlie to write if he is returned. We are having very cold weather here, cold enough for fires. Occasionally I go to toast my feet in the kitchen, but we have had no fire in our furnace yet. Good night.

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

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128 10/15/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-093

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
Oct 15th 1855

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due season, and you will perceive by my date that I am pretty prompt in my reply. Just as I was on the point of writing you that I did not know when Lizzie's mother would start for Troy, she arrived. She came last Friday evening, had written us a letter which came the next day after & had telegraphed in Boston, which message did not come at all. So we were taken completely by surprise. She had company through to Albany but journeyed from Albany to this place alone.

So you are about to become a citizen "which I never was." Don't you remember the time I did not vote for Morrell. Then I was a cit. to all intents and purposes for a short space of time. There isn't so very much comfort in "being your own man" as there would be if you were to come into some large estate or to have some what wherewith to prop up your increasing dignity. But ho! I have been writing for five minutes without thinking. "Comfort in an Estate" - it is folly, if there is comfort in anything short of a lively religious faith, it rests in the consciousness that you are in your proper place, that there is a peculiar adaptation between your inward self and your outward life. If one has so studied himself that at 21 he can fix upon his proper sphere of action, and lay down a chart of his future field of labor, he is fit to become a citizen, provided of course that he has the requisite stability to back him. A quick genius that readily adapts himself to every vicissitude, to every change of mind & tide does not always attain the most. The one that is far-reaching & anticipatory is the superior.

Without elaborating this idea I wish to turn abruptly to another. You say you are a reader and a pretty close thinker. I never have been a great reader and don't know whether I am a thinker or not. I am not much of a visionary or speculator now. I think you are a little of both. What begets a want of confidence in the integrity of men? I presume it is finding them false when you expected to find them true. As long as you are conscious of integrity, it is fair to suppose that there are others who are like you, and on the contrary if you are false-hearted, your judgment ceases to be clear and candid. It is very well in ascertaining physical laws to argue from particular facts to general principles, but even here you can never arrive at more than probable conclusions. But be cautious about basing your social condition upon conclusions thus drawn. Surely you were erroneous if you expected perfection in any man either existent in the flesh or in history. But you have made a too sudden transition to the other extreme. If James is hypercritical it doesn't follow that John is so. Believe me, there are honest men. They are not always uppermost surely, and not necessarily geniuses. I wouldn't have my brother go into the world unprepared to meet vice in all its forms, but I would guard against a premature contempt (if I may speak so) for the people of this busy world. "Seek how you may use them." Others have done so but Providence has over-ruled them. Seek to benefit them. You reap your reward. Struggle for truth and your conscience is your support.

What I say is trite I know, but one cannot too often be cautioned against a wrong bias. You exhibit your own idea of greatness in the language you use to show that the so-called have not attained it. Give men a fair judgment and you will find many a one whose misdeeds were but miscarrys - the whole aim of whose labors were for the cause of truth, and whose final exit was attended with more blessings than curses.

First you take under a "coup d'oeil" the realms of literature & philosophy - point at the geniuses who have figured there. I will not reply specifically for I shall get tiresome, but admit facts prejudiced, statesmen unpatriotic, soldiers only brave - for these are the objectionable qualities. It is an answer & unlogical deduction to infer the great World unworthy of confidence, and you don't mean it is so; this hasty glance - only gave me to understand the manner you arrive at your conclusions, but I beg of you to review candidly the several classes you name - the prejudice of the fact may be redeemed, the want of patriotism as a sweeping assertion is too broad and the only applied to the soldier's bravery objectionable. But too much argumentation doesn't befit a letter or my profession so here's good night & God bless you and set you right when perchance you may be wrong.

Lizzie sends her love, her mother would, but has gone to bed. I gave her a ride to day after our horse. She is much pleased with him. My love to Charlie if he is back. Hope mother is well. How did she look while at Brunswick?

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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129 10/22/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-094

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
Oct 22nd 1855

Dear Brother,

Maj. Symington will leave this place Wednesday to inspect Champlain & Kennebec Arsenals. He will probably pass through Brunswick some time next week. I shall send a package by him to you. He will give the same to the Conductor. If you are at the cars, between yourself, the Conductor & Major Symington you may make a mutual acquaintance. I wish if you can arrange it to do so that you might accompany him to Augusta. But that's no matter - look out for him & the package.

Description of the Major - upwards of 50, light brown hair, straight & not gray, very prominent nose & red. This feature is remarkable - by it he is always mistaken by strangers for a hard drinker, but he never takes a drop. He is a pleasant looking man, straight, rather slender, about your height. This with his having the package will identify him.

My love to Charlie, hope he is back & well.

Love to Rowland from Lizzie & mother.

Affectionately yours,  
O. O. Howard

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130 11/7/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-095

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.  
Nov 7th 1855

Dear Brother

I received your letter this morning after waiting for a week with no little anxiety. I am glad you and Charlie are so well & in so good spirits.

I have been making inquiries this morning to find some employment that could induce you to come to us for the winter. I think the schools are engaged in this section of the country, but Mr Witbee our chief of work men & President of West Troy, says he thinks he can get a place for you to do up the writing for some large establishment. I told him how little was your experience while I lauded your general merit. He says he will make it his business to make inquiries & no doubt will succeed in finding a vacancy. So don't engage yourself to a school permanently until you hear from me. They pay here from 30 to 50 dollars per month in the village schools. They are said to have an excellent law school at Albany.

All send love to you & Charlie. Tell Charlie we don't have any Thanksgiving day here, as we are the property of the United States, but he can have a Turkey most anytime. Mrs. Waite says she will eat a Thanksgiving turkey with him. I am anxious for you to come to spend the winter with us but your own interest must be consulted.

You will hear from me again shortly.

Affectionately yr brother  
Otis

P.S. Remember me to Chamberlain, Charles' teacher in Greek, Everett Webb &c.

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131 12/19/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-096

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me Dec. 19, 1855.

Dear Brother,

Charlie was here and wrote you on Sunday night, and as I had other letters to write, I thought I would let yours slide till a more convenient opportunity offered itself. I received your congratulating epistle this evening and did not observe your warning till I had read it through to Lizzie. She said tell him the warning was too late. Your letter so good and so characteristic pleased her very much, so much that she made me read it to her a second time. She is a little tired tonight from nursing her baby, and has gone to sleep.

Charlie went back to his school Monday morning. I carried him. He seems in very good health, likes his situation and is very much liked by scholars & people. I went into his school room on Friday afternoon and staid long enough to see how he conducts matters. He boards a fortnight in a place, which is better than a change every week. I stopped some little time at Mr. Wiggins, where he sojourned the first two weeks, and I never visited a pleasanter family, then his seemed. He is now at a Mr. Appleton's, a man who came here yesterday to buy one of my colts. He has not decided yet whether to take him or not.

The people of Augusta will not let our soldier's children go to school in the town, not even by paying a proportional part for their schooling. After trying in vain to flatter the neighboring people of the district out of their selfishness, I have permitted the seven scholars of the post to study at my office and I hear their lessons myself. This with my duties proper keeps me pretty busy. None of the friends at Hallowell have called upon us. I fear we are forgotten by them, or they are still expecting me to carry Lizzie "right there" as they requested.

I believe I have now been tantalizing enough, in so disposing my letter, as to keep from you what you most wished to learn, and what Laura is waiting to hear till the last. Lizzie did have a hard struggle on Sunday - plus que je puisse penser. But her strength & courage were ever uppermost. Since, she has continued quite well. She looks a shade paler than usual, but her eyes are bright and she is very happy with her little one [Guy Howard was born Sunday, Dec 16, 1855]. She will soon be able to sit up. Our Doctor who is a kind, careful man and a physician of extensive practice, says he never saw one in a more favorable condition than Lizzie is now. The little boy weighed eight pounds has a very good formed head already and is withal as promising as anyone's first born. Tell Uncle Ensign that my head is never upset. With the assistance of my Heavenly Father, I hope to preserve my equanimity in good and ill fortune, but according to Mr. Snyder's Thanksgiving sermon, I must say that I have reason to be especially thankful, that no ill-luck betides.

My orders coming at so unseasonable a time & causing so much excitement & so long a journey in winter, might have made a less sanguine temperament tremble for the consequences, but the finale has thus far given us joy & we trust that no reverses will be coming to cause our spirits to fall. I do feel more and more the responsibilities of a man dawning upon me, but I trust that I shall be equal to them, though the care and guidance of the human soul gradually unfolding itself by the reception of knowledge is a trust that one might tremble to undertake. Still as in all things else, do your best and you will not fail of reward.

Charlie is expecting to meet you home a week from next Saturday. Don't fear you will trouble us by coming. I hope mother will be down soon. You can bring her then if Father can't before. We are very comfortably situated, have a fire in the grate in Lizzie's room besides we can open the register of the furnace at pleasure. The former renders the room very cheerful.

The people are very attentive. The ladies on all hands are willing to do anything for us, seem glad that somebody from Maine has come to the arsenal. Some are bitterly angered that I have closed the little gate and shut up the common thorough-fair through our grounds.

Lizzie said she would be delighted to see you but feared the baby would not be pretty in a fortnight. Write often as you can.

Affectionately yr brother  
Otis

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132 12/21/1855 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* Frank [Gilman]

RBH-097

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec. 21, 1855

My dear Frank

I wish you a happy very happy new year! And that is all I'm going to say now in a general way.

This note written in a great hurry, is to request one more favor in a business way.

I wish for a "Young Folks Glee Book". Will you call at some of your music dealers & obtain it, or if they do not have it, they can order it of the Pubs.

If you can obtain it, I would like to have it forwarded to Leeds Center, by Winslow & Cos. Express. Without knowing how I shall ever repay you for this & similar troubles, I still am your friend.

RB Howard

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133 1/29/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-098

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta, Me.  
January 29th 1856

Dear brother,

I received your letter last night and was glad to hear from you and from home. Dellie & I got through very well. My horses lay down three times & broke my pole-yoke once only. My colt is smarter and fatter than he was before the journey - seems now completely broken. Lizzie has got cold and is not quite so well. We have fitted up the little bathing room and moved bed, cradle & Guy downstairs.

Alice went to visit Miss Emma Turner yesterday and has not returned yet. Dellie is around the post investigating. He reads a little, but don't like to study very much. Lizzie said when I read your letter, "Tell Rowland, I think Miss Ella has good taste." I presume you and she understand who Miss Ella is. I found Miss Emma & Alice here when I returned, and took them with Dellie to the lecture of Professor Huntington of Harvard, the same evening. He lectured on common sense and "acquitted himself admirably." He thinks there ought to be a professorship of Gumption in every one of our colleges, thinks common sense attended to the least of all things that men have to learn.

I heard Fred Douglas when he was here, and I confess him to be the most eloquent speaker I have heard in Augusta. His intellectual acumen will compare favorable with any man in the Union, and I never saw a man who could dispel cobwebs with more facility, or set a matter more clearly & distinctly performing. He attacked every thing & every body. He hit my prejudices & many of my cherished convictions; yet he did everything in a masterly manner. He was earnest, sincere, yet logical & deep.

Rodelphus has just come into the office, says "tell Rowland I am getting along well, read some & study some." I have had a letter from Gorgas, stating that he had received intimation that he would be sent here in the spring. What part of the year a man in Alabama would regard as spring when speaking of coming to Maine I am left to judge. He wanted much information with regard to the Post. My calf is about to be sacrificed to Hunger. Hereafter we expect plenty of milk. Alice has been away ever since your letter came, so that she cannot now receive your messages or answer your questions. She would undoubtedly say "she thinks Lizzie & husband become any character they assume, particularly the parental." I must close. Goodbye. Love from all.

Affectionately yours  
O. O. Howard

Give my love to all. Tell mother we are safe, the potatoes & apples didn't freeze. I carried the butter to Mrs. Clark, didn't think mother intended to make any account of it. Mrs. Clark thinks her daughter will be contented, says she knows she is in good hands. I hope she & mother will like each other. Charlie was here Saturday, came with the Wigginses. I had to spend the evening & night with them at their grandfathers in town. I saw him at church (the Episcopal) Sunday morning. I have written to Harper but have not had time to get a reply. I hope you have taken that volume of the Frenchman's book that was at Leeds. I have written for a dozen copies.

Yours &c.  
Otis

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134 2/5/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mr. R. B. Howard

RBH-099

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta, Me.

Bowd. College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta, Me.  
February 5th 1856

Dear Brother,

I received your letter this morning and as I have a few minutes leisure, I will write you whether Dellie goes this afternoon or not. Lizzie took cold by being a little careless, a week ago last Sunday, and has been confined to her bed since a week today. She has had a slow fever which has hardly left her. She is not in much pain, scarcely any, but prostrate from weakness. She keeps up good courage. Her mother occasionally gets nervous about her. The little boy continues in perfect health. I find him very often with a spoon. He looks up into my face and laughs & continues to give us very little trouble.

Mrs. Clark our nurse has been with us the past week and will continue till Lizzie is better. I hav'nt heard from Charlie since he was here. I shall expect him Friday night. I think he will stop over Sunday with me and go to Brunswick Monday morning. T. Starr King lectures tonight before the Lyceum.

Lizzie says give my love to him, tell him to come up here and see if I don't look well.

Affectionately your brother  
O. O. Howard

To:  
Mr. R. B. Howard  
Bowd. College

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135 2/8/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-100

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta Me.  
February 8, 1856 (Friday morning)

Dear Brother,

I expected Dellie back before this: what has become of him? If you get this in season let him come this afternoon, for I think he & Charlie will go to Leeds tomorrow. I am going after Charlie today. Mother writes that she wants Dellie to come home and Charlie to go up if possible. I think I shall let Charlie have old Ben tomorrow, if he wants him. Mother imagines Dellie must be in the way because Lizzie is sick, but it is not the fact. Lizzie's fever has all gone. She gains every day a little, looks very bright this morning. Dellie must come as soon as he can - this afternoon if possible.

Affectionately your brother  
Otis

(Guy is well & laughing)

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136 2/21/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brothers [RB & CH  
Howard]

RBH-101

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me.  
Feb. 21st 1856

My dear Brothers

Lizzie looks very bright to night. She will soon be on her feet again. Guy is well & gone to sleep & his grandmother is well & happy.

Rowland, you asked me what I think of Burns for a subject, & what I think of the reasons you offer for the selection. Every man has a taste of his own in such things. If you feel satisfied with the subject that is enough. I think success in a lecture depends far less on what you say than on the manner you say it. I think it would be a good idea for you to get McGregor to read Burns to you & tell you what he has heard of him from his parents and countrymen. If at any time you can spare the time to come here, I will get him to meet us evenings at the office for the purpose of reading and talking. Or if you cannot spare the time I will draw from him all I can that is new & of interest by similar course and write you.

I have been thinking of employing my leisure in writing an essay of some length, before I lose all claim to literary knowledge, & so as to be prepared for any emergency. But the immortal difficulty of selecting a theme is my draw-back as usual. Tell Charlie, oh! I am addressing both. Well, Charlie I think you are getting in a bad way when you can allege such a frivolous excuse for staying home from church as "Parson Adams & hard seats." Mr. Brewster of Leeds says, the Christian only needs to hear the truth and Mr. Adams is proverbially a truthful man.

I did not belong to the College circle, was'nt worthy of a membership. I am sorry that you are likely to enter the arena of society broils, or in more moderate terms excitement incident to being a candidate for office. I trust however you have the stamina (or will cultivate it) to keep you cool & cause you to move along in the even tenor of your way, thinking twice as much of a good recitation as of class preferment. It is worth 10 times more. Cry nonsense at the word "book-worm", if you find book-worms without common sense it don't make it you are such an one.

William Fry has been here. I met him at a ladies fair day before yesterday. Yesterday he called on me here and wished to see the Baby. He has dissolved partnership with that lawyer at Lewiston and thinks of setting up for himself, either at L or at Rockland. He is the first college classmate I have met since I have been in Maine.

(Saturday) I was called away from my letter Thursday night, and didn't get time to finish it yesterday. Lizzie is gaining very fast. She looks as bright as ever this morning. Mary Clark left mother & came home. Mrs. Clark asked to go home. I told her certainly paid her & told her she need not come back. We sent to Windsor about 10 miles distant & got a girl. She seems to be a real good one. She takes the kitchen work & Katie Murphy tends & takes care of the baby. I take care of him myself night's. He wakes twice generally, has his bottle or nurses & then goes straight to sleep. He sleeps in his cradle all the time.

I shall be down to see you sometime in March, if Lizzie gets well. She has to see me everyday now.

What do you think of the majority & minority reports on Amendments to the Constitution?

I talked with McGregor yesterday about Burns. I asked him if he knew any anecdotes of the man, that he never had seen recorded. He said yes, and immediately proceeded to tell several. He says he thinks Allan Cunningham's life & writings of Burns is the best work to read, to learn all about him.

Remember me to all friends who inquire.

Affectionately your brother  
O. O. Howard

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137 2/26/1856 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dellie [RH Gilmore]

RBH-102a

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Feb. 26 [1856]

Dear Dellie

It seems you went home pretty soon after you left Brunswick. You had a good long visit at Augusta & I hope you enjoyed yourself pretty well when with me. I was sorry to see you manifest so much reluctance to go home. I fear you do not prize its blessings high enough. It is true we do not always get that kind of enjoyment at home in Leeds that we do elsewhere, but I always found certain pleasures there which well supplied what I missed. Suppose your home blotted out and that you were entirely destitute of a place, where you could feel that you had a privilege and a right to remain - just think how unhappy you would be.

Others may treat you for a time kindly or at least politely but none can bear & forbear, love & cling to you like your Mother. No man will or can do you the good that your Father can & will. From the apparent kindness & condescension which we meet with from strangers we are apt to think that our true friends are neglectful. You can buy smiles & compliments, but you can't buy a heart like your Mother's which will be thinking and planning for your happiness whether you are present or absent. Which will love thro' ill & good treatment, which must ever yearn for you even if you could be so unnatural, or to be ungrateful. You don't understand the world Dellie, when you come to know it better you will prize more highly the enjoyments which you can have no where else but at home.

Give my love to mother. I had a letter from uncle Ensign today and he saw Mother Sabbath Day. He said there were only three in our family. Has Roland moved?

Otis wrote Saturday that Lizzie was still mending slowly. The nomination of Fillmore was the most injurious one to the Republican Party, probably, that the Americans could have made. It will provide the Anti-Slavery forces & give an easy victory, I fear, to the Locos. The more moderate portion of the North will be wheeled thro' K. N.-ism or St. Whig-ism into the support of Mr. F. & leave our Republican Party rather radical & the impracticables like Hale, Wade, Giddings, Wilson, Miller & Peck and other hot-heads will get the control. So it looks now.

You must write us soon & we want to hear from Mother too as early as possible.

Charles will finish this and I will write no more tonight. My eyes won't bear using in the evening more than half an hour.

Your affectionate brother  
Rowland

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138 2/27/1856 *From:* RBH [RB Howard]

*To:* Father [Col John  
Gilmore]

RBH-102b

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wednesday morn. [Feb 27 1856]

Dear Father

Charles is not up yet but wishes me to add what he has not room for on his sheet, viz, that his money did not hold out as well as he expected, and as he wishes to pay \$20.00 towards the furniture to Mr. Wing of whom we bought it, he would like to have you send him \$25.00 dollars, this week if you can.

R. B. H.

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139 3/29/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-103

Kennebec Arsenal Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Me  
March 29th 1856

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good time and am ashamed to own that I have not replied before this, or written you before its receipt. I got home from Troy just one week from the day I saw you at Brunswick, had a hard journey both ways, several detentions on account of deep drifts. I started from Troy Tuesday noon, shipped my horse at Albany, arrived in Boston Thursday morning, came by the boat to Portland, thence by the A & Kennebec Road to Winthrop and rode on horseback from Winthrop to Augusta. I drove him & rode him considerably when I first got him here, but I strained one of his joints by driving him to Gardiner about a week ago. His leg is still swollen a little still but does not lame him any.

Recently I have spent all leisure time in visiting, returning calls with Lizzie or at the State House. For three days past there has been a warm discussion on the Liquor Bill of Mr. Barnes. Yesterday Lot Morrill made a flaming speech of more than four hours duration and Barnes answered him keeping us at the State House till after six o'clock in the evening. My sympathies went with Morrill, but Barnes had the best of the argument and is without question the most gifted man. He is as good a man for controversial speaking as I ever listened to. A profound and critical scholar, concise, clear and explicit in his diction, calm & self-possessed, he never lays open his breast for a blow that he cannot ward off. Morrill's argument for prohibition was good, before a popular audience it would have been highly applauded. He intended to tear in pieces the bill & the accompanying report, but he did not succeed so well as I thought he would. There was sophistry used & things affirmed as facts, that he had better have avoided. His astute friend as he denominated Barnes, was too clear-headed to admit of his escape. Barnes turned many of his strongest points upon him & had the advantage in Scripture reference. I had gained my notion of Barnes from the age & Journal, and had formed an erroneous judgment. I will tell you I don't care a fig for the politics of either but I would like to have his ability & his attainments.

Wing is still with us, here in the office now. Lizzie & Guy are quite well. Judge Davis's case comes on next Friday. Wing says he is waiting for an answer to his letter. We will not be ordered before May.

My love to Charlie.

Yr aff. Brother  
Otis

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140 4/10/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-104

Kennebec Arsenal Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta Me.  
April 10th 1856

Dear Brother

I have just taken your letter & the book from the office and hasten to reply. I hope you will spend your vacation with us. Lizzie says she invited you or meant to. We can make it altogether convenient.

I heard Barnes's reply. He did not touch upon "the main & central question" as he turned something that he did not mention, but he touched upon the out-works, rubbed <F.O.I.> by a few pointed touches he attempted to establish by the history of the measure that the Legislature (where lies the embodiment of the people's will) have the power to address the Governor for the removal of an officer, and should use it in just such a case as this. He said he was willing to condense all the charges into the two words "bad behavior" if that would suit better. He said that the Judge had no judicial knowledge whatsoever that the Constitution was amended, and from no other knowledge could he have a right to act. Barnes evidently did not intend to shoulder the whole procedure, but left the main portion of the argument of Davis's Counsel to be answered by his associates.

Goodwin talked on the subject fairly & candidly. He showed clearly by legal reference that Judge Davis could by no legal right decide a question of that kind without a legal issue by due process of law. He said that in case an officer should appear as having been appointed by the Governor, whom in no case whatsoever the Governor had a right to appoint, it could not be his duty to recognize him, but in certain cases even now the Governor has a right to appoint a Sheriff to fill a vacancy occurring by death, resignation or otherwise. Now if a man comes bearing a commission from the Governor purporting to fill a vacancy, the Commission is prima facie evidence that the vacancy has occurred as it ought in order to give the Governor power to appoint. Now if the Gov. unlawfully displaces the former sheriff, this is a fact, he must institute a suit and bring his case properly before the Supreme Court for adjudication.

Though Mr. Goodwin maintained that the judge had committed a blunder in being prevailed on by two lawyers to take such an issue & decide as he did, and though he persevered in the opinion, he (Mr. Goodwin) saw no want of sincerity in Judge Davis & nothing that would warrant the application of the extreme remedy. He is said to have changed his view afterwards when he heard a private letter of Judge Davis read stating many private & party feelings, calling the Legislature "blood hounds" &c. I did not hear this letter. Morrill did not speak. He, Shepherd and one man were the only three that stood by Judge Davis. What will become of Lot? He seems to have departed from his party or his party have departed from him. I learned from a very truthful young man upon whom I can rely, who was present at that primary caucus, that they said nothing of the final judgment at all, but merely determined upon bringing forward the charges that "certain men who were thought to have originated the whole matter were then opposed to doing anything on the ground of expediency & took very much the ground that Goodwin did before the Senate at first.

I hope Charlie is well & will come this way & that you will spend as much as you can or the whole of the vacation with us. Lizzie sends love to you & Charlie, is very much obliged to you, did not know it was to be a present.

Wing went to Winthrop yesterday - will be back tomorrow or next day. Legislature has adjourned, the Senate yesterday and the House this morning.

My love to Charlie. Remember me to acquaintances & friends who inquire, to Mr Sands' people if you see them.

Yours affectionately  
Otis.

Guy can't send his love, because he is asleep. Lizzie is now quite well.

I have not heard that Roland has a [the letter ended here.]

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141 5/9/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-106

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
May 9th, 1856

Dear Brother,

Was that nose bleed the result of your rides on 'Charlie', or your harem-scarem upset & break-down at Hallowell? I hope those foolish traditionalary superstitions don't operate on you because you are in love, "as love-sickness produces bleeding at the nose," faintness at the heart &c.

Monday I was riding Malach in the street where Henry Wingate passed me with as bad a looking team as an old horse, old harness, old gig & (with his wife's consent) an old coat could make. I trotted my horse along by his side & talked myself into Hallowell and so accompanied him home. I didn't learn anything new excepting that Uncle Stillman had <sued> and that Mr. Pease keeps trying to get of Uncle those "Paper Demands" that uncle holds in his hands. Stinchfield says that Pease cannot prove partnership because Uncle has given no joint-note & is involved only as Endorser. I am going to ride down to Hallowell this morning, and see Uncle. Mr. Dalton has left this Property above here vacant, and I want to pasture cows on a portion.

Tuesday I went with Geo Williams a trouting out nine miles, broke both shafts of the old wagon, caught three trout & got home in safety the same night, completely tired out. Yesterday I mounted Malach & started off in search of your picture. Left Augusta at half past ten and got back at one after a pleasant ride of from 14 to 16 miles. Mr. Hendric's description served as my guide, asked George Williams to find out the name & place of a short, thick set spectacle genius of ruddy complexion. He asked a big bull-headed fellow in about 10 min. after my request. 'Why', says the fellow, 'don't you know Jake Miller of Manchester?' Off I rode in search of Jake Miller. He was soon found. Proceed straight on the first branch of that new road that encircles the hill, that we didn't try going to Leeds but did returning, go about a mile, you find the Miller in question. He says he didn't pick up the picture, but his neighbor Goram Burgess did. Said Goram lived a mile or two further off. I found his house. Goram was gone, another man there. Goram's wife was at home. The picture was identified, and recovered, cover or case smashed. Moreover would not take money, looked as though she would like to be persuaded, gave her one dollar to give her husband. Then said is she your wife? Yes. "Wal, you have got a 'plagny good-looking woman &c.," which of course heightened Lizzie's color on repetition. I got a new case for seventy-five cents.

We or I shall go down to Brunswick before long and I will bring the picture & the book of Foster's. May be I will send it. All well. Guy has got over the vaccination without blinking. I have got over being cross. Glad to hear from home through you. I wrote home yesterday about Dalton &c. give love to Charlie. Chas Turner has got home, is at Leeds, I hear. Remember me to all friends. Has Stanton been recovered? Lizzie says first she isn't going to have anything to say to you. Then adds, I would like to get acquainted with Ella, says "it's no way to be talking about me to her, for she wont like me." Sends love to Charlie. Guy is playing in the cradle. Lizzie is combing hair & talking to him.

Your aff. Bro.  
Otis

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142 5/11/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-107

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
May 11th, 1856

Dear Brother,

By some inadvertence I carried your letter in my pocket (instead of mailing it) - for one day after it might have gone. Thursday forenoon I went to Hallowell and had a talk with Uncle. He said father might & ought to secure by mortgage the money he had received from mother. He said that since all the property on this side of the Kennebec is open to attachment, it would be better for him & for you to so secure it. He said that the mortgage would certainly hold if he had it running to me & I put it in mother's hands. He thought I had better go to Leeds at once and get father to do so, at least to so secure the \$2500 on his own (Uncle's) notes.

In the afternoon I went to Leeds and took Lizzie along, leaving Guy at home. We found all well there, Cynthia & baby were quite well. Roland had jammed his finger very badly.

Father seemed unwilling to accede to my proposal, fearing that it would cause an immediate breakup in the Rail Road as soon as the Creditors saw a mortgage of his property on Record. Uncle says mother is as much a creditor as any body else since 1844 & that any man has a perfect right to give the preference to one creditor over another, but he does not feel certain that a direct conveyance to his wife would stand fire in law. I think father would & will mortgage the property on this side of the Kennebec to secure Uncle's notes in part as soon as I send him a description of the deeds of the other two lots, for he has only that of the Dalton farm. He is in hopes Uncle will sell the latter immediately. But immediate operations are not among uncle's virtues or his faults.

There is a heavy note coming due with father's endorsement next month, before that time father says not a cent of his real or personal property shall be in danger. I begin to think the \$5000 are in no way secure to mother or her heirs. Mother in case of father's death would have her thirds on his real estate and can have a good support. We boys must look out for ourselves & for her. Uncles John & Ensign are father's bondsmen for himself as Guardian for Charles. Things look a little dubious, don't they?

We carried out quite a number of plants to mother with which she was much pleased. Chas Turner and his wife accompanied us to Augusta Friday afternoon. Charles has got a great quantity of flesh aboard and has the appearance of a man that can consume considerable liquor, & does undoubtedly. His wife is apparently a fine little woman, with good sense & good conversational powers.

It rained, pouring, before we got to Augusta and I had the good fortune to break down in the midst thereof. A bolt (that attaches one of the shafts to the axle tree) worked out and let the step get between the wheel on the other side and immediately the shaft snapped. Old Ben was excited. Lizzie was under the Buffalo. She finally hopped out into the mud & got into Chas Turner's wagon and rode on to the nearest house. We soon got rigged up and rode on in the rain.

Lizzie got on an old fashioned hood & cloak & proudly hid herself in a humble position under the robe on the bottom of the wagon. She got home in good time. She says she will go to Brunswick next week. This week she has got two bonnets to make, one for herself and one for Guy, & a binding round some part of her new black silk, then she will be in readiness. Tell Charlie not to work too hard over that Oration. Give our love to him in abundance. Aren't you glad I got your picture? Llewelyn Dean staid with us Friday night. He said it was a year to a day since he visited us at Watervliet.

Guy has gone to sleep after his naked war dance. Lizzie will explain. Write soon & the news. How came off the May training? Did you hold your elbows down & turn in your toes?

I think we will have to take a trip down to Bath.

Your affectionate Brother

Otis

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143 5/31/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Rowland & Charles  
Howard

RBH-108

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal &c.  
May 31st, 1856

Dear Brothers,

Father and Mother came here Tuesday night with Dellie, were going back the next day but fortunately it rained, and although father had to go on account of a Director's meeting for the next day, mother stayed till Thursday afternoon and I sent her up with Mrs. Waite & Michael who have not yet returned. Father sold me those two farms on this side of the River for a note of sixteen hundred dolls, which he immediately endorsed over to Mother. I took up that note by giving mother one running to her for the same amount. The half-acre in Chelsea I have already sold for \$100 cash & given a Deed. The other is still on my hands. Father has mortgaged all his real estate. The home farm & that beyond the Whippoorwill to you Rowland to secure your & other notes, all named & the rest to Roland G to secure a note given by father to father-Guardian I believe & other notes. Charlie you come in that way I believe.

On the day preceding the one I went to Leeds to get father to mortgage his property, R. G. Lincoln had made an attachment of 1000 dollars. Father it seems had endorsed a note to take the place of another then due.. And as I understand Mr. Lincoln took the second note as collateral security without any authority & sued that note. Father undoubtedly would correct this statement, but it is substantially correct. At any rate Lincoln has sued a note of 1000 with father's endorsement on it. Uncle Ensign's financiering such as filling blank dates & giving them wrong for father to book has brought this to pass, but it has led father to drop anchor which he was barred not to do till he saw the rocks.

Night before last I received my orders, to go to Watervliet when relieved by Capt. Gorgas. Capt. G by same order waits to be relieved by another Officer.

We are all well. Hope you are well & doing well. Shall not leave the state before July, if then. Remember us to Mr. Sands family, Everett & other friends.

Affectionately yours  
O. O. Howard

To: Rowland & Charles

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144 7/1/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-109

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me.  
July 1st 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter last week, and ought to have answered it immediately, but I put it off a little to see if I could not hear from Gorgas. And last Saturday I went down to Montville with Aunt Fanny, and had a pleasant visit & returned yesterday.

Tell Charlie I can appreciate what he said about Uncle Jonathan's quarters. I had a grand good time, got wet through in a shower Sunday evening, while taking our cousins to ride. I went to Liberty, South Montville and the Kingdom. Charles will explain. Lizzie has slight trepidations about the matter, but is very anxious to see Ella and I want to see more of her, so that all formality may be got rid of and we may know each other. Lizzie joins me in sending her a hearty invitation to visit us with you. You need not fear Lizzie's aversion for she is fast getting over such things, getting everyday more independent.

I have heard from Gorgas. He thinks he will be here by the 10th of July but his successor had not arrived at Mt. Vernon when he wrote on the 19th ultimo. Lt. Gilman has come up here from Thomaston to buy Malach and I think I shall sell him. I would'nt if Malach was tough but he is not and is getting on pretty well in years. If he goes I shall get \$200 for him.

Give my love to Charlie. All at the house would send love &c in abundance, but they are at the house & I at the office. Has Chas memorized his speech yet. Drop us a line, telling when you can come up & bring Ella from Bath. She could not hesitate to come if she could know what a good time she would have, what a charming place it is, and what a warm welcome she will get. My best regards to her. To day your Examination?

Affectionately yours  
O. O. Howard

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145 7/17/1856 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-110

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me.,  
July 17th, 1856.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good time & hasten to reply. I'm sorry to hear of the Small pox at Leeds and so near home. I was going to send Lizzie, Guy & mother Waite out there, as soon as I could after Gorgas's arrival. He has not made his appearance yet. I am looking for him on every train in every boat.

Is it safe for anybody whose vaccination has never taken to go to Leeds. Haven't they run back and forth with the infection in their clothes, endangering the whole community. I have considerable anxiety, on account of our folks at home.

Three army officers came here Saturday from Montréal, had three horses (French). I bought one, a smart one, who will take you over the hills in May as fast as you will want to go.

We are all well, will write as soon as anything new turns up. Love to Charlie.

Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

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146 7/23/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-108b

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me,  
July 23d, 1856.

Dear Brother,

We never had such confusion here for the past few days that I haven't been able to think straight. My arrangements now are a little clearer. The Capt., his wife & two Babies with a nurse arrived last Thursday evening. I have now got everything turned over in good shape and got my receipts.

We will finish packing today and Mother Waite and myself go to Leeds, I think, this evening. Lizzie and Guy will stop with Mrs. Mulliken for a few days & then will go to Leeds if everything there is straight. She has been quite sick from vaccination. I shall start from Augusta sometime next week I think with my freight (horse etc.).

Mr. Gilbert writes that he is ready to pay cash for the farm.

Love to Charlie. I don't hear from Leeds. Mr. Turner heard that his sister was better.

Very truly yours  
OO Howard

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147 1/20/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-111

Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke, Tampa Fla.  
January 20, 1857.

Dear Brother,

I purposed writing you before but the time I set apart has heretofore been interrupted by business and mail day has come and gone without my intention being fulfilled. This time however I take time by the forelock, commencing the day before hand.

I am now well settled here in Tampa. I have fitted out seven companies of Florida mounted volunteers with arms, ammunition & accoutrements. Each company being eighty-five strong, made out duplicate invoices & triplicate receipts to each, supplied nearly all the regulars which have been filled up to eighty-six, made my reports & sent requisitions to Washington &c. &c., all in one week. Now General Harney has gone, the post has become in a measure quiet and I have a breathing spell.

I was much pleased to get your letter by the last mail together with Lizzie's and Guys. You all told me just what I wished to know: that you are all well and getting on finely. I am indeed glad that your lecture passed off so satisfactorily to all parties. I had confidence that such would be the case.

I don't think much of Florida, and my opinion is rather in the retrograde. The entire State is not worth one half the expense the Government has been & is put to on her account. It is a dead level covered with sand and pine trees. If you would extend the Pine barrens of Brunswick over the entire state and intersperse them with an occasional thickly wooded hillock with comparatively decent soil some 10 miles asunder, you would have Florida. Tampa is a place of five or six hundred inhabitants, with four Streets East & West and about the same number North & South at right angles. The sand is deep as it is on our Day farm and of a finer quality it never hardens in the Streets except on the surface after a rain. It is like wading in a light snow just fallen to walk from the Military reserve to the hotel where I take my meals. On the public grounds the paths are made of shells and covered on the surface with saw-dust. When I arrived from Fort Myers with General Harney, there was one Company of the 4th Artillery here commanded by Bvt. Maj. J.B. Scott. The latter had been sent to Florida from Fort Independence Boston. His Lieutenants are Hazard, Mack & Dana. Gen. Harney ordered the Maj. & his company to the river Allifire about 22 miles distant.

I was promised quarters as soon as he left. After two or three days delay he started off on Sunday morning with his command leaving Lieuts Hazard & Mack behind and a guard of 20 men. Hazard is the adjutant of the commanding officer Maj. Morris and Mack is on special duty at the Subsistence Depot at this place. As soon as Maj. Scott had vacated these quarters Lieut. Mack & myself took possession. My sleeping room is a small unfinished room. You can see through the cracks between the boards that cover it & the rafters are visible above. But fortunately the weather has been cold enough to freeze up all the little animals that hide themselves in such places.

Mr. Mack is a pleasant, gentlemanly fellow, and I think we shall agree admirably. There is too a fellow feeling between us for he also leaves a wife behind. You know a bachelor wouldn't be likely to have any sympathy in such cases.

Gen. Harney has gone on a tour, visiting all the different posts & stations under his command. I am glad he is gone. He meddles with everything, upsets everything, but without the ability to reorganize, or systematize, I never saw just such another man. Impatient as he can be, he curses and swears all the time. How a poor mule driver has to take it, how a sergeant, a soldier, or the wind, the <>, but more especially his own luck. He has a poor memory, is as changeable as the wind, gives an order to countermand it and plays the fool generally. Though he is willful impatient and headstrong, fortunately for him and his campaign, he seldom has his own way. There are a good many shrewd heads out here to hold him in check. He is almost as large as Gen. Scott & I would say you couldn't find a better man to lead a Regiment in an open field fight. But those who think him a man of talent of high mental endowments, are mistaken, for he is gross & illiterate &, I would judge, a man who

had given full swing to his passions.

We have another specimen of an officer here in the Quartermaster, who is much disliked. He is a man about 40, large & well-made. He seems to delight in another's discomfiture, is crusty, disoblighing, headstrong & impatient. He and the General are always fighting. General H. interferes with Maj. McKinstry's plans, with his teams, with the distribution of his officials etc. The Major goes to the General, the General rages and by & by apologizes, so it goes on. I have got on admirably with Maj. McKinstry for I never deal with him except officially & then in writing.

We have a few other officers who redeem these. Maj Page is the Apt. Adjutant General. He is a man that attends to his duties and, though out of health with a consumptive cough, he has mustered in all these volunteers & I have not seen him cross once. Some of these fellows would try the patience of Job. It would amuse you to stand by & see them mustered. Each one rides what is called a marsh-pony. He rides up & is ordered to dismount. Is that your horse, Sir. Yes sir. Where did you come from? Somewhere about Augustine. Did you ride that horse all the way down here? Yes all the way. You will then look at the horse. You can see every bone in his body. His spine is particularly prominent. But as soon as the requisite questions are asked and answered, the fellow will jump on and off go the sand-fed set of bones at a right energetic gallop. Maj. Page told me those poor horses would stand a harder & longer tramp than one of our handsome & sleek northern horses. I couldn't doubt him after my ride through from Palatka to Tampa by stage.

I got that order of Lizzie's cashed here. I will send her some soon as soon as I can hear from Washington. I should answer Guy's letter immediately but I don't think he could understand my letter quite as well as I did his. I tell you what it is Rowland. I felt proud of his Infantine labors. Think Louis Napoleon's boy could write or dictate such a letter? I should be delighted to get a letter from Ella and I will ensure one by writing first. Tell Guy I haven't seen an Indian or flag since I have been here, excepting the Stars & Stripes. I shall write Lizzie by this mail, so that I needn't put love & c in here. I wish Dellie had a more satisfactory room-mate. What do you think of his agency project. Do you hear from Charlie often? I shall expect a letter from mother by the next mail if she got mine in time to reply & I was keen enough to tell her to direct to Tampa. I think this trip will be in no way detrimental to my health. I have an excellent appetite & tell Mrs. Lee they cook here just as they do at Watervliet.

My love & regards to all.

Yr affectionate brother  
Otis

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148 3/15/1857 *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-113

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
March 15, 1857.

Dear Brother,

Please acknowledge this letter on receipt. I have been to church this morning & listen till very good sermon indeed addressed to the children of the Sabbath school. It was very simple & plain & quite earnest. Our preacher, the only one in the village or city has an Irishman & a Methodist. I understand he was formerly a Catholic Priest. He has the "sweet Irish broke", more than pleases my ear, but he seems a very sincere & good man, and as there is no other opportunity for Church Service I have resolved to go & hear him when I can.

I hardly know where you are just now. Lizzie writes me from Lewiston that I may direct my letters to all burn or Lewiston, but I have been directing them to Leeds. I thought she would certainly decide to go there. I want to hear from Mother. I am afraid Mother won't attribute it to the proper motive if she doesn't go there. Lizzie things that I will miss you very much. Just think, he should learn to say Uncle before he did Papa! Lizzie has given me a good history of the journey & visit in Boston & vicinity. I got her last letter from Lewiston in 10 days from the time it was mailed.

I am living in my Office now. Bed & fixings on one side, desks on the other, chairs between - room enough for a bachelor. Had less space at Yarmouth and not much more that West Point. It is rather lonely up here. It is such a boxed up place, nobody can find his way.

General Harney has gone into the field, into the "Big Cypress". I gave an account of the Skirmish is going in Lizzie's last letter & also in a letter to Dellie. I also wrote to Jackson of Albany the particulars. Never mind if Lizzie does write all the news. Different observers take different views. She might notice Guy's bearing & personal attractions & new his mental proclivities. Lee C. C. told me his language was labial. My lips were instantly in motion. How can he say and are uncle with his lips. Lizzie would notice people & tell how they were dressed & how they behave. You might peep behind the scene that every man & woman is obliged to keep between him or her & him or her neighbor. In brief I like different accounts of similar people & things.

Tell me about Uncle Ensign. You understand & appreciate him, about Mother, how she is looking and what she has to say. What she thinks of Florida. I was father, & what is he busying himself about. How is domestic life just under the hill - Roland, Cynthia & the boy. But why should I dictate. Make the most of your money my dear brother & get in debt as little fish can. Your many blessings. I don't want you to talk or think about poverty, there is no fear in that direction.

It is getting dark & I am sorry to be obliged closed letter with so little in it, but give my love to mother & father, and remember that my heart is in the right place.

[The closing has been cut out. The following had been added to the back of the letter.]

March 28th, 1857

March 28th, 1857

Rowland B. Howard

the above-named individual wrote this & now subscribes.

Rowland B. Howard

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149 3/24/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-114

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla.  
March 24th /57

Dear Brother,

I received your letter from Bath by the last Mail. At the same time came one from Mother and two from Lizzie. I give you full credit for your diligence & success in bringing your "convoy" safely to Lewiston. Lizzie writes me she will be glad to spend the summer at Leeds and as Mother & myself would be glad to have her do so, I presume it is so fixed upon by this time. You must not press father too hard. His affairs may come out bright yet. He has done much for us and now we are old enough to do much for ourselves. In any way I can assist you I will do so with pleasure. You must put your account in some shape. Give Lizzie your note for the amount running to me without interest. I think I can let you have enough to defray your expenses at either Cambridge or Albany. Go ahead & write me often what it costs you. I will keep you out of Jail if you are careful.

Since my armorer has come I have got quite a workshop. We are now repairing Rifles. I am going to make all the repairs I can to save transporting everything to Baton Rouge & back again.

I have laid out quite a large garden and planted the most of it. Last night just before sunset I set out a large bed of tomato plants. We need rain very much. The sun is very hot already and the ground too dry for anything to grow. You are not troubled that way I presume, though it will be April before you get this. I haven't seen much winter this year.

What do you think of the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court - the Missouri compromise unconstitutional, and a colored man cannot be a citizen of the United States? Isn't it strange what different ideas of law appertain to different sections of country. The same section is understood differently by a man residing in Virginia & a resident of Massachusetts. "Congress has the power to make all needful rules & regulations &c." means that Congress has no power at all by the Constitution. Well, let the dear people fight it out. The papers state that Governor Geary has resigned. Who is to take his place? I don't get the news very regularly down here and when I do it is 10 days later than you have it. I wish I had directed a triweekly from New York to be sent me when I was there.

How is Charlie prospering? I presume he was

[missing page]

greatest burden of care when age is approaching. At the beginning of the game a man can look fortune boldly in the face, for he can repair a misstep or recover from a failure, but not so at 65. I hope and trust all will be for the best. If I could I would help Father out of his difficulties. Don't be too earnest about your rights my dear brother, let us give comfort and God will reward us. By pressing steadily & vigorously at the wheel, we can roll it round, make for ourselves an independent establishment & be men that are men. I wish you would ask father if he was dissatisfied with the part I took in the sale of that land at Augusta, and with the charge I made. I understood he didn't like it. I was sorry I made any charge at all and I shouldn't if I hadn't thought he wanted me to. I supposed this, that he would allow in the settlement with Smith what he actually realized from the sale & no more. It is a past thing but I would like for curiosity's sake to know if he disapproved of the course I took. Will you ask mother if my note running to her has been destroyed or if it was sent to me? I have forgotten, but presume it is all right. I mean the one for \$1600.

You spoke of the Dred Scott decision. I read Judge Curtis's opinion, and I told Lt. Hazzard, I could think how his could have been so "pat" to mine without consulting me. Now isn't the subject well handled. S. Court no jurisdiction in that case. Men of color can be citizens of the United States, and the Missouri compromise is constitutional. Moreover "Congress" actually "shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules & regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States;". With coolness, calmness,

dignity & sound argument, he met every issue and showed how Chief Justice Taney slipped up on a mere question of fact. Good! Give the man his premises and he can prove that none of us are citizens. But the Authority of Gentlemen Judges, had better be confined to cases of proper jurisdiction. Volunteer opinions are not over-much respected.

The Circuit Court is in session here now, Judge King presiding. There are several lawyers here but I reckon you could whip any of them but Mr. Hart of Key West. He weighs 200 & 15, but like all fleshy & big men, he is very clever in the English & American sense of clever. I meant to have attended court last week but didn't get the leisure. One of the lawyers is a young man by the name of Rogers, a very pleasant fellow of five & twenty. He is called Colonel. He was the leader in one of those southern expeditions to relieve Cuba, had under him some six hundred men on the Steamer Pampina, now called the "Swany" & been recently in Government service between this & N. Orleans.

Write what you please, it don't hurt news to read it twice, when told by different persons. Tell Leeds people, two more Indians have been killed & one squaw taken near Fort Capron and a camp of women & children surprised in the Big Cypress, but all escaped. They can out run pursuit & soldiers don't want to kill women & babies. Good gracious. What a part of the rising generation you enumerate. How many young people we will meet in the world, whom we can tell: "we knew your fathers & mothers."

Your affectionate brother  
O. O. Howard

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150 3/31/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* C. H. Howard

RBH-115

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 31st, 1857

Dear Brother Charles

Strange to say I have received yours dated this morning today! I was a little surprised that you should be so careless as not to mention the receipt of the money the very first thing as you should always do, then do not say anything about it.

I wished you to send Otis' letter to Ella immediately, if I did not imply as much, it was an oversight. You have now had it a week! She has been quite unwell some of the time since I was there. Her father had quite a bad attack of spitting blood a week ago last Sat. night. Miss Patton and then Lizzie came here last Wednesday. Ella expressed a hope that you might bring her the letter. I hope it will be convenient for you to do so, if not, do write a line & send it as soon as you receive this. I supposed you would send it by the next mail after its receipt & wrote her accordingly.

The "trial" must have been a very amusing affair. Is there nothing said about the townhouse incendiary? Uncle Henry, Aunt M. J., Lizzie & Carrie came down here from Uncle Ensign's where they have been making a visit, yesterday. Uncle H. seems much changed. He says he is determined to live an upright, Christian life. It is three months since he adopted family prayer & has observed other Christian duties. I never liked him so well as now. He is kind, courteous, honest-minded, & seems cheerful, contented & happy. He says he is happier in his family than ever before & thinks it is because he tries to do what is right. Uncle Henry expects to go to Richmond, Ind. In May & his family.

Some of the drifts are still pretty deep & the mud ditto, but today has made quite a change & I am in hopes the roads will be passable by the time you come home, in less than three weeks, if I understand you. Roscoe goes to P. O. on horseback. He will return to his mother the last of the week. Father's "hired boy" came tonight. His name is Larrabee & he worked for Warren Mower last year. Mother is quite well and likes her girl. Dellie went out to Wales, Monmouth & Winthrop "to peddle" Monday morning. We don't expect him home till Sat. night. Roscoe carried him to Monmouth. I suppose Lizzie's accouchment will take place sometime in May. I am delaying here partly that I may see her well situated for such a trying scene, & her husband absent. I am going to try to get a nurse sometime this week & then I think I shall go to Lewiston or somewhere & to work. I am fairly dissatisfied with myself tonight for this idleness.

Write me tomorrow evening if you please. You may see me before the Term is out, but it is uncertain. We here are all well. I carried Guy down to Capt. Turner's today & to the barn where we have a beautifully marked white & red Calf. I have tapped 12 trees & we have a little sap & a very little "Syrup" for the children. Mrs. Turner (Capt.) remains quite sick, also Sanford Gilbert. Mr. Snyders school is prospering & I am now as always

Your most affectionate Brother  
Rowland

C. H. Howard

Mr. Lee gave me this gold pen but I don't think it writes very well do you?

A class "com" is a puerile thing to have an excitement about I should think.

P. S. I wish I could get you a declamation but I have positively no means. You must set about it with decision & perseverance yourself.

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151 4/7/1857

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Brother Charles [CH  
Howard]

RBH-112

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr. 7th, 1857

Dear Brother Charles

I am sorry you did not think my letter of sufficient importance to command an immediate reply as I requested. Sickness is the only excuse for such a delay, or your letter may have miscarried. If you are sick, Charles, I wish you would let Billy write. Mother needn't know it, if you don't wish to worry her. I could stay with you now as well or not.

Ella received yours & Otis' letter Friday last! She was quite ill yesterday & the day before & I am feeling quite uneasy about her. One of her eyes was badly affected.

Dellie wrote us Sunday night from Hallowell. He was "homesick" & talked of going to Brunswick. Have you seen him? He has a hard time & I pity him.

Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie Strickland are here still - sick with the mumps. Lizzie & Guy will have them about the time you get home. Uncle Henry went to Boston Friday from here & is to meet Father at Hallowell tomorrow. Uncle John was Aunt's Trustee for property left her by Grandfather. They are going to see how much can be saved from the <wreck>. The R. R. Affairs look brighter & I am in hopes now that they will be able to lay the track to Farmington & meet their liabilities as they accrue. I hope so for Father's sake.

I had a letter from Otis tonight.. He writes in his usual good spirits, is much troubled by flies & heat! Warren Lothrop was made 2nd Lieut. by Pierce & Davis the 3rd of March. He is now at home awaiting orders. His Regiment is in Fla where he expects to join them soon.

I went to Lewiston yesterday on business for uncle Henry, got a good wetting, but feel well enough today.

Roscoe has gone home for good. The Larabee boy got "homesick" & left in a day. George Longley is here and is to work for Father. I blistered my hands today splitting logs. Otis thinks I'd better not go to Lewiston & I guess I shan't. Wonder who they elected in Portland today. I anticipate a very close vote. The odor of John Robbins still hangs around the Republicans there. Did you receive the money or not? Mother & the rest of the family are well. Guy is much obliged for his catalogue.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

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152 5/6/1857

*From:* OO Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-105

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Florida  
May 6th 1856 [This must be 1857, because it is from Florida.]

My dear Brother,

I will write you a few lines just to let you know that you are not forgotten and to inquire how they all do at Bath, Hallowell & Augusta.

I know you don't like Charles Mulliken very well, but I wish you had stopped to see him & his family. I am well aware there is no accounting for my friendships, philosophically. They are often found among the men of small mind, men of unaccountable prejudices or other striking faults. I have not investigated the subject & cannot tell the reasons, but I think you will generally find some very prominent good feature to redeem the man for whom I entertain a high regard. So it is, at least, with Charles Mulliken. He is a good businessman, has made it his study, but the circle of his mental vision is not very large, and he allows his interest or apparent interest (like many of other good people) to blind him. He is not an independent man, out of the line of his daily practice. He has several oracles in Augusta & is governed by them or much biased by their opinions. But with his purse he is openhanded. He will stick to a friend, he is generally gay hearted and would rather do you a generous turn than not. Now I suspect in the majority of cases, we like those that like us. I don't know what made me write the above; but Lizzie writes that you saw Chas. Mulliken in the street and spoke to him, and I was thinking then that you didn't like him very well and I sort of wished you did.

Are you going to study with Stinchfield? I am afraid you will get lazy down there. But, maybe not. Stinchfield must have had considerable business on his hands since I was there, and as he has bought a saddle horse he may have grown to be physically smart.

Lizzie says something about the Directors of the Rail Road paying the coupons, but she is not sure about the correctness of her technical knowledge. She has, however, observed an important item, that is, that money begins to come in, 250 at a time. Will the road really be good for anything after it is put through to Farmington? Would you or would you not advise me to invest some eight or ten thousand in the Stock or Bonds taking Directors notes as collateral.

Now for news. Post, Garrison, District & Department Gossip. 1st News. Capt. Johnson's Fla Mtd Vols who took five Indians & killed three, recently, & who have captured 8 and killed 5 in all, have had quite bad luck lately. Capt. Johnson himself was in here. A small party of his men, six or seven, were following an Indian trail not far from Istokpoga Lake, when they suddenly came upon some twenty-five or thirty Indians, who attacked them, drove them back, took a horse, killed the rider & carried off five hundred rounds of ammunition.

Major Morris on his way to the Kissimmee River captured an Indian horse, so also did the Express man another. I am now living in Major Morris's house, but will soon change my <tactics> again for he has been ordered to the command of Fort Capron & the troops in that vicinity.

2nd Gossip. There is no way to count upon what is in the wind. From East, West, North & South, rumors are afloat that there is a sect called Mormons, that they severally & individually have too many wives. Now General Harney is not very fond of even one wife & by direct ratio you can calculate his dislike to a system that might give him a good many. The General is also a little opinionated & don't see why Brigham Young shouldn't think as he does, & expresses the opinion openly that such a man ought to be hung. It is curious how the numbers of Mormons are increasing. Professor Spole used to say that the average increase under a system of Polygamy would be less than where every man had his own one wife. I think that was his sentiment. I don't agree with him, however, for I don't believe there were any old maids in the olden time & per consequence fewer drones in the line of procreation. But, however, this may be. The Mormons are represented as abounding in men, energy & resources. They are already become rebels, besides their evident intention to engraft upon our National Tree, another scism, "a peculiar institution" to be defended by Scripture & especial Revelation. Hurrah for Utah &

Kansas! The mote & the Beam, Polygamy & Slavery!

Colonel Loomis is still here, will be till after the next mail, probably will go to Fort Myers tomorrow & maybe will take me along. By the last mail stage arrived 2nd Lieut. Drake, 2nd Infantry to act as topographical engineer for Florida. He is some 10 years older looking than Warren, is a relation of Governor Floyd, Colonel Grayson &c. a particular friend of Colonel Cooper & Colonel Sturtz. Was 12 years ago an officer of the Navy, has been on the Coast Survey, campaigned in Florida over twenty years ago & is quite an anomaly.

The Quartermaster's & Commissary's employees have been pillaging & were caught at it yesterday. Quite an excitement in the undercurrent has grown out of it.

Give my best love to those at home, hope mother is cheerful & well, Guy a good boy & Lizzie hopeful & happy. I don't know when I will get through with Florida or where in the world I will go.

Yr affectionate brother  
OO Howard

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153 5/10/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-116

Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Fort Brooke Fla  
May 10th '57

My dear brother,

I had resolved & re-resolved that my next letter should be to mother. I wrote you by the last mail but after that letter was put in the office I took out one from you. It surprised me somewhat but I feel glad in my heart for you. You seem to me now (pardon the compliment) to have done the one thing needful to make you a man. I don't think with you that you were a check upon me & hindered me from giving myself wholly to Christ. The minister said today that it required great care to remain a Christian after one became one. That the man who rejected Grace was not so badly off as the man who fell from Grace. Now don't let me throw any cold water or be any damper upon you. It is a practical matter. You have got your feet into the right, the narrow path, stick to it & walk on it. I haven't yet got that frame of mind, but I can bid you God speed. I know mother must be happy at this change.

I will cheerfully comply with your suggestion as to myself. I will try to strengthen my Faith by the help of the Holy Spirit. I do not neglect to read the Bible, though I confess I give it too little time & too little thought.

A little boy has come in to see me - Guy McKinstry, two yrs old. He, of course, makes me think of Guy. I should like to be journeying northward now, but I fear they will keep me here till everything connected with this campaign has been settled up. But it is better to complete what you undertake, than to leave it half done. I have written to Warren Lothrop to answer some important practical questions he asked me in a letter I received from him yesterday evening. After Mr. Snyder leaves Leeds, who will replace him?

What was the matter with her (that was Martha J. Brewster?) Write me about Lizzie, how she seems, if restless & unhappy or contented. I think of taking a trip starting tomorrow night in the Steamer Ranger to Ponta Bassa & Fort Myers, and before I get back I may go to Key West & the Posts on the Eastern coast. I think the trip will stir my blood up a little & be beneficial. I got quite intimate with a lawyer Mr. Hart from Key West & I hope some duty may take me down there. I would like to visit him & his family. I also know Judge King very well, but he being a bachelor has no family of his own.

I thought it was funny you were writing to me in the third person, but was taking it all to myself till I got over on the second page of the cross writing. This reminded me of a case that I heard of, of a young officer who was recently married to a lady in Ohio - Lieut. Myers. He wrote two letters one to his father in Pennsylvania & the other to his lady in Ohio, and by some inadvertence directed the lady's letter to his father & his father's to the lady. The consequence was that the father had the first intimations from this lone letter that his son was in love. But it didn't break off the match, though the father of Myers thought the story & letter too good to keep.

I would write more but the time has come for me to close my letter. I will write you by & by less in haste. I hope God will remain with you and prosper you in his Grace. Pray for me always & believe me

You're very affectionate brother  
OO Howard

My love to all.

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154 7/13/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-117

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
July 13th, 1857.

My dear Brother,

It is ten min. after ten, but I feel like writing you a few words tonight before I retire and especially as I have had a little smoke of palmetto roots in my room this evening and thus driven out the mosquitoes. I hope the next mail will bring me good news from Lizzie. Her poor mother's death, my letters about going on an expedition to the Indian country & the other causes of excitement I fear may have a bad effect upon her, but it is the blessing of God to give her a lively hope of heaven just at this time. He afflicts because He is merciful and if it is His will He will sustain & strengthen her for every trial. You are a kind, good brother indeed and God is rewarding you.

I feel strong, for Christ has made me so, to continue his servant & to do His will. I do stick to the Scriptures & to prayer. I feel now that these are privileges rather than duties. It isn't always so bright & clear. Satan puts thoughts in my head like, "haven't you deceived yourself with a Phantom after all". One good young man tells me, a man can make himself believe anything, another laughs at my delusion, and no doubt thinks it strange that one who seems to exhibit good sense in other things, should be so beside himself in this; but thank God, He gives me an assurance that they know not of. I kneel before my maker and ask for strength, for clearness of sight. I can point myself to the Epoch when I was made to delight in Him. As you say, I love to read the Bible, I love to pray, I love to be with Christians & to talk about Christ, I have a present peace & enjoyment that neutralize little troubles & prepare me for great ones. In very brief, I am conscious that I am a changed man, but still, my Brother, a very beginner in the course of a Christian, weak in this matter, disturbed by small temptations. I still say some ill natured things about others, am still conformable in a measure to worldly things. So I ask your continued & earnest prayers for me. Don't drop me now, intercede for me constantly at the Throne of Grace, that I yield not to temptation, that I may wear at all times & in all places the Christian garments, that I may be known to be a Child of God.

Yesterday I joined the Methodist Church on probation & was baptized. I have taken the public stand & have been consecrated to the work of a follower of Christ, my Lord. Now I need your prayers for me. Ah! Let me tread on briskly & boldly in the way of truth, my Heavenly Father. Make of me such a Servant as thou wouldst have me. Teach me my duty & help me O! Lord by thy power.

Mother W. has gone to her rest. She loved me & mine & was a devoted friend. Poor woman, her life was not all strewn with flowers. I have not always done right by her, and it isn't strange for I myself was in a mist. Duty was not plain. I was trying to climb up to heaven some other way. I don't know now just what to think of my past life, but this I know that I never loved my Savior till recently.

The minister puts me forward considerably. I have led at a prayer meeting & discoursed from the Scriptures. I have been called upon to make a prayer & read at the opening of the Sabbath School & to pray for the minister at the Church in the commencement of the day Service. As I don't want to shrink from any Christian duty, I have done these things & I hope & trust the words that have fallen from my lips have been dictated by the Spirit of God, but it is hard to maintain the proper degree of Christian humility. The love of human approbation, the fear of offending & the vanity-loving contrasts that my mind draws sometimes check my growth in Godliness & close up the <enemies> of the soul.

Satan is subtle. He knows his man & tries him accordingly. Again, I say, pray for me that I fall not into the snare. Oh God, may I love truth, truth in self-examination & in my thoughts, truth in my expression. Let the strife be to honor Christ. Let what will come, praise or blame, joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity. May I not deny him, nay more, may I constantly affirm, he is the Lord. I have applied for a leave of absence to Col. Loomis. I think he will grant it, but dont know. If he does, God willing, I shall see you shortly & can talk with you about all these things.

I will tell you my daily course. I rise about six, wash & dress, at half past. My men three in number come into my

office. I read a chapter or more according to the narrative in the Bible, sometimes a little also in some other book, & then pray. At noon or near it, I generally read & pray by myself and at night about sunset, now, read & pray again. When I go to Col. Loomis' room in the evening, we read & pray together.

I have been disappointed in Wilson, one of my men. He has conformed to all appearance gladly to my wishes and attended constantly at prayers. This morning I found that he had deserted & taken away with him twenty-five dollars & a gold breach pin, that he had borrowed of another man. But his sins will find him out & he may yet repent & turn to God. Here he had kind treatment, extra-pay & an honorable position, all of which he has forfeited.

I must write to Charlie before the next mail leaves. It is a bad time for me to get away - much to do, mustering out the independent volunteers & in again gives me work. A new Regiment must be supplied with equipment in a few days. The Colonel may not think I can go now, but I have strong hopes of a favorable answer.

If you are at Hallowell, remember me kindly to aunt Ellen, Laura & husband, Josie & uncle's children. I trust we shall meet soon. I want to see the little daughter, Guy & not least Lizzie. My love to Ella. She too will pray for me. God is very good to us & we will praise him. He has a purpose in our family. Oh! For humility & love

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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155 7/19/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-119

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ord. Depot Fort Brooke, Fl.  
July 19th, 1857

My dear Brother,

I have read your letter that I got on Wednesday last giving an account of Lizzie when you left home & of you & Charlie joining the Church. I have read it several times. I have read some of your letters to the Methodist preacher. He says he loves you. I have just returned from Sabbath school, where I have spent two very pleasant hours with my class. It only consists of three, & one of them was absent today. But two others sat in one seat to listen. I have a little time before Church. You were baptized one week before me. You & Charlie. I went forward alone & gave the Minister my hand, was asked the usual questions & think I answered them from my heart, and was baptized, then the Minister laid his hands on my hand & called down on me the blessing of God.

I didn't shed any tears - I have'nt shed many only through sympathy with the mother, who lost her son & was almost in despair. I went to see her the other night and though not well, still she is very cheerful. My Sundays are spent much like yours. You know God wouldn't lead me to put my shoulder to the wheel & then paralyze my strength. O! I do not rely upon my strength, still thank God he has gifted me with an energetic spirit. I don't do enough but my humble prayer is for more & more of his holy spirit. Yes, my brother, preach the gospel, faint not, never flag. Christ is strong. He that has not his spirit is none of his, and all his strivings will accomplish nothing. In Christ Oh! How much may be wrought. I shall, by His help study God's Word & work for him, beseeching continually his Grace & Mercy. Whether I shall preach or not, I don't know, if He would show me that thus I could best serve him I would. I am in the church on probation. I have a strong belief that God influences by all means that are brought to bear the hearts of his Creatures, but he does not control them. "O! Jerusalem— how often would I have gathered you, but ye would not." Christ died for all. All may come, are begged to come. God willeth not the death of any.

If after careful inquiry I find that the Methodist belief is mine, ought I not to join them? I am rejoiced that you & Charlie have done as you have done. You will be educated & prepared for your field. Hadn't I better seek out the poor & lowly, and work for them? You know you once said I speak like a Methodist minister, hadn't I better be one? My real belief is just like yours and if I could have been with you on that day, I should have partaken with you of the joy, the baptism, & the supper of our Lord, but the Providence of God has led me to do as I have done. I must go to Church.

(Evening) I haven't time to write. I dined in town & have been speaking to the colored people & praying with them. Oh! You ought to see them, when once they begin to praise God. It is after six & I must write to my darling wife. I like Grace. Give my love to aunt Ellen & all, to Ella when you write & pray that my heart may grow bigger.

I didn't mean when I began this morning to give you a poor apology for a letter, but know that I have been working for God. May he give his blessing. I think likely when I go North I shall unite with the same church. Aunt Francis - Sabbath School <> South Church, Sky Gilman, Mr. Simmons Mr. Page. I remain for them all. God bless them. Same to cousin Laura & husband. Tell them grandma's last wish as she threw her arms around my neck has been fulfilled.

God guard you. Your own & affectionate brother  
Otis

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156 7/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-118

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot (Office)  
Fort Brooke, Fla, July 22nd /57

My dear Brother

I commenced to write you Sunday & was obliged to send you two pages only. There were many things I wanted to consult with you about, but did not for the want of time. Now it is Wednesday and in the morning and I don't know that I shall have an interruption.

You are about choosing your profession or rather you have chosen, but have not yet entered upon the duties of any. I have learned a profession & have been three years engaged in it. It is one of responsibility, of good standing among men and gives me & my family a handsome support. In a worldly point of view I am pleased and satisfied with it.

But recently I have embraced the religion of Jesus Christ. It opens my heart to a new source of joy. My understanding is quickened and the desires, nay the longings of my soul are to be the servant of My Lord, to do just what He would have me do, to do whatsoever will tend to his honor & glory. I have a regular system of daily worship - morning, noon and evening, I love to study God's Word & pray unto Him. One week later than you & Charlie, I felt it a duty to be baptized, and to please the pastor I united with the Church on probation, being very willing to put myself on the Lord's side (for by His Grace He had made me so). I have led in prayer meetings.

You know the inclination of my natural heart is to be a little precipitate in action. I went through the exercises of a regular Sermon on Sunday afternoon to the Blacks, God was with me in speaking & in prayer, so I thought. Last night I was requested to lead the prayer-meeting. I read the 8th Chapter of Isaiah and spoke upon different portions of it, and prayed twice, I think. Colonel Loomis spoke beautifully about the Savior's Love & compassion. After the exercises, the pastor proposed to the Church to give me Authority to Exhort by means of a License. He had spoken to me about it before. I had asked the advice of Colonel Loomis. He said that he shouldn't discourage me from such exercises for they would strengthen me. Now, it looks to me rather precocious for a young Christian, who only knows that he loves his Savior, & to whom the Old Testament is almost a sealed book, to become a teacher & leader, so soon, in the Church of Christ.

I am in no way certain that I am a Methodist. But I begin to think, that there is more difference in the words than in substance between one branch of the Evangelical Church & another. All have the same Bible to take as it is & to explain. The natural heart don't believe this & that, but beware, be cautious, the word of God says so. This Book with the light of the Spirit of Truth to help me to understand, explain & apply, must be my spiritual teacher. Christ must be my Guide & my beautiful Standard. I have told you all these things, not to boast of anything, but to get you to pray for me that I be puffed up in nothing, that I may have a bigger heart, that you may write me what you think about my duties to my Savior, who has showered his blessings upon me all my life. How you think I can best serve him: James 1st-27 answers me thus: "Pure religion & undefiled before God & the Father is this, to visit the fatherless & widows in their affliction & keep himself unspotted from the world."

I fear I shall not be able to get a leave of absence very soon. I wish I could talk with you face to face, about responsibility, duty, fields of labor, the Army, the ministry etc. I can hardly conceive of my darling Lizzie, with Love to her Savior swaying her heart & <chastening> her life. I know she used to think her husband had better leave speaking alone. & I don't know now how she would feel to see him stand forth to persuade men, with Christ to help him. I tell you, if it were right & proper & I could know it to be my duty, I would go into the ministry with a good deal of zeal & pleasure. Colonel Loomis has just been in to eat a melon with me. I have had a fine lot of water & musk melons in my Garden. Tomatoes also in abundance, corn & potatoes. As I have not been keeping house, I have had to give away nearly everything I have raised. The sergeant gets the benefit of the garden, mostly. But I can send a melon to a friend now & then, & stuff myself full of them without their hurting me. At Watervliet Lizzie used to laugh at me for eating such a quantity of musk melons & cantaloupes.

As today is Wednesday I shall be looking out for several letters. Charlie hasn't written in a long time. I got a

letter from Dellie, one week ago today. Dellie too is full of Religion. He says, he talks with those who are unconverted & goes to his room & prays for them. He desires that we should not cease to put up our petitions for Roland & his wife. How does it seem with him? Have you talked with him? Is father interested at all in this union of our family with one mind. Have faith in Christ. Oh! How I wish I could go home and see everything just as it is. I want to hear from the babies, I haven't got any news from Leeds since you wrote me after you had reached Hallowell; and Lizzie, I do hope she is gaining in strength. I don't think I shall make up my mind as to the church I will finally join, or whether or no I shall leave the Service & become a preacher, until I see you all. I can continue to study the Bible, to work with the Methodist pastor, & live near my Savior. Don't think there is no religion South. Never let any man say it. The Negroes of Tampa, many of them enjoy Religion. One old man met me, says, I have had that joy, you told of, these 15 years. You should have seen how happy he was. A good many of them were eager to hear me Sunday. Their singing is peculiar & very hearty. Some of them shout, & some look very happy. It is rather peculiar for a man who has openly said he was a Black Republican, to be permitted to address a house full of Slaves. Do have charity for brethren here. Many love Christ, many take their servants by the hand & lead them to the throne of Grace. The influence of the Holy Spirit has its legitimate effect, wherever it gets possession of the heart.

Give my love to aunt Ellen & the children. Do they live at the Grant house. Ask Ben Page's father if he remembers me, Ed Mayo, Stinchfield, Fred Mason & others. Remember me to them. Henry, Laura <> & Joseph. My love to them when you visit them. I haven't heard from Chas Mulliken since I wrote him all about what my Savior had done for me. Perley must be married & on his way to the East by this time. He seems to have recovered his equanimity completely & I trust he owes it to Christ's Spirit in his heart. My love to Ella - I ought to write to her.

Yr brother  
O. O. Howard

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157 8/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Charles [CH  
Howard]

RBH-120

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug. 22, '57.

Dear Charles

I forgot to mention in mother's letter yesterday that I want you to send me that letter of Otis's by father. I want you to be particular to send it as I need it.

You had better fall in with my suggestion about the Prayer meeting if practicable. You can go & see Mr. Gilbert, Mr. King, Mr. Parker &c. tonight. This ought to reach you tonight. A letter from Ella that I received last night is full of joy at the conversion of her most intimate friend Mary Sprague of Bowdoinham. They were riding together when the first found a hope in Christ.

What day will you return to Brunswick? I was sorry to hear from Father that your "subscription" succeeded no better, but the market has been glutted. If mother don't come with father you might. I should be very glad to see you, but I want her to take the ride. I think she would be better for it.

I talked with Stinchfield after I mailed my letter last Tuesday and he says there is no probability of their getting through the cars that came on Monday, till Tuesday night & Wednesday is soon enough for father to come anyway. Let us seek a nearness to God, dear brother & be active in duty.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

If you don't get this in time to send the letter by father, send it by mail.

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158 12/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-121

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Decr. 18th, 1857

My dear Brother,

I have not written you for a long time and mean to spend an hour or more in that very employment tonight. It is now in the evening and I am thinking I shall have to begin & give you after dinner letters else you will not get any very often. My Wednesday evening lecture has grown into a regular exercise and I prepare myself regularly beforehand. I am now discoursing on Our Lord's Prayer, making each sentence the groundwork of a Lecture.

Aunt Ann [Ann (Otis) Lee, the sister of Otis' mother Eliza] has been with us since week ago last Monday. I have enjoyed her visit very much since I can see her from a new standpoint. It is wonderful how much superior is her Christian nature or life to her social or world life. It is more than interesting to follow her through all her trials & heart-rending disappointments and see how directly God has prepared her for every new accession trouble. Her yearning & prayer for the conversion of her children is constant & I trust she will be so blessed.

Frank & Sarah [Sargent; Sarah is Ann's daughter] are now at Nassau. We have got the news of their safe arrival, though they had rather a narrow escape in a storm just before reaching the Island.

I don't get any news from home. I hope mother is well, but I am anxious when I think of the advancing years of herself & father. I never have honored mother enough, and don't think I ever have manifested much love to her, but why I cannot tell, for I recognize her devotion to her boys & her self-abnegation for us. But habits are everything - when a little boy I don't remember any endearments from either father or mother. I remember reproofs & whippings but few loving demonstrations, and I am sorry it is so, for I am not now enough drawn towards my mother by the chords of Sympathy & Love.

I think Haviland the man I visited at the Hospital has died since I wrote you. He testified before his death to the truth of the Gospel of Christ & said he died at peace. I have a little drummer boy in my room now studying the Bible. He comes up once & sometimes twice a week. He attends my Bible class and seems much interested in the Scriptures. I was reading Aunt Ann last night somewhat of my "Diary in Florida" and I couldn't help contrasting the difference of results there from here. However, then I had the complete control of my official business, had a minister of the Gospel to work with me, to exhort & entreat & receive into the church. Here it is wholly different. Though there is little outward demonstration, still the seed is sown & by the blessing of God will bear fruit in His own good time. However, I may lack in faith, if not in labor.

I have written to Oliver O. Woodman [the son of Ephraim Woodman and Sarah B Otis. Sarah was the sister of Otis' mother Eliza and died in 1822] and got a reply amongst other things were words like the following: "Having been early thrown on the world to baffle with its cares and troubles I have not stopped to look to what my judgment & heart prompt me to know is the only true aim of life. I have only thought to act justly by all men and to fulfill my duty to myself and mine without thinking as I should of my God." He says he has prospered in this worlds affairs to a certain extent but has never known what real happiness was. Oliver's heart is sore & tender and as he seems to make more of an acknowledgment than I did in answer to your letter which told me of your experience, I hope he will be led on to find mercy & peace. I trust he will have eventually more love & gratitude toward his Gracious Redeemer. Do think of him Rowland, how kind he has been: how have all his bright visions have vanished & his bubbles burst. He is truly in prosperity & yet in the midst of adversity. I shall write to him again. Pray with me for God's blessing upon my letters.

Aunt Ann has been with me to two lectures & helped sing. Now I wish "I had wasted time" in learning to sing. Lizzie is just getting ready for bed, it being almost eleven. I hear her coming to my room, probably, to send her love to you before she retires. Now she has sat down & don't seem to have anything in particular to say. She said this evening she wished she could write: and that she was a miserable sinner growing worse she feared instead of better. I am glad she is earnest for more grace in the heart. Lizzie has less chance for religious exercise than I. She suffers me to make all the audible prayers, but she does have the enjoyment of religion & I

trust is growing in the knowledge & grace of Christ. This growth is not always perceptible to oneself.

Give my love to Johnny Sewall & all my friends that you meet with. Pray for this little field, that souls may be saved here. God grant me strength & wisdom equal to my duties & responsibilities.

We have our family prayers twice a day, when I can get my family up in season in the morning. Lizzie is pretty good about getting up, but we get to bed rather late every night & it is hard for her to get on with a half night's rest & broken at that once or twice by little Grace. Guy is hearty & good. He can say almost anything now & quite plainly. Little Grace is beautiful, fresh as a rose, happy & hearty. Her hair is a fine brick red, what Lizzie calls "black". Lizzie is pretty well, though not very strong. I was down stairs when the drummer boy left, found Aunt Ann reading Hedly Vickers. I read for her & we kept interlarding his letters & c with conversation till after ten, then we read a chapter in <Drub> & had our evening prayer. Be assured we remember you at the throne of grace. Pray for me & write when you can. I asked Lizzie what message she had for Rowland. She says, tell him to pray for me.

Very affectionately your brother  
Otis

No time to read over. "Never you mind" the mistakes.

Shall write to Ella soon.

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159 4/5/1858

*From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Charles [CH Howard]

RBH-122

Bangor Theol. Sem.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theol. Sem. Apr 5, 1858

Dear Bro. Charles

I was very glad to hear from you so promptly & that you were feeling so well & succeeding so well in your studies. The Revival takes pretty much all the time that I can spare from my studies & sometimes more. You know I have charge of a S. School & indeed I am doing the work of a Pastor for the whole neighborhood where it is located. I visit Wed & Sat afternoons from house to house, converse & pray with the people as best I can. I have two meetings Sunday & Wednesday Evenings & last week I attended the funeral (the first I ever did) of a little girl of eight years there. The meetings are fully attended but I do not as yet hear the inquiry that I listen for, "What shall I do to be saved?" The only girl in my noon S.S. Class who was not pious came out bright & clear about two weeks since. The whole city is given up to religious influence, many have recently found hope & very many are inquiring. Not less than 1500 attend the morning meetings for prayer, which are now in their fourth week & there is great call for personal conversation & effort. I was wonderfully sustained by a blessed presence of the Spirit in my heart last week - Thursday - which we observed for fasting & prayer, I can truly say was one of the most blessed days in my whole life. My Savior was in everything, blessed by his holy name.

Did I tell you that Lieut. Lee who used to board with us at West Troy has at last written me. "I have found Jesus." I am glad to hear from Nettie. If I could feel that she was a humble & devoted follower of our master - how I would love her & yet, she must not consecrate herself for me, nor for you, but for Christ's sake! It is only in the deepest humiliation in view of our Sin that we are accepted to God.

I wish I could have Dellie with me, but I feel that such a course is not for my best good & I doubt whether it is for his - i.e. to come here. If he would follow my advice, I would not fail to give it, but I often feel that I can only pray for him. O that he might be cleansed from all Sin by the blood of Christ & then whatever trouble might arise, he could say "I am innocent". If he has filthy, immoral or impure habits, but I can't believe that he has, either class would deservedly make him an undesirable companion. Charles, there must be something in it from what we heard from Andover and all! Speak out plain - Dellie seems disposed to write me too much in "succeeding generalities". O that he would be a simple minded, simple hearted Christian! Whatever I can I do, I am willing.

Ella is very happy in the revival at Bath, in which a no. of her friends are participating. We have long been praying for her Father. O that he might come to Jesus. I haven't heard from Otis for a great while. God is pouring out his Spirit on our church at Hallowell. At Linden Hill they have a daily evening prayer meeting & carry the Ark of the Covenant from house to house. Mr Butterfield is deep in the work. I had

[Missing Page]

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160 4/13/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-123

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr. 13, 1858

Dear Mother

I was very glad to get your kind letter & glad to see that you were feeling a little better in the last of it than the first. Your being shut up so deprives you of many enjoyments, but nothing can deprive you of your bible & your Savior. Yet, I am well aware how necessary sympathy is to Christian enjoyment & growth, yet I don't believe it essential. Just think of missionaries, entirely beyond the limits of Civilization. I heard one say that "among the Savages of South Africa, when he came home at night, he felt that he would not exchange places with Queen Victoria". He said unusual grace seemed to be granted to him there, & so it is, if we trust & pray & watch. "As our day in strength shall be."

I have heard from none of our friends except Ella since I wrote. I had a letter from her last night. She speaks in a kind, sympathising way of your deprivations. Her sister Anna Hattie came home from meeting, crying, & said she wanted to be a Christian the night before. She is 14. O help us pray for her. Her father seems to me to be fighting against his convictions with all his might. O he must yield.

I am at work every day here & I need great endowments of God's grace to keep me humble & watchful over my own heart. I often feel the force of the word - "lest a promise being given you of entering into Rest you should seem to come short. O if I am not a Christian, by God's grace, I mean to be. Hardly a day passes but there are indications of the special presence of the Spirit among us.

Obed Millett has been over here at work for a short time & he was up to see me last Saturday & staid two hours. He is now in earnest in religion &, like me, & I hope many others, praying that God's Spirit may visit our native towns & it will come. In his own time, in his own way, with means, or without, if you will be faithful to your <Christ> you shall see the Salvation of the Lord. Obed's daughter is here at School & in our S. School. I must write to John & Laura. I am not idle any, but my hands are very full of business & study. I have now two Essays to write. One "on the Miracles" & the other on the "Saviors prayer in Gethsemane".

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Ann must suffer so. O her life has been more unhappy than yours my dear mother. O may she feel the presence & power of Our Savior. I am anxious to hear from Dellie. I do hope he did not have a fever up there. My health is pretty good except this chest difficulty & that, I never expect to entirely overcome. I am going to try to keep Fast Day this year as I think will be most acceptable to God.

O Mother, I can't bear to think that Father has given himself up now in his old age to be contented with his condition & die without being reconciled to God. How few years before death! How many beyond! O how shall eternity be passed? If you can't have a prayer meeting, Mother, use all your influence to induce Christians to pray by themselves for an Outpouring of the Spirit. Always remembering that it is not much use to advise what we are not practicing.

Today is just a year since I went out to work in our Garden & Christ first came in all his brightness into my Soul. How well I remember how every decayed shrub, every bird & bush, whispered sweetly "Christ", "Christ". O how can we be thankful enough? I used to wonder that you couldn't see it in my face, that people would speak to me just as they used to do! The unconverted would say, "Now, Rowland, you think you are good." No I don't. I know better, but blessed be God. I know that Christ is good & full & everlasting.

O that I had a thousand hearts to give? That I could give for Father & Roland & Cynthia and many other dear Sinners, whom my Savior loves so well and calls so entreatingly. "Often. "How oft would I have gathered ye &c" "but ye would not". O the partings & the tears of that Great Day to which we haste.

Give my love to Father & to the neighbors & to all my friends. I have only one wish for them all, professors or not - viz that they would give up the world & come to Jesus.

Such cases as Gen Stevens in this city & Peleg Benson & Dr Stanley in Winthrop, recently converted & about his age make my heart go right out for Father. O he is not too old, nor too proud, nor too hard-hearted. I have heard just such men talk like dear children in their meetings. I haven't said many things I meant to, but I must write again.

From your affectionate Son  
Rowland

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161 4/23/1858 *From:* RBH [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Charles [CH Howard]

RBH-124

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor, Apr. 23, 1858

Dear Bro. Charles

As I suppose your Term closed Sunday, I thought you would be at home at this time & I will spend the half hour before Dinner in writing you. I suppose you were so busy in the closing business of the Term as not to get time to write to me, & there may have been something in my letter that you did not like.

I would not have you think that I think Ella faultless. She has much temptation & often yields, but she is often penitent & tries to be humble & faithful. O may God make her right - that is my prayer whether she is happy or not. This is also my prayer for you & Mother, & your young lady friend. O, if she is not, O that she would come, come to the feet of Jesus, be forgetful of self and the world & live for Christ's sake.

We have been hoping for Anna Hattie. She has shed many tears & resumed seeking, & I make her as well as I could, and we have tried to pray, but she has not yet yielded. I think Capt. Patten has been under conviction for months - he allows Mr Fiske to pray with him & converses with him freely. I am praying that every day may be the day of his new birth & he will come. He has been a burden on my heart before God for months. It is now five months that I concluded to stop writing and only pray with Ella & Mrs Patten.

Victoria Reed has found Jesus. It seemed to be the effect of exceedingly faithful conversation with Ella at the close of which she calmly said - "I will go". I write her as well as I could of the blessed "Way, truth & light." Albert Rice has written me of his new found hope. I wrote Louisa last week. When I saw that in the paper about George, I sat down & wrote. How is it with Emma? O I hope this in George's case is the genuine mark. How often has he abused the name of Christ, but "I say such the seventy times seven.

O will not Father & Roland come? They are now surrounded by a wall of prayers! Tell Cynthia - she must be decided for herself that she will serve God, must pray & read a short portion of Scripture each day. Do her duty & she will have peace & Roland will not long resist.

The gentleman in whose house we have had a Wed's Evening prayer meeting for some time, arose and asked Christians to pray for him in a meeting this morning. He is Otis' age & has always been a Universalist - brought up so. His wife (Mrs Gerard) is a Christian. If you have a chance I wish you to come here privately with Salmon Wing. I have great hopes that his Universalist principles are not fixed & if they are God can shake them & you may be the instrument in his hands. I hope you will see William Langley and lead him into deeper experience of Christ's love.

I suppose the traveling is very bad, but if you see John, give him my love & bid him God speed. O that he would pray much. I must try to write him. If he does his duty God may make him an instrument of much good in Leeds, but God don't work with one who has given only a half his heart to His Service, but I pity John, his temptations are sure. Uncle is worldly & Anne in such a state & his wife, whom he loves so much indifferent. O it is hard to serve God in such circumstances, but "my grace is sufficient for thee". If you see any numbers of the Church you will have an opportunity of giving a "cup of cold water", it may be. If Gods Spirit does visit Leeds this Summer, I shall look for L. L. Lathrop & Dr. Loring to "come". Write me about Mrs Loring if you see her.

Dinner bell - 5 ½ P.M.

My throat became sore last Sat. and after my Sunday's labors I was not able to do much till yesterday. Bracton brought me over some medicine from home that helped me, and I can speak now but cannot sing yet. This is a serious deprivation. I believe I never knew what it was to "sing with the Spirit" till lately. Indeed I have felt for four or five weeks some great peace in believing & joy in the holy Ghost. From some indication that my health will fail me when young I am anxious to do all I can while my strength is good.

O how I shall love the Pastor's duties. I don't anticipate so much pleasure from preaching, which exhausts me very much, but to go from house to house & talk & pray with the people & those people - "my own people" has something in it ten times more delightful than I deserve. O may God never take his holy Spirt from me - "then shall I teach transgressors thy ways".

Sam Adams is here. He is another new born babe in Christ.

Our vacation comes about the 23d Prox. I am in hopes to be at home a few days & to converse with you about their souls. Mother will find me useful in the Garden. My vacation is so short that Ella would like to spend it all with me. Mother must write me if she would like to have her. I will write to Mother before long.

I have many more things to say & I want you to write me about the state of feeling in College & the exhibition &c, but I have an essay to write before tomorrow on the Miracles and I must be about it.

Love to Father & Mother. Can't you go up & see Dellie & Anne & talk with him. Otis has not written. I wrote him yesterday.

Your aff bro  
RBH

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162 5/1/1858

*From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* [CH Howard]

RBH-311

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Missing opening]

the news from him. I don't hear much from Leeds. I believe the roads are almost impassible there. I am obliged for the dollar, but you'd no need to send it. O I wish you could hear these new converts talk. It would do your soul good. I usually take part in some public meeting every day & the only way that I can feel right in doing so, is to spend much time in private meditation & prayer. I have had many blessed days & some very sad ones on acct. of my sin & unfaithfulness, but bless the Lord, I have enlisted for life & in his strength. I will keep trying. I do pray to hear good news from the College. O that you & the others might feel the burden of those never dying Souls! O spend hours if need be in prayer - private, earnest, <[> prayer. If you are in earnest God will own & bless you. I have tried Him & thanks be to his name, I have never found him wanting.

I have two Essays now on hand. One, "The Prayer in Gethsemane" & the other some portion of the "proof of miracles". Have you made up your themes? That is right, my dear brother, let nothing, election or anything else, keep you from the most direct & obvious way of duty to God & his Cause. Think often - "How will these things look when I stand before the bar of God? Act for Eternity & you'll never regret it. O that god would pour out his holy Spirit upon you.

Ella does me good in this. She has the most peaceful & calm confidence in God that I ever saw. Her faith is ever active & she is always drawing me higher & higher, bidding me be more pure, holy, prayerful & encouraging me every way to that life that never dies. She often leads in her Sat. Evening prayer meeting, which is attended by about 12 girls of her own age. Her associates are nearly all irreligious, but she seems to have no delight except in the Soc. of Christians.

I wish I could hear those lectures from Prof. Smith. Give him my regards & tell him we are praying for & looking at & expecting from the College in these days of refreshing from the Most High.

You have seen some acct. of the work at Williams Coll - not more than 30 left who are not christians. Write me whenever you get time.

Your aff. Bro.  
Rowland

[Note: This is an undated letter, presumably to Charles. In a letter to his mother on 4/13/1858 from Bangor, Rowland refers to having two essays to write, one on "Miracles" and the other on "Getheseme". In a letter on 4/23/1858, he writes that the essay on "Miracles" is due the next day. Thus the reference in this letter to having written two essays on these same two subjects, probably dates this letter to be during the term at the Bangor Theological Seminary and soon after 4/23/1858. The reference to impassable roads implies that the date cannot be much after 4/23. Thus I assume this letter was dated about 5/1/1858.

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163 12/16/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother  
[CH Howard]

RBH-125

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Dec 16 1858

Dear Brother

Your good long letter was very welcome. You didn't mention your health. How is it? Sorry to hear that about Nettie. Is she quite recovered? Ella will write her, I guess. If Boardman's "Higher Life" does not increase your trust, your faith in the Lord Jesus, not only as your justifier but your Sanctifier, it will not accomplish what I think that, by the grace of God, it has done for Ella & me. I have tried to follow it to you & Mother & Dellie by my prayers. O that God would do it for you, Charles. He alone can & if you perfectly submit to Him I do believe He will.

Have you read Prof Upham's "Tutorial". I am very much pleased with it. It is an amplification of the views in Boardman's book. O that we might be led to see the goodness of God even in our afflictions & chastisements. We must give up the world, ambition & all inordinate desire must be crushed in our bodies & Souls & the glory of God made everything to us. Then will our "peace be like a river" & in no other way can we be free, holy, happy.

I have been to Mrs Alden's funeral this PM & have written Mrs Turner about it. She gave Evidence of belonging to Christ's flock on Earth & I have not much doubt that she is now with Him in Glory. Susan Collier is not expected to live. She may go at any time. May God bless these providences to Mrs Turner & her family.

I have not heard from Otis since I came to Bangor! & I think some of you at home might write weekly at least this winter. Please to lend "Higher Life" to Mrs Turner & to Laura, John, & Helen. Ella is well & happy. Mr Fiske has been having a lung fever & will hardly preach much this winter. My health is very good. As soon as my anxiety passed away the "<tremble>" I told you of left me. I have had a stye on my eye which kept me from study awhile. My little S.S. is prospering. I hope Mother & Dellie will write to me.

I have got to have some money. My board is now due - over due & the 19.00 that they owe me in Harpswell may not come for some time. I hope Father can let me have \$30.00. I will need that for my board, wood & book bills. If inconvenient for him to send so much, if he will do what he can I shall feel very grateful. I am in hopes to earn more next year. They don't like to have the Students preach the middle year much.

I can write no more tonight. I hope your winter at home will benefit your health & you will benefit Mother & Dellie & others & then I will feel that it is well spent.

I am studying Theology & writing essays &c. Our Sun. prayer meetings are excellent this year & I am expecting soon to see a gracious outpouring of God's Spirit.

Love to Father, Dellie & Mother.

Your aff Brother  
Rowland

Remember me kindly to Nettie when you write. What is the substance of your ill news about Fred Stevens as you told <Bufrocken>. Is your German lamp in Coll. perfectly good? No leak? Do you want it next term? Please to answer these questions by the next letter & one more. Can I have it? My eyes seem very weak.

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164 1/31/1859 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* My dear brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-126

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y.  
January 31st 1859

My dear brother,

I begin to feel unusually anxious on your account. I haven't heard a word since the last letter, which found you shut up with a severe attack of influenza. I do hope you are well and have been able to visit Harpswell and return to your studies. We have all had the influenza. I have kept on speaking, reading, & hearing lessons, however. Guy has got almost over his cold, but Grace & Lizzie are almost sick. She, Grace, has cried nights lately with her teeth. We have a young Lt who married Mrs Berard's daughter. Mr Reed very low with the heart disease. I sat up with him on Thursday night and have tried to see him & pray with him. His physician has not allowed anybody to see him very often - afraid to excite him. No matter how much you talk about his poor body, it won't hurt him, but it is feared to say ought, to him of his soul, but I told him of his danger & he conversed readily - says he has been a moral man, but a great sinner, fears a death-bed is not the right place to become a Christian - tries to believe in Jesus as his own personal Saviour. He has only been married 5 months, has the disease of the heart, and can neither sit up, nor lie down.

Quite a revival has taken place at the Falls - some thirty I should think have a hope of sins forgiven. Yesterday & last night, we had an Episcopal minister, who preached out & out the truth. He went down with me and discoursed to the soldiers in an affectionate, direct & beautiful manner. Anybody would have taken him to have been a learned Methodist minister to have heard him last night. Oh! That they all would do like him, then the belief in the necessity of successive ordination would be of little practical importance to objectors.

It seems to be the theory that a special Grace is imparted at the time of the laying on of hands of the Bishops to them who are called to the ministry. But more particularly that God has established the three orders in his church, and that the manner of the appointment is a matter of History. It is asked: where are you going to stop? Will you allow any man to take upon himself the power to administer the Sacraments? Or is there a form established by our Lord, and if so what is that form? The question is answered by the Bible & history. I ask has God denied his Grace to other unordained (in the sense assumed) men of God. "No not to them, nor to individuals but that don't make them wholly right, nor prevents them from belonging to a sect, a schism from the visible church that has come down to us from ancient times." Why not go to Romanism then - "Rome has superadded more than the sects have subtracted." &c

Our vessel is reported amongst the arrivals - Aunt is pretty bad. She thinks of trying the plaster. Grace calls your book of hieroglyphics, the "hony hony bute", at which Guy says "Uncle Rowland will laugh right out" it means "Johnny Hower Book". Lizzie sends love & hopes you are well. Love from both to Ella. Write if able & if not let somebody drop a line for you. I still love my blessed Saviour, & ask his blessing upon you.

Aff your brother  
OO Howard

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165 2/15/1859 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

RBH-127

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor, Feb 15, 1859

My dear Brother

As the time draws near for the College "Fast", my heart goes out in longing & prayer for Bowdoin, for you, for Christians & Sinners there. O that the good God would open the blind eyes & warm the cold hearts & that a time of reflecting from on high might come. Take some time, Charles & write me as to the religious state of the College. I was a good deal disappointed that I did not see Egbert while I was there, but you know how I was hurried when in Bruns. My health seems restored & all my affairs seem prosperous.

The religious interest in the City seems to be increasing. Fred <Stearns> Mother tells me that she is longing for the Coll. Fast. Do you know anything of him?

I read the last "Telegraph" & the acct of the Examination. Nettie must feel relieved now that it is over. Give her my love. I thought of sending this by Geo. Webster, but couldn't get it done. Some one will write to Fuller for religious intelligence & I wish you to send me as much additional as you can.

Perhaps I will drop a line to Prof Smyth too.

My time is all engaged this Evening & I must stop, but I hope you will give this matter very serious attention as it is very important for the interest of Christ's cause to awaken an interest in Christians here in the College.

If you want many & Earnest prayers, send a full & detailed acct.

Your Aff Bro  
R. B. Howard

Remember me to <Stevens> when you see him.

IV Voluntary Labor  
Recreation  
Economy  
Loss of a moment is a serious thing.

V Should Coll do private Cabinets

Qualifications of Naturalist

1. Language  
Instructors must know names
2. Mathematics
3. Chemistry aids for mineralogy & other Nat. Hist
4. Metaphysics aids in defining Met. & Med. <with terms>

Object to discipline the senses

- 1 Students taught to observe with eye  
He can tell every plant as passes in the Cars

Indian guide detects what he <takes>

2. Observe with microscope  
Necessary to use dissecting <> with all the objects within the range of our walks.

Don't mistake the learning names for a science linguist

Prof Dana at Washington some names wanted

Begin early in College Course

Math & Metap make man abstracted

1. To be more observant

2. To gain more from teachers

III Independent thought

Illustrate by taking a plant & looking for its description

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166 8/17/1859 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Dear Bro [Unk]

RBH-128

Patten

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Patten Aug 17, 1859 [Wednesday]

Dear Bro

You will hope to hear from your friends when you see this, but I have not been into the "Falls" yet. Albion came out to meeting Sunday & said that they were all well, except Capt Randall's foot & that does not keep him from working. I expect to go in there tomorrow & spend the Sabbath, & will write again when I come out.

I wasn't so tired riding in the Stage as I expected to be. I spent one day at Mattawamkeag instead of Bangor where I only spent a night.

I board with a good Sister Mrs Haynes. Mr H is now a professor of religion. Dr Rogers is the only male member of the church in the village & there is only one other in the town, but there are a no of Methodist & a few Baptist brethren. The Audience was pretty large & attentive on the Sabbath, but two thirds of the people are Universalists & all the young people irreligious. It is a hard field but, with Gods help, sent in answer to prayer (and you must pray) I will do some good. We had a full prayer meeting Sunday Evening & I have appointed another for this (Weds) Evening. I hope the two Methodist brethren will come in & help me, but, most of all, that Jesus will manifest himself there.

Albion seemed pleased as a child to see me & told me that I "must preach smart, since he had walked so far".

Patten is a fine looking farming town & the houses look thrifty. In making calls I have found many blessed evidences of the Saviours love in hearts boned down in poverty & affliction & alas many deny Him entirely & are even opposed to the Gospel. After calling on one man of wealth & intelligence & suffering him to unbosom himself of his infidelity, I could not help being moved to tears. I do believe that it drove me nearer to my Saviours side.

I want you or Mary to excuse me to Mrs Paul Curtis. I should have called there but for Mr Sands. I was sorry too, not to have seen Paul Randall & others during the week. You know my excursion to Orrs Island prevented that.

I told Mrs Bishop that I would call & fully intended to, but you know why I did not.

Give my love to your Mother, Mary & Louisa. Ella enjoyed her visit exceedingly. Her sister came to Topsham for her Wednesday forenoon.

Please to write me about your meetings. I hope that matter of difference about Mr Ellsworth won't be mentioned again in Harpswell.

Is Paul coming down here this fall? Albion thinks so.

I suppose you saw the death of my Aunt, Mrs Lee, in the Evangelist. [Ann Elizabeth (Otis) Lee died 3 Aug 1859 in Brooklyn, NY.] I can only say that I rejoice that God has taken her home. Her cancer caused her great suffering, but Jesus was with her to the last.

Yours most truly  
R.B. Howard

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167 3/29/1861 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-129

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y.  
March 29, 1861

My dear Brother,

I suppose you have as many calls on your time & attention as I do & can understand why I do not write oftener from yr personal experience. I have leisure hours but I think well, there is my Hebrew lesson I ought to get, or a discourse I ought to write. I feel reluctant to urge my labors as an excuse for any negligence for I do not work hard at anything.

I have'nt written you since Mr Gray's death. His poor wife & daughter are quite broken hearted. They have scarcely anything of this world's goods, and the future look rather gloomy to Miss Jeannie. We (Lizzie & I) visit them very frequently. Lizzie has helped her by taking some of her bright clothes at her valuation. Their friends on the post thru me sent them a purse of over a hundred dollars. Dr Gray aroused from his four day's stupor before he died at Syracuse. He expressed himself ready to go. He said "God is better for me than life." & when asked for the ground of his confidence, He said: his hope was in Christ, a foundation that could not be shaken. His remains arrived here a week ago last Saturday & the funeral was the next day. I supplied Mr Gray's pulpit, while he was sick, sometimes once & sometimes twice a Sunday. Last Sunday I went down again.

A clergyman from Cornwall was here at the funeral. He will come next Sunday to receive some new members into the Church.

Do you know any young man who would like to come here at \$500 per year with a parsonage inclusive. The Church proper numbers between 70 - 80 members. I wish they could have a minister, if they do not, the Church will do down. The Methodists have taken in, I understand, a hundred members. Many of them are excellent men.

When you preached at the place of my Sunday School, I noticed some ten or eleven, who were not sincere Christians when you were here, who give evidence of a right mind now. I do not think I put great confidence in the instruments. I endeavor to rely wholly on the Lord to give the increase. To use the utmost of my influence I could not make a man much better, but the Lord can pluck men from the burning. I do not feel like rejoicing over the work here as I might have anticipated before hand, for it seems as if the whole pack of evil influences was at work to turn back the young disciples into their old ways. Church divisions - want of means - Evil surmises - evil speakings - enticements to drink &c.

But I know that if the Lord has begun a good work he will carry it on to completion. Still I can but think of the responsibility he devolves on his followers to cooperate with him. You know I suppose, I have fully made up my mind to leave the army this fall & go to the Seminary. I have some misgivings, when I look anywhere but to God for strength & direction. I do not say much to you about it, because I thought you believed I ought to keep my own counsel from what you said to me.

Mr Gray's affairs have rather presented hardship & poverty as the essential lot of the minister of Christ, but I do not go to the ministry of Christ for worldly goods. I think God constrains me to give myself wholly to the ministry of the Word. If I am self deceived, may the Spirit & the Word enlighten me before it is too late.

We are all very well. I hope my precious sister is well & happy. Is the minister's wife a bad <part>? Love from Lizzie, Alice, Susan & the children.

Aff yr brother  
O. O. Howard

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168 3/23/1862 *From:* DBG [Daniel B. Graves]

*To:* Dear Father [Jotham Graves]

RBH-130

U.S. Steamer  
Cambridge  
Off "Beaufort N.C."

*Source:* Bowdoin

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U.S. Steamer "Cambridge"  
Off "Beaufort N.C."  
March 23 1862

Dear Father [Jotham Sewall Graves]

I was exceedingly glad to receive your very kind letter of the 7th it being the only "news from home" I have received in a long, long time. I wonder if you get my letters? I wrote Helen a month or more ago but have got no answer, and you do not mention whether you have heard from me at all or not. I wish you would be particular to do this when you write as it is the only means I have of knowing if you get my letters.

I hardly know how to reply to the main subject of your letter. You well know my views on religion are entirely different from those you have ever advocated, and which you have now accepted as the rule of action for your future life, and in the faithful observation of whose precepts you depend for happiness here & here after. I cannot see how your life, the morality and virtue of which can be doubted by none, and of which those who know you best are the most willing to testify, can be made more moral or more virtuous, by this change - How you can be a better father, a better husband, a better friend, a truer man - but this may be from not understanding the change. You tell me though that you are happier - that one week in your new way of living, is productive of more happiness than a whole lifetime before - rather strong language Father - but I do hope you may find it so always - This poor world of ours is full enough of sorrow and trouble at the best, and if any one can find any way of diminishing the sorrows or increasing the joys of his own or fellow creature's life, I can hardly wish him "God Speed" though I may not agree with his mode of accomplishing it. It is my sincere wish that you and all those dear ones who have lately emerged from "darkness into light" may find all the happiness aye, 1000 times more than it ever "entered into their hearts to conceive".

While you in Farmington blocked up with snowdrifts, are thus enjoying all the advantages & privileges of your revival, we down in "Dixie" are experiencing all kinds of excitement. You have doubtless read about the great Naval battle "at Newport News" but unless you have read a different account from any I have seen you have got a wrong idea, or not at all, of the services rendered by the "Cambridge" on that day. She had been to the Fort on the morning of the Eighth, sent our boat ashore for the mail as was our custom once or twice a week, taken our boat aboard again & nearly reached our station when coming around Sewall's point from the direction of Norfolk was discovered a strange craft which our officers made out by use of glasses to be the "Merrimac" of which so much has been "said & sung" for the last few months, at the same time the Steam frigate "Minnesota" stationed at "Hampton Roads" was seen to be under way and heading for the stranger. The Frigate St. Lawrence which had been lying at anchor near our station, for a day or two now signaled us to tow her in there not being a breath of air to move her. As we rapidly steamed up toward her, to take her in tow, the heavy boom of a gun was heard and looking towards Sewall's point we saw that the battle had commenced. While we were getting a hawser to the Frigate the firing increased rapidly broadside after broadside being exchanged until the scene was hidden from our view by smoke. Everybody was impatient anxious and "eager for the fray". After getting the Frigate fast, we made tracks for the scene of action at a rate which a soldier would call "double-quick" as we passed the Rip Raps neared Sewall's Point all hands were called to quarters and soon the rebel batteries opened on us. Most of the shots passed over but some of them sufficiently near to make their hissing more distinct than agreeable. One burst over the quarter deck cutting away some of the rigging & slightly wounding the hand of the officer of our after pivot gun. We returned their fire, with admirable precision, placing every shot within their fortifications. Steaming up nearer the "Merrimac" we found the "Cumberland" sunk, the "Congress" had surrendered, & the "Minnesota" aground though still bravely contesting the unequal fight. It was now about sunset, and the site was one of grand though melancholy beauty. The "Merrimac" and "Minnesota" exchanging broadsides in rapid succession, a few of our gunboats engaging two rebel steamers - one of them ironclad like the "Merrimac" the Cumberland with nothing but her tops above water - but glorious to behold - the stars & stripes still waving - the Congress aground, completely riddled - & the St. Lawrence & ourselves about the only serviceable vessels left. We fired away at the "Merrimac" as fast as possible hitting her several times but with no effect. As the water was too shoal for her to get any nearer the "Minnesota", she turned her attention

to us in company with a rebel Steamer, with the amiable intention of leaving us in the condition of the "Cumberland", or accommodating us with a safe anchorage at Norfolk. This she would inevitably have done had not the "St. Lawrence" which we still had in tow, poured into her a tremendous broadside, which we aided by the four of our guns that could be brought to bear. This terrific discharge so injured the Steamer that she sank during the night - & had the effect to so check the "Merrimac" that she molested us no further and we steamed away for Fortress Munroe where we cast off the "St. Lawrence" safe & sound. The battle was ended for that day and we were the last to leave the ground.

Such was the part taken by the "Cambridge" on that disastrous day. We saved without a doubt the fine 50 gun Frigate "St. Lawrence" which had we left her would inevitably have shared the fate of the "Congress" for there was not a breath of air to move her. We were struck in the hull by three shot doing no injury except to our appearance. So we were in the thickest of the fight for two hours, doing good execution & saving a ship to the service together with, who knows how many valuable lives, and all the papers say is "the Cambridge towed the "St. L" up & back". O reporters, when will you learn to give "credit to whom credit is due"?

We learned with delight that the "Monitor" had arrived at the Roads, and began to have some hopes of saving the "Minnesota", which we were obliged to leave aground & which the rebels would probably finish in the morning. During the night the battery steamed up to the battleground and Sunday morning we witnessed that magnificent duel of which you have doubtless read many accounts, but no description can do it justice. At an early hour we discovered the "Merrimac", "Jamestown" & "Yorktown" drawn up in line of battle off Sewall's point while the little "Monitor" lay alongside the "Minnesota" looking very much - as the rebels said - like a "cheese box on a plank". They evidently did not know what to make of her but probably supposed she was some "Toy" fitted up for the occasion. Soon they all steamed down for the "Minnesota" the "Merrimac" taking the lead, while the "Monitor" advanced to meet them. When near enough to commence firing the Jamestown ran down ahead of the "Merrimac", that monster thinking, evidently, that the little "Cheese Box" was not a foe worthy her attention, when suddenly a light puff of smoke arose gracefully from the box, a shot weighing one hundred & eighty-seven pounds went shrieking through the air, and our friend the Jamestown turned tail instanter & steamed away up under the S. Point batteries at double-quick, evidently finding the contents of the "Yankee Cheese Box" rather too much for her digestive powers. The "Merrimac" then approached and the fight began. Oh wasn't it a glorious sight. Our little "Monitor" with only two guns and seeming like a speck on the waters, fighting, keeping at bay & finally driving off three of the enemy's largest steamers, all heavily armed, and either of them seeming to be able with one broadside to sweep her out of existence. We could see her shot strike & go entirely through the "Merrimac", while those she received from the terrible 100 pounder Armstrong rifled cannon, seemed to glance off like hailstones. It was no doubt the finest display of maneuvering & long-range shooting which has ever taken place. Let every true union heart give thanks and honor to the noble inventor, for she saved millions of money & hundreds of lives by her gallant action on that day.

We were ordered by the Flag Officer to get underway for Beaufort N.C. & much to our regret had to leave before the fight was quite over, but we had seen enough to convince us that the "Merrimac" was anxious to "go home".

We were ordered here for the very important service of assisting in keeping in the rebel privateer "Nashville", which lately ran in here. When we first came we could plainly see her at her wharf but could not go in to get her as Fort Macon is rather near for comfort. But she's gone - taking advantage of the absence of our consort the "state of Georgia" & a very dark night she ran down & escaped. The "Gemsbok" a sailing bark on this station saw her & fired ten or a dozen shot at her but she did not stop to return the compliment. We ran down for her but could not see her at all so quick had she gone out. She is very fast and we could not hope to catch her under the most favorable circumstances. When will the government learn to provide for such important service in a proper manner. Beaufort is only a few miles from Newbern, so gallantly taken by Burnside a few days ago, and it is said this will be the next point of attack. We shall go to Hampton Roads in a few days & cannot then tell where we shall be ordered.

Tell Helen [Helen Julia Graves] if she can spare time from her religious duties I should be most happy to receive an answer to my letter & I do not know why it would not be a Christian act so to do. Love to mother Howard and all enquiring friends.

From your aff. Son

DBG [Daniel B. Graves, Paymaster's Clerk, Steamer Cambridge, U.S. Navy]

P.S. Do write often & direct as before. I get very few letters in comparison with my friends aboard.  
D.

[Note. The Bowdoin Library container list gives this as being written by Rodelphus Gilmore to his father Col. John Gilmore. But this is not correct because Rodelphus Gilmore was never in the Navy, and this letter has been written by someone in the Navy during the Civil War. The letter is written to "Father" and a reference implies that they were living in Farmington - John Gilmore only lived in Leeds. I also believe that the closing signature starts with a D and that they middle initial is B, but they certainly don't look like Rodelphus' initials, which would be RHG. In contrast to this, Rowland's future brother-in-law, Daniel B. Graves, was in the Navy on the Steamer Cambridge at this time. His sister, Helen, was to be Rowland's second wife.]

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**169** 1/1/1863 *From:* Unknown

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-131

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Assume 1/1/1863. This looks like a card. It was handwritten.]

Rev. R. B. Howard

Present

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170 7/5/1863

*From:* [Ellen Patten  
Howard]

*To:* My dear husband [RB  
Howard]

RBH-133

Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington July 5th 1863

My dear husband,

I feel pretty anxious to hear from you just now, for we have been having news of a terrible battle going on for two or three days just where you are. I think I do not give myself any unnecessary anxiety though about you, for I know you will not expose yourself needlessly and I do feel that God will care for you. Still, I am longing to hear from you again. I am glad to see that the 11th Corps is distinguishing itself - but I fear very much for our brothers. I trust God will give us a victory this time. From the reports in the papers, every thing looks encouraging so far. The Lewiston paper has a report that Capt. Butcher & Lt. Childs, are both missing.

We are having a very rainy Sabbath. It will be a fine thing for the Streets & Gardens, but rather bad for Aunt Sallucia, who will be anxious to get out to hear Edward preach. He came up last night to take charge of the Bible class & waited till eight o'clock & nobody came but Mrs. Greenwood! Some after he left. Mary Gleason & Lucy Garcelon came. I told them they were "day after the Fair". They felt badly, but thought they "couldn't come any earlier". I was real glad they had such a reproof & I hope it will teach us all to be more prompt. I'm sure I don't know why the rest didn't come, except Lottie - her mother was sick. I felt very sorry. I think the meeting had better be appointed at eight hereafter.

Afternoon. Edward Abbott preached all day. He was evidently a little frightened & who wouldn't be, under the circumstances. Aunt Sallucia was there all day. His sermon this morning was founded on that parable of the unfortunate widow - Subject: The true manner of prayer. 1st. It should be at a proper time & under proper circumstances. It should be at a quiet time. The time should be ample, with not a feeling of hurry. It should be with a view to our relations to God. Through the abundance of his grace, we have a right to demand blessings from him by prayer. Also by his promises. Our prayers should be with zeal & fervor.

No unconverted person can be said truly to pray. In the afternoon his sermon was from the text "in Christ we are a new creature." He illustrated the pleasure of novelty, very beautifully & showed how it would apply to the "new creature," & that it was only in Christ, we could find such pleasures. His style is not Abbott, but very simple, & very beautiful, just flowery enough to be pleasant & interesting, but withal very practical. His sermon this morning did me good. I think though perhaps no better than the other. His voice is too low. He announced both in the A.M. & P.M. that he being only a Student of Theology & not a regularly licensed preacher, should not pronounce a benediction, but the services would close with the doxology. There were very few indeed out this morning, & not many more this afternoon though it didn't rain in the P.M.

[missing page. No closing salutation - Assume Ella (Patten) Howard]

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171 8/10/1864 *From:* S. F. Chalfin,

*To:* Major Charles H. Howard

RBH-132

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
ADJUTANT  
GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington

Aide-de-Camp,  
Hd Qr Department of the  
Army  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

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[Letterhead]

War Department,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, Aug. 10th, 1864.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose to you, herewith, your commission of Aide-de-Camp, the receipt of which please acknowledge.

I am, Sir,  
Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
S. F. Chalfin,  
Assistant Adjutant General.

Major Charles H. Howard  
Aide-de-Camp,  
Hd .Qrs. Dept. of the Ten.  
Chattanooga, Tenn.

[Handwritten on the margin]

Recpt. acknowledged August 20, 1864



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173 10/7/1865 *From:* [R B Howard]

*To:* My dearest wife

RBH-135

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedman, and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

Washington Oct. 7, 1865

My dearest wife

It must be nearly 3 P. M. & I hear nothing about Dinner yet, indeed I noticed that Otis does not close his office till 4. So I hope to have a good quiet time to write. I think I should feel utmost happy if you were here this P. M. In spite of the oppression of tomorrow that always begins to overshadow me about this time Saturdays. This Room is large & half furnished in the usual semi-civilized military way. It overlooks a part of Washington, Georgetown & commands since fine views of the Potomac. It is at the opposite end of Washington from the Depot & Capitol on Penn Av. a mile from the president & very near the Georgetown "Bridge" (no. 16 Penn Av.). If your father has a map of W. you can find it directly. It is about the finest site I have seen in this miserable town. It is owned & rented by a Rebel to Otis & some of his officers - only two Stinson & Col. Taggard are here now. I occupy a room of Col. & Mrs. Markland, who have just gone to Cal.

How brief & unsatisfactory my little visit to Bath was! The afternoon was spent long before I anticipated it. Poor little Dadie! How sorry he was to have me come away so soon. Darling Otie & wife - how dear & how feeble - like you both seemed.

Give my love & congratulations to Mr. Fiske. I did not know of his arrival till told of it by Crosby Sewall aboard the Boat. The latter had me share his State Room no. 1 as he thought it pleasanter than mine, but it was a rough night rather and I slept very little. John had mine. Mr. Sewall talked a good deal with me about Mr. Fiske & Hammond. He & Mr. Wiggin & others do not treat me at all as Capt. Drummond does.

Who should I meet on board but Mrs. Lucia Leadbetter Curtis husband & little boy of two. I enjoyed the evening very much with her, not having seen her before since she became a Christian & I was very much surprised & happy to find how mature she was. She wants very much to see you & our children & we must visit them & cousin Laura Preston at the same time. They live near each other in Medford where Mr. P has been pastor of a Baptist Church 7 years.

In the morning Mr. Sewall took one side of my trunk & we walked up to Washington Street & took the horse cars to Worcester Depot. I breakfasted in a poor way for 1.00\$ at the U. S. Hotel. But it must have been a substantial breakfast, for I ate not a morsel of anything not even an apple (3 cents for poor ones) or pear (15 cents!) till I was through N. Y.! I then ate an apple & at 11 1/2 bought two Sandwiches & a boiled egg 30 cts. I didn't feel hungry all day, and as this is a mission church enterprise, I avoided expense a little on their acct! I had a long, dusty, dull ride, uninterrupted except to shake hands & converse a while with Horatio Ladd, who was on his return to New Haven from a preaching place near by. We arrived at six & it took an hour to take the long ride in the transfer coach of Laidley's Express to the Ferry. (They take passengers now as they used to Baggage leaving them sometimes!) The train started right off & we road till 6 this morning to the Washington Depot. I roused up to look at Phila., Baltimore, Perryville (where the cars are ferried over) but dozed a good deal on those narrow seats, always waking up with some part of me asleep! I was a stranger on the long train. The night was cold & I needed a shawl, but got thro it nicely & feel unaccountably well & unsleepy (?) today.

I took my valise & road to Willard's Hotel. (I always "stop there" in order to get my pay for the 2.00\$ they charged Guy & me for a washing our faces in a room there after the first Bull Run!) There I washed & brushed, had my valise checked & set out under the clerks directions to find the Bureau. A colored man there directed me here, and I found none but the servants up, but soon Maj. Stinson - "the mere boy" came in & by & by Otis. Lizzie was never more cordial or respectful & I feel as if my presence really adds to her pleasure. I ate

Breakfast enough for two! There were three officers beside the family. Two mentioned above and another (Gen (Brig. Brevet) Strong). There are two colored girls & two boys, one beside Lane.

Otis horses are left at the Govmt Stables, I think. He has three - two of which he uses on a carriage that I have not seen. The cough does not seem to trouble the children much & they seem happy. The three eldest have been down at the Bureau nearly all day. I went up there about 10 a. m, was introduced to A.B.H. - went with Otis to see the Sec of War & the Pres. but saw neither! I hadn't face to follow Otis in to the former when I had no "business" & Otis came away without seeing the latter because he couldn't wait long enough. We passed in next to each of these high official. It was interesting to see the crowd waiting for interviews. The pardon seekers fairly crowd the anteroom of the Pres. They are a hard faced - "rich-looking" set, I tell you. I enjoyed passing them all as we did & some of them might wait there a long time before I'd pardon them for the scoundrels, half of them, have an ugly look in both the English & American sense. I spent an hour in their Soc. this a.m. 9/10 of the arrivals at Willard's are from the South. Where do they get the money to stop there with?

Otis is the hardest worked man I ever saw. People follow every step he takes and arrest him with some request almost every moment. His office is full all the time too. He is very busy now giving up their houses & lands to them - the rebels. Half his business at the South next week is to take away the land from the Freedmen at the Sea Islands (30,000) & give it to a Dozen Rebels, & the President sends him down because he thinks he can persuade the Freedmen not to make a row about it. He dreads it like death! How can he do it! Tell your father he ought to have been present at an interview between Otis & Hon. Barnwell Rhett yesterday P. M. I was not there but have heard about it from a no. of persons. That arch Rebel - original dyed in the wool - had the profound impudence to ask Otis to transport at Gov'mt expense his 400 former slaves back from Ala. where he had run them off during the war to S.C. (Otis) "Sir, would you have asked this of the Confederate government, if it had been established?" "Most certainly not" replies Rhett. Then I regard it as the height of impudence for you to do as you do in reiterating it to me!" [Note 1]

"But you have stolen our property & now you refuse to return it!" Otis. "Your property! I should be ashamed to claim my fellow-men as property!" Rhett got mad. Otis, I am sorry to say, ditto, and the latter gave him his notions of the crimes of treason & rebellion & their forfeitures and on his persistence in his rebel talk & overbearing, impudent manner. Otis told a man to show Mr. Rhett the door! Poor chivalry! How they will rave. All the officers around were delighted of course & said a kick would have helped him down stairs. He is nearly as rich now & will be as proud & overbearing as ever. Otis has to do so much "dirty work" for Johnson, that he must give vent to his own feelings sometimes.

I was introduced to Gen Blair, Gen Townsend & other notables. Also a rebel Dr. Nott from Mobile. I should have asked him about our cousins, but was afraid he'd think less of me for knowing A.G. Otis ordered a medical college restored to Dr. N. today.

I have seen none of the Church people yet. Otis says he had nothing to do with sending fo me. Stinson thinks Mr Alvord suggested it to the com! They have a large congregation. Otis goes South on Tues, and I am to go as a sort of private Sec. if he can get me assigned. We go all the way by Rail & hope to see Charles. I may go no farther than Charleston, but he & Capt Stinson will go clear around to N. Orleans, and up the Miss. If anything important occurs, you can send it to Lizzie & she will telegraph & mail directly to Otis. Your ordinary letters may be sent to "care of Gen. C.H.H. on Gen. Saxtons Staff." Charleston S.C. It will be some time before we reach there but letters would follow us very slowly. I suppose we go directly to Raleigh N.C. As Otis has been so lately in Richmond Va, I'm afraid he won't stop long there, but you shall hear as often as practicable from us. Don't you see how Providence managed better than we about the Chicago affair, enabling me to take this much more useful one without expense! But I may not go & I'm sure I'll be content with that if so it must be.

Dinner bell!

And now as it is growing dark, I must reluctantly close. With love to Grandpa & Grandma & kisses to my little Darlings.

Your loving Husband

[Note 1. From this point to the end of the letter the pages were moved from an undated fragment, RBH-317, to complete the letter.]

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174 10/9/1865 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-137

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington Oct. 9/65

My dear Mother

I had a very pleasant journey arriving here Sat. Morn. at 6 o'clock. I found Otis house in time to Breakfast with the family. I found them all well, hardly any trace of the cough remaining, but plenty of mosquito bites.

My own family at Bath were as well as usual and I hope Ella will write you & send Chas. last letter. Otis has quite a large brick house on a high bank overlooking the Street & a good large backyard for the children. I enjoyed my Sabbaths preaching very much. They sent for me because their Minister was sick. They paid my expenses on and back, giving me 50\$. Otis & I visited one colored & one white S. S. yesterday & tonight we have been to a very good meeting of Christian young men.

Otis has asked me to travel South with him as his Secretary, and we start tomorrow morning & will be gone two or three weeks probably. We hope to see Charles by next Sabbath and there get a letter from you. Capt. Stinson only goes with us but Mr. Alvord joins us at Richmond. All the family will go down the Potomac as far as Acquia Creek & then return on the Boat.

I will try to write you again from Charleston & Charles.

Your affectionate son  
Rowland

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175 10/9/1865 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-136

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Washington. Oct. 9/65

Dearest

Otis & I have just come in from a meeting of Young Mens Ch. Asso. & a good meeting it was & gives me a higher idea of Washington Society.

We start at five o'clock in the morning going down the river in a steamer to Acquia Creek. Thence to Richmond via Fredericksburg, thence to N.C. by Rail.

I only write this to say good bye & to tell you how sorry I am to go without a letter from you. But I must trust you all with God. Lizzie will forward your letter when it comes to Charles. I enclose \$40 lest I lose it in Dixie! If my money fails I will borrow of Otis & send it to him. I think now I shall go to the Miss. with him, unless letters from you & Farmington advise my return when I reach Charleston.

If you wish it, please spend on the Treas. Note dated Aug. as there is no interest on that yet. The Church paid me 50\$ & were sorry it was so little! Mr. Morrill introduced me to the man in the Navy Dept. who wore <out> my old hat & he gave me 2\$ for it! I have bought a new straw one for the South for <5.00> & a linen coat for the same hot country.

All the family go as far as Acquia Creek with us returning in the Boat.

Your loving husband  
R. B. Howard

I have written to Warren Merrill, Dea Sitcomb & Mr. Goodenow & asked this for vacation.

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176 10/13/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* My dearest Wife [Ella  
Howard]

RBH-138

Raleigh N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Raleigh N.C. Oct. 13, 1865

My dearest Wife

We arrived here the same night (Wednesday) of the day on which we left Petersburg Va, but I have been able to get no opportunity to write till now. We leave here tonight at 6 P.M for Wilmington (130 miles) and hope to arrive there tomorrow forenoon. We will spend the Sab. There & I mean to look up an old townsman (Mitchell). I am sorry we could not reach Charleston & get our letters & see Charles before the Sabbath. Our journey hither from Va was quite monotonous, the principal incident being the crossing of the Roanoke at Gaston in boats, the R.R. Bridge not having been rebuilt at that point. We did not average over 10 miles per hour. We ate our "snacks" (Dinner) bought of a little Darcy in the cars.

We had a long & pleasant interview with Ex Gov. Swain, Pres. Of the N.C. University for 30 years and one of the most able & prominent men in the State. He gave us a good idea of public sentiment here. Col Whittlesey & Lt Fred Beecher (whom I saw wounded at Gettysburg) met us at the Depot. We had a good Dinner - Supper at Head Quarters of the Bureau. It is a big cold house a mile from town - once elegant, but now half destroyed by our Army. Here are a dozen officers, one wife, & one Teacher. They seem to have a pleasant family.

Yesterday I visited the State Capitol where the State Convention - a delegate from each County - is in Session & listened to a very able debate on the Rebel Debt contracted by N.C. during the War. In point of ability - it would have done honor to any Legislative body in the country. I took down some remarks for future reference.

In the Evening, Otis addressed this convention on the Subject of Freedmen & the Bureau. It was one of his happiest efforts, but fell dead & cold upon the large assembly. He was coldly responded to by two of their most prominent men. They profess to be hearty abolitionists, but want to be "let alone" - withdraw your troops - your Bureau, your School, & everything else and we will be well enough off. I was thoroughly disgusted at the hypocritical speech of an Hon Mr. Reade, Pres of the Convention. He represented the Slave Holders to be the purest, most benevolent, holiest people in the whole world!

Harry Stinson & I have a good room & bed. It is cold & threatens rain this morning. This is not a pleasant place at this season of the year. The shrubbery is withered by the drouth & the land & dust are worse than at Farmington. The buildings all seem old & most of them neglected. Everything wants neatness & thrift. The Capitol evidently was not washed or cleansed for some time previous to the war. It is smeared with tobacco juice & extremely filthy in every part.

The Rebels are whipped, but they are getting uppity & proud again, with the idea that Pres Johnson is on their side.

Otis has requested me to write to the Sec. of War now (!) & so I must bid my Darling good bye for the present. With many kisses to our sweet babes & love to Grandma & Grandpa,

your loving husband  
Rowland

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177 10/18/1865 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* [Ella Howard]

RBH-313

[Charleston, S.C.]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Charleston, S.C. Oct 18, 1865. Note 1]

[missing opening 4 pages] [From Rowland to Ella.]

[Page 5]

How much he thanks you, he says. I do hope some of your letters will get there today!

Charleston is more quiet & desolate than any other Southern City I have been in. The fire that raged here during the 2d year of the war was as terrible & destructive as that of Richmond at its close. I saw three or four churches all burned out, with their brick walls blacked & cracked by the fire & their scarred & tottering towers still standing. The marks of shells, holes & heavy breakages are every where manifest. It was fear of those missiles coming all of them at least 3 miles that drove the people away. We went into St. Paul's Church, an old edifice that reminds one of Trinity N.Y. One shell had burst in the gallery & another had come down thro the gallery floor & another had about destroyed one end of the audience room. Its spire is a conspicuous object & was aimed at by the gunners of the "Swamp Angel". Workmen were engaged in repairing it.

There are more colored people here than any where that I have been & fewer whites. Charles has been gone a week in the western part of the State & reports the Rebellion still going on there! They murdered three of our Soldiers who were guarding cotton there the other day, but I hope you will get the letter which he wrote me at Farmington from Columbia.

We stay here visiting Schools &c today. Tomorrow we go to Edistoe Island. The next day Otis goes to Columbia, 100 miles, 15 by stage. It is not decided whether I go with him or not. He will arrive there at 7 P.M. & leave at 2 P.M. the next morning & I don't care to go to see the Gov. &c unless it be necessary. We expect to spend the Sab. here & will probably start for Savannah via Hilton Head Monday, then on to Augusta Geo, Atlanta, Montgomery Ala & perhaps Mobile. Otis may have to go back to Washington then, if he does not we will probably go to N. Orleans & Vicksburg & then home via the Gulf Steamers or up the Miss! But I will go home from here if my letters from you & Farmington indicate that to be duty.

Otis makes friends wonderfully even of his enemies and as the representative of the Gov't must be treated with respect everywhere. I mean to keep this open till the mail comes. Charles looks finely in his new coat with a single silver star on each shoulder. He has just had a letter from Katie Foster wh. lies here on his table mixed up with others. He has her picture & mothers in his pocket book, but I have heard of no new flame as yet. Maj & Mrs Saxton are about our age & perfectly plain, common place sort of people. Theirs is a regular N.E. table in good style & quality, the first I have seen since Bath.

[missing closing]

[Note 1. The reference to visiting Edisto Island tomorrow, places this fragment of a letter from Rowland to his wife Ella as being written on 10/18/1865 from Charleston, S.C.]

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178 10/20/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-139

Charleston S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Charleston S.C. Oct. 20/65

My dear Mother

Otis began a letter to you at Wilmington but I do not know as he finished it. We spent last Sabbath there. We attended the Baptist S.S. & meeting. M. B. F. Mitchell is Supt. of the former. We went to dinner with him. He seems like everybody else here to have been made much poorer by the War, but not to have been utterly ruined as many were. He has 9 children - three grown up daughters, all resemble their mother and are not pretty. I went & found him at his store on Sat. & he treated us very politely.

Otis addressed the whites on Sat. & the Blacks on Sab. Evening. We spent only 7 hours in Richmond, one night in Petersburg & two days in Raleigh. I learned a good deal at the latter place - meeting with Otis many of the leading men of N.C. This is our 3d day here.

Charles met us at the Depot & was very much surprised to see me as he had no intimation of my coming. He seems perfectly well & very busy. He lives with Maj. Saxton & wife in a deserted house near the Sea in plain sight of Ft. Sumpter, Johnson's Island, &c.

Otis went down to an Island (Edisto) yesterday to confer with the colored people & try to reconcile them to give it up to the former owners. Today he & Charles & Capt Stinson have gone to Columbia to see Gov. Perry & others. They will return tomorrow & we will spend the Sabbath here & then journey further South by Steamer to Savannah Ga., Augusta, Atlanta, Montgomery & Mobile if Otis can be away so long.

Charles had a letter from Dellie the 10th of Oct and I will finish up the business about the <whipperwill> when I come home.

Tell Wash the old Masters are getting their people again & treat them just like Slaves. I hope he will stay north.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland

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179 10/20/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* My dear wife [Ella  
Howard]

RBH-140

Charleston S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Charleston S.C. Oct 20, 1865

My dear wife

We have now been here, this is the third day, & no news from home. It seems the mails come exclusively by one line of Steamers from N.Y. starting only once a week so your letters must have arrived at N.Y. just after a Steamer Sailed, but as we will not leave here till Monday, I live in hope. I have been quite unwell with my old trouble since I came & did not sit up much yesterday but am much better today.

I was disappointed not to go down the harbor with Otis & Charles to Edisto Island yesterday where they went to execute an important but most disagreeable trust - viz. to restore to some ½ Doz Rebel owners recently pardoned the land on which 6000 Negroes are now getting a good living and supporting Schools & Meetings. Some of the Rebel owners went down with them & as Mr Alvord describes the Scene I am glad I was not there. The Negroes only knew that Gen Howard, their great friend & benefactor was coming & they crowded to the Shore in hundreds receiving him with gladness, honoring him with a cavalcade &c. When they were all gathered in a large church he broke to them the sad tidings. They did not weep, but seemed overwhelmed! Sherman had promised them this land & they had occupied & cultivated it depending on the good faith of the Govm't. Now they must go to work under their old masters or [Note 1] have. Many have earned money enough to buy lots if they could be allowed. O dear, O dear! It has almost killed Otis & us all to do it, but he must do it or resign, & then who would care for any of the interests of this despised Race!

I drew up an obligation for the Masters to sign. 1st that they would employ all the negroes. 2dly That they would submit all differences to a board of Referees. 3dly that they would interpose no obstacles to Schools for colored children. But alas they will do as they choose. Men who can commit treason are capable of other crimes.

I wish you could have been present at an interview between Otis & some of the principal citizens of S.C. Gov Aiken, a professed Union man, & formally the largest slave owner in the State being among them, and the chief speaker. They tried to ride Otis right down at first till he told Gov. A. "I can do nothing about it then. You can't have your land." Then his tone changed wonderfully & he began to plead for the virtue, honesty & christianity of himself & friends. They have recovered more impertinence during the last month than they lost by defeat, I do believe. O it is a wicked, hypocritical, selfish, arrogant lot! And [Note 2] to think that Johnson will let them back into wealth, influence & power so soon, & welcome them to Washington & to places in the Government which they despise in heart, fills me with surprise & sorrow. Gov. Aiken & Mr. Whalley whom we talked with are both candidates for Congress. Charles says he has yet to meet the first native So. Carolinian who does not openly speak of the Sovereign State of South Carolina. Otis & Charles have gone to Columbia today to see the Old Gov. (Perry) & the new one (Orr). I was to go but was not well enough. They arrive at 7 tonight & leave at 2 tomorrow morning.

Gen Saxton will be removed if he does not resign within a week, in consequence of the hatred borne him by the people here. What Charles will do then, I cannot tell. He would have his place, but for the looks of the thing.

Charleston is as still & quiet as Bath, & even more so. A Brass Band played finely Hail Columbia, the Prisoners Hope & other airs on the Battery a little way from here & I walked out there about sunset last evening. Only the colored people & a few soldiers were about, where formally the wealth & fashion used to crowd. I can see the battered remains of Ft. Sumpter from this house, Yes this window & the forts from wh. the Rebels first bombarded it, in the gay & festive Season of Secession.

I can see too the dim & distant point of land from whence Gen. Gilmore [Quincy Adams Gilmore] used to hurl his death dealing shells into this City. The fall of the first one was the signal for a stampede by thousands who have not yet returned & who will not till the hated Yankee Garrisons are withdrawn as they are soon to be. Every other house bears marks of a shell & in almost every Square one or more buildings were burned in consequence. How many times they would have hung me here for what I so freely utter anywhere!

O you should see the Colored School in the State Normal School House! The latter is a splendid building erected before the war for the education of white teachers. In each of its rooms, of which there as many as 10, there is a school of different sexes & grades. The principal is a colored man named Cardoza, a native of Charleston but educated at the University of Glasgow Scotland.

Nearly all his teachers are colored, more or less, but I noticed three white ladies from the north. After visiting the various apartments, the whole school were collected in the upper hall. There were about 700 small & great as they stood up there 9/10 of them were many shades lighter than pure Ethiopian, but some were perfectly white & some equally black. They sang (O how enthusiastically!) "I have a Father in the promised Land", "I'm glad I'm in this Army" & some other songs & Otis talked to them a while & so did I.

As I sat there & thought of the change, tears of wonder & gratitude filled my eyes. I heard as good reading as in our Normal School, as good spelling, as good recitation in Geography & some excellent ones in mental arithmetic. It shows at least what may be done for the Race! Mr Alvord thinks I ought to remain South. His argument is - it opens a larger field of usefulness - brings me in contact with more minds both here & in N.E. than otherwise would be the case. How think you could stand the slights &c of your Southern Sisters? He intimates, I can take any situation here that may seem to me most appropriate & promising of good.

Evening. I feel almost well tonight, but am anxious for Otis who seems prostrated by care & work. He sat up till 2 a.m. this morning & will be up all night tonight & has a sore throat. I have been out walking by the Sea. Just at the corner of the Battery, there is a sort of fort. In it the Rebels had their largest gun. It burst when first fired & almost destroyed the fine three storied marble house in its rear. The climate tonight is June-like, the oranges are just beginning to grow yellow. There are two trees in this garden. The figs are all gone, but there are trees in the garden, but no apples, pears or grapes about here. The shrubbery & flowers are still beautiful in some gardens. I haven't done much but read today & write some. I hope to go down to Ft Sumpter tomorrow. Gen Saxton asked me to preach to the negroes Sunday but I don't know how!

It seems rather lonely without Otis & Charles, & O how I want to hear from you & my sweet babes. Tell Dadie I am keeping my stories to tell him when I come home

Sat. Morn. I will have to mail this without hearing from home. I am quite well this morning & hope this will find my dear ones the same.

Rowland

[Note 1. The letter from this point to the marker for Note 2 was taken from the last two pages of a 6 page undated letter remnant filed as RBH-318.]

[Note 2. The letter from this point to the last paragraph was taken from the first 4 pages of a 6 page undated letter remnant filed as RBH-313. Someone had added that it was written from Charleston, S.C. after 4/1865.

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180 10/24/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-141

Charleston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Charleston Oct 24, 1865

Dearest

You see by the above that I am still here, weather bound this time. We started out in the Steamer "Canonicus" for Savannah yesterday, broke our rudder chain & had to put back after going about 10 miles. I enjoyed the sail down the harbor & Charles told me about the forts & batteries. We passed very near Sumpter - so near that the ruin seemed so desolate that I did not care to go ashore. When we got "outside" the bar the wind blew a gale and I was sick as ever I was, lying in the bottom of the Cabin & vomiting to my own disgust and the amusement of some others.

We got back about 12 & after Dinner we rode out to magnolia cemetery - the Greenwood of Charleston. It has been neglected since the war, but is still a beautiful spot, which has been adorned by great expenditures, generally in good taste. One lot enclosing the grave of a sailors wife is certainly unique & bears evidence of the most singular devotion. He has adorned it with all sorts of shells. One large marble statue & one small one and in colored glass there were inscriptions like these - "My Dear, I had your first & last kiss" - "My first love". I told Charles he could never place that inscription over his wife! There was a wooden canopy over the grave & various strange & curious relics & devices all around.

It was dark when we (Mrs. Saxton, Edie & a Driver, with Charles & Maj S. on horseback) arrived home. A tremendous rain came on in the night and tho' we were up at 6 our Capt declined to start in such weath much to Otis disgust & my relief. I believe the plan now is to go in a U.S. Gun-boat detailed on purpose about 10 P.M. They say they roll beautifully, and as neither my head or stomach are yet settled and the Sea is still uneasy from the Storm that has just cleared away, I anticipate anything but a pleasant night. But it will be good to feel in a safe place with plenty of men & boats.

By coming back I got my birth-day letter from you [b. 17 Oct 1834]. I wonder if these two 13th & 17th were all you wrote. It seems to me a journey to Farmington would be rather a hard one for you to take alone. I wrote to Mr Mahen about getting in the rest of the Garden <> & Mr Pepper about the horse. This October climate is great - I'll admit - roses blossoming in the Garden - like June - the whole window open by my side. Mrs Saxton is sort of "common" I think & by no means pretty & not very agreeable - says "Secesh" with a slangy sound & talks in a flattish Yankeeish way. She is very kind tho' & evidently a great admirer of Charles as are most of her sex. How would you like to live here cut by all decent people having the reputation of possessing all the meanest & <lowest> traits of your country women. That will be the fate of all northern ladies who come here for many years to come.

Charles got with some ladies (Secesh) Sabbath evening & said he needed me very much. The negroes are all the true friends the northerners have here. We are going to ride about the City a little this P.M. And here's the horse - so good bye, Darling

Your loving husband

8. Evening Tues. 24.

Here still! The Gunboat couldn't be got ready & we are to start again in the "Canonicus" tomorrow at 8 a.m. So I have been just a week in Charleston. I'm afraid we won't have time to stop at Beaufort now. Did I tell you about Charles boy Jim. He took Wash's place but proves quite a different character. Charles sent him to jail & excited the pity of us all Sunday night, but this afternoon he went to see him & Jim confessed that he stole & spent the 60\$. What to do with him is the question. He will leave him in jail till we get back. He will sell back some clothing for 20\$ but I guess the rest is sunk & Charles feels pretty poor.

Charles friend Capt Ketchum is here & a fine fellow he is. I dread the <> tomorrow a little but it won't hinder my sleeping.

If you don't go to Farmington, drop a line to W.F. Guy & he will send you the <" at home".>

I'm so glad Otis [son Oliver Otis Howard b. 14 Feb 1865] grows to be a good boy. Dadie [son David Parker Howard b. 10 Aug 1861] must be very kind to him & love him very much because he is so little. Tell Dadie about Papas ride in the Steamboat. I try to bring the moss but haven't much room - haven't seen any bright leaves this side the Potomac.

With all my heart  
Your  
Rowland

I hope Anna will feed the chickens. We will want them fat by & by.

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181 10/26/1865 *From:* Rowland [B. Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-142

*Source:* Bowdoin

Steamer Canonicus  
Warsaw Sound 20  
miles out of Savannah  
Ga

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Steamer Canonicus  
Warsaw Sound 20 miles out of Savannah Ga  
Oct. 26. 1865

Dearest

Here we are at 8 o'clock P.M. anchored in 6 fathoms of water. We are in smooth water that glistens in the moonlight most beautifully. How I do wish you were here! We left Savannah at 5 P.M. and our Capt does not dare go "outside" till daylight. There is but one beside our party (Chas, Harry, Otis, Mr. Alvord & myself). He is a legless (one leg) Rebel officer whom Otis invited to take this boat to Jacksonville Fla. We were all day getting to Savannah from Charleston yesterday, stopping some five hours at that most desolate of all places Hilton Head, where we had an interview with Gen Gilmore. We could not go to Beaufort much to my disappointment & more to Charles' as he heard that a certain Lady had returned to "Smith plantation". I would like to have seen Charles' Regiment, the young lady, and the much talked of young lady, but Otis won't go an inch out of the way for anything but business!

We arrived at 10. P.M. and I slept in my room on the Boat notwithstanding a good deal of talk about exposure, fever &c. upon the river. I got up with the Sun & found the River as wide as the Kennebec at Augusta, running muddy red - a yellowish red such as is seen in all Southern Streams. Large warehouses were next the wharf, and the town had to be reached by flights of stairs of stone or brick. I waited up on the first landing for Otis & Charles who were half an hour later, & then we walked up to the Pulaski House to a good Breakfast, where I had two glasses of iced milk, in place of the horrid water, & worse Tea & coffee that they bring us [see Note 1] here. I then got shaved and brushed & went over to the Bureau Office, where Otis & Charles preceded me. We found Dr. Massie of England at the Hotel & he accompanied me later in the day, visiting the Colored Schools. You remember that I heard him speak in Boston & Portland.

Savannah is a beautiful city & shows few marks of the war. Business is lively & there is no desolate district as at Richmond & Charleston. At 1 P.M. Otis addressed the Colored people. From 11 ½ to that time he held a <> for the rich old masters, in the parlor of the Pulaski House. You ought to see them flock around him & hang upon his words, deciding as they do at times interests amounting to thousands of dollars. Charles & I rode about town - I upon a very large & awkward steed formally the property of the Rebel Gen Hood.

After the meeting, I had a little ride with Otis in his carriage, while he rode & called on a wealthy widow & restored her lands. The schools we visited today are supported & carried on entirely by the colored people themselves. One is in the Old Slave Mart, with its barred windows & the other in a medical college. In the latter are 350 pupils whom Dr Massie & I addressed, I representing as well as I could "The General". For Dinner I took an Oyster Stew (5 cts) at a Restaurant. We start at Daylight in the morning for Jacksonville. How pleasantly the surf sounds on the distant beach! How sad this poor Rebel. Tears came in his eyes a number times while he told me about the war today. They are the saddest people I ever saw & my heart bleeds for them often, when I hear of their individual sufferings - all friends dead & gone - all property swept away. Poor Harry, how he coughs. Chas is writing opposite, the rest are in bed & thither will I now follow them.

With love.

Fernandina Fla Evening of Oct 27th.

We are at anchor at the wharf of this little place, which is about as large apparently as East Wilton, no more good houses than there. We must stay here till the tide favors us & will not go on to Jacksonville till 7 tomorrow. We arrived about 4. I being just a little Sea Sick all the way from Warsaw Sound where we spent the night. There are 6 churches, & not a School House here! The colored people came out at 5 & Otis addressed them & I made a prayer as usual. The principal Residence was that of the Rebel General Finnegan. It is now used as an asylum for colored orphan children under charge of a Mr <Kennie> & a Miss

Merrich of Syracuse N.Y. Mr K. is sick of a fever. There are 4 young lady teachers just arrived, Poor things! How the sleeping apartments smelled! Otis stayed to Sea but I preferred to come on Board. The mosquitoes are coming on good I tell you and as I have some writing to do for Otis I must close.

Fernandina is on an Island & had a number of Hotels & was quite a resort for invalids before the war, but aside from the climate there is nothing attractive & I would much rather die at home. A mail goes northward tonight & will take this.

Your loving husband

[Note 1: The letter from here to the closing at Fernandina was found in the fragment RBH-314.]

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182 10/30/1865 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]  
RBH-143 Tallahassee Fla

*To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Letterhead]  
War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

Tallahassee Fla  
Oct. 30, 1865

Dearest

Otis has written his wife a short letter to send back by Charles & I must also write a little to mine. We arrived here today (Sunday) about 2 P.M. We started on a special train from Jacksonville (165 miles) last Evening at 7 in the hope of having a quiet Sabbath here but of all the R.R.s you ever conceived of this was the slowest & worst! We had only a box freight car. Charles & Mr Alvord lay down on some brush & Otis on an old mattress but I sat up on a board seat & thumped & thumped away all night, but I am thro' it & thankful, I hope!

It took us two hours to get the most miserable of Breakfasts at a place called "Madison" this morning. I could not eat at all for which Chas & Otis severely berated me, but we all laughed & always shall at the combination of poverty & filth (Irish & Negro) displayed on that table.

I met Capt. Thompson of Farmington at Jacksonville. He is a partner there of Capt. Dr. Vaughan of the same pleasant village. They are in trade.

We had a large meeting in the open air at Sunset last evening, with a large Reg. of Colored troops & a Band of Music. Jacksonville is about the size of Brunswick, the whole town miserably imbedded in a Land-bank. This is truly a beautiful place. Charles & I had an admiring walk after Dinner. There are spacious grounds & splendid gardens. You should see the richness & quantity of the roses of all shades - the oleander 15 to 20 feet high - the crape jasmine & other flowers.

Maj. Cutler has just been in to see me. He is stopping at this Hotel. Thinks his Reg. will start for home by Dec. 1st. We hope to see cousin Warren Woodman at Barancas as we pass to Mobile. We spend the day here tomorrow, meeting the State Convention & others & then go to St. Marks (20 miles) and take a Steamer for Mobile. Wonder if your cousins Abner & Lemeul have got around there yet! We will not go up into the State of Ala. as Gen Swayne is to meet us at Mobile. He is Commissioner for the State.

I do hope that you & our darling babes are well tonight. It must be quite cold in Bath now & still colder in our poor old house at home. I wonder what has become of the plants?

If you write Lottie tell her about Maj. Cutler if you please. He is very well & seemed very glad to see me. "Aunt Belchie" will hear thro' her.

I hope we will be in Washington by a week from next Sabbath, and then Homeward Bound! I've seen no place equal to Farmington to live in yet! Poor Otis! Has he got to give up his "comforts"! Give him a kiss from Papa. Tell Dadie we saw a lot of great white birds today bigger than doves, called Curlens, and that I saw a little beauty of a Deer yesterday. We have seen some magnolia groves & sugar cane fields, have been nibbling some of the cane today. The oranges all look very green on the trees and are rather sour for my taste.

Charles goes back to Charleston thro' St. Augustine tomorrow & will take this.

Your loving Rowland

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183 10/30/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* [Ella Howard]

RBH-315

*Source:* Bowdoin

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En route to N. Orleans with Otis [written in another hand. About 10/30/1865 to Ella]

[Page] 5 [Missing Opening]

Tell Dadie Papa saw an aligator as we came down River today. He soon dove under the water & we could'nt get very near him. Otis is very uneasy tonight because, he has nothing to drive him, as he usually has! Tell Dadie I saw a pretty little coon on a Steamboat today. He would climb up a big rope and looked as cunning as a little kitten. When we throw a bit of bread in the water hundreds of fish will dive for it & one will run away with it & then all the others will chase him & get it away if they can.

I hope to get a letter from you at N. Orleans, but fear it won't get there. We expect to touch at Barancas & see Col. Woodman.

We are all looking anxiously to the time when they will try to get the Boat off. The men are now taking out the coal & putting it aboard the Tug & are throwing all they can overboard. We will all get up to see the attempt to get her off. We had a very comfortable table today & if we get off tonight, will do very well. I want to go before there is any wind to disturb this blessed calm that rests so quietly on the face of the gulf.

You must keep Lottie informed of my movements. Somehow, I don't get a chance to write anybody but you & occasionally to Mother.

Mr Alvord & I have the same room. Tell Dadie how we sleep on the shelves. Tell him papa sees a great many porpoises. They will jump clear out of the water and make a great splash and play together like children. Flat, flat is all this coast! The lights are out in the Light Houses & we often pass the obstructions placed in the river channels by the Rebels & see their fortifications on their banks, altho so many have been mustered out, yet it seems as if the whole country were full of "Yankee" officers & troops white & colored. The colored soldiers appear much neater & more soldier-like than most of the whites,

but good night Darling. May God bless you all.  
Rowland

I have written three letters to the "Nation" newspaper (editorial) & one to Lewiston Journal & some "items" for the Chronicle beside "reporting" Otis for many of the local papers here.

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184 10/31/1865 *From:* [Rowland B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-144

*Source:* Bowdoin

“Spanish Hole”  
On board Steamer  
“Convoy” 10 miles off  
St. Marks Fla.

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[LETTERHEAD]

War Department, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

“Spanish Hole” October 31st, 1865.  
On board Steamer “Convoy” 10 miles off St. Marks Fla.

Dearest

We left Tallahassee at 8 A.M today and came down to St Marks river 25 miles on a slow freight train. There we found nothing but a wharf & warehouses full of cotton. A Bath Barque “Dirigo” Capt. Blair was loading there & I went & spoke with him. Then we took a row boat with 4 negro soldiers and came down to this place, the mouth of the River, 8 miles. The Sun was rather hot but our men rowed bravely & we were less than two hours. The Steamer “McCallom” that we expected to be here has not arrived & we are aboard the “Convoy” a nice little Steamer that has had the misfortune to get aground here over two weeks since. They are now lightening her and have a tug & hope to get off at high tide about 12 ½ o'clock tonight. If we do we will go on in this boat and not wait for the McCallom, now at Pensacola coaling.

It is a beautiful & still moonlight & the water glistens like silver. Otis & a Gen Forsyth are walking the deck. Harry & Mr Alvord have gone to their rooms. It is said to be about 48 hours sail to Mobile. Let's see, the letter I sent by Charles left us at Tallahassee Monday morning.

We visited a little colored School (self-supporting) before Dinner. At 5, we had our usual meeting of the colored people, and at 7 ½, Otis addressed the Convention at the State House. Gov Warren is a true & noble man, we think, but the convention is made up of mean looking fellows. They are determined (I think) to get into the Union if possible, and then go back to their old habits of Slave holding. Otis gave them some good & plain talk. I wish everybody could see their “contracts” with their negroes, made since their freedom & filed at Col. Osbournes. Many of them are bare faced frauds upon the colored people. They mean to reenslave or exterminate them. But there are good or decent men, like Gov. Warren who will try to do right. They (the Floridians) are a whiskey drinking, tobacco-chewing, swearing, lying set. The better class of colored men in Tallahassee are superior in morals & manners to the mass of whites that gather around the Hotel there.

I wish you could talk with the colored ministers, teachers & intelligent men as I have. You would lose that feeling that the plantation slave gives you of inferiority. If the U.S. will guarantee them 3 years of freedom, I will risk them. They will be able to take care of themselves.

The Band of the 7th Regulars played on the Piazza of the State House last evening beautifully. They are Germans and seem about as well cultivated as the old West Point Band. It was exhilarating to hear mingled with more classic music, Star Spangled Banner, Kingdom Coming, “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp” closing up with Yankee Doodle. The Secesh gather round & seemed to enjoy the music. Our troops were defeated twice in trying to get to that place during the war. Once at Olustee under Gen Seymour, & once at Newport river under Gen. Newton. So the Rebels were pretty proud about here.

Last Wednesday night we had a good prayer meeting on the “Canonicus” but it will hardly be feasible here. We expected Maj. Cutler with us today, but for some reason he staid behind. His Surgeon is aboard, and speaks in the highest terms of him.

I wonder how my dear little family are tonight? Here is a Rebel's widow & three little children come aboard by Otis permission. They look rather unclean but otherwise interesting. We have fished off the stern a little & one man has shot a crane this afternoon.

[Rowland]

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185 11/3/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-145

*Source:* Bowdoin

On board Steamer  
Convoy near Mobile,  
Mobile Bay

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On board Steamer Convoy near Mobile  
Nov 3d 1865, Mobile Bay

Dearest

We have now been on this Steamer 3 days & nights and are anxiously looking for the city of present destination. We will be in, in two hours if nothing happens. We would have come in last night, but had a heavy "coast gale" & no pilot and so anchored under a lee shore till daybreak this morning. As we passed Ft. Morgan at the mouth of this bay, they fired a gun & we stopped half an hour, but as no one came off, we proceeded on our journey. I am getting quite used to the Sea & have not missed a meal (73 cts) on this trip. It is 225 miles from St. Marks to Mobile they tell us. How long we all slept last night! Reading is rather scarce, conversation dull and we lie abed a good deal.

O how the wind blew last evening. I never saw anything like it before. We were too near shore for great waves, but I couldn't stand still on the deck without clinging to something. This boat is built like the Eastern Queen & I have a room with Mr Alvord, pretty well aft.

O how real my dreams were last night! I thought we were not married but were going to be and were looking for a nice house to live in. How we canvassed all the houses rents & c in Hallowell, for that was where my dream placed me. I concluded to get a nice house there cheap & live there while I started in my profession (Law). But somehow David & Otis got mixed up in my dream & I awoke. Otis asked me if I didn't suppose Ella was watching the papers now, this morning.

I guess it won't do much good as we are off the line of newspaper communication. We will however telegraph to Washington from Mobile & that may get into the Boston Journal or Advertiser.

It is cold & raw this morning like a real northern storm. Otis suffers from these changes more than I do, for I have flannel drawers & undershirt. I had some washing done at Charleston & some at Tallahassee & am pretty well off for clean clothes now.

We have seen a good many birds this morning which Mr Alvord says are albatrosses. I sat at my window a long time & watched them this morning & thought of the "Ancient Mariner".

Our engine shakes the boat & my table so much that I fear you can't read this even if it reaches you before I do. We have two creole women aboard, and they bring us black strong coffee when we get up in the morning. Our table is very good on this boat, but there are 4 other sets after us & it must be rather poor towards the last! They have a condenser and condense all the water we use. It loses its saltiness but does not taste pleasantly & looks like Soap Suds, but we don't mind it much in tea & coffee. Let me tell you how many kinds of meat we have had served up to us - Roast Beef - Steak - Chicken - Turkey - Crane, Duck (Teal), Mackerell, Mullet, Smoked Beef, Ham in all forms, crabs (my first), kidneys, Liver & c & c. I'm tired of writing them down & tired of seeing them too!

We passed 29 <Lipean> rigged ships at the lower harbor this morning. So Mobile must have some cotton I think. Night before last was splendid & Mr. Alvord & I sat up on deck a long time singing hymns. I went out about 2 this A.M. and it was very beautiful under the still moonlight. There are half Doz. Officers & 20 soldiers on board besides our party & the Boats crew. We are waiting here now at Day River Bar for a Pilot. I wish he would hurry up. I grow every day more anxious to be homeward bound.

Sat morn. Nov 4. Mobile.

We have had about ½ a day only in Mobile, but have visited the Schools & had a very large meeting of the colored people. We start for N. Orleans today & will arrive there by the inside route through Lake Ponchetrain tomorrow morning at 6. I hope we will have a pleasanter Sabbath than last. This is a large city, uninjured by the war & unsubdued in Spirit. Better have been burned to the ground if the Rebels are to rule here as they bid fair to now.

I will leave this for the mail with much love.

Your  
Rowland

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186 11/5/1865 *From:* Henry Clay

*To:* Major General O. Howard  
Governor of Freedmen

RBH-147

New Orleans La

N. O. La.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans La  
Nov. 5th 1865

Sir

Wishing to hold an interview with you, I deem this manner the most appropriate for the occasion. The association which I am President of - wishing to render their Heartfelt thanks to you has chosen me as one of the Committee to represent them. You will please General secure from your Humble Servant their Sincere Thanks & their Blessing for the manner which you have conducted the Bureau of Freedmen since you have been in charge of Said Bureau. Hoping that it may be conducted In Same Manner as long as the Rebels will disapprove the Policy of the government Relative to the freedmen.

I Remain Very Respectfully  
Your Obedient Servant  
Henry Clay  
President  
Union <Sons> Relief Association  
Organized June 3d 1863

To  
Major General O. Howard  
Governor of Freedmen  
N. O. La.

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187 11/5/1865    *From:* Rowland [B Howard]    *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-146

On Board Steamer  
Convoy  
Lake Ponchetrain La,

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

War Department

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

On Board Steamer Convoy  
Lake Ponchetrain La, Nov. 5, 1865.

Dearest,

We are fast nearing N.O. by the Lake route. It is 10 ½ P.M. Sat. Evening. The moon is very bright and the air is cool & we glide along very swiftly & must reach an anchorage very early in the morning. Our trip from Mobile has been very pleasant. We have a N.Y. Herald of the 28th ult and have been studying that & the Mobile & N.O. papers pretty well. Otis has written a long letter to his home this evening. Mr. Alvord is not very well.

I have been writing out the substance of a conversation between Otis & a Dr. Mott of Mobile, whom we visited after the meeting last evening. He is a Rebel of the wealthiest, most influential & most impudent kind. You ought to have been among the crowd of women who hover round the doors to listen while the conversation was going on. Dr. Mott said among other things that the President ought to have proclaimed a general amnesty to all the Day that he came into office! He still believes in State rights & slavery & speaks of an honest, high spirited people, which he says tho' conquered will feel towards their conquerors as do the Irish, the Poles & the Venicians - Niggers are an inferior race & must be kept down or exterminated. He would prefer the latter. He said to Otis, "What are you here for, dictating to our people?" Otis replied, "I am here because I have just as good a right in the State of Ala. as you or any other man" &c. the Dr. Seems to be a highly educated gentleman. His house was a model of richness & taste. He was a different man altogether when we saw him in Washington at the Bureau Office! They have got his Medical College for Colored Schools. There's the rub!

We hope to reach the City by 6 A.M. tomorrow & to go to meeting. I will see Mr Morse & Tom Hood, I suppose, & we go on in one of these three story Mississippi Steamers Monday. It will take us 8 days to Cairo & two from there to Washington if we have no accident or unnecessary delays. I hope I shan't have to stop in W. but would like to assist Otis in his Report to Congress to be made in Dec.

I wonder how my three Darlings are tonight. Give much love to Grandpa & Grandma. We got a Dispatch from Charles at Savannah today. O what a pen!

City Hotel, N.O. All safe here at last.

Your Rowland

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188 11/6/1865 *From:* Ebenezer Haywood

*To:* Major General O. Howard  
Commision of Freedmen

RBH-148

New Orleans La.

N.O. La

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans La.

Nov'br 6 /65

Sir

Wishing to hold an Interest with you I deem this Manner the most appropriate for the occasion. The association of which I am President of Wishing to render their Heartfelt thanks to the chosen man of the committe to represent them. You will please General receive from your Humble servant the sincere Heartfelt Blessings for the manner which you have conducted the Business of Freedmen since you have been in charge of the Beureau. Hoping that it may be conducted in the same manner as long as the Rebels will disaprove of the Policy of the Government Relative to Freedmen.

I Remain verry  
Respectfully  
Your Humble servant  
Ebenezer Haywood  
President,  
Lutheren Benev. Asson.  
Organized Jan 1st 1861

To. Major General O. Howard  
Commision of Freedmen  
N.O. La

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189 11/7/1865    *From:* Rowland [B Howard]    *To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-149

Steamer W.R. Arthur  
near Baton Rouge La

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Steamer W.R. Arthur  
near Baton Rouge La  
Nov. 7. 1865

My dear Mother

We are at last homeward bound & I must say I am not sorry, for instructive as it certainly is to travel in the South, it is at present very far from pleasant. But the Palace of a Steamer makes it more so than any other mode that we have tried. We left N. Orleans last evening about 6 o'clock. We arrived there at 7 Sunday morning, coming across the Lake from Mobile to Lakeport & then 6 miles by R.R. to the City.

We stopped at the City Hotel but did not see Mr Morse till just before we left. His wife is at the north. He received us very cordially & insisted on our staying longer. He says he has lost a good deal by the war but is in a fair way to regain it again. He is even now a very rich man.

Cousin Fenderson Woodman called to see us. He says he has just paid a \$13000 mortgage on Olivers [Oliver Otis Woodman] Real Estate & is trying to get it into his possession. His son had gone north for his mother. He says he lost 700 Bales of cotton by the war. We did not see Warren Woodman for we did not go to Pensacola where he was. He left Tallahassee 10 days before we arrived there. [Fenderson, Oliver Otis and Warren Woodman were brothers.]

The Boat trembles so that I can't write very well.

Otis had a great meeting of the colored people in N.O. & all the papers spoke of it in the highest terms. He seems to make friends wherever he goes. He said yesterday morning, this should be his text for the day - "When a mans ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him".

I fear Harry Stinson will die of consumption before long. He is not so well as when we left Washington & coughs terribly nights. Otis & I are both very well indeed. I wish you were with us now on this Boat. It is unlike any of our Steamboats & of course there is no "Sea". The Rooms are large & airy, the Salloons well furnished, the table neater & better appointed than any we have had. There are 50 deck hands & as many as 25 waiters & perhaps 200 passengers. We pay our fare & that includes our subsistence. I saw some men gambling last night for the first time in my life. Their profanity was awful as they sat at the table with their cards & bank bills.

Did I tell you that Otis & Charles saw Everett Bridgham at <Savannah>. He was a member of the 12th Me. Reg. & looking very well.

But to return to the Boat. There is a large Bar, a Barbers Shop, a spacious Kitchen, plenty of ice - but here's a landing & I must look ashore - no I won't, as it is only one of those little places where our flat bottomed Steamer glides into the mud to land passengers. I have seen no wharfs upon the River but the soft mud does instead. For 600 miles this River averages 120 ft. deep. Its current is not swifter than the Kennebec apparently & at N. Orleans, it does not seem wider than that River at Bath. The water is muddy looking, & the Banks seldom over 6 to 10 feet high, then curves the mud wall now swarded over called the Levee, which keeps the water off the Plantations.

We have been upon the Pilot-House most of the morning where we could see the country. We have seen many splendid mansions on the Sugar Plantations. I wonder if they will all go down with Slavery.

I visited about 12 colored schools in N. Orleans & they were as good as any white schools that I ever saw. We had a meeting of all the leading & influential colored men at the Office of the Bureau & a great many white men came to see Otis.

We will stop at Vicksburg where we expect to arrive tomorrow night & will go on north from there in the cars, if

they promise any greater speed than we get on these Boats. If not we will go to Cairo & there take the cars for Washington travelling night & day. Our nights are very cold but I have seen no signs of frost yet. Thousand of poor colored people will suffer terribly when the winter fairly comes on. They now live almost altogether out of doors.

Sunday I heard the celebrated Dr. Palmer preach an excellent sermon on the text - "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things & to enter into his glory". He had a good audience in a fine church. The South is fast getting into her old ways in all things except as regards Slavery.

With much love from me & Otis.  
Rowland

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190 11/8/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-150

Steamer W.R. Arthur  
near Natchez

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

National "Freedmans' Savings and Trust Company,"  
AMERICAN EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING  
No. 87 CEDAR STREET,  
New York

Steamer W.R. Arthur near Natchez  
Nov 8, 1865

Dearest

I have scolded Mr. Alvord a good deal about spoiling his paper in the above manner! This is Otis birthday & we have now been on this Boat & River 40 hours, passing our time very pleasantly, especially as our faces are now turned homeward. My last letter to you was mailed the day (Sunday Nov. 5) that we arrived in N.O. That morning after a pleasant interview with Gen Sheridan, who is shorter & fatter & heartier than Otis, we went to hear Dr. Palmer preach. It was a fine large well finished & furnished Church - a full & good-looking congregation and a capital Christian Sermon delivered without notes of any kind.

While waiting for Otis, Harry & I walked down to the Levee & caught our first glimpse of the Father of Waters. It did not seem much wider than the Kennebec at Bath & it was difficult to realize that so many thousands of miles of Rivers & Streams had here their outlet to the Ocean. But a Pilot tells us that the River averages 120 ft. in depth for 600 miles from the mouth. I tried to see where your ship used to lay, but think I didn't get down far enough, as these enormous steamers crowded the Bank, (There were no real wharfs) where we were.

After meeting & Dinner Harry asked me to go with him and see his old prison house. After some walking, we came to the Great Parish Prison where he was confined for four months. It is now used for ordinary criminals, but when he told the turnkey his errand we were admitted. We went to the granite face court where they scoured their bone ornaments on the pavements, & then up to the small room where 16 of them slept at night upon a hard floor. You can imagine with what interest he regarded the place. He told me how by climbing they could just see the top of one spire.

In the evening there was an immense meeting of colored people at the Orleans Theatre. Mr Alvord was taken very sick & I remained with him in our room. Otis & Harry came in about 10 & told us of the enthusiasm &c.

By the way at a great meeting in Mobile, Otis called on me to sing "Nearer my God to thee" & when I sang it, I was horrified by the rapturous applause of our colored brethren!

Mr Alvord was better Monday and we took an ambulance and visited some 12, or 14 colored Schools, & found them equal in all respects to the graded schools of the North, except that they had not gone so far. The School Rooms are neat & well contrived and the teachers, many of them being Southern ladies, seem devoted to their work.

On our return to the Bureau office, we found a large delegation of the colored Benevolent Societies (90 in no.) waiting upon Otis. We had a very interesting interview with them & one which I can never forget. They appeared to be much above the general intelligence of the common people at the North. Among them were Doctors, many ministers, bankers (one worth 300,000) Teachers & others. Some were as white as I am, & still in the eye of society & the Law, they are "niggers". You couldn't help tears, I know, when you should hear them speak freely of their wrongs & their hopes for themselves & their children. They deceive the whites around them, have secret associations, methods of communicating intelligence &c. Unless they are recognized & given their rights, they will form a very dangerous class in Society. They are subdued, docile, servile now, but every day adds to their independence & manliness.

Next to the colored came a delegation of the original white union men of N.O. Their no's are small, their hatred of the Secessionists intense, their disappointment with regard to the Presidents course, bitter. They say, we

cannot live here unless these Rebels are rebuked & we are protected by military force.

All the newspapers spoke well of Otis & his speech. He said day before yesterday, this shall be my text for the day, "When a mans ways please the Lord he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." He seems to experience the truth of it continually. He has more to fear from Washington than elsewhere.

Mr Morse, proprietor of our Hotel & Francis' Lathrop wife's Bro, came in when we got home considerably intoxicated. He was very cordial & insisted on our staying longer. They say he has periodical times of hard-drinking. I am very sorry for it will increase on him & he will squander life & property. He is worth half a million - says he pays 1100\$ per year taxes on his Portland House. I thought he would give our whole party, their Hotel Bill. He only did it to Otis.

Our cousin Fenderson Woodman came to see us. He is getting Oliver's [Oliver Otis Woodman] estate into his hands & getting ready to cheat somebody else, I suppose.

Did I tell you Otis & Charles saw another of our precious cousins in Savannah, Everett Bridgham a member of the 12th Me. Reg?

Well we got aboard our Steamer about 5 o'clock but didn't get underweigh till six & then crossed to Algiers and loaded wood till 9. Our first evening on board was very pleasant & entertaining. We have good large airy rooms - a cabin, or Saloon that must be 80 feet long, well carpeted & lighted. We have good & excellently served meals. These are included in our fare. Then the Boat is a world in itself.

Besides our Cabin, with the ladies at the other end, with its 130 passengers, there is another deck below where there are many colored people & soldiers, and another above us where the "great folks" of the colored have rooms & where the officers of the Boat have quarters. Then above all is the Pilot House, called "Texas". There are at least 50 deck hands & they are driven about like so many cattle. Then we have a large Kitchen, 20 waiters, a Barbers Shop, a Bar, an office &c. the Boat is not built in a substantial manner. All the partitions are thin & every part of her shakes with the labor of our most noisy engine. That will partially acct. for the looks of this writing!

We take 75 cords of wood on at a single time and we take coal by lashing a "flat" (gondola) along side. This "flat" has floated all the way from Pittsburg Pa. & a no. of them are tied up to the rivers bank till a Steamer comes along & buys a load.

We have on board a band of five Negro minstrels, a guitar, banjo, two violins & a bass viol. They have given us good concerts both evenings. On the first, the gentlemen with ladies had a dance.

By the way, I feel quite humiliated here by not having a lady, my wife, I mean. A notice over their cabin reads as follows "No gentleman without ladies admitted!" This is the first place that you could endure in all our traveling, I think & this with plenty of money, reading, music & society would suit you exactly. One lady has 4 little children. I sent for the baby, about Otis' age & had a good play with him yesterday.

Oranges have opened all their hearts to us! They left us at Natchez this morning. Yesterday morning, we had for a long way fine views of the celebrated Sugar Plantations with their noble mansion houses & neat clusters of Negro cabins. Some of the houses appeared in the distance thro a glass to be the most elegant private residences that I have ever seen. They are unlike the modern houses on the Hudson River, but many of them have lofty pillars & colonades and seem more classic. If I could separate Slavery from them, the whole scene would be beautiful indeed.

Otis was with us for a long time overlooking the country from the "Texas". He talks over his campaigns, gives his ideas of all the officers engaged in the war.

O, by the way, we saw Boggs at N.O. He was at the Hotel table when we spoke with him & afterwards came into our room. He is in an express office, his family in Baltimore, has 4 children, is not changed, says he enjoyed the war, but had but 5 cents when Dick Taylor surrendered at Shreveport & he came to N.O with his family. He wears his old army overcoat, is just as smart & proud spirited as ever. He was Brig. Gen. in Reb. Army.

I didn't see Tom Hook at all. I was so busy, and worse than that I didn't get your moss. I tried & walked miles in Mobile but, it don't grow on the trees in the City, & my mistake was in leaving Tallahassee without it. I am very sorry.

Harry seems a little better since he has been on the River.

We expect to arrive at Vicksburg by tomorrow morning & will leave the Boat there & go over to Jackson, and if we can get north by R.R. may not return to the River. This is a slow tho pleasant way of journeying. I never saw gambling till night before last & never want to see it again. There is a good deal of card playing &, I presume, gambling in the other end of the Cabin today. The ladies have a piano but do not play it much, but play cards instead. Mr Alvord is writing & Otis is reading Walter Scotts "Betrothed" at the other side of this shaky table. I will mail this, with 14 pages to Charles & 4 to mother at Vicksburg, when we go ashore.

Dadie would be delighted with this great Boat. It is nice to "scamper" on & the engines &c are very wonderful to the little ones.

I did not sleep well last night nor eat Breakfast this morning & feel less like Dinner. We have had too good living & too little exercise on Board, that is the great trouble. Here they come to take this for a Dinner Table so I must bid you goodbye with all my heart.

Your Rowland

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191 11/13/1865 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-152

On Board Steamer  
Missouri

*Source:* Bowdoin

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On Board Steamer Missouri  
Monday Nov 13, 1865

Dearest

We have been on our way from Memphis perhaps half an hour. Since we left the great River at Vicksburg, we have traveled 300 miles by R.R. in the States of Miss & Ten & are now "once more upon the waters". I think my last letter was mailed before we left the Steamer at V. Well, we found comfortable quarters at the Washington Hotel for the night & the intervening day. The hill is steeper from the River than Winthrop Hill in Hallowell.

The town is knocked to pieces and burned by our Shells. We visited some large schools and then rode out to the Pemberton Monument erected on the spot [Vicksburg] where that Gen surrendered July 4, 1863. It is largely defaced by curiosity hunters or rebels. I have a little bit of mortar that had fallen off.

I have never seen so long & strong military works as here. The country is broken up into little hills that are very steep and as the roads are graded the "cuts" are deep and the banks perpendicular & high. In these the soldiers & inhabitants burrowed during the Siege. There are thousands of these oven-shaped holes all over town. In them, the people were perfectly safe from shells. Our lines, under Gen Grant, were 12 miles in length and are now as high as a mans head. The people plow over the trenches wherein sleep the dead in a few years all marks of the war except the larger forts will be obliterated. Perhaps it is well so, why should we seek to perpetuate especially at the South those things that will only be a perpetual source of chagrin & disgrace to the conquered people of that Section. But fenced cemeteries should be furnished & defended by our Govmt.

We dined with the German Gen. Osterhouse. He is since "relieved". We had a tremendous out of door meeting at 5 P.M. Some colored Reg's & a good Band enlivened the occasion. At 4 ½ A.M. the next morning we were on our way to Jackson - 50 miles in the interior. The fare was 5\$, the cars worn out, filthy & hard to sit in. Ambulances took us 3 miles of the distance and we arrived and breakfasted at the Dickson House in J. At 11 A.M.

Our party was increased that morning by three northern Clergymen, Congregationalists & friends of Mr Alvord, Rev. Mssr Ray & Savage of Chicago & Warren (Sc. Of Fr. Soc) of Boston. Gov. Sharky met us at the cars and was very cordial. He is the U.S provisional Gov. Otis went to see him & the civil authorities. Harry was very tired & so I wandered away & sat down in the huts of colored people at the outskirts of this most desolate town that I have seen. It is a beautiful, fruitful country and was a splendid little place, the pride of the people, but it is mostly charred walls & topling chimneys now. The State House is intact, but was cheaply, tho ostentatiously built and the walls are beginning to crumble. On the State grounds hundreds of homeless blacks have "squatted". They have their little huts of split Cypress wood generally that they have made with their own hands, but some were huddled promiscuously in old half destroyed brick buildings, floorless, doorless, windowless.

In one of these, I spent half an hour talking with those cheerless, desolate women. Four children were sick, four or five others "better". The women were of the lowest class, most of them driven from their old homes because of their helpless & dependant families. O what a curse it is to them to have children! Some stories were told me there of child murder, and they seemed very probable. One man was making a coffin as I walked by. He was a Dr. & Rev. and did not desert his patients till they were decently buried with the rites of religion!

I walked on into a noble oak forest bordering on a creek where the cypress grew. I went for moss & found plenty - all I could get into my valise.

I talked with many cheerful wood cutters, was grateful for the shade from the hot sun and have had no pleasanter two hours in all my journey. I spent some time in the Legislature. They did not publicly ask Otis to speak but were many of them present the morning at 9 ½ when he addressed the people from the piazza of the Gov. Mansion. When he alluded to the sympathy that he had for sufferers on both sides. I saw tears in many eyes.

At 11 we bade Mr. Alvord & friends good by & took a "Dumming" car, just built, neat & comfortable, for the north. In this, we traveled with the Pres. Of the R.R. free. At Canton 25 miles, we stopped for two hours and there was another large gathering of the people to whom I introduced Gen Howard!

It seems queer not to have Mr Alvord & look out for his valise & shawl with our own luggage. He is a good man & we miss him very much. A negro (Dr. Phil) had been speaking to his people at Canton to the entire satisfaction of the whites & Gen West (Pres. R.R. & member of Congress) gave him a free pass on the R.R. that he might speak to his people elsewhere. Dr. Phil. says, "I speaks reason & common Sense". But such a night as we had!

About 12, we had to take to an old omnibus for 2 miles & then at the town of Granada, we took an old <war-worn> car perfectly stripped of its upholstery & having broken-backed seats, dusty, cold, filthy in the extreme. All night long we slowly progressed in this, arriving at Grand Junction (200 miles from Jackson) near the border of Ten. at 8 A.M. Here we were in a desolate place, with a miserable breakfast, Otis unwell & little prospect of getting on.

But about 10 o'clock, there came an engine & comfortable cars & away we went for Memphis (55 miles). It was Sab. & I tried to turn my heart homeward & upward to God, but the latter effort was not very successful. Talk, talk, talk about the negro & his rights & oppressions is the order everywhere morning noon & night. The car was well filled with respectable people. However some planters in homespun, ruined by the war. Here a "poor white" who complains that his wife has been outraged by a negro and comes to me with it because, as he says, he has heard that I am "at the head of the colored population". Here are some proud, well-dressed ladies, who utter in low hissing tones those hated words "these Yankees". But this country is grand - what noble forests. These oaks with their green sward beneath and their russett leaves are next the maple in autumn beauty & much superior in real grandeur. Here are long vistas of white cotton fields not yet gathered. (Their first frost was last Sab.) corn on the stalk. The earth is yellow & rich & the land rolling. War has destroyed most of the houses & we see strong stockades once about every two miles.

At 2 P.M. we enter the suburbs of the great City of Memphis, which, with the exception of St. Louis, has for the past 15 years been the most flourishing city of the South. Indeed it is more like a N.W. town than a Southern one, but its great wealth, like that of Charleston, Mobile & N.O. is in cotton. At none of these places is there so much business activity. Nowhere did I see such immense piles of cotton. We were taken in Hack by Gen Dudley, Ass. Com. for this place, to the Gayoso House. It is a splendid hotel with a Dining Room that I have never seen surpassed. "The Gen" had a fine room of course & all our bills were "paid" by some one here.

In the evening we had a crowded meeting in a colored church. Otis asked me to pray & spoke in his usual sincere, hearty & most impressive manner. How they sang "On Jordans Stormy Banks"! Otis then allowed a colored man to speak & he endorsed "the General" most fully, illustrating his remarks profusely & amusing us by his dialect & pleasing us by his good sense & genuine eloquence. After we got home, in comes an editor, so I must sit up & write out the speech. Otis went down to a Steamer to see Gen. Thomas, but by 11 we were all in wide beds & making up for our previous night in the cars.

We were awakened at 5 by the news of the "Missouri's" arrival & came on board but did not get away till 9 A.M. We breakfasted on board. This boat is much like the "Arthur" in which we came to Vicksburg but is newer. We expect to reach Cairo tomorrow & then three days to Washington over 1000 miles. I would leave them at Baltimore, but I want to get a part of my expenses paid me if I can. I mean the thousand little things for which I have been compelled to pay out my own money. (12 cents apiece for washing 12 cents for an apple, 50 cents for a few stitches in a shoe & the like) I will mail this at the best place to reach you.

Otis & we are all well this morning. The Bank of the river are higher than below, more islands & "shoots". It is even more muddy. Our passengers are of a better class than before, very few tobacco spitting Southerners. O they are a coarse "disagreeable" set, I tell you. They <worked> hard with their "niggars" 9 mos. in a year in order to play the gentleman at the north for the other three. Now that they are at home & the result of the war has taken all starch out of them, they seem very flat & stale.

Evening. We have anchored a little below Ft. Pillow, on the Arkansas side and are taking on a huge pile of wood. The Steamer simply runs her bow up on the bank. Then they run out a huge walking plank and the 50 or 100 Deck hands run ashore to the pile which is near the end of the plank. Each takes 5 or 6 4-ft sticks on his shoulder and they follow each other very rapidly on to the Boat again. In an hour they will thus transfer 25 cords or more. It costs a good deal of swearing by the mates & considerable by the men.

Otis has been introduced a lady with whom he has dined & is now chatting in the ladies cabin. He offered to introduce me but my old coat is not very presentable & I don't want to take out my new one today, but I do feel the need of ladies & childrens Society.

It is now five weeks since I left home. Otis has bought me Chaplain Quints letters today. He speaks in one of loving even to hear a baby cry & I can sympathize with that feeling. I have often regretted that I didn't take the childrens pictures with your own. Dadie is in my mind all the time, just as when I left him, but poor little Otie! As Otis says, I can't "fix" him! Sometimes he looks one way & sometimes another!

I wonder what they are doing at Farmington. I wrote a note to Mr Goodenau from Charleston, but have not written since.

I hope there will be letters from you in Washington, but hardly expect it as you may not know that I would go there. This trip has been most kindly smiled on by Divine Providence. We had a little rain one night in Savannah & today has been a rainy day, but we think it will be pleasant again by the time we take the cars at Cairo. We ought to be in Washington by the 17th. (But R.R. connections are always uncertain.) If so & I do not stop in N.Y. or Boston at all I may reach Bath Sat. Night next. Be sure I will come as fast as I can dearest. I don't care to preach till a week from next Sabbath. That will give me six Sabbaths in all.

God bless & keep you Dearest.  
Your Rowland

Tuesday 1 pm.

As the log had delayed us we cannot reach Washington till Friday night & therefore I must stay there over the Sabbath & can't get home till late in the week.

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192 11/18/1865 *From:* [Rowland B Howard] *To:* Dearest [Ella Howard]

RBH-153

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

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[LETTERHEAD]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington

Nov 18th 1865.

Dearest

After reading Lizzies letter, which I was so happy to see today, a few hours after our arrival, I can't go to bed without writing my dear wife a few lines, in the hope that it will reach you before I do. "Otie sick"! And "you have no girl"! "You are up nights" - "no rest"! Well, these are sad tidings indeed. I hadn't heard a word since I left Charleston. But the Lord will provide. He will hear my prayer for the restoration of our dear baby and for his dear Mother. How it shuts out the Sunlight on all my anticipated domestic happiness to think of you worn out, dejected & ill. But I will hope still, tho' I must say that I have felt very differently since, the bad news &, were it not Sabbath tomorrow, should be on my way tonight to you.

But Monday I must take to finish my work for Otis & make up my acct of expenses and get my pay. Tuesday shall find me in N.Y. where I will attend a Freedmens meeting and hear Beecher, Bellows, Storrs & Gen Fiske (who took tea & spent the evening here and will go on with me). Then Wednesday I will go to Boston & if the train gets in, in time to Bath in the Boat, if not, by R.R. Thursday. If you are not quite ready to go with the children I can go home from Bath & get everything ready & you can come up, when you are quite ready.

I must preach at home next Sab. (Week). Mrs Plummer Morrill, who came last week thinks they have had meetings every Sabbath but one. I called on her, Mrs Maher & Mrs Clark - formally of Wilton - this P.M.

We arrived about 12 pretty dirty & tired, I tell you, but felt better after a lunch & bath & clean clothes. My last writing to you was a note in pencil from Richmond Ind. We had a pleasant visit there - Otis having quite a Levee in the evening. We sang patriotic songs with a gusto, had a serenade by a good Band, went to the Depot at 11 P.M., waited till 1 for the train. We had a sleeping car till 5 A.M. (my first experience) and then found ourselves at Columbus O. one hour behind the time - missing "the connection". We went to bed & Breakfast at a good Hotel, strolled about that city a little and started on by the "Lightening Express" train at 10.20 A.M. It is a noble state, is Ohio. Its fields are as rich and bear marks of higher culture than those of Miss. It was just night when we reached the Ohio river near Wheeling, where we crossed & supped on a Ferry boat. Then came a sleeping car till we arrived at Martinsburg Va. I was up, faced washed hair combed & eyes fully opened at 5! But the night had covered the grand scenery of the Alleghany Mts and the wonderful R.R. the round & over them that I had hoped to see. But Harpers Ferry partially repaid the loss & the last 20 miles near Baltimore, along a winding rocky creek was the most picturesque I ever looked upon. Compared with beds, sleeping cars are no where compared with steamboat berths, about ditto compared with straight seats or plain boxcars with no seats, they are grand. We found the family all well, the house in apple pie order, the Bureau full as usual. All the family are now in bed & I must follow. I had a note from Austin A. inviting me to stop with him on my way back. If I spend a night in N.Y. I will do so. I mean to press Portland on Lyman. Everybody says the Union Commission is gone up & so I guess he'll accept. You did right about So. Berwick. I know of no reason why I should candidate there. I hope for a quiet hearing Sabbath tomorrow as Dr. Boynton is on the ground.

Good night Darling

O that you were here or I were there!

Sabbath morning. This is the most Novemberish morning that I have seen, but don't dread the winter too much

Darling. We will do all we can to make the house warm & comfortable & our clothing ditto & ourselves contented trustful & happy.

I have seen no place, the appearance of which was so pleasant to the eye and no people among whom I would choose to live rather than Farmington. And yet if my character & reputation and the leadings of Gods Spirit & Providence will give us a home where we can be freer from temporary embarassments than there and at the same time have a prospect of wider usefulness, I hold myself in readiness to leave. But, I must confess, I see no such place while in the ministry. I could leave it today & go South and into business with my name only & make 5000\$ a year at least, but I should expect the curse of God to be upon me & mine. Gen Fiske was offered \$10,000 a year just to reside on a large Plantation & take charge of the labor & I have heard frequently of 2 or 3000 being offered to ordinary men for the same purpose. The object is to get a man who can manage the Freedmen & in whom they have confidence, but woe is me, if I preach not the Gospel! And I would have it so.

There the breakfast bell!

With love to all - kisses to my Darlings

Your Rowland

[Note 1: The letter from here to the closing was found in RBH-153.]

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193 8/25/1868    *From:* Rowland [B Howard]    *To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-154                      Farmington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Aug 25, 1868

Dear Mother

I hope Frank Gilman sent you my Rangely letter as you will there see what a pleasant trip we had. For the last two Sabbaths I have been at home all day & have had full houses and solemn meetings. This morning I attended the wedding of Mr. A.W. Stewart of Marion whom you saw at Dellies and Miss Augusta Brett. They left in the cars & will spend one day at Boston & one in Chicago. I made them to promise to see you soon after their arrival. Her father formally lived in Phillips but they have been here for two years, and soon expect to move to Knoxville Tenn. It was a pleasant wedding - no one present but the family. I was glad to see one who saw you so recently as he did.

We all continue well, having very warm days & cold nights. Sarah has lost her girl again. Ella will go down to Bath with Otie & Dadie & spend a week, leaving tomorrow. I exchange with Rev. Mr Hayes of Mass (Weymouth) next Sab. Leaving here Friday.

Sarah is very silent to us about her matrimonial plans. We hope to hire or buy this house when she goes away, as we are very tired of having our children in another family. Dadie & Otie were to the Caravan with me, and their mother & were delighted with the elephants, monkeys &c. Otie was impressed by the drums & plays some kind of a one most of the time. Dadie is a "Ring Master" & drives Otie around him for a pony, flourishing a long whip.

Our friends at Bath are quite well. It is a long time since we heard form Leeds. We try to follow Otis by the newspapers.

Give much love to Dellie & Rosa & a kiss to Ralph. Yr. aff. Son  
Rowland

P.S.

Mrs Goff has a Party tonight in honor of her uncle Jerry Lathrop who is here on a visit. We will go. Miss Kearny is still here. The town is full of people as always at this Season of the year. Ella sends much love to you all. Dadie misses his visit to Leeds very much. I will not stop more than one day in Mass beside the Sab.

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194 10/17/1868 *From:* Rowland [B. Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-303

Farmington

[Cedar Rapids, Iowa]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Farmington Oct. 17, 1868

My dear Mother

My Birthday has been marked by the first snow storm of the Season. It commenced snowing about 7 A.M. & continued without much intermission during the forenoon. It has all melted except in the shade of the trees & fences and the Sun is out, but the clouds look cold. I am writing in "The Shop" now my "Study". It is a very retired & pleasant place and I enjoy it very much. I hope to batten and list it so as to make it comfortable for the winter.

Sarah [Sarah (Lee) Sargent] has not quite decided to rent the house to us i.e. I offer 200\$ & she asks 225\$ rent for the whole (both sides) per year. Mr Talbot came last night & I hope he will help her to decide. She expects to be married on the 5th of Nov. I believe. Mr T visits at a Mr Sewell, the next house, and so it is very convenient. Thomasine is to stay & take charge of the boys and Sarahs things, disposing of the latter as she can, till the boys go to Mr Perkins School in Gorham Dec 2d for a year. Sarah expects to board in Boston this winter and to go to Machias in the Summer. Mr T's business is largely in Boston. He told Sarah he was worth \$100,000 making allowance for all depreciation of present inflated values. Her brothers Sargent seem delighted with the match. He is a good looking, self-satisfied, cheerful man of 54, well preserved every way, has no children, is a mild Democrat &c. He is now on his way to Boston and will return for her in Nov. She is very busy with her preparations, dresses, &c. The boys go to School and we all take our meals at a neighboring boarding house, which is as cheap for us as boarding with Sarah.

Ella has been home a fortnight, & Dadie goes to a private School taught by Rev. Mr Mays (deceased) (Seths bother) two daughters. Their mother now lives in this place. Otie is still rather a troublesome boy. He is bright enough, quick to learn, talks incessantly and is very affectionate. But he is easily disconcerted & has his father's irritability. Dadie is not a very good Scholar as you know. The boys quite often speak of things Grandma Gilmore "got" just as if you still owned the farm at Leeds.

We have not heard from Leeds for some time. We are very sorry to hear that Olie Otis [Note 1] is not very steady. He has a good place - foreman a printing office here and is in the same boarding house with us, but his habits are not good and we fear he will lose his place. He is in debt fo his board, & never will help his father much, I fear. I have had one conversation with him & hope to have another soon. He talks penitently & confesses he has done wrong, but you know how little foundation of character there is to build upon. Pray for him.

Our people are trying in spite of a loss of means by emigration and the Hayden Unitarian movement to increase my salary. They will make it \$1100 and perhaps \$1200 this year. Many are doing everything they can afford to, to keep me, and the prospect now is that I will stay at least another year. If we take the house, we will let the North part to some small family probably.

We cannot be too thankful to God for the blessings He has vouchsafed unto us the past year. Our own health & that of our children has been good. Ella has had less of her Dispepsia than for many years. We have gone through the year without debt, but I have bought few books fo myself and very little of anything for Ella. I have been able to pay most of my insurance with the help of the money you gave me. My Insurance (\$6,500) amounts to \$230.00 per year and Capt Patten has helped somewhat. He has advanced the annual payment & I have paid him what I could quarterly. I have to pay on the \$5000 only 7 years more and then they give me a paid up policy.

I hope everything is safe at John's for the winter. If necessary, I can go there, but must confess, I don't want to! Your Buffalo has kept well during the Summer. I had just taken it from the trunk for an airing. It will occasionally add to our comfort this winter if you are willing we should use it. I suppose the attractions of Ralph & Eliza, that is, the prospect that you may be very useful in caring for them, will keep you at Cedar Rapids some time yet [Note 2]. How happy we will

[missing page]

<me> so far. Ella joins in sending a great deal of love to you. We will soon watch anxiously for news from Katie. [Note 3]

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

[Note 1. This is probably a reference to Oliver Otis, b 1849, the son of Rowland's cousin John Harrison Otis and Hellen Worthing.]

[Note 2. Ralph (b. May 2, 1867) and Eliza (b. about Oct 1868) were children of Rodolphus Gilmore and Rosa Ellen Deane and were living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.]

[Note 3. Charles & Katherine (Foster) Howard were expecting their first son Otis McGaw Howard, born October 24, 1868.]

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195 6/9/1870

*From:* Rufus Carey

*To:* Rev RB Howard

RBH-155

Princeton III

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton III June 9th 1870

Rev RB Howard

Dear Brother

The Committee of Supply of the First Congregational Church of this place by the unanimous vote of the church cordially invite you to the Pastorate of the Church for one year with a view of a permanent relation at a salary of two thousand dollars a year. You will also be funded with two hundred dollars as aid to your removal to this place.

In presenting this invitation to you the committee cannot but express the pleasure they feel that they act by the unanimous vote of the church and they trust that this to you will be one indication that God has called you to labor with us, and it is our prayer that He may direct you in your decision as shall be for His glory.

We hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and should you decide to accept our call that you will be with us as soon as the interests of all concerned will permit.

By the com't of Supply  
Rufus Carey Clerk

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196 6/21/1870    *From:* Henry L. Boltwood    *To:* Dear Bro [RB] Howard

RBH-157

Princeton, Ill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton, Ill, June 21st, 1870

Dear Bro. Howard;

Your letter was received yesterday, and I am glad to hear that you are disposed to consider our case favorably. We are needing you here, I think, and the Lord seems to have made plain the road for your coming, so far as the church is concerned.

There is no ecclesiastical society here apart from the church. No other body is to act upon the call.

The number present at our church meeting and voting was fifty. Although this may seem a small number, compared with our membership, it is a larger number than ever met before to vote on a call. I think there has never been a more satisfactory vote on any subject, and there was not the slightest opposition.

Our church debt is reduced to \$750. The money is borrowed and can lie as long as we choose to pay interest for it. If our crops are good this year, it will be raised easily. If not, it will not, in its present form, be any obstacle. We had a long pull in getting rid of it, but have done it at last.

Mr Bascom prefers, of course, to sell his house, but will rent if he does not sell. He asks \$4500 for it. He will probably take a little less, though he has refused \$4000. There are half a dozen good houses in market, some of them to be had cheap, but it is difficult to get a rented house here with any certainty of keeping it. I bought on coming here, finding it cheaper to pay interest than to rent. There are houses which would do very well which are renting for \$250 to \$350, and can be bought for \$3000 or thereabout. If you decide to come, we can provide you a home in good season.

I have supplied the church for three Sabbaths past, and expect to do so until we hear positively from you. All well.

Yours in X.  
Henry L. Boltwood

---

197 7/11/1870 *From:* Rufus Carey

*To:* Rev. RB Howard

RBH-158

Princeton, Ill

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Princeton, Ill July 11th 1870

Rev. RB Howard

My Dear Brother,

Yours of 4th is recd. You report progress as we feel hope and pray n the right direction. It has been the prayer of the Church that He would make the path of duty plain to you, but perhaps we are a little selfish in our prayers, for most of us are quite tired of candidating. We want to feel settled, that we have a pastor, a friend and leader and we trust that God is inclining your heart to come to us, and it would please us as soon as the interest of all will permit, to have you with us. There is no discordant feeling. All feel not only satisfied but cheerful and rejoice that you are coming.

As to a house I think you can suit yourself although most of the houses are 1 ½ story that are for sale. No one can select for you, but my advise would be to rent for one year and before that time is out you would be decided whether to purchase or not and where. If Mr Bascom would rent his house for one year my advise would be to take it, but you will not be left out in the cold when you come for many have large cabins.

You speak of it being a tearful time with you. Am aware that those ties are hard to be broken, have felt it all, but brother, you will find as good friends as good christians and as precious souls here as you are now leaving. The field is white for the harvest. And your wife will also find as choice sisters and friends in the church and community as she is leaving. It will only be leaving tried friends for friends as good as true only that they have not been tried. Well weep, its manly to weep under such circumstances.

May God guide direct and sustain you, and may you get through the change with fortitude feeling that our Master bids you come.

Brother Boltwood supplies us by himself or exchange. He is a noble good brother and you will not only always find him reliable, but he will be a great help to you. We feel a pleasure that we have such a brother in the church.

With my best wishes for yourself and wife

Yours truly  
Rufus Carey

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198 2/1/1871      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-159

Princeton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton, Feb 1, 1871

My dear Mother

Ella arrived in Portland about 11 o'clock Sat Jan 22d [Saturday was Jan 21, 1871]. She spent the Sabbath with Lizzie [Patten] and reached home Monday [Jan 23] at 10 a.m. Her Father recognized her and she staid by him till 2 PM. Then he fell asleep. He had said "I am ready, come Lord Jesus" and seemed to fully trust his Saviour. The Funeral was Thursday after, at 3 P.M. Ella was newly and greatly impressed with the hymn "There is an hour of peaceful rest".

My last letter from her was dated the 28th of Jan. Aunt Jane, Mr. & Mrs. Rogers were still there. His death will make little change. He gave everything to Mrs Patten as long as she should live. I suppose he has lost over half his estate within ten years. Uncle Lincoln arrived at N. Orleans the 23d ult. He will not go home now.

Ella will stay a few weeks with her mother. I don't know just how long. No news from Charles & Dellie since I wrote. I enclose Laura & Uncle Ensigns letters. I am expecting Otis to come & Lecture in March. I sent you a paper containing some remarks of mine at a Dr's funeral.

Give much love to Lizzie & Gracie & all the children. Not forgetting Otis.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

P.S.

Dadie, Elizabeth & I get on nicely. Dadie goes to the public school. We had boys sleds & some other things which we left sent in a box, & they are very convenient but the freight bill was \$11.00 about 4 times as high as in the summer. I don't understand who Melvin Berry is to marry. I hope you went to see Mrs Ames in her trouble. R.

---

199 8/16/1871

*From:* Lasarus Reeve  
Wm L Anthony  
Caleb Cook  
H. L. Boltwood,  
Rufus Carey  
Princeton III

*To:* Rev RB Howard

RBH-160

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton III Aug 16, 1871

Rev RB Howard

Dear Brother

The undersigned a committee of the First Cong. Church Princeton III would respectfully submit to your consideration the following vote of the Church.

At a regular meeting of the Church Aug 2d 1871 it was voted unanimously that Rev R.B. Howard be invited to become the settled Pastor of this church with a salary of \$2,000 per annum.

Voted that the Deacons and Clerk of the Church be a Committee to communicate this vote to Rev R.B. Howard and make other arrangement which may be necessary to accomplish the wishes of the church.

The Committee are happy to say, that an entire unanimity of feeling prevails in the church in reference to your settlement as Pastor and now dear brother permit us personally and in behalf of the church which are represent to express our earnest desire that you will accept of the invitation of the church to become their settled Pastor.

Praying that God will guide and assist you in the decision you may make we subscribe ourselves in behalf of the Church.

Your brethren in Christ  
Lasarus Reeve, Deacon  
Wm L Anthony, Deacon  
Caleb Cook, Deacon  
H. L. Boltwood, Deacon  
Rufus Carey, Clerk

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200 10/30/1871 *From:* Rowland [B Howard]

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-161

Princeton

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton Monday Morn  
Oct 30, 1871

My dear Mother

Our dear sufferer [Note 1] still remains with us sharing wonderful hours of resisting disease. Her mind wanders and fastens on unpleasant topics very often. We have watchers every night now & I sleep on my study lounge. In her delirium she has spoken of you & thought you had come. I cannot tell how long she will linger. Kitty will send you a telegram if she should be taken away. She has a "pass" on the telegraph lines. We will start from here the day following & go to Brunswick. It takes about 3 days, if we make connections. I expect to leave Dadie at a boarding place. Elizabeth to clean & put the house in order, to take Frankie to Portland & Otie to Brunswick till I can find a place for him.

I want you to get all ready & come back with me & make a visit. Then you can go & see Dellie & Charles when you please.

If I only was sure of a healthy faithful capable girl in her place, & that Elizabeth could have a good place, I would discharge her, but it is almost impossible to get even a decent girl, & no one would know the places of things & the ways of the house as Elizabeth does.

I preached twice yesterday without extra fatigue. There was no Methodist meeting and our house was well filled. I wrote Miss Helen Graves, who lives at Mr Famells in Augusta now, that you would let her know i.e. she could find out by calling upon you, the news from Ella. Our trials are very great, but God is very good.

I had a very good letter from Uncle Ensign. He wants to enlarge & improve the burying ground at the Corner & have the private grounds merged in it. Would it not be well for us to take a lot & move father & our two little brothers some time & prepare the lot for others by an iron fence &c. I mean to ask Otis & Charles what they think. I know you always remember us at the throne of grace.

I hope to be in Maine three or four weeks.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

[Note 1. Ella Patten Howard died Nov 11, 1871, age 36.]

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201 3/20/1872 *From:* Elihu Burritt

*To:* Rev. J.B. Miles

RBH-162

New Britain, Ct.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Britain, Ct. March 25 /72

Rev. J.B. Miles  
My dear Friend,

I am very sorry that we must go to New Bedford to speak on Sunday evening, for several reasons, and one of these is a new one. My chest is much affected, and I feel concerned for myself. I raised considerable blood the other day, and have been very sensitive since. I made a short address yesterday at our Sunday School, and today feel the effects of it. So I feel very uncertain in regard to my ability a week hence.

But as you have engaged me at the meeting on Sunday evening next, I will do my utmost to be there and will meet you as proposed at the principal hotel. I think it likely that some one will invite me to be their guest, before I leave home.

I wish, however, you would not commit me to any other meetings than the one at New Bedford; for I dare not engage to speak at several in succession. Besides, Mr Whittlesey has been on to New London, and appointed a meeting there on Tuesday evening, April 9th, Clinton, April 10, Guilford, April 11.

Now I want to have you prepare yourself to attend these meetings if I break down previously. I fear I may not be able to fulfil these engagements, that I may be disabled completely for public speaking before that time. I pray our Heavenly Father to give me life and strength for some more work in this cause, but I hope I may have given to say "His will be done." I never saw such a field opening for work in the Peace movement, and if I am yet spared, I hope to contribute my write to it.

Yours faithfully & Ever  
Elihu Burritt

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202 6/1/1872      *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* [Ella Howard]

RBH-316

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[missing opening]

Mr Greeley in his letter of acceptance utters something about forgetting past animosities. Mr Trumbull in his letter to N.Y. reiterates the same. If this is to be taken as advice to their friend Jefferson Davis and his co-conspirators, the Union-haters and negro-haters of the South, it is well put.

If addressed to the great body of loyal christian men of the North it is an insult. This Nation, represented by its patriots, chastised the rebels for their own sake, for liberty's sake, and for the Union's sake. The loyal war represented the feeling of an outraged parent saving his wicked son by not sparing the rod.

The chastisement was always more in sorrow than in anger. It was gladly suspended as soon as submission took place. It was supplemented by the teachers and preachers of Christ's gospel, who went Southward and have remained there doing a self-sacrificing work not for hate, but for loves sake. Clemency, to mean anything, must come from conquerors and not copperheads. For the latter and their rebel allies to profess magnanimously towards their old associates is like the vote taken on capital punishment by the condemned criminals of Sing Sing - hardly disinterested.

We, the people who  
[missing ending]

[Note: This may have been a letter to a newspaper, written after Horace Greeley, the editor of the New York Tribune, had been nominated for the presidency by the Liberal Republicans in May 1872 and by the Democrats in July 1872. He was supported by Lyman Trumbull, U.S. Senator from Illinois, who was supporting an Amnesty Bill which the U.S. Congress passed May 22, 1872, to remove voting-rights and office-holding restrictions from the secessionists. Assume this was written 6/1/1872.]

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203 10/11/1872 *From:* L.P. Norcross

*To:* R.B. Howard

Scribe

RBH-163

Princeton Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Pursuant to letters missive from the First Cong'l Church in Princeton Ill. an ecclesiastical Council met with the Church at their house of worship at 3 o'clock upon the 11th day of October 1872 to review their proceedings in the matter of a call extended by them to Rev. R.B. Howard & if judged expedient to assist in installing him over them in the work of the Gospel Ministry.

The following Churches were represented in Council.

Church in Amboy Rev Chas Caverno Pastor

" " Breda Rev J. A. Allen Pastor

" " Dover Rev O. F. Curtis Pastor

" " " Dea Asalph Wood del.

" " Malden Rev. J.D. Baker Pastor

" " Mendota Rev. E. H. Baker Pastor

" " Kewanee Rev. Jas. Tompkins Pastor

" " " Bro. Mylo Doty Del.

" " <Neponsit> Rev. Geo. W. Colman Pastor

" " Providence Rev. David Todd Pastor

" " " Dea. Geo. P. Cushing Del

" " Sheffield Bro. A.G. Borden Del

" " Sublette Rev. L. P. Norcross Pastor

Also Rev. F. Bascom D.D. & Prof. J.D. Hyde D.D. of the Chicago Theol. Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Bascom read the call to the Churches & he was chosen moderator. Rev. L.P. Norcross was appointed scribe.

The moderator appointed Bro. Tompkins & Bro. Curtis to confer with the candidate about the order of exercises of installation.

After consultation they reported the following order of exercises.

1st Reading minutes of Council by the scribe

2nd Anthem

3rd Invocation. Rev. David Todd

4th Reading Scriptures. Rev. J.A. Allen

5th Hymn

6th Sermon. Prof. J. T. Hyde

7th Installing Prayer Rev. O. F. Curtis

8th Right Hand of Fellowship. Rev. G.W. Colman

9th Hymn of Welcome

10th Charge to the Pastor. Rev. Chas. Caverno

11th Charge to the People. Rev. F. Bascom D.D.

12th Concluding Prayer Rev. J.D. Baker

13th Doxology

14th Benediction By the Pastor

Voted that we adjourn till 7 o'clock this evening.

L.P. Norcross, Scribe

F. Bascom, Moderator

In the evening Council called to order after Installation Services. The minutes were approved after directing the scribe to certify that the forgoing programme of exercises were held.

Session of Council was opened with prayer by the Moderator.

The Pastor elect then laid before the Council the proper vouchers as to his ecclesiastical & ministerial standing wh. On motion were deemed entirely satisfactory.

Bro Cary on the part of the Church laid before the Council the action of the Church in giving the call to Mr Howard from wh. It appeared that perfect harmony existed on their part.

The Council then listened to a very interesting account of the Pastor elects religious experience & the reasons wh. Led him to choose the ministry.

He then gave full expression to his personal views in regard to the doctrines of the Bible & the work of the ministry, the Council, questioning him at much length in relation thereto.

On motion of Bro. Caverno it was voted that the examination be arrested & that the Council be by themselves.

Voted unanimously that we are entirely satisfied with the Christian experience, views of doctrine & Church pality of Rev. R.B. Howard the Pastor elect & that we proceed to Installation Services.

I certify that the above is a true copy of proceedings of Council held at Princeton, as specified, & that Rev. R.B. Howard was duly installed over the aforesaid Church at the time & place above mentioned.

Attest  
L.P. Norcross  
Scribe

Princeton Ills.  
October 11th, 1872

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204 12/23/1872 *From:* George Witham  
Curtis  
West New Brighton  
Staten Island N.Y.

*To:* Rev R,B. Howard

RBH-164

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Copy  
West New Brighton  
Staten Island N.Y.  
Dec 23, 1872

Rev R,B. Howard  
Dr Sir

It is very pleasant to receive your frank and courteous letter, for the chief reward of literature is the answering voice to the author. Were I only less constantly busy, I should like very much to say some of the things which your note suggests.

At least whatever the theological form of faith, I cannot help thinking that love is the fulfilling of the highest law and all who think so have the most intimate bond of union.

I thank you most truly and I am

Very faithfully Yours  
George William Curtis

---

205 5/23/1874 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* The Editor of the Nation

RBH-156

Princeton, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Princeton, Illinois

May 23, 1874

To/ The Editor of the Nation

As a careful reader and a sincere friend of the Nation from its first number, I greatly regret your note in "the Week" on my brother Gen. Howard.

The sneer at piety is unworthy of the Nation, and of its readers, among whom are so many ministers of Christ, who, notwithstanding his holy heart, "knew what was in man".

As to the "mismanagement" and "knavery" of matters in "the Bureau" for which Gen. H. was "guilty," after an eight weeks investigation, a fairly constituted military court of inquiry failed to discover either.

As to the same, which you allege against Howard University, which you call "a College," I deny the truth of your statement, and, on behalf of my brother, court investigation with all his acts as President.

Gen. Howard did "voluntarily assume" an almost unknown task when he accepted Pres. Lincolns appointment as Commissioner. No man in the Country knew to what the Bureau would grow. Gen. Howard did his best, which may not have been the best, to meet the responsibilities as they rose.

I deny, and call upon you to point out a single case where his official incompetency or neglect or wrong-doing have caused the "much suffering" which you lay at his door.

Must I believe that my old friend & councillor of years is at heart not only ungenerous (when such an opportunity offered for a generous word for an abused man) but also cruelly unjust?

Very respectfully

Yours

R.B. Howard

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206 6/30/1875 *From:* L Reeve

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-165

Congregational Church,  
Princeton, Ill's.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Congregational Church,  
Princeton, Ill's.  
June 30th, 1875

Rev. R. B. Howard,  
Dear Sir and Brother,

In accepting the resignation of the pastorate of this Church, presented by you on the 6th inst., thus severing the relations of pastor and people which have existed nearly five years, we wish in some way to express the feelings which this action has called forth.

We have found you ever an earnest and fearless preacher and advocate of the truth, as leader and zealous worker in movements of reform. Your walks before us, as a man and a Christian has been consistent, and worthy of emulation. Your devotion to the interests and work of the church, the Prayer Meeting and the Sabbath School has been deep and earnest. We have ever found in you a true friend and brother - never wanting in your sympathy and pity for the sorrowing and distressed - consoling the afflicted and bereaved - helping us to bear our burdens and griefs, thus learning the better to bear those which God has not withholden from yourself - counseling the ignorant - cautioning and guiding the erring, and, in a thousand ways, endearing yourself to us, and placing us under loving obligations by your never-failing kindness and interest as our pastor and friend.

And we wish just as sincerely and truly to express our sense of having failed many times and in many ways to meet the obligations which grew out of the relations we sustained to you.

We needed and have received your patience and forbearance, and we pray that the lessons they have taught us may not, as we believe and feel they will not, be lost upon us in our future life and experience as a Church.

God has made your labors with us a blessing in many ways; and if He has not permitted you to see the full fruitage of an abundant harvest of souls as the result of your work, yet we are sure He will not suffer your labors to be in vain in Him, but when he that soweth, and he that reapeth meet to count their sheaves, the seed you have sown will be found to count of equal worth with the work of the reaper.

Rest assured, we shall ever remember you and yours with the deepest sympathy and interest in the field to which God shall call you, and we will pray for his richest blessing both spiritual and temporal to attend you ever.

By vote of the Church.

Attest:

L Reeve Chairman,  
C. D. Colton Clerk

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207 8/21/1875 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]  
RBH-166 Augusta, Maine

*To:* Lizzie Patten Rogers

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Entire letter was typewritten]

Copy of a letter from our father (age 38) (40) Rowland Bailey Howard to Aunt Lizzie Patten Rogers (age 26) (29) referring to father's wedding day. [See Note 1]

Augusta, Maine. Aug. 21, 1875.

Dear Lizzie:-

No indeed, I do not forget it, this "wedding day"- The flutter of preparation - the poorly understood marriage vows and prayers - the presents in the little room. Poor little Lizzie who drew tears to her papa's eyes, by her weak back, dear little Hattie, - well and wondering Horace, pretty, dressed, roguish & merry. Poor Charles and his girl, busy mamma, interested papa; flushed, excited, thoughtful, deep-hearted Ella - a willing sacrifice; - awkward, green, bewildered bridegroom, - the refreshments, the two hacks, the mistakes, the cars, the Preble House, the boat, the hot night. Ella's loyal tears for the old home never to be her's again. It all comes back to me today. How one after the other they filled out God's plan of joy and sorrow; and have disappeared from all the eyes that loved them. They are not in the poor narrow yard of graves. They have gone on. They have more cause to weep over us than we over them. Oh, I do so long for a higher, clearer, more unselfish, heavenlier life. Helen's entire self-forgetfulness is a perpetual marvel and incentive, while it condemns me. She seems to live only for those whom she can help. She is as loyal to dear Ella as to me, and her parents, always writing me to be better and showing me how. You may never know her on earth, I am sure you will in heaven. I am a weak faithed, worrying and worrisome kind of a man, always wondering why God denies to me the love and appreciation that would make me a greater power in His Kingdom. I seldom rise to self-forgetfulness. I am sore over failures and elated over little things, but She writes; "You are one of God's elect and I want you to forget your own personal ambitions and go about your Master's business in humble trust in Him. He will give you all the love, all the success that is best for you, and that is all you want." She wrote thus when I told how I coveted the love, the influence, the Souls, that God gives to so many of my bretheren. I don't know how she would forgive me for lifting the veil thus off her heart. She writes in deep sympathy for your mother and wants the boys to come to her if that will be a relief. Thanks for your very kind letter and the good news. Mrs. Hale too is better, tell Dadie. I have a number of Princeton letters but no news that would interest you. I took tea at Dea. Pallets last evening. Mrs. H. had just returned from Topsham. I may be down Monday, but may not get away till next day. I may not see you. I want to go to Harpswell for a day or two if possible and to Old Orchard. I have no further preaching engagements. Sorry you did not hear Dr. Hall in Portland. If I call on you there I will try not to be "burdensome" as you will have no girl. With love to all

Your affectionate brother  
Rowland.

Sat.Eve. I was glad to see Dadie. We may not be "home" till Tuesday noon.

Copied by F.G. Howard [Frank Gilman Howard, son of Rev. Rowland Bailey Howard]  
Jan. I, 1905, New York.

[The following was handwritten on a small piece of paper]

RBH reminiscence of his wedding with Ella Patten in form of an 1875 letter written to Aunt Lizzie Patten and copied, with a comment, by Frank Howard.

<LMS> July 1967

[Envelope, No postmark]  
Mrs. Ella Howard Smith  
55 Morning St.  
Portland,  
Maine

[Note 1: RBH and Ella Patten were married Aug 14, 1860, but the ages weren't correct. RBH was born 10/17/1834 and Lizzie Patten Rogers was born 5/9/1843.]

[Note 2: The handwriting on the envelope was not written by the same hand as the note. Ella Howard Smith died Dec 13, 1964, age 89. If the date were 1962, she could have written the note and someone else gave her the letter and envelope.]

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208 12/25/1876 *From:* John Allen

*To:* Rev R.B. Howard

RBH-168

Farmington

Bible House  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Farmington Dec 25, 1876

Rev R.B. Howard  
Dear Sir

I herewith forward you a new policy to be exchanged this new one which I consider better. You will please forward to me the old policy that I may return it to the company when I make my report. Please forward the amount of premium by P. Office order, and I will send you the receipt.

All Well.

Yours very truly  
John Allen

[ENVELOPE]  
Rev. RB Howard  
Bible House  
New York

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209 11/12/1878 *From:* John Wheltine

*To:* My dear frd [RB Howard]

RBH-169

Oak Knell Danvers

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Oak Knell Danvers

12 Nov 1878

My dear frd

What shall be done to aid the Am Peace Society? I cannot do much, but I will be one of 40 to raise \$1,000 by \$25 subscriptions. Are there not 20 friends of the cause who will raise another thousand by \$50 pledges?

Thine always  
John Wheltine

---

210 1/28/1879 *From:* Theodore Dhorlay

*To:* Editors of the Advance in  
N. York

RBH-171

New Haven

co Bible House  
Astor Place  
N. York

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

New Haven  
Jan 28 1879

Editors of the Advance in N. York

Gentlemen

My engagements and occupations are such compared with the time that I am able to work, that I am compelled to decline all additional occupation. My paper on <> and <> is wholly unfit for publication, and if ready would not suit a religious newspaper on account of being too philological for this <manner> of readers.

Your friend & servt  
Theodore Dhorlay

[ENVELOPE]

Eastern Office of the Advance  
co Bible House  
Astor Place  
N. York

[Postmark] Jan 28 11 AM NEW HAVEN CONN.

[Postmark] REC'D NEW YORK JAN 28 79 6 PM

---

211 3/5/1879

*From:* Isabella F. Mayo  
"Edward Garrett"

*To:* Editor of the Advance

RBH-172

Firhill  
Old Aberdeen  
Scotland

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Firhill  
Old Aberdeen  
5 March 1879

To the Editor of the Advance

Dear Sir,

Can you find any use for a story of 120 pages of MS. (size of enclosed.) It has never yet been published in England, but may be brought out as one of a little series of books, about next July. It will be a simple story suitable for young or homely people. I should, in this instance, be willing to take a very small sum for it - say about £5 - and the MS should be in you hands quite as soon - or even sooner - as in those of the London publisher.

Trusting to your great kindness for a speedy reply I remain, always,

Yours faithfully  
Isabella F. Mayo  
"Edward Garrett"

P.S. Please to note my new address -  
Firhill  
Old Aberdeen  
Scotland

[Note: Isabella Mayo was a Scottish novelist, who wrote under the pseudonym of Edward Garrett.]

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212 5/27/1879 *From:* Isabella Fyvie Mayo *To:* C.H. Howard, Esq.

RBH-173

Firhill  
Old Aberdeen

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Firhill  
Old Aberdeen  
27 May 1879

To C.H. Howard, Esq. [Editor of the Advance]  
Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your note of April 15. I shall be delighted to see the Rev. Mr Howard, if he happens to come so far North as this, and as I am on the direct route to the "Queen's Highlands" and all the favorite Scottish scenery, I am not altogether "out of the way". I am quite settled here for the present and probably for some years to come, having removed the whole of my household from London, nor do I anticipate even paying a visit to the South this year.

Has Mr. Marsh still any connection with the "Advance." - or is he even in Chicago? I never heard of him after his arrival in London on his way back to America, about three years ago. He then promised us a visit, which he never paid, & we often wondered whether there might be a lost letter or any similar mishap.

With kind regards, I remain

Yours faithfully  
Isabella Fyvie Mayo

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213 7/23/1879 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Mrs. R.B. Howard

RBH-175

Grand Hotel, Locarno,  
Italy

Farmington  
Maine  
U.S.A.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

GRAND HOTEL LOCARNO

[PICTURE OF HOTEL]

Looks like this except that the yard is not mown for a lawn.

MENU [faint handwritten comments are included]

du 23 Juillet July 6 P.M.

Potage: Quenelles au Consomme - for soup fish - luke fish

Poisson: Tenchy Caung d'anchois -anchovy  
Pommes - potatoes

Relevés: Boeuf a la Napolitain - sliced beef & macaroni

Entrees: Grenadine a la Canbry - veal & !! Don't know. Eats well.

Legumes: Haricots Verts - string beans only!

Roti: Oiel a la brochy - Chicken and duck

Salade: oily salad I eat neither.

Entremets: Glace moka - Coffee ice cream & cake

Patisserie: fresh figs. Not good. One apiece

Desserts divers: Nice plums

We had clean dishes every course. No ice. We never changed anything. Are served right through. Cannot "order" at all as done in hotels.

No pies or puddings.

This is a very fair picture of our Hotel. But the front view across the lake is not given.

[ENVELOPE]

Mrs. R.B. Howard

Farmington

Maine

U.S.A.

[Postmark] GRAND HOTEL LOCARNO 24 LUG 79

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214 7/24/1879 *From:* Rowland [B. Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Helen Graves Howard]

RBH-174

Locarno Switzerland

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Locarno Switzerland  
July 24, 1879. 7.30 AM

Dearest,

The sudden transition from the cold at Ariola down the mountain to this Italian town (in a Swiss canton) is wonderful and oppressive. We left Ariola where I wrote you about 11-30 A.M. The road led down the mt. in a form as twisted as a dough-nut. It was like this for miles [diagram of the switchbacks] and the horses kept up a brisk trot. Then we followed the valley of the river Lecino (Lechino) till it empties into this long beautiful lake Maggiore (Majora).

Our ride was extremely dusty - the white fine dust that rises from macadamized roads - for 15 miles to the R.R. We came 25 miles of the last part by a slow beautifully built R.R. with lofty Stations & arrived here at <> 5 P.M. We were completely white with dust & I was glad to get to my room in this, which Dr Loomis says is the most elegant hotel in Europe, and take off one undershirt, 1 pr drawers & 1 pr socks & bathe.

We traveled over the St. Gothard Pass from where we left the Steamer at Fluelan on Lake Lucerne 91 miles - 67 by carriage. We spent one night as I wrote you near the Summit of the Mt. which is 6900 ft - Rigi, where it was so cold is 5900. Mt Washington 6000. There were miles of snow banks on the St. Gothard road. You see how sudden the change of climate, soil, & everything. We are now in a place as warm as East Orange. The catalpa, & many strong and beautiful shrubs & trees are in bloom. The grapes have got to be quite large. The corn is beginning to spindle. The wheat is harvested & the 2d crop of grass is just coming on. I saw many silk farms with large mulberry orchards. The trees are kept cut down near the trunk & branch out from that point with tender leaves to feed the silk worms.

After Dinner I went out & strolled through the streets of this old town. A barber shaved me very painfully & poorly - between sunset & dark without a light. I find Kerosene in the shops. He was old but agile. He did not know how to put on the soap - his razor was dull & I had to hold my head upright. I paid 8 cents. Back on one of the Mts that surround us are a number of Catholic Colleges, Monasteries and last evening the streets were full of robed priests. The beggars begin now & are the lowest of mankind.

The "shrines" would interest you. I counted 14 on the road leading up to a College this morning. They are white oval shape little buildings with images, pictures, crosses &c more or less elaborate. They are indeed little wayside chapels where the devout cross themselves or offer prayer. They are often erected by those who make a vow to do something for the Virgin or some saint, on account of some deliverance or forgiveness.

This is really Italy - the watering place for Naples, Rome & the great cities South. The rich people come to this hotel, which is marble & <chranghon> and spend August & July as our N.Y. people go to Cape May & Saratoga.

The heat is oppressive this morn. & my head feels badly, but I had a fair nights rest & my bowels which troubled me three days are getting in order again. It was <cositiveness>. So I had no excuse for drinking. Dr Loomis lectured in the parlor on the characteristics & history of Italian painting which we now will see at Milan, Venice, Florence, Naples & especially Rome. It was interesting & instructive.

I wish I could tell you all the little incidents, the "news" the glorious & some times depressing experiences of these crowded days. I have tried to pray upon my chapters this morn. for you all. But nobody needs prayer more than me. In the merry & free way of our intercourse in the carriages & cars I hear things that open my eyes to my faults - often spoken in jest of course. I have offended some by my abruptness & impatience, others by my opinions, others by my conversations on character duties &c & possibly others by my jokes trying to keep up & reply to the constant Ladies that I meet. But on the whole I think they do not dislike me.

Breakfast, 8-10 AM.

9. We must soon be off. Three fresh eggs, nice cold bread, 2 cups of hot tea have marked an entire change & an Italian gentleman who can speak good english has helped to make me happy, but I must say good bye.

Your Rowland

---

215 8/4/1879

*From:* [R.B. Howard]

*To:* Darling [Helen Howard]

RBH-176

*Source:* Bowdoin

A.G. Capraini & Co.  
Hotel Royal des  
Etrangers  
Naples

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A.G. Capraini & Co.  
Hotel Royal des Etrangers  
Naples, Tues. Aug 4 7:30 A.M. 1879

Darling

I sit with my swinging windows open facing Naples unequaled bay with the island of Ischia in the smoky distance. Two fishermen bare-footed & bare-legged have just unmoored their boats. To the left & fully in view of the little balcony of my room is old Vesuvius, not looking loftier than old Blue ("He" is 4000 ft) & about as near Naples apparently as Powder House Hill, only Naples extend around the bay to that side under other houses. A great city of 600,000 people with lofty bluffs, forcing it near the sea, it covers no more surface than Newark, but lofty houses inhabited to the ridgepole with <swarms> of human beings. "Lagaroni" lying round the wharfs, streets, & any spot where there is space - children who seem to appear with all the facility of kittens & rabbits, with as little clothing & care of parents, will easily fill the census.

Breakfast. That pause marks an hour starting waiting for them to come to breakfast.

It seems mother is quite in fashion! All the new-fangled note paper begin on the 4th page!

Well, after Breakfast, we went to the other end of the city in carriages, 3 in each, to the museum. It is a vast collection of statuary & paintings, collected from Rome, Capria, Herculaneum & Pompeii. The latter place furnishes instances of the whole - vases, bronzes, coins, petrified bread, eggs, bas-reliefs &c &c innumerable. In general these statues are nude, but many a beautifully draped & all female figures & most male figures are partially so. Even in the small room containing certain obscene representations that were more disgusting than exciting, the instinct of humanity even in heathenism seems to have had a degree of modesty. To this latter room, which contain actual sculptures from Pompeii only men are admitted. The representations are less objectionable in general than those confiscated by Anthony Comstock in America, many being animals & not mankind in lewd positions.

It was hot riding home at 12 M & I have washed & shaved & am ready for Table-de-Hote which means you sit down & take what comes & in small quantities for each course. Yesterday the Dinner here was the best we had had. It was real ice-water into which I put ginger (essence), a nice fish, some like Halibut (Turbot), Beef cut in slices & served with little carrots turnips cabbages & onions, as big as robins eggs, & lying around the meat, & potatoes (boiled) by themselves. There is always chicken or quail (yesterday both) the latter on bits of toast. Then there was cake & quint. The almonds are served green - as are the figs. Peaches are getting nice. We see immense Olive orchards but never have them on the table except in the form of oil.

I must now go to Dinner, but I long to have you see this bay Darling & Vesuvius, & especially these extraordinary, original, unique, incomparable, how wonderful & indescribable, oil street scenes, which even these boarding school girls seem ashamed to apply these well-worn adjectives - elegant, lovely, beautiful, gorgeous, sweet pretty as can be &c to.

But really from Liverpool to Naples, unlike each other except in the fact that each has the most elegant & well-kept hotel of the whole trip. Scenes occur that utterly outstrip all the old words, that I know, to describe. Just back of us towards the harbor & in the old town is the fish market there shell fish of 20 kinds, 12 of which I never except as shells in collections. But the people - stout women swearing, scolding, one biting her neighbor, children <cry> round & playing as naked as they were born, men urinating (as all over Europe) in plain sight of the street, women suckling children & forgetting to replace their dresses, old women the color of mahogany, men more ragged & filthy than you can conceive, but happy & smiling - basket makers singing at their work - crowds every where - soldiers, Officers in neat dresses - Priests in black gowns & three cornered hats - Capuchin Friars in thick reddish cloth gowns, many of them begging - beautiful carriages with coachmen & footmen in livery & ladies & gentlemen dressed in the extreme of fashion - Donkey innumerable, with loads

inconceivable harnessed with horses, oxen, cows, & each other, driven by the tail, by reins & leading, mules - old bones of horses in hacks with brass enough on their harnesses to found a church bell - boats of all kinds, felukas, <Steamlein>.

(The Steam Yacht of the Kedhive of Egypt is here - he having been compelled to resign & waiting to make his home somewhere with his harem &c.)

Dinner

Aug 5 1879, 7 A.M.

At 2.30 P.M. yesterday we rode in carriages to the Depot, 1 ½ miles, & took the cars 15 miles around to the other side of the bay & of Vesuvius to Pompeii & tramped about that exhumed city which was buried in ashes 1800 years ago this month & has been in process of restoration since A.D. 1700 & tramped about till 7 P.M. & got thoroughly tired out. We got home about 9 & then ate supper & I came to bed too tired to write. It was very hot but there was a cool breeze. The mt. was 6 miles away but looked nearer & seemed shaped like old Blue. It sends up smoke like a pile of brush in the garden & at night you see almost constantly the stirring of the flume from the summit. I was too tired to take the trip to the crater at 5 A.M.

Our Miss Penfield went with a guide. It cost 15 <dollars> extra & Dr Loomis says, it may be so smoky when you arrive there as to prevent seeing anything. It was too bad for her to go alone & she looked rather sober when we left her last night. Pompeii is so old & ruined to be elegant. The rooms of the one story stone houses seem small. The streets are narrow & the pavements well worn. About 1/3 of the city has been "dug up". It was 35 feet under ashes which formed good soil & yielded crops. The government hard at work excavating. Within three weeks a portico with four fine white pillars have been unearthed. Also walls of rooms with well preserved pictures. Most of the pictures are classic. The temples were to Venus, Mars & other heathen deities. One room of a bad house had obscene pictures - not seen except by request, but in general everything is pure & surprisingly preserved. When they find a skeleton they pour some soft mastic substance into the hold round the bones & preserve the attitude of the person when he died. We saw a number of such - also a dog & several other domestic animals, dresses, wheat, barley &c all retain recognizable forms. It was a very interesting visit to a bye-gone age, and the best possible interpretation & illustration of historic descriptions & poetic allusions. Pompeii was a summer resort & many of the chief Romans had their villas there - the incredible thing is that ashes enough could come from that mt six miles away to bury it. The written accounts preserved are two by those who saw the affair. Pliny was one & he was 18 at the time. I have slept only fairly, my legs are raw with flea bites half way to the knees.

That picture of the hotel is very good except that there is an elegant restaurant where the <gine> is in the picture. The old building in front is an old castle now used as barracks for soldiers. My room has - like the whole house - tile floor black furniture with a gilt strip & marble top - an iron bedstead with a needed mosquito net. The sea rolled here 8 years ago. A wall was built & the place filled up. A mineral spring was found in the cellar & the water seems good. I must drink some before Breakfast.

Good Bye  
Darling

If the \$75 does not arrive in London, it will be forwarded to Liverpool by Sept 3d & I can pay Dr Loomis for my Scotland trip. I find every day brings its expences. I hope to find my bag (Shawl strap bundle) at <train> but I have had to replace several things & get out of collars & shirts &c every now & then I have to buy, but I will have them all to use. I do not get very good ones. We left every thing at Rome this time. I have perspired so in my miles of tramping in this hot weather that I must have a clean shirt this A.M.

O Darling, God bless & keep you. We start for home tomorrow & indeed did last night when 15 miles south of Naples we took cars north. We stop little except in Switzerland & Paris & the days will whirl till those slow 11 or 12 in Steamer. I may have to stay in N.Y. to look for employment a little while & to save going back there. I suppose they the Advance if unsold will want me to be in Syracuse Oct 7, 9 & 10

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216 4/2/1880

*From:* Wm. R. Jewett

*To:* Revd. R.B. Howard

RBH-178

Concord N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Concord N.H.

April 2, 1880.

Revd. R.B. Howard

My dear Brother:

I am in receipt of your letter in regard to the debt upon the Rockport Church. As you may well suppose I am deeply interested in all that concerns the Church in which my Father so long preached, and which is so endeared to me by his memory.

And I may assure you no loss of my sympathy with you in your personal endeavor to remove entirely the present debt.

Please accept my subscription for \$250.00 upon condition that the debt is paid. I will send check for the amount whenever the same is pledged.

I am,

Most Sincerely yours  
Wm. R. Jewett

P.S. As I return to Concord N.H. for a day or two, from my duties at Andover Mass, I find your letter awaiting my Father's reply. At his dictation I have written the above letter. Will you allow me to add my very hearty respect for the effort which you have so bravely made, and my hearty regard for you personally.

I am, most cordially yours,  
Wm. J. Tucker

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217 4/23/1880 *From:* Wm J. Tucker

*To:* Revd. R.B. Howard

RBH-179

Concord N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Concord N.H.

April 23, 1880

Revd R.B. Howard

My dear Brother:

I enclose at the request of my Father, Rev. W.R. Jewett, checks to your order to the value of \$250.00.

He is very much gratified in the success of the movement for the payment of the debt, and desires to be most cordially remembered to yourself. Will you have the kindness & acknowledge the receipt of the checks.

I am, most Sincerely Yours,

Wm. J. Tucker

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218 9/26/1880 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* Prof A.S. Packard

RBH-180

Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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1856 Rowland B. Howard [This was probably written by Prof Packard. Rowland was a member of the Bowdoin class of 1856.]

Rockport Mass  
Sept 26, 1880

Prof A.S. Packard  
Dear Sir

I hasten to answer the questions of your circular

(1) I did not teach after graduation.

(2) I studied Law at Albany (N.Y.) Law School 1856-7. I took the full course at Bangor Theol Semry and graduated 1860.

(3) I was ordained Pastor at Farmington Me. and remained in that office ten years - 1860-70. I was Pastor at Princeton Ills. 1870-75, East Orange N.J. 1875-79, Rockport Mass 1880.

(4) My first marriage was to Mary Ellen Patten of Bath Maine Aug. 21, 1860. We had three children sons who survive their mother who died at Princeton Ills Nov. 11, 1871. My Second marriage was to Helen J. Graves of Farmington Maine Sept. 12, 1873. We have two children a daughter (4) & a son (2) - making five children in all.

(5) I have been Associate Editor and a weekly writer on The Advance since 1875, contributing in 1879 a series of letters from Europe. I have published nothing in book form.

(6) I have never held a political office.

With congratulations to the alumni that you can do this work for us, and with the highest personal regard.

Your friend & former pupil  
R.B. Howard

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219 12/1/1881 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-318

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Missing Opening 3 pages]

[Assume 12/1/1881]

To Eliza Gilmore around Xmas - (after?) [Written in another hand]

[Page] 4

to put down again. We have also had one of our roofs shingled. Glad Charles is to have greater conveniences by way of out houses. David's cough is less troublesome but not well. Dr Mitchell gave him some good advice, but did not tell him to go away or take medicine. He did not charge anything. I suppose from his friendship to Charles!

We expect an elderly musical man Sat. to spend next week with us & conduct a musical Institute in our Vestry. His name is S. N. Johnson.

No further news from Otis. He is on his way to Boston, but will be too late to go with Capt Otis in the Bath ship - a chance that Uncle Lincoln got for him. I hope he will go somewhere to School for six months and improve his time. I am sure I do not know where to send him. Helen joins in love to all.

It was bright in Gilbert to write Katies witty remark about Charles & Congregationalist, but, in point of fact, I never thought him very near death, in either time or immediate danger.

The boys are having fine times sliding. School begins again Monday. We are overrun with Balls, Fairs, Sales, Reading, Lectures, Entertainments &c. No room for the church, the ministry, religious meetings, revivals or Salvation. Christs Kingdom is allowed as little room as its founder had at the Inn. Indeed I often feel that there is no room for me in the popular ministry of the day. I have no talent at "Entertainments" & am not humble enough to be content to be passed over or crowded to the wall, as Balsams ass crowded him. (But what was the use of pounding her!)

I hope Mr Gott will go to Denver & see Dellie. I trust that you keep well, as usual.

Helen called on Laura 57 Bowdoin St. Boston.

Thank you again for your good & long letter. I rejoice in the prosperity of Glencoe & the Church. I do wish Charles could be well again.

Gen. Butler & Gov. Long were entertained at No. Easton. As Dr Bartol says:

"He began to compliment

And I began to grin."

It was very funny. Augustine Gilmore presided & Oakes Ames was eulogized. He will always be as long as his money builds libraries & furnishes dinners. [This is probably a reference to the dedication of the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall in No. Easton, November 17, 1881.]

Tell Charles that Frank Gilman & Cashier Chapman of Merchants Bank want me to succeed Sec. Clark in Mass. Home Miss Society, but I have not heard that any

[Missing ending]

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220 1/2/1882

*From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

RBH-182

Rockport

Glencoe  
Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Jan 2/82

Thanks for your letter with Xmas news. Mr. Day also wrote me. I judge from what you say, that you prefer Charles should invest at the best. Let me know when you want the money. The Savings Bank at Princeton has closed. Mr Reed (Pres) is said to be insane. I think Mr Waller will see that the farm Bonds are paid. The <Childrens book> came all right. Ella & Rowlie like to look at it & Frank has read it.

A happy New Year to all.

Will Mac try for the Oak Hall prize?

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]

Mrs E. Gilmore

Glencoe

Ills.

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JAN 3

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221 1/7/1882

*From:* Samuel E. May &  
Co.,

*To:* Rev. R.B. Howard

RBH-181a

*Source:* Bowdoin

.  
Bankers and Brokers,  
No. 12 Lisbon St.  
Lewiston, Me

Rockport Mass

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[LETTERHEAD]

Samuel E. May & Co.,  
Bankers and Brokers,  
No. 12 Lisbon St.  
Lewiston, Me. Jan 7th 1882

Rev. R.B. Howard  
Rockport Mass

Dear Sir,

We have your loan date.

New Auburn 4 have 20 years to run. We can offer you only a few thousand subject sale at 105 ½ & int. We bought the whole loan \$15,000 & they are nearly all sold. If you wish to secure any you would do well to telegraph on receipt of this.

Yours truly  
S E May & Co.

These are strictly a municipal loan & we do not see why they are not as good as <Gr> 4.

[The following letter from Rowland to Eliza Gilmore of Jan 10 1882, was written on the back of this letter.]

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222 1/10/1882 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-181b

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written on the back of the preceding letter from SE May.]

Rockport Jan 10/82

Dear Mother

I did not reply to this as I knew you would think the interest too low & the premium too high, but thought you would like to see what Mr May ("Ellery") said.

We are all well & have delightful weather. I attended the funeral of two of the men described in the enclosed extract.

Thank Mac for his good letter. I sent it to Frank and received the reply which I enclose. Weather beautiful. Snow nearly gone. Called on Laura in Boston yesterday. That Mrs. Chamberlain, Mrs Thos Turner's sister wished to see me. She is dying of Schirron's stomach. She seemed glad to have me pray with her. Mrs Matilda Turner is recovering from her displaced knee pain.

Helen joins in love to all. After a week of "no girl" we have one of about 50 - very kind & used to working out. She bears a fine reputation. She will not stay long though. Our Finn girl got homesick & left. I also send you Ralphs good letter.

No extra meetings this week. The two meetings a day & 4 funerals last week were too much for me.

R.

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223 1/24/1882    *From:* Rowland [B Howard]    *To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-183                      Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mass  
Jan 24, 1882

Dear Mother

I telegraphed Mr Gilman to send your money to you as soon as I received your letter & I hope Mr Foster will be able to see to the investment as you suggested. He would be a good adviser as to the "Car Trust Co". I can know nothing about it. Indeed I would greatly prefer to invest all you have in Bonds where the interest would be paid without giving you or any one any trouble and then after your living expenses, you would know just what you had every six months for other things.

It is 10° below zero. We are all quite well. I in Boston as usual yesterday. The ocean boils like a pot & the steam & frozen particles fill the air. We had S. School teachers to tea last night.

We have a slow, steady excellent girl, but fear we cannot keep her.

Glad Charles got off before the cold snap & I trust it did not get ahead of him.

You will notice the unusual longevity of Rockport people in our prvly printed Rockport Review.

Thank Laurie for his letter. Ella can't begin to write so well. I fear he did not appreciate the extra effort which it cost me to put my letter in rhyme. People naturally poetic like his mothers family - do not!

Helen joins me love to you & Katie & the children & Mr Foster if with you. There are no signs of religious awakening. We must all remember David & Otis the College Fast Day - Thursday Jan 26. They have great temptations & both have yielded, but are again "trying" to do better.

No news from Otis & family since Jan 1

Affy. Rowland

I did not understand your figure "\$1.80" as to Charles part in the paying off the Glencoe claim.

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224 2/2/1882

*From:* RBH [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-184

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Feb 2, 1882

Dear Mother

Your letter confirms the feeling I had that your affliction next to Dellies would be greatest in Ralphs death. [Note 1] Dellie wrote me a card Jan 26, which I answered yesterday. He asked Otis to forward a letter written to him. He did so and I have answered that today. We pray for him with all our hearts. In his letter to you he seems to get glimpses of Gods purpose. To wean him from earth to prepare him for usefulness to fit him for heaven - Ambition is necessary to rescue us from indolence and put us upon some Enterprises of moment, like all other qualities of our hearts, tends to pride and selfishness if gratified, and to despair if disappointed. Poor Dellie is suffering from disappointment as well as bereavement.

But O the grave, with the hope in Jesus, which Ralph expressed a week before he died, is so much better than a life of sin! He has escaped temptation, & is forever with the Lord - safe. I was not fit to die at his age but had I been, It seems to me as if death would have been a great gain over life as I have lived it. No sooner do our own ambitions for success begin to die out in the advance of old age, but we begin to be ambitious for our children. Their sins we sorrow over, their hopes we share. It is well so, else our life would be a poor faded leaf in old age. To me Ralph's death seems a blessing to him. To his father it is an irreparable <loss>. We can only say, it was better so than many other ways. Invalidhood, wickedness are both harder for a parent to bear than the death of the child. God may have seen both for Ralph & have taken him away in a mercy to his father and himself.

I sent my card from Dellie to my boys & to Roland Gilmore & will write Louisa. Laura will feel Dellies loss as like her own. I had not heard of the illnesses in Otis family. Am sorry. Will give up going there I think, & if I have to go to N.Y. go by the Boats instead of that new R.R. from Boston to Newbury on which I have a pass. I want Helen to go to Brooklyn with me. Mrs Kearns son aged 18 died about Dec 20, much as Ralph did - the 2d within a year.

I hope that "Car Trust Company", will prove a good investment. I like that better than the mortgage. As your money is deposited you can buy another bond if you wish. I should not make Mr <Hatt> a confident - Arthur is better. Mr. Foster got away as I feared, tho' I sent the money as quick as possible. I suppose the 2\$ less than \$60 was for expressage to Auburn & back & "exchange" making the whole amount \$20.58.

I was about to prepare a notice of Ralph for Advance but will not do so now that you say one is to go in. I do not know his exact age.

Helen & children are well. We had company (17) Tuesday night to tea. Have a good girl. Our company were - Mrs Sewall, son, daughter & husband, Mr & Mrs <Stein>, John Whyte Marshall & daughter, Mr & Mrs R. Brooks and baby, Mr & Mrs Wetherbee, Dr. & Mrs Lanhorn, Mr Bartlett, wife & daughter-in-law. We had a long table in dining room & a square one in the sitting room, with folding doors open - sliced tongue, corned beef & sardines with sliced lemmons, trimmed with our parsley which looks green in the garden under the snow even now. Buiscuit, Bread, cake &c. We invited all but one family who have invited us. I fear some will feel badly who were not invited, but Helen thought this way was best to bring these persons & ourselves together.

She joins me in love to you & Katie. We are so glad to hear such good news of her health & Charles.

Affy  
RBH

[Note 1: The eldest child of Dellie and Rosa Deane, Ralph Gilmore, died January 24, 1882. He was born May 2, 1867. Rosa had died Sept 25, 1876.]

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225 2/15/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-186

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Feb 15th / 82

My dear Mother

I sent Dellies letter to Louisa & got the reply which I enclose. I also asked her if she would sell their old fashioned round table, < turning up > with a seat. Do you remember any in Leeds that I might buy. Helen wants one for the Kitchen.

Charles wrote Feb 6 from Arizona, a little blue at the non-receipt of letters, but well as usual. I dined with Mr Foster & Johnny at Revere House a week ago Monday & last Monday John came in & went to Ministers meeting with me. I took Ella in and left her with Laura, who is very much engrossed with her two patients. Mrs Matilda Turner is there. Helen & I went out at 4 P.M. today & made some calls. The snow has melted & it is wet & muddy off the side-walks. Ella & her mother have gone to the Sale & Fair which continues three nights this week. I will go for them soon.

I had a pleasant letter from Dea. <Gitanch> telling me of the return to Christ of an old backslider, who confessed his sins against me & the church. I had but 23 that stormy Sab. & repeated my Sermon last Sabbath. There is no special religious interest among us, but they are having good meetings at the Baptists with some encouraging results. I want to have extra meetings after my return from Maine, to which I expect to go three days next week to see my three boys & attend to some Advance & other matters. Will not probably go to Leeds or Farmington.

Helen & the children are quite well. Rowlie went over to Mrs Bartletts & staid to tea tonight. He loves to be drawn in his "lay" - "sleigh". Give my love to Katie & the children. I hope you have sent Charles' address to Dellie. There is not much prospects of Helens going to N.Y. right away, nor of my going at present. Glad to hear through you that Otis family are better. Perhaps Johnny & Harry will visit us this summer.

Mrs Whipple now seems likely to recover. Some others are very sick & cannot live long. We have a good, plodding, steady, reliable girl, & live more at ease from anxiety than ever before, I think. Helen's father felt no better & her Mother often gives up & takes to her bed. Her brother gave her (Mrs Graves) \$100 Christmas & they live on it. John C. Stewart who lived opposite us gave each of his children \$1000. I hope you continue well. I sent to Boston for a box of Cosinoline. It helped a cold I had. Helen joins in love to you Katie & the children.

Affy  
Rowland

I preached & attended Communion at Pigeon Cove last Sab. besides very hard work.

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226 2/20/1882 *From:* S. E. French

*To:* Mr [RB] Howard

RBH-187a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mr Howard  
Dear Sir

Mother has been confined to her bed for several weeks, but so far, has been able to receive two or three callers every day, and would be delighted to see you. I do not know how your trains run to Rockport but we have a train which returns to Boston at 12 M, another at 5 o'clock P.M. I hope one of them will accommodate you. Mother regrets so very much that you did not receive an invitation to the dedication. She put your name on the list but the clerk who sent off the invitations, omitted your name, with several others. She intended writing to ask you to spend the night with us, but she was very unwell at the time, and having much to occupy her mind she neglected doing so. She often speaks of it with deep regret.

She received a paper from Golden, giving particulars of Ralph's death. She would like very much to know where Aunt Eliza is.

Hoping we shall see you here, I am, with kind regards from Mother, to you all,

Yours Truly,  
S. E. French

[Note 1: Susan Eveline (Ames) French was the daughter of Hon. Oakes Ames and Eveline Gilmore and husband of Henry W French. Eveline Gilmore (1809-1882) was the sister of Capt. John Gilmore, the husband of Eliza (Otis) Gilmore.]

[Note 2: Ralph refers to her cousin Rodolphus Gilmore's son Ralph Gilmore, who died 24 Jan 1882 in Golden, Colorado.]

[Note 3: The reference to the dedication is probably referring to the dedication of the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall in North Easton on November 17, 1881.]

[Note 4: The date was not given on the letter. I have assumed Feb 20, 1882 for the following reasons. This letter must have been written after the paper giving the death of Ralph, Jan 24, 1882, was received by Eveline Ames. Rowland wrote to his mother using the same paper as this letter and was dated Feb 24, 1882.

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227 2/24/1882    *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]  
RBH-187b                      R[ockport]

*To:* [Eliza Gilmore]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written on the paper of the previous letter from S. E. French]

R. Feb 24 / 82

I wrote to Mrs French & got this reply. I hope to go out to Easton before a great while. I was in Portland, Bruns, & Hallowell this week & spent one night at Bath. Our friends in those places are well as usual. I visited Davids recitation, & spent a night with Otie. I did not go to Leeds, or Farmington. Mrs. Graves has to go to bed a good deal. Her husband grows more feeble & troublesome. If I had some one here Helen should go home again for a month. Ella went as far as Portland with me & greatly enjoyed her visit to Frank & Maria.

We will not go to N.Y. right away. Otis writes that his family are well except Lizzie who has many aches & pains and is quite depressed. He will write the Advance about Mr Blaine's eulogy next Monday.

I saw Mrs D.F. Lathrop at Portland Depot on her way home from Limerick. She was well & sent her love to you. I had no time for news. Rowlie has a bad cold - so had Frank. Laura is still at her nursing. She gets \$2.50 per week and is quite restive under her hard work.

We had but little <snow>, but the highest tide since 1853 this last week.

Camp Meeting John Allen is visiting us. He is 87, thin, but well & vigorous in mind. Capt John Patten is 93 & has just lost his only son. He is well and appears as a Christian should.

With love to Katie & the children.

Yr. Aff Son  
Rowland

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228 3/12/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-310

Brunswick Me

Glencoe  
Ills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]  
[POSTMARK] MAR 12  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Ills

Cook Co

Brunswick Me Sunday 5 P.M.

We think Mrs Patten is having her last sickness. She was taken a week ago today. It is like Pneumonia but there is a stomach & <> trouble & she is very sick. I will stay a day or two. Lizzie [Hannah Elizabeth (Patten) Rogers] is here & she has great care. Otis is at home. Mrs Patten is full of love to her Saviour. She inquired for you. I left home at 5 PM. yesterday.

Rowland

Mrs Patten died at 6 P.M. [Elizabeth S. (Hunter) Patten died March 12, 1882 in Brunswick.]

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229 3/13/1882 *From:* [R.B. Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-188

Brunswick Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick Maine  
Mar 13, 1882

Dear Mother

You will probably have received my card announcing the death of our dear Mrs. Patten [Elizabeth (Hunter) Patten, d. 12 Mar 1882]. She was very happy even in her feebleness, to try to do something for David [her grandson, David Patten Howard], hiring a set of rooms which he occupied with her. She took her dinners in the other part of the house and he his meals at his Club. She seemed not so well last Sunday & rapidly grew worse with symptoms of Pneumonia on Wednesday. Lizzie [Hannah Elizabeth (Patten) Rogers] came Thursday & staid. I reached here at midnight Saturday. She was very nervous and weak at 9 A.M., when I first saw her. We had a long talk. Her mind was full of all spiritual and unworldly thoughts text of scripture on which experience and the Spirit had thrown new light, and ardent desires for the salvation of her friends. One of her last acts was to request us to have prayers which we did in her room. She repeated this verse -

Jesus, Thy blood & righteousness  
My beauty are, and glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, with these arrayed  
With joy I shall lift up my head.

She had experienced the truth of the text - "Be anxious for nothing" &c. She had dreams and visions of glory. "O isn't it strange" she often said, with a smile, "that this poor vile body will so soon burst into such glorious beauty!" Lizzie is well as usual but by no means strong & greatly exhausted. When she thinks of it, she feels very lonely being the last of the dear happy household, which I so learned to love. David appears well. It has broken up all his plans & plunged him in great sorrow. Mrs Patten's income was about 1000\$. She was going to use it to support herself & David till he got through College.

Capt Patten left his property which is in 16ths of two or three vessels, the Bath house that rents for \$400, and some of the Androscoggin R.R., Stock which pays interest to his children or their heirs. Mrs Patten had a life use of the income. It will now be divided between Lizzie & my children. Of the latter I suppose I shall be guardian. That coming to my children will be divided by three & the income of his part can be used for David. Of course it will be small - perhaps 200\$ a year, but it will help pay his expenses.

[see Note 1] The funeral will be at Bath Wednesday at 10.30 A.M. at Uncle Lincolns. Helen will not come. Otie will be here.

In haste with love to Katie & children.  
Rowland

[Note 1: The remainder of this letter was in a fragment RBH-319. It belongs here as the closing for the following reasons. The reference to Uncle Lincoln (Patten) probably means that the funeral was someone in the Patten family. The mother of Rowland's first wife was Elizabeth (Hunter) Patten who died Sunday, Mar 12, 1882. A funeral on Wednesday, Mar 15 would have been reasonable. The reference to Katie probably means that the letter was written to his mother, Eliza Gilmore, who was staying with Charles in Glencoe at the time of Elizabeth Patten's death. Thus the note was written between Mar 12 and 15, agreeing with this letter of Mar 13 to Eliza Gilmore.]

[Note 2: Helen is Rowland's second wife, Helen Graves. Otie is referring to Oliver Otis Howard Jr, born Feb 14, 1865.

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230 3/22/1882 *From:* R.B.H. [Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-189

Rockport

Glencoe, Ills  
Care of C.H. Howard  
Cook Co.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mar 22/82

Sorry not to hear what you think about giving 10\$ for Otis picture in History of Bowd. Coll. Hear you are sick. Have written Dellie & Charles for 10\$ each. Glad Dellie has moved to Denver. His family is small & inexpensive now & he will have but one child to educate. Got good letter from Chas dated Mar 11. He was perfectly well. I have a bad cold & throat. Helen joins me in love to you & Katie.

Oscar Turner died of Pneumonia, Mar. 14. [Oscar Turner was the husband of Rowland's cousin Rozilia Augusta Howard.]

Affy  
R.B.H.

Our children are well. Helen has had nearly all her teeth out & eats with trouble.

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Glencoe, Ills  
Care of C.H. Howard  
Cook Co.

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS. MAR 23

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231 3/28/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-190

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mar 28/82

Dear Mother

Your postal card came this morning & relieved my fears somewhat, but we were very sorry to hear of Neuralgia troubling you and of Katie's illness. I trust this will find you fully recovered. I will send the 43\$ for Otis picture to the Committee when due, the last of April, and you can send the 10\$ to me at your convenience. David writes today that as his vacation is but a week he may not come home but stay at his Aunt's in Portland. I will be disappointed but it will save expense in travel. We have had a very unpleasant month, but the sun is out & I already feel better & hope to be all right before another Sabbath. Rowlie & Ella are also getting better of their colds.

Sarah called to see Laura in Boston. She gave her a shawl.

Mr Foss sold 70\$ worth of standing wood for Laura this winter or rather collected 70\$ for her including 14\$ for rent. She gets \$2.50 a week beside her board, so she is pretty well off. I suppose she has made a will, giving the farm to John's children. If I were able I would like to own it. Charles has had an offer for part of his Florida land, so he wrote me. I hope to go down & see it some time when it is pleasant to escape the East Winds.

I have not heard from Mrs. [Eveline] Ames since the note I sent you from Mrs French [Susan Eveline (Ames) French, daughter of Eveline Ames]. I do not know what Oscar Turner's wife will do, but suppose she will go to Philadelphia to her sisters.

Helen sends her love to you & Katie. She has only a girl <> but expects one next week. A woman comes in to wash and iron.

Our old friend, Dea. Dodd of East Orange, has married a widow in Attica N.Y. That is all we know about it.

Mrs Patten's obituary was left out of last weeks Advance greatly to our disappointment. Laura has not mentioned the lettering of Grandfathers monument to me. I suppose she expects to come here for a kind of a home when she is released from her care in Boston. Mrs Thomas Turners sister, Mrs Chamberlain who rents the house is very near her end. She has a nurse now & Laura is chiefly employed caring for an insane woman who was placed under Mrs Chamberlains care.

I hope we shall see you here again this Summer.

Your aff Son  
Rowland

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232 4/11/1882    *From:* O.O.H. [OO Howard]    *To:* My dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-192

*Source:* Bowdoin

HEADQUARTERS,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
WEST POINT  
UNITED STATES  
MILITARY ACADEMY  
West Point, N.Y.

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[LETTERHEAD]  
HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF WEST POINT,  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
West Point, N.Y.

Apr. 11 1882

My dear Brother,

I enclose you the \$10 but it hurts. I am working very hard as you are to make both ends meet. I went to Newburgh & had this picture taken. They wrote me to try again. I declined. Had I known it would have cost you & the rest anything I should have said no. There are too many pictures of me any-way.

The Academy Bill went thro the House, was amended in the Senate & went back to the House. Since then it waits. I had the most important items which the House struck out restored in the Senate - i.e. Senator Hale &c did it. I enclose you corrected copy of the Tribune report of Chancellorsville &c.

Pity that "seminary" shd. have been put for Cemetery! I did not even have what the short-hand man wrote down read over to me.

Major S.N. Clark read this proof. I wrote recalling this article as it was delayed so long, but it was too late for recall.

It is good enough to show that one "braced up" & is not afraid.

Longfellow showed great wisdom in not answering his foes. We could if we had genius enough, could'nt we?

Your Aff. Brother  
O.O.H.

Love to family, Laura & all. We are very well.

For portrait in Bowd. Coll. History

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233 4/22/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-191

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Letterhead]  
Eastern Office of the Advance  
No. 6 Congl. House Boston  
Rev. R. B. Howard  
Eastern Editor.

Rockport Apr 22/82

Dear Mother

Glad to get yrs of the 16th on my return. I am well but very tired. Had a pleasant time in Washington.

I hear from Bangor that Mrs F [Catherine (McGaw) Foster, Katherine Foster Howard's mother] started the 19 to meet Katie & from Arthur that Katie is on her way.

I now feel anxious for you & wish you were with us. Helen will go to Farmington soon - her father is no better. David was at home 8 days - went back last Monday. He rooms at Mrs Shofields, Willies mother, & pays 1\$ a week. Otie is still at home. He is well & will write you. I do not know what he will do. Rowlie has been sick & neither he Ella or Helen are at all well. We have a cold backward Spring.

I send 20\$ for my Obligation. Please endorse 30\$ on it & I will pay you 10\$ for Otis picture in the history of Bowdoin College.

Sorry you keep yourself so short of money by investments. Glad to have you give liberally for Christs cause every way. Hope Charles will be home soon. When will you come on? I suppose I will go to N.Y. about May 10th. Wish I could get to Easton. I thought I had written you often. Pardon seeming neglect. Helen has trouble with eyes & teeth & just now has no girl. She expects one soon.

All goes well in the church as you may see in Mass. items in Advance occasionally. You will see there about my Washington visit. Helen & Otis & the children send love.

After the peach & plum blossoms of Washington it seems late & cold here.

I did not see the Lewiston Journal with notice of Oscar &c. Please sent it to me if you have it. I have other numbers.

Love to the children.

Yr aff son  
Rowland

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234 6/9/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

RBH-193

Rockport

Glencoe  
Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport June 9/82

Glad Charles could have a Sunday with you. Helens father is no better but her mother is slowly recovering. A nurse comes next week & Helen hopes to come home for a while at least. Otis is at work in printing office here. Frank is next to the highest in his school. David is very well. I have a good house-keeper. Mrs Dr. Haskell is in Chicago visiting a nephew. I do not know her address. She wanted to go out to see you. If she does why can't you come on with her & her brother.

Affy  
Rowland

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]  
[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JUN 9  
Mrs E. Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Ills.

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235 6/17/1882 *From:* R. [B. Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-194a

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Eastern Office of the Advance  
No. 6 Congl. House Boston.  
Rev. R.B. Howard  
Eastern Editor.

Rockport, June 17, 1882

Dear Mother

I was glad to hear from you by letter last evening on my return from Maine. Please sign this Receipt & return it to me & I will get your Div. & send you check for it. Glad to hear that you are so comfortable in health. I do not know Mrs Haskell's address. It was a very great thing <on her own inclination> to go to Chicago. Helen & the children now as well as usual. Her father no better - creeps about some with his canes - neither eats or sleeps & has to be watched like a child. Her mothers cough is some better but she looks very badly. The nurse Helen engaged was taken sick & cannot come till next week so H. could not come home. We hope Mr Beale (Uncle) will help us pay her.

We got a woman to stay one day & took Rowlie & rode 10 miles to Industry to Co. Conference. You know how pleasant the hills of Maine are in June. We also had one other ride in F. with the children. Ella goes to school every day, looks pale & is nervous. I got there

[MISSING PAGE]

I attended to some Probate business in Portland & saw Mr Gilman a few minutes. Frank is next to the highest seat in school. Lizzie is as well as usual, i.e. not very well.

R.

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236 6/22/1882 *From:* [R. B. Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-194b

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Attached letter]  
Eastern Office of the Advance  
No. 6 Congl. House Boston.  
Rev. R.B. Howard  
Eastern Editor.

Rockport, June 22/82

Dear Mother

I was glad to get your good long letter & the Receipt. I will write Mr Gilman to send you a draft for 228\$ less the exchange.

The loss of 40\$ a month by Mr West notification that he does not wish me longer on the Advance puts it out of my power to send you any money tonight. I will do so however as soon as I can. I suppose you endorsed the 30\$ on the obligation. I cannot understand why with your income you are so short of money. I would use the principal if I needed it or if you would enjoy giving it to any good object.

Charles writes that he is recovering after a weeks sickness at Dellies. He seems to think he will get out of the Advance pretty well if West pays up. But he will miss his \$3000 salary as I do my \$500. You know I have

[MISSING PAGE 3]

year from Pigeon Cove people & the Miss Society. I shall attend prayer meetings, preach over there once a Sab. And hire some one to help me when I must. I wish Otis & David had the heart to help in such work & I could keep a horse.

I am sorry to hear that you cannot come to see us this Summer. In Katies case it is a question of tender care and insanity & permanent invalhood. We shall send our book to Arthur at Brimfield, Mass. Next Monday.

I do not know what your present to Arthur is, but am glad you will have something to give - <if> <to> repairs on the Leeds Church. I shall give something & I hope you will. Laura has not mentioned it at all. She goes to Leeds next Wednesday & will help Theresa care for Uncle Frank. She will go via Bath. I saw her today in Boston. David will come home a week before Commencement, July 15. I advertised for scholars for him here. But one has offered yet. Write me some time how much you are giving Jamie if you have no objection. I suppose that is what keeps you feeling poor. Charles thinks Dellies wife cannot recover - says Dellie's business is good

[MISSING PAGE]

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237 7/3/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-195

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Boston July 3, 1882

Dear Mother

I was so completely exhausted after yesterdays services - communion and all - that I fear I will not be able to carry through my two Church programs. I seemed to be weak, numb & dizzy after I was thro. I hope to see Helen & the children today. She is so very good & kind to rub me & not find fault when I am nervously exhausted even if I have not preached very well, that I have missed her these ten weeks very much.

I called on Arthur & wife at Revere House today. She is very pleasant & will be a great addition to your Glencoe circle. They will not go west for a week. Mr & Mrs Day are to be at home for next Sab. I hear. I could not go to the wedding [see Note], no time, no money, no clothes! My black ones are very shabby. I hope for a new suit next fall. Three joined the church yesterday (ladies).

I could not understand from your letter, whether you owe Charles or Charles owes you a note for \$1400.

I lunched with Frank Gilman at the Bank. I suppose my Frank may come with his Mother. Laura was to be in Leeds Friday. I hope to hear from Uncle Frank [Benjamin Franklin Howard] through her. He suffers very much. No news from Charles since he left Denver.

The Advance business papers were all exchanged - the transfer made & the money & notes paid Saturday. I may correspond occasionally but my official connection, pay & c cease today.

I suppose Mr Gilman sent you the Portland Dividend direct as I asked him to do. David will be home next week I think & our house from being empty will be full. I am sorry you cannot come. I never took so much interest in any home as at Rockport, but may have to leave it any time. It is not rented but a parsonage & I feel that my improvements will help some poor minister who may follow me. I had that chamber set in the spare room painted & two lounges recovered this Spring. Mrs Pattens every day chamber set is in Helens room & her parlor set (green plush, somewhat worn & covered with cotton) in the sitting room. I have worked in the garden more than usual and it looks quite well. I covered the drain that you may remember and put a high lattice work fence of laths across the foot of the garden to hide some unsightly things beyond. I took the current bushes from the wall & set them in the center in two rows & put up new trellises for the grapes. I have pole & low beans, lettuce, radishes, beets, sage, cucumbers & c growing well.

Frank Howard is at the head of his school lacking one. David is doing, only fairly except in Mathematics in which he stands high. We hope to enjoy our 4th quietly together. Helen may have to go back any day - hardly dared come away - her poor father is so low.

Mrs Arthur Day spoke gratefully of your present & your note to them. They go back go Brimfield today. Mr & Mrs Foster went to N.Y. Sat. & will sail July 5 in the Bothnia.

If you were a little younger I would ask you to take me to Europe with you!

Yr aff Son  
Rowland

[Note: Arthur Day was the first cousin of Charles' wife, Katherine Foster Howard. He was married to Sarah Hubbard on 29 June 1882 in Brimfield, Mass.]

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238 7/4/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-196

Rockport

Glencoe

Ills.

Cook Co.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport July 4/82

Helen & children met me all right at Salem last evening. They seem as pleased to get home after 10 weeks as we are to have them. Otis is out riding in a boat beating a drum with a Calathumpian Band & <practicing> "Horribles."

Your second letter came last evening. Glad to hear again so soon. I trust Charles continues to improve. Helen joins me love to you. It is lovely weather after a needed & copious rain.

Rowland

The new town clock in our steeple struck for the first time this morning.

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JUL 4

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Glencoe

Ills.

Cook Co.

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239 7/5/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-197

Rockport

Glencoe

Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

Cook Co.

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Rockport July 5/82

Helens father died this A.M. & we go at 5 P.M. Leave Ella in Portland. Helen was home but two days. She left a good nurse. Whether she returns with me Sat will depend on her mothers state of health.

We had a pleasant 4th. All well.

Rowland

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JUL 5

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Glencoe

Ills.

Cook Co.

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240 7/12/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-198

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
Eastern Office of the Advance  
No. 6 Congl. House Boston.  
Rev. R. B. Howard  
Eastern Editor

Rockport July 12 1882

Dear Mother

Your letter explaining Charles note made the matter plain.

Helen & I Rowlie went to Farmington July 6, attended Mr Graves funeral the 7 & returned home Sat. night, 8th, leaving Ella for a visit in Portland. David came yesterday & will commence hearing recitations of a few scholars Monday. Frank will come with Ella by & by.

I had an attack of Summer trouble yesterday, the hottest in Boston of the Season, but am better today. My Pastors Class has an out-of-door meeting in our yard at 6.30. Helen is well but tired out. Otis is still at work in Printing Office here - has worked 25 days at 1\$ a day & bought a suit at 20\$.

Charles wrote me from Albuquerque. He will have to put up with his slight by West & make the best of it. I am afraid I will have to wait a long time for my last months pay.

All well. Helen joins in love. In haste

Affy  
Rowland

They pay me 5\$ a Sab. at Pigeon Cove & the Miss. Society will add something by & bye. David's rank at College was 8.4 in a scale of 10. He's now a Sophomore. Laura is with Uncle Frank. He is more comfortable.

---

241 7/21/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

RBH-199

*Source:* Bowdoin

Rockport

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Glencoe  
Cook Co  
Ill.

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Rockport July 21/82

I see by the paper that Mrs. Ames died Wednesday & is to be buried Sat [See Note]. I can go & get back Sat at 11 P.M. which is poor preparation for three sermons on Sab. I shall go because I think you would like to have me represent our family. We had reason to love her. Certainly if no one she has left behind. I send notice to Advance.

Children all home! All well. S.S. Pic Nic yesterday. Helen joins me in love.

Rowland

[ADDRESS SIDE OF POSTCARD]  
[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JUL 21  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Cook Co  
Ills.

[Note: Mrs. Eveline (Gilmore) Ames died July 20, 1882 in Easton, Mass. She was the sister of Eliza Gilmore's husband, Col John Gilmore, and the widow of Congressman Oakes Ames. This date is from the Easton, Massachusetts record of deaths. This was a Thursday, but Rowland gives Wednesday as her day of death.]

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242 8/4/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-201

Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mass  
Aug 4, 1882

My dear Mother,

Your letter was unusually good and interesting to us all & that is saying a good deal. I am pretty well. David went to P. Cove to Pr. Meeting with me last evening, but seems reluctant to take any part except to sing. He has two pupils now, occupying his time from 8 to 12 A.M. Frank is getting a little uneasy & may go home soon. Otis talks of going on a Naval School Ship till he is 21 as he has little hope of getting into Annapolis. He wants to do nothing away from the Sea & is constantly off on fishing & sailing excursions since he left the Printing Office.

I enclose Lauras card. I have written her what you say about Lizzie & Otis. She will have to give up her proposed visit to W. Pt.

Arthur Day proposed that I should go to California for a salary of 1000! Some time ago Dellie asked me to come to Denver for less. I would not object to a small church if I could live and if that is all God expects a man of my ability & experience to do. But if I was able to fill a more important position for ten years to come I think I ought to. I will not leave here until the way is open for a more promising field and better pecuniary support. If the Miss. Society pay me 500\$ for P. Cove I can keep out of debt. I shall ask them for less. We have good prayer meeting, many summer visitors help us at P. Cove. The hard time comes when they go away & the audiences become small & stupid.

Helen joins me in love to you. Sorry you are not quite well. Can't you fill this blank for me?

Yr aff Son  
Rowland

I want the Birthdays so as to keep the ages. I suppose you may have those of dear children.

David - Aug 10, 1861  
Otis Feb 14, 1865  
Frank Sept 19, 1869  
Ella Dec 15, 1875  
Rowland July 30, 1878

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243 8/13/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-205

New York

Glencoe  
Ills

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York Aug 13 [1882]

Frank & I came over with Bro. Otis last night on his return from Bucksport Me. We met him in Boston. I have got my pulpit supplied by neighbors & will go to W. Pt. tomorrow & preach Sunday & go home Monday by R.R. from Newburg via Hartford, Conn.

I heard of Chas passing thro Chicago. Am very anxious to hear how he is.

All well at home. Otis & David in a tent by the shore. Frank sends love.

It was too hot to sleep much on the Boat. We may go out to East Orange this P.M.

Love to Charles  
Rowland

[Envelope]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Ills

[Postmark] NEW YORK AUG 16 1030 AM 82

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244 8/24/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]  
Clifton Springs N.Y.

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-206

Glencoe  
Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Clifton S[prings N.Y.] Aug 24 / 82 9 P.M.

Charles continues to improve in voice & other wise but not so much in hands & feet. I walk out with him & write his letters &c. Katie has got a pair of slippers & I a card for his Birthday Monday. I expect to start for home Monday.

My throat grumbles somewhat. Burt & I have been to Canandaigua (10 miles) today & I have had three teeth put in.

Affy  
Rowland

We all want Charles to try these baths a few days longer.

[POSTCARD ADDRESS]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Ills.

[Postmark unreadable]

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245 9/6/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-208

Rockport

Glencoe  
Cook Co.  
Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Sept. 6/82

I suppose Otis & family have come to & gone from you. I have not heard from Charles since I came away. He will go home soon if he continues to improve.

Frank goes to Portland tomorrow. David will go about the 15. His term begins Oct 1st. Helen & I hope to be at Portland Oct 3. Ella is not all well & Rowlie has chronic swollen tonsils.

Helen joins in love to you.  
Rowland

Funeral Monday & one today.

[Postal Card Address]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Glencoe

Cook Co.

Ills.

[Postmark] Rockport, Mass. Sep 6

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246 9/10/1882

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

RBH-207

Rockport

Glencoe  
Cook Co  
Ills.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Sept. 10/82

I hope the visit of Otis & family was not too much for you. We are well as usual. Frank went to Portland Thursday. He has been a real comfort to us. David finished his "tutoring" this week & will go to Farmington next week with his mother & children & thence to Brunswick.

I expect to meet his mother in Portland at the meeting of the Board, Oct 3 & come home together. West has asked me to "report". Otis has been in a hardware store here temporarily. He is still set upon going to sea but may attend some school for eight or ten weeks before.

Louisa writes of ill health & misfortunes to their crop. Laura spent a pleasant week with us.

Helen sends love.  
Rowland

[Postcard Address]  
Mrs E. Gilmore  
Glencoe  
Cook Co  
Ills.

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS Sep 11

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247 9/28/1882 *From:* [Rowland B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-200

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Sept 28/82

Dear Mother

Katie wrote me good news from Chas last week, & I have written one of them about every week. No news from Otis (Gen) or Dellie.

My son Otis went out as a companion of Capt. Giles a neighbor of ours, on a voyage to Gonaives Hagti W.I. last Saturday. The voyage usually takes 2 months. They have had a long & hard September gale ever since they sailed. Otis was to study navigation & learn Sailors duties so as to be able to ship on a large ship from Bath if he likes it. I hope he will come home sick of it & go to School this winter.

David went to Maine Friday night, by Bath boat, spent one day at Bath, & the Sab. at Hallowell, & met his mother who left home Monday morn, at Leeds Junction & went to Farmington. He writes that Aunt Ellen is well now. No one knew him at F. He goes to Brunswick tomorrow to begin his term on Tuesday. He rooms with another boy in College.

Helen is busy helping her mother & putting up preserves. She gets her winters lard, port, boiled cider &c at Farmington. Her mother is well as usual. Her brother is not well. He works for 1\$ a day pressing coats at present.

I suppose you noticed that Roland Gilmore is juryman at Lewiston this term of Court. My old friend Ludden is dead.

I go down to Portland next Tuesday & hope to meet Helen there. The children will stay with her mother till after the meeting. We will shut up the house a week, if I can get my pulpits supplied a week from next Sabbath. There were 76 in our p. meeting last week & 25, in Pastors Class & I hope for better days spiritually. Our people are poor & many of the best - (the two Brooks families) are moving away, but our Ch. Repairs costing over 500\$, are all paid for & my small Salary 25\$ a week comes regularly. I made seven calls at P. Cove & attended prayer meeting there last evening. It was stormy & only 18 were out - one half of them the unconverted - only one person besides me to take any part!

I do not hear from Louisa - fear she is sick. Oliver Ames is Republican candidate for Lt. Gov. He is both praised & attacked on his fathers account. One biography of him speaks of his being "a self-made man", showing his industry in making shovels for Fairs in early life his ability financially in settling his fathers great estate & getting rich himself. Neither Mr Oliver Ames or his friends belong to the highest style of men, I think. His brothers appear better to me than he does.

Aroostook crops are good & I hope Henry & Laura are doing better. Have not heard from them except thro' Rev. Mr. Snow Pastor of Ch. In Houlton. No one goes to meeting but Joe. The Maine political victory was very gratifying. The Republicans will lose NY & Penn & probably the next house of Reps & perhaps deserve to.

Most of Rockport people, Republicans & Democrats will vote for Ben. Butler. He has, like Simon, "bewitched them by his sorceries giving out that he is some great one." It is one of those strange "possessions" that I cannot help, but it "hurts" me to have some of my best men vote for him "for a change." But I don't think he will be elected.

Mary McCarty (our girl) put 4 cans of Quinces for Helen yesterday. They grow in the next yard. Do you like barberries? They grow wild by bushels all around us. Our grapes are ripening pretty well. The "shell-beans" & green corn still hold out. The tomatoes are fine & the cabbages will be if the frost holds off. Our two apple trees bear well (fall fruit). Our single pear tree has a dozen on.

Frank Gilmans only remaining sister Mrs Emory, has become demented & bed-ridden. I see him quite often.

Give my love to the children. Tell Burt, Rowlie did not play <Pasnum> as well as he did.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

Write me here. My letters will be forwarded next week to Portland.

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248 10/6/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

RBH-203a

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Oct 6, 1882

My dear Brother

If I were at all disposed to forget you in the delightful engrossment of this occasion, the many kind & sympathetic inquiries for your health would not allow it. Mrs Whittlesey was particular & earnest & sends great deal of love to you & Katie. Dr Hamlin & many others occur to me as I write as affectionately solicitous toasts for your recovery.

I came down Tuesday morn & Helen met me, leaving the children at Farmington & we have been enjoying each other & the grand <thermes> & social joy of the occasion as almost never before.

The meetings have been as large as at Lowell. Two overflow meetings going on most of the time & the great hall packed as I never have seen one. The remarkable things were a speech from Prof. Pack. And two as remarkable ones as he has ever delivered, by R.S. Storrs D.D., Dr Hopkins at 82 was in no <whit> below himself in his 32 minute address on "Love as a motive, & duty as a guide & limit to its impulse." Dr Hill, formerly President of Harvard, confessed to the whole orthodox creed as to Missions in a way most surprising & delightful.

The spontaneous spoken pledges of about \$25000 additional for next year when the Board needs \$100,000 extra, contributions to replace the accustomed <old> legacy now exhausted, was a tearful occasion following a prayer meeting & reminded us of Providence & its \$40,000. Dadge doubled making \$10,000 & scores followed. I gave 300\$ which Mrs Patten accumulated years ago from the sale of milk & which she requested when dying should be devoted to Foreign Missions. I have it in my pocket to pay this morn. It was pledged anonymously but publicly in a note read Dea. Alden with good effect.

I like the leisure, but it seems undutiful not to be at work for the Advance. All I hear of West's management is unfavourable. A stranger to me (Minister) spoke to me of my letters & asked where he could now find them. The half hour prayer-meeting interjected into the business hour has not been a success as a prayer meeting & the whole spiritual tone of the meeting has not risen to that "revival point" that has sent us away melted & humbled as well as inspired before.

Our friends here are as well as usual. Helen sends much love to you & Katie. I have engaged a "supply" and as nobody seems to want me to preach I hope to rest a little Sunday at Farmington, & till Tuesday. Our Essex Co. Conference is next Wednesday. I engaged Dr. Cullis to come & speak on "Faith-Cures" & am to make a special report for Congregationalist.

You may be interested to see this letter of Gilberts.

God bless you & yours.  
Your loving brother,  
Rowland

P.S.

Please send mother this. I received my commission as a Missionary of the Mass house Chris Soc at Pigeon Cove at 250\$ a year. Pray that I may deserve this consecrated money by earnest self sacrificing & faithful service. I am planning for a protracted meeting there with an Evangelist to help. We propose to visit every house in the vicinity for personal consecration & prayer.

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249 10/7/1882 *From:* Charles [H. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-203b

Clifton Spg.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[added at the bottom of the preceding letter from Rowland written Oct 6, 1882]

Clifton Spg Oct 7 '82  
Sat A.M.

Dear Mother:

I forward this as requested. Kitty is not so well but I continue to gain. Dr. F. says I must stay two weeks longer. It is hard to wait.

Love to you & all. Your Son  
Charles

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250 10/13/1882 *From:* Rowland [B. Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-210

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Oct 13/82

Dear Mother

We returned home Tuesday night with the children and found our house &c all safe. I was glad to get your letter and to learn of you & Otis' visit &c. I preached in Weld Sunday. I got a horse & carriage in Farmington, H. & Rowlie went with me.

I saw Warren Woodmans three boys at Wilton [Cony Warren, Oliver Otis & William Fenderson Woodman]. The oldest is learning the printing trade. They all look well. They have nothing sent them by John Otis [cousin of their mother]. Olive [(Woodman) Hazard, sister of their father] has sent them 20\$ on two occasions. Mrs Hunt [Mary (Hiscock) Hunt, sister of their mother] has a hard time & grows old fast with her care for the two with her. They came to hear me speak Sunday night on my return from Weld.

On Monday I went to North Leeds, got a horse of Frank Foss, son of Alvin, Depot Master and rode to Wayne, dined at Stillmans. He & his wife wish to be remembered as did Aunt Rhoda [(Mitchell) Howard, widow of Dea. Warren Howard] who lives there with Lucy [widowed daughter Lucy (Howard) Ramsdell] in another house. I was sorry to hear of Mrs. Alvin Lane's fatal sickness at Granston. Aunt R. is better in old age than when we used to know her. I rode round the pond, called on Clark Leadbetter & went up by the meeting house to Mr Foss. I called at Laura's house a few moments. The M.H. is shingled and painted a pleasant color, not white & looks well. They will do nothing to the inside till next year.

I found Uncle Frank [Benjamin Franklin Howard] sitting in his chair, with his night shirt on & his foot on a box. He looked natural & seemed cheerful & talked much more than he used to do, spoke much of my father & wished to be remembered to you. His toes are like charcoal in looks and substance & there is a very deep sore as large as a dollar on the inside of his foot, the thickest part. He had no paroxysm of pain while I was there. He may live months yet.

Theressa looks old & worn. She has pretty children. Religion seemed to have no place in their thoughts, though the trouble seemed so very great. I reached the Depot at No. Leeds at 6. They would accept no pay for the horse & I had a pleasant call on Mrs Alvin Foss & Mrs Frank F. She was Vesta Foss. Clark Leadbetters wifes mother, Mrs Gott spoke of knowing you. I reached Lewiston at 9 P.M., slept at a hotel & was with David at Breakfast in Brunswick at 7.30 A.M. He has a chum & they have fitted up a College room. He seems to be doing well. Helen & children met me there Tuesday noon & we reached home at 6.30 P.M.

I have had a cheerful letter from Dellie since my return & a few lines from Louisa. They are well but had no apples or potatoes to sell this fall.

Our days in Portland were crowded with meetings and engagements, but very enjoyable. Our Co. Conference at Hamilton Wednesday was good. Dr Charles Cullis addressed us on Faith Cures and I wrote some acct. of it for Congregationalist. There is a Teachers Institute in Rockport this week. We had 5 to dine with us today. Last night Helen sat up with a sick person. I went to Pigeon Cove to prayer meeting.

Mr Foster wrote me a note from Boston. They went to Bangor Wednesday & I did not see them.

Helen joins me in love.

Yr aff. Son.  
Rowland

P.S. We hear nothing from my son Otis. We have had hot weather for Oct. We have plenty of grapes this year. I bought some butter of Theresa & some at Farmington paid the former 28 cents per lb. It is very nice & just suits us, 50 lbs. I hope to hear of Charles & Katie at home in your next. It seems we are to be under

Democratic rule in spite of Maine - Ohio having gone over - Penn & N.Y. seem likely to follow. Thousands went to see Pres. Arthur yesterday & day before in Boston.

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251 10/19/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [CH  
Howard]

RBH-211

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Oct 19, 1882

Dear Brother

Thanks for your note & Otis & Whittlesey's letters enclosed.

Of course *W's* suggestion is only tentative, as the "Indian Transfers" may not be effected & if it is, may not take place for 12 months as there are legal & other details that will be delaying & perplexing. Dr Means at Portland merely mentioned it as an "overture" from A.M.S. to be carefully considered.

As to your fitness for the place - especially the Indian field work - relations to Government &c. there can be no question. The questions of health & salary are important.

Perhaps you could do your present work as well as that, with impaired health, rather better, I should think. But as your relation to the Govm't is a business one merely & in no sense a benevolent one. I have been expecting some suggestion of resignation from your official Head. Personal kindness may make them wait, or an appreciation of your value to the Service.

In case your health should be restored, & if your Salary could be equal to Dr Striadgo I would want you to try it. But Poor health & a small salary would soon destroy you . As to going before the churches &c except on rare occasions, I would not consent to that as a part of the work.

A man like Powell, with small education, no great wisdom & no experience in the field, but having the gift of speech & dramatic talent could do that much more successfully & at less cost.

But as Gen. *Ws* recommendation might not be followed, even if made, the whole thing is problematical.

Hope you see Congst. Last week's had Gilberts introduction. This week has an acct. of a Faith-Cure Discussion by Dr Cullis & others at our Conf. which I wrote at Richardsons request. You noticed my Sunday Article in Advance. It had a good "display". I am convinced of the reality of Faith-Cures. Read a paper before our Assn Tuesday. Wish you would try the promises Jas. V. 14, 15, with Dr. Cullis. The arguments against modern miracles would destroy all prayer for temporal blessings. God still answers prayer for healing.

All well as usual. Son Otis not heard from. David rooms in College & his bills keep me very short of money. I want to send some to you & to Mother. I had a letter saying that people staid away from my church because I spoke so loud. Between those and the deaf, it is hard to choose. As always hitherto, there is nothing in my services that "draws".

Glad to hear that you & Katie continue to improve. Helen joins me in love to you both.

Yr aff brother  
Rowland

---

252 11/22/1882 *From:* DPH [David P  
Howard]

*To:* [RB Howard]

RBH-212b

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Attached to the preceding letter from Rowland. Assume date is Nov 22 1882.]  
[missing opening]

I have been elected elegist by the class, my part to come at the burial of Anna in the spring. I rather think they have made a mistake this time as I never wrote a rhyme in my life. I shall have to write a prose elegy.

We have themes every week and last week I had to have one for society. Its hard work but I am interested in it. I go down to Neodies and play some. I did go down most every evening for half an hour but she works evenings now.

There is going to be a course of lectures here and I have promised to take a season ticket \$2.00. I tho't I ought not to lose the lectures. They are to be in Memorial Hall. I suppose the \$2.00 must be forth coming soon.

Pres. Chamberlain is going to lecture on Gettesburg. The boys call him the Little hero of Roundtop. There has been snow on the ground all day and altho' the sun has shown, it has been pretty cold.

Give my love to all the family. Where do you think I had better go for the Thanksgiving recess of three day? I have not been invited to Portland. The Hyphon sailed from Bath last week.

Your aff son  
DPH [David Patten Howard]

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253 11/24/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-212a

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Nov 24/82

Dear Mother

You will like to see the boys letters. I was very glad to get a good long letter from you.

Helen has been in Boston & vicinity this week with Ella. They came home last night.

I had two funerals & a wedding - took Rowlie to the former.

We have had our ell shingled on one side & our sitting room floor painted. Our carpet has worn out & we will use a rug.

I hope David can come home for Thanksgiving. All well. No news from Otis.

Helen joins me in love to all. She called on Laura in Boston.

Yr aff Son  
Rowland

[Attached to the following letter from David]

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254 12/1/1882 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-213

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Dec 1, 1882

Dear Mother

We spent Thanksgiving very quietly at home with only the two little children & Anne Nickerson who has boarded with us & goes to school. Mary (our girl) is staying with her old mistress, Mrs Neaman, a widow & a neighbor who is sick. We invited a firm of dressmakers, Misses Hadley & Mason, to dine, but they could not come.

A Union meeting was held here at Baptist Church & I went to Pigeon Cove to preach. It snowed the night before & many sleighs were out. It only melted in the middle of the day. I had but 25 hearers & no organ player & had to hire a horse to go, so I am quite uncertain whether it paid. Some paid fair attention to my sermon, but no one said anything.

Helen said the Baptist Minister preached an excellent Sermon. David concluded to stop with his Aunt, as he expected to come home Christmas. Ella does not seem quite well, lies on the lounge & reads her child's book of poetry. Rowlie clutters the whole house with his tools, his work & his play. He is quite handy with hammers. He speaks no plainer, & may have to have his palate operated on before he can talk plain.

Mr Appleton gave us a turkey as usual. We made three calls the edge of the evening, on Mr & Mrs Gott who go to Colorado Springs for the winter next Tuesday, on Mrs Durning, the widow of a former ministers wife who was here for the day & whose son recited to David this Summer. She is a beautiful woman - Episcopalian - not much older than Rev. Ed. Abbott, & indications are that she may be the 2d Mrs. A. though neither of them say anything about it.

Helen had a pleasant visit week before last, spent one night in Boston, one in Cambridge & one at Everett, between Malden & Boston. She did not get to Malden. Dea. Cutter's death shocked us all. He went to Geo as usual & died of malarial fever. His wife & son arrived 7 hours before he died & he recognized them. She is left a widow (Lottie Hunter) with two sisters dependent on her, they being in ill health. Mr Cutters rich brother (Isaac) will not let her suffer. Charles Cutter is a Tutor at Brunswick. He is the only son left.

We have had our sitting room floor painted & varnished & use a rug which covers most of it. Our carpet was too [missing page]

one else farms it.

Write as often as you can.

Yr aff Son  
Rowland

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255 12/9/1882 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-209

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Department of the  
Platte,  
Commanding General's  
Office  
Omaha, Neb.

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[Letterhead]

Headquarters, Department of the Platte,  
Commanding General's Office  
Omaha, Neb. Dec. 9th 1882

Dear Mother,

Charlie's letter of the 7th was quite startling, but fortunately I did not get it till the postal came a day later, saying: "Mother decidedly better." I hope now you will soon be on your feet again. I have so recently come home that I cannot risk get away again.

I have accepted an invitation to deliver a "fore-father's address" at Creston, Iowa, the 21st inst. They promise me \$50 & expenses.

I hope you will soon be well enough to read Jamies letter.

Give much love to all.

With a heart full of sympathy & love.

Your Son  
Otis

---

256 1/2/1883

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-216

Rockport Mass

Glencoe  
Cook Co  
Ills

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Rockport Jan 2/83

Dear Mother

Your good & long letter added much to our Happy New Year. I will write to Dellie & Aunt Martha Jane. I am very sorry to hear of Lizzie's condition. The boys have fine skating & we all rode out to the pond yesterday to see them skate. They hauled Ella & R. on a sled. We have no snow.

About 60 attended a very good morning prayer meeting Jan. 1 in our vestry.

Hope I will see Arthur [Day Howard]. Suppose Mr [Thomas Lawrence] Riggs & Theodore [Foster Riggs] will go to Bangor.

Love to all  
Rowland

[Postal Card Address]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Glencoe

Cook Co

Ills

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS JAN 2

---

257 1/5/1883

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mac [Otis McGaw  
Howard]

RBH-214

Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mass

Jan 5, 1883

Dear Mac [Otis McGaw Howard]

Thank you a thousand times for your every way well-written account of the visit of the Sioux to Glencoe. I will have it read to my Pastors Class of 25, who have a missionary Society called "The Birds Nest" and contribute every Quarter in <juga> for the Dakota Schools. We have twice discussed the question, whether it is better to educate the Indians at Hampton & Carlisle or their reservations. I would like to have your ideas on that question.

Wish you & all your family a Happy New Year in which your Aunt Helen joins.

You will see your cousin Rowlands picture sent to Grandma or I would send you one. He is not quite as bright and cunning as Don [Donald Charles Howard, b. 28 Sept 1879], but makes care and fun for us all.

We have two meetings each day of the week of Prayer. David spoke in the New Years morning Prayer meeting. I hope you have begun to take part in the prayer meetings and I would be glad to see you a good minister or missionary. But you must be a true Christian first.

Our boys invited 10 young people & had a candy pull Wednesday night. They have had a fine run of skating. Otis has a mast and sprit and sail to hold while the wind blows him along. We have a nice fresh water pond two miles away.

I hope you will come and see us some time. Will you go to Bowdoin College with Cousin David or to Harvard where your uncle John [John McGaw Foster] went?

I will always be glad to hear from you. If I had a paper I would print this Indian story. With love to all.

Your aff Uncle  
Rowland

P.S. Please thank your momma for the children's Xmas cards.  
R.B.H.

---

258 1/8/1883

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* My dear brother [CH  
Howard]

RBH-215

Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Rockport Mass  
Jan 8, 1883

My dear brother

Ella made this pin-ball - one of her first accomplishments in sewing for your Xmas, but it is late getting off.

We were very glad to get yours of the 5th written at Chicago. I hope Teller has no designs other than to let you rest.

Mac's account of the visit of the Sioux was very creditable to him & helpful to me, as I wrote his Grandma Foster.

I could not go to Boston to see Arthur today & suppose I will not see him before he goes West.

I never meet Mr [Edward] Abbott, he being Episcopal, but I wish you might get some books that way - the Chicago ones at least. They would hardly send them from the East to be reviewed there for a Boston paper. Mr Abbotts paper is the Lit [Literary] World not magazine or Review as you had it.

Ella is deeply concerned for Nina's knee & we all greatly hope that it will disable her for only a little while.

Glad to hear of more household comforts. If you are to live at Glencoe the out-house seemed necessary. I do not think a water closet in the country a safe, a good thing & fear some of your sicknesses are due to yours. It should never be used except for sickness or some necessity- drainage, bad floodings, imperfect, out-of-order. Easily these are the insuperable objections.

Arthur will hear Jos Cosh today. I was sorry not to. I find my interest in worldly public events as such, has greatly subsided since I do not have to hear & report for Advance. About here the Subs are stopping the Advance, from no fault of mine, except that some took it out of personal regards to me.

We have a slight snow for two days but no sleighing. The air at Rockport seems to me far less chilling & piercing than at Boston. Our Catholic priest, about my age, dropped dead of heart disease this morning.

I suppose Otis will sail for San Francisco via Cape Horn, Jan 20, from New York.

Helen joins me in love to all at your home. I believe I have lately written Mac & Mother & owe Katie a letter too.

Your aff. brother  
Rowland

---

259 1/18/1883 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]  
Rockport

*To:* Dr Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-217

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Rockport Jan 18/83

Dr Mother

I sent the 2\$ to Laura today & explained it. I enclose Davids card about Aunt Janes death. I tried & failed to get an exchange so I could go to funeral. Her house, she has made a home to me & mine always, since I first boarded & met Ella there. I believe her to have been a praying Christian woman.

Glad you had such a nice visit from Lizzie. Charles wrote me a good long letter which I must answer when I get time.

Love to all. Helen half sick with a cold.

Affy.  
Rowland

---

260 2/3/1883

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

RBH-229

Rockport

Care of Tilford & Gilmore  
Denver  
Col.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]  
Rockport Feb 3/83

A line from Otis surprised us with the news of your trip. I suppose you cannot return alone & may have to make a long visit. I had a week at rheumatism on the lounge and then concluded to go to Nassau for the round trip 20 days. I borrowed 63\$ of Laura. I had to go Feb 8 or not at all. Helen & children will go to Farmington as usual. I am about well but have great pain occasionally in my "veins". Give our love to Dellie - wife & Ellie. Hope you will be well and have a nice visit - & you feel strong enough. Write to me & it will be forwarded from here to N & then to me.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

[POSTMARK] ROCKPORT MASS FEB 3  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Care of Tilford & Gilmore  
Denver  
Col.

---

261 3/2/1883

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Gen. O. O. Howard

RBH-219

Rockport

Omaha  
Neb

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Rockport Mar 2/83

Home yesterday. Sea sick 3 days & nights! Met Helen & children at Salem.

Thanks for letter. Will write Johnny. Am pretty well. Seems terribly cold after 20 days Southward. Had a nice visit to Nassau N.P. - Sarahs old home. Family at Farmington Full of accumulated work.

Love to all

affy.

Rowland

[Postal Card Address]

Gen. O. O. Howard

Omaha

Neb

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS MAR 2

---

262 3/10/1883 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-218

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Rockport, Sat Mar 10/83

Dear Mother

I thought you would like to see Frank's mumpy letter & that Harry would also. We are all pretty well today. Rowlie & Ella at play. Ella much less nervous & Rowlie more like himself. David is sawing some wood for exercise & copying a Lesson on Electricity for me. I send you our paper.

Helen joins in love to all.

Affy.  
Rowland

---

263 3/16/1883 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

RBH-220

*Source:* Bowdoin

Rockport

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Care of Gen O.O. Howard  
Omaha  
Neb

---

Rockport Mar 16/83

David & I spent Monday night at Cambridge with Frank G & family. Sarah came down Wednesday to hear about Nassau & spent the night with us. Laura is getting along better. I paid her Monday what I borrowed. Her house is not let yet. Geo Peare who lives near Boston & is, with his family, doing well, wants to hire it for his father.

We are all pretty well. Ella somewhat nervous. Helen made 12 calls with me yesterday & we held the meetings at Pigeon Cove. David is busy writing for me.

Love to all.  
Rowland

[Postal Card Address]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Care of Gen O.O. Howard  
Omaha  
Neb

[Postmark] ROCKPORT MASS MAR 16

---

264 2/4/1884

*From:* Edwards A. Park

*To:* My dear sir, [R.B.  
Howard]

RBH-224

Andover

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Andover Feb 4, 1884

My dear sir,

I ought to have answered your letter before this time; but have not been able to do so.

I think that the Associate Founders of this Seminary were pious men. They were eminently humble in their views of themselves. They had a very high standard for Christian character. They thought that many members of the church were a dishonor to the church. They feared that they themselves would dishonor the church if they should unite with it. Although they had a hope of being saved, yet they did not think themselves fit to unite with the church. Two of the Founders were under the special influence of Dr. Spring of Newburyport, and the remark commonly made with regard to his pastorate was that "the sinners in his congregation were better than the saints in other congregations."

The remark that the three Associate Founders were not members of the church is one of those truths which make an impression of falsehood. The impression is that they were not religious men, and that they did not care what became of their charities to Andover Seminary. Now

- (1) They were religious men.
- (2) They were very strict in their orthodoxy.
- (3) They were exceedingly and eminently attached to the orthodox faith as held by Dr. Spring and Dr. Hopkins.
- (4) They would have preferred to sink all their funds into the Atlantic Ocean rather than sink them into any system which was loose in regard to Biblical inspiration, the atonement, eschatology, etc.

Have the goodness, dear sir, to excuse me for not giving an earlier reply to your letter, and believe me to be

Very respectfully yours,  
Edwards A. Park [Edwards Amasa Park]

[The following is written in a different hand]

This letter is of historic value - both from its facts - its spirit - and its signature. It is the expression of a great man in his old age & towards the close of life such as I will be glad to preserve. I will want you to copy it some time for publication. I asked him if the "Founders" were Professors of religion?

---

265 2/11/1884 *From:* Edwards A Park

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-225

Andover

Rockport, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Andover, Feb. 11, 1884.

Reverend and dear sir,

I should prefer not to appear in print in regard to the Associate Founders unless there be some necessity for it. Again, if there be a necessity for it, I should prefer to see my letter to you, and perhaps make some additions to it. In order that I may decide whether to have my letter published or not, will you have the goodness to inform me in what connections, you desire to publish it, and also what good will be effected by publishing it. Cannot the same good be effected by publishing the substance of it without mentioning my name?

My doubts do not arise from any misgiving in regard to the accuracy of my statements, but merely from the fact that I have appeared in print of late as often as perhaps I ought to appear.

Very respectfully and truly, I am, my dear sir, your friend and servant.

Edwards A Park

Rev. R. B. Howard  
Rockport, Mass

---

266 3/25/1884 *From:* Edward S. Tobey  
H.C. Dunham  
H.H. Leavitt

*To:* Rev'd R. B. Howard

RBH-226

Boston

Rockport Massts.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Boston March 25, 1884

Rev'd & dear sir,

At a special meeting of the "American Peace Society" held on 24 inst, the undersigned were appointed a committee, with full powers, to extend to you an invitation to become the corresponding secretary of said Society on such terms as shall be mutually satisfactory. We therefore beg to express our earnest hope that you may find it consistent with your present obligation, and views of Christian duty to accept the position now offered to you, as being one in which your sphere of usefulness in promoting a very important cause may be largely extended. If you shall accept this invitation, it will merely require confirmation by a formal election at the annual meeting of the Society in May next.

In the hope that you will be guided by Divine Wisdom to such decision as He will approve.

We are,  
Very Respectfully,  
Yours  
Committee:  
Edward S. Tobey  
H.C. Dunham  
H.H. Leavitt

To  
Rev'd R. B. Howard

[ENVELOPE]  
[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS MAR 25 84 1 30 PM  
Revd R.B. Howard  
Rockport  
Massts

[Written in another hand] Correspondence with Com of Am Peace Soc, Apr. 1884. Preserve

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267 4/11/1884

*From:* E. S. Tobey  
H. C. Dunham  
H. H. Leavitt  
Boston

*To:* Rev'd R B. Howard

RBH-227a

Rockport

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Boston April 11 1884

Rev'd & Dear Sir

It affords us pleasure to acknowledge the rect of yours of [blank] and to learn your conditional acceptance of our invitation to become the Corresponding Secretary of the American Peace Society.

We beg to inquire whether an annual salary of twenty five hundred dollars commencing on first day of June next will be satisfactory to you. If so, the undersigned feel authorised to obligate the Society to pay that sum quarterly, subject to the action of the Society at its next annual meeting.

Very Respectfully

Yours

E. S. Tobey

H. C. Dunham

H. H. Leavitt

Committee of Amer Peace Society

To/ Rev'd R B. Howard

Rockport

---

268 4/14/1884 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Edward S Tobey  
H. C. Dunham  
H. H. Leavitt  
Com: of Am. Peace  
Society

RBH-227b

Rockport Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[Written on the reverse side of the letter dated April 11, 1884 from the Committee of the American Peace Society.]

Rockport Mass

Apr. 14. 1884

Messrs

Edward S Tobey

H. C. Dunham

H. H. Leavitt

Com: of Am. Peace Society

Dear Brethren

Your favor of the 11th inst communicating an offer of \$2500. Annual salary should I become Secretary of the Am. Peace Soc. on the first of June next was duly received, and I accept the same subject to the official confirmation at the Annual meeting to which you refer and subject also to an orderly dismissal from my pastorate.

1st Draft

[RB Howard]

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269 10/25/1884 *From:* R. S. Storrs

*To:* My dear Sir [RB Howard]

RBH-228a

80 Pierrepont Street,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

80 Pierrepont Street,  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Oct. 25th/ 84

My dear Sir

I wish I could speak in Boston on the questions of politics and of candidates now before the Country, but it is absolutely impossible. I am having the fright at present of my special domestic anxieties and duties - in connection with the probably fatal illness of my dear son-in-law, Prof. [Lewis R.] Packard, and with my Daughter's [Harriet Moore Storrs] burdens of apprehension and grief - and I cannot have any part in public political discussions. I was compelled the other evening to cancel an appointment to preside at the meeting here which Mr Evarts addressed.

In haste,  
Ever truly yours  
R. S. Storrs [Richard Salter Storrs]

---

270 10/27/1884 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Dear Bro. [CH Howard]

RBH-228b

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[Written at the bottom of the letter from R.S. Storrs dated Oct 25 1884.]

Oct. 27, 1884

Dear Bro.

As this letter answers my question addressed to you on Friday, I send it to save you the trouble of a reply.

Will you kindly remail it to me & oblige

Yr friend & Bro.

R. B. Howard

---

271 1/1/1885 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Unknown

RBH-320

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Missing Opening]

I believe there is a general rejoicing that the Clergyman has merged his costume with the rest of mankind - that we no longer behold the curled long haired wig - the necessary cane - the breeches & buckles & cocked hat of fifty years since. That his presence no longer excites reverence not to say awe, and that the wholesome fear of his approach no longer frightens little children. I own to sympathy in the sentiment that makes your minister no more than a man, that subjects him to criticism as such, and gives him no higher place in

[missing closing]

[This could be part of a sermon.]

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272 2/2/1885

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-230

W. Medford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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W. Medford Feb 2/85

Dear Mother

It is a bitter cold clear night & I am at home just tired enough to enjoy nothing so much as rest. It was a stormy Sabbath yesterday but I was glad to be able to preach three times, address a S.S. teach a class and drive a mile to talk & pray with a sick woman becoming blind.

Today we had a meeting of our Executive Committee & they seemed to approve of my course with perhaps too little interest.

Otis is still at Woodford near Portland. We expect Maria & Lizzie to visit us, perhaps Sat. of this week.

Aunt Martha wrote a good long letter inviting us to the wedding [Anna Strickland married Nathan Ballard 10 Feb 1885 in Indiana]. If I go to N. Orleans it will be later. The way is not quite open to go yet.

Frank Gilman called this P.M. He is Supt. of Dr McKenzies S. School at Cambridge now.

Helen & children keep pretty well as does David. They enjoyed their meetings yesterday. I preach here next Sab. as our pastor will be away. I have just secured a S.S. Library for Pigeon Cove Chapel costing 100\$. I expect to go down there again a week from next Sabbath, especially if my successor at Rockport is installed Feb. 13.

The snow is a foot deep, the ice thick and the sleighing good. David had a good long letter from Dellie last week. Ellie was not quite well.

Please give me Graces address in your next letter. With love to Charles & Katie & all the family.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

---

273 6/8/1885

*From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-231

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

American Peace Society  
The American Advocate of Peace and Arbitration  
Room 6, No. 1 Somerset Street,  
Boston.  
R.B.Howard, Secretary and Editor

Boston June 8, 1885

Dear Mother

David starts for Denver today at 3 P.M. He stops at Elmira N.Y 12 hours and will come out to see you on his arrival at Chicago. He arrives in Chicago by the Chicago & Atlantic R.R. He got a ticket for \$13.50 via Erie R.R. He seems very well and disposed to do all he can to earn his living. He has been faithful & dilligent in study this winter. I have advanced about 200\$ for his expenses here and he has drawn the last sum from the estate till it is settled. It is constantly diminishing in value, because of its vessel property.

I had a very pleasant visit at Dexter. Louisa is better than last fall.

The point as to the 3d Mortgage Bonds which I do not remember is the amount realized from that sale to Eaton. I will look over those old papers taken from the safe again. I find no record elsewhere. It seems as if I must have handed the memoranda as well as the money to you.

My lecture in Dexter was well attended - town hall given by selectmen. I reached home Friday night.

Glad to hear of your visit to Richmond & Katies to Rockford. I have not seen R West who is in the city. We'll try to go to Andover to hear "Johnny" Thursday.

With love to all

Affy  
Rowland

---

274 7/25/1885 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-232

W. Medford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

American Peace Society  
The American Advocate of Peace and Arbitration  
Room 6, No. 1 Somerset Street,  
Boston.  
R.B.Howard, Secretary and Editor '56

W. Medford July 25/85

Dear Mother

All the family are asleep. The children got up early to look in their stockings. We sent 5\$ to Frank and put 2 ½ for each of the little ones in their stockings. Rowlie had a black-board, a bound vol. of the Nursery and Ella a little geographical globe and a skirt. Both enjoyed the beautiful card you sent - the finest we have seen. Helen had a handkerchief and your gift. I had a lunch basket. Our girl "Jane" made and gave us two nice coseys for keeping the teapot warm.

The ground is snowless, but the weather is cold today. Thilda Wendell our Swede girl trimmed a tree as they do in Sweden in our unfurnished parlor & a few neighboring children came in and marched and sang around it.

I have been a little rheumatic & Rowlie had hot face & head-ache before night & sleeps with his mother. Helen had 5\$ of your present. We have made almost no presents. I gave our sexton, who is poor & good, a ham.

I hope you all had a pleasant day at Glencoe. I think now I may go to New York, Phila, Baltimore, Washington & Richmond after the week of prayer.

With love to all  
your aff son  
Rowland

Both the boys David and Otis have taken letters to join churches with their wives where they reside. Pray for them. Frank thinks of coming home when he is prepared & of attending the school of technology in Boston.

Thilda is with us for a little while & hopes to get work in other families. We helped her at Rockport in a long sickness and have paid her no wages yet. I wish you could visit us. You would like "Thilda" but not "Jane", who cannot say "yes" or "no" only and who is not a good cook. We pay her 2.50 per week.

---

275 1/14/1886 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Prof [George T.] Little

RBH-233

Boston

[Bowdoin College]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

American Peace Society  
The American Advocate of Peace and Arbitration  
Room 6, No. 1 Somerset Street,  
Boston.  
R.B.Howard, Secretary and Editor '56

Boston Jan 14, 1886

Prof [George T.] Little [Bowdoin College]  
Dr Sir

President Hyde made the best of impressions at our Alumni meeting last evening and praised your efficient work for Library. Rev. E. B. Palmer who occupies a neighboring room showed me two circulars from you in which you requested the publications of the Alumni. I send a few copies of our Advocate &c of which I am editor and when we have a bound volume I will send one. My Seven years work on the Advance - most of it Anonymous - will probably never be in shape to preserve. My printed Sermons were in Reviews &c, but if I come across copies I will send them. I have preserved none. I will send you a Life of my brother Gen. Howard & some other books by and by.

The simple, manly, Christian tone of the Presidents remarks <are> upon us all and I feel that the College has indeed entered on a new era.

Yours very truly  
R. B. Howard

The first vol. of The Advocate of Peace Published by Conn. P. Soc Hartford 1834 contains an article by the late Prof. Packard & one by Prof Upham which are worth notice.

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276 5/25/1886 *From:* Papa [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Rowlie & Ella  
[Howard]

RBH-234

*Source:* Bowdoin

[Letterhead]  
Kirby House  
J. Youngs & Son,  
Proprietors  
Cor. East Water and  
Mason Sts  
Rates: \$2.00 per Day

Milwaukee

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[Letterhead]  
Kirby House  
J. Youngs & Son,  
Proprietors  
Cor. East Water and Mason Sts  
Rates: \$2.00 per Day

Milwaukee, May 25 1886

Dear Rowlie & Ella

I came over Lake Michigan from Grand Haven in a Steamboat. I went to bed at 9. The boat left at 12 and came into Milwaukie (182 miles) at 5:30 A.M. but I didn't get up till six. The lake was as smooth as Mystic River. All the state room doors in the Boat had pictures painted on them. Every room had a good big window. I came ashore and took a long ride in a horse car - drawn by two yellow mules with a black streak where the mane ought to be, which ran back on their back-bone & down their small tails. Mules have too large ears and too little tails & too big bellies and too thin thighs to be pretty, but they are kind & work well.

I told Lucy and Clara to wash their mouths & kiss me for you both & they did. Their mamma kissed me for your mamma too! I am in a big dirty hotel waiting till my train goes West to Minneapolis. Clara & Lucy had a Pic Nic out by a little brook Sat. Clara like crabs and pollywogs and catches them & little fishes & brings them home. A cat ate up her crab Sunday. Lucy writes letters compositions & poetry. Clara talks like a grown young lady with great volubility and variety of expression laughing & speaking very earnestly. Every morning their mother sits down & curls their hair on a curling iron. They change dresses many times a day - get very dirty & get clean again. They wear black stockings, go to S.S. and Young Peoples meeting & their mother has them in her S.S. class. They are going to Public School next year.

I saw two little boys harness a dog in Lansing. I saw a girl with a pet lark in the cars. In the horse cars you put your "nickel" in a sliding place and it goes into the box from any part of the car. Milwaukie is next to Edinboro for beauty of situation. The houses are built of cream colored brick. It is called "Cream City". Beer! Beer! Beer!! Is everywhere. It is cold this morning after a very hot week. I was almost well of my catarrh &c &c &c &c till I took cold & got chilly last night. I can't go to Minneapolis till PM. Think I will stop at Lacross over one train and see Mr Greenwood & Mr Quin from Farmington. I get quite lonely traveling alone and wish I could have you & dear Mamma with me all the time when the weather is pleasant, the hotels good, and the traveling pleasant. I pray for you all a good deal, because I have a good deal of time to think & pray as I do not when in the office. I hope Ella will write & Rowlie will tell Mamma what to write.

Your loving  
Papa

---

277 6/7/1886

*From:* Papa [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Ella [Howard]

RBH-235

Marion Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Marion Iowa  
June 7, 1886

Dear Ella

Now the President [Note 1] is finally married I think I will write you a letter and tell you about yesterday &c. Well, Saturday night a Mr Foster and his little boy "Ward" came here to Marion and I went home with them to Mt Vernon 16 miles away by R.R. We took a steam street car, which Ward greatly admired, to Cedar Rapids, a city six miles South and then a R.R. 10 miles East to their home. Ward got asleep and as it was ½ a mile from the Mt Vernon Depot to his home, we rode in a two seated waggon. The man said he had a covered one at home. I gave the man 25 cents for the three.

When we got to Wards home we found a little house in a field of grass and raspberries & black berry bushes. There was a spring the other side of the road, a quarry pretty near the house and a big garden. It was 10 o'clock and Ward was sleepy & we all went to bed. I slept in a little room, with a small bed with no spring, but a small straw bed and a small feather bed and two nice little pillows - some colored pictures breaking their backs bowing to me on the wall, a tin pitcher & bowl, with hard water and one towel. Wards papa and mamma were very poor, but wanted me to stay with them because they loved peace and wanted to know & love your papa.

I slept pretty well. When I got up Mr Foster had milked his two cows - one was a little Jersey - about as big as a calf. There was a real calf - son of the big cow - bawling at his tied-up place in the field. Pretty soon I saw the children, "Grace", 13, a scholar and artist, pale, nervous & good - "Louise" picking roses away from the myriad of bees, pale, dark, about 11, not nervous, but laughing - "Ward", 7, very kind and obliging - "Westley", a little curly headed spit-fire of 3 - and the baby a poor pale little wee <woebegone> thing of 4 months lying on the lounge and quiet, with a sugar teat and an old collar box suspended over his head.

Mrs Foster was pale, sallow partially toothless, very thin & prematurely gray. She got the breakfast of mashed potatoes, boughten white bread coffee (I took warm water) nice butter, black homemade bread, fried pieces of stringy beef, wild honey &c. They had just got a new set of dishes and though we ate by the kitchen stove, the morning was so cool we did not mind it. Ward shouted "meat! Meat!" and Westley said "Grandpa's pig meat"! Papa F held the baby and I served the food. The meat was "rare" but well done in that family. It was harder and tougher than you ever saw, but all seemed hungry, thankful and happy.

A poor worn rag carpet covered the parlor floor. Westley "raised cain" during family prayers but Ward & the girls were very good. There was a visiting girl of 13. What a June morning! The two girls sang and played the little Melodean. Westley put on an old hat & trotted with his bare feet about the garden. The girls washed the dishes. Mrs Foster tended & fed the baby. Mr Foster arranged for my meetings & talked with me about Faith and Peace. How very, very poor they were!

At 10.15 all but Mrs Foster & the two lesser ones went to Church. How the bees hummed, the roses perfumed the air, the grass nodded its plumes in the wind, the cherries grew red and ripe on the trees. The good minister introduced me to a crowded house of people and never was I happier than then in preaching. At noon Mr Foster showed me his printing press in the cellar and the room where the girls set type for the "Day Star", a peace paper which he gives away by thousands. His brother gave him ten swarms of bees to help buy type. I rested on the bed till dinner, which was like breakfast except we had fresh strawberries from their own vines. Poor Mrs Foster did all the work & nursed the baby when he was awake. At dinner Mr Foster held the baby & his head drooped over the side of the father's arm and the sugar teat almost dropped out.

At 3.30 I preached in another church full of people. A Brig. Gen. D.D. prayed. A Chaplain "Longee" was there and two ministers and "professors" from the College and students in grey uniforms, who drill as soldiers. One kept whispering and moving about while I preached as if he wanted to insult me as much as he dared to.

When meeting was over, a two horse carriage came for me with two women - one the drivers wife and one his sister, and two little boys son and nephew. Son was 3 and could sing, talk & drive the horses. Nephew at three

too couldn't talk - said "moog" when he wanted water. We, well, we drove away during the discharge of several texts against me and peace from the Brig. Gen. D.D. to which I hollered back replies which I fear did not convince him as he seemed like a "set" kind of a man. We drove 12 miles to this place over the finest country I ever saw, softly outlined hills, smooth roads, tall elms, oaks & maple woods with no underbrush but carpeted with green grass. White and red cattle were in herds on the hill-sides, corn in clean rows stretched away in the fields. Wheat green as grass, <> headed, potatoes, and flowers of every hue. One blue bird, very large, one wood-pecker very gaudy and a bird as red as blood I saw darting among the trees. It was two hours & we were here.

At 7.30 I preached in a beautiful Church here to a smaller congregation. At 10.30 I was glad to go to bed after praying for you, Mamma, Rowlie & the boys. Give a bushel of love to Frank & let Mamma read this letter

Your loving Papa. Love to Rowlie to you all as far as you can hear it.

"Grace" got a gold medal for an original drawing but wanted to sell it to buy some clothes. The drawing was "The Hive at Gettysburg" (Whittier) a big drum with bees in it. How hard her Mother must have worked to "do up" Graces white dress that this hard water won't quite whiten.

Such lots of chickens I saw. Butter is 12 cts a lb.

[Note 1: President Grover Cleveland married Frances Folsom on June 2, 1886.]

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278 6/15/1886

*From:* E.B. Palmer

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-236

22 Congregational  
House,  
Boston, Mass.

West Medford  
Mass.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[POSTAL CARD]

22 Congregational House,  
Boston, Mass., June 15, 1886

Dear Classmate:

This is the Class Programme for Thursday, June 24, 1886:

Headquarters open from 8 A.M. to 11 P.M.

General Class Muster at headquarters at 12 M.

Commencement Dinner at (about) 2.30.

Between 4 and 5 P.M. take special train to Bath. Classmate Moses will entertain there.

Return to Brunswick at a seasonable hour, for any special conference at the headquarters room.

Information about the place of rendezvous can be obtained of Mr. W.R. Field, near the depot.

E.B. Palmer, Secretary,  
Class of '56.

[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS JUN 15 5P.M.

Rev. R. B. Howard

West Medford

Mass.

---

279 7/6/1886

*From:* H.W. Beecher

*To:* Dear Sir [RB Howard]

RBH-237

Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[Emblem of a lion and the Latin phrase ESSE QUAM VIDERI (To be, rather than to seem)]

July 6, '86

Brooklyn

Dear Sir

I have despatched a long (for me) and earnest letter to the President, in behalf of Genl. Howards advancement to a Major-Generalship.

Cordially Yours

H.W. Beecher [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher]

I received a letter from Genl Howard himself. You may mention to him that I have complied with his request.

July 6, '86

Brooklyn

Dear Sir

I have despatched a long (for me) and earnest letter to the President, in behalf of Genl. Howards advancement to a Major-Generalship.

Cordially Yours

H.W. Beecher [Rev. Henry Ward Beecher]

I received a letter from Genl Howard himself. You may mention to him that I have complied with his request.

---

280 8/23/1886 *From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-239

Remedial Institute,  
Drs. S.S. & S.E. Strong  
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Farmington  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[ENVELOPE]

[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS AUG 23 3 PM

[TO] Miss Ella Howard

Farmington

Maine

[FROM] Remedial Institute,

Drs. S.S. & S.E. Strong,

Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

SEND FOR DESCRIPTIVE CIRCULAR

OPEN ALL THE YEAR

[Only an envelope]

---

281 8/28/1886    *From:* Father [RB Howard]    *To:* My dear Ella [Howard]

RBH-238

W. Medford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, NO. 1 SOMERSET STREET,  
BOSTON  
R.B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

W. Medford Aug 28, 1886  
Sat. Morn 6.45

My dear Ella

I just called Frank. He slept in my bed when I was away. He has gone to his own room now. He got up at 6.45 breakfasted at 7.30. He goes to bed rather late. Last night he played <quick-stones> with "the cousins" till 10. I went to Baptist Prayer meeting with Mr. Breed. Mrs Breed was buried one year ago. Her father and mother came up and all went over to Cemetery. Mr Breed kneeled down and prayed very tenderly in prayer meeting.

Tell Rowlie I saw Gussie. His face and clothes were not clean and he was with the boy who lives near him. He answered me rather briefly. Frank goes in swimming in <Roerher> tights. Florence & sister have gone to Ottawa with their pastor Mr Abbott. They will come home next week. I have not seen the Lymans or other girls. Tildu has a very sore eye. William came for swill last evening. Diana seemed pleased and they joked. Helen Hood is better, I hear. Mr Smith lives alone like a bear in a den. The Boston Traveller man loves his wife and has given her a tame crow and a horse, which please her. He wants us to come and see them.

I went to Congl. House prayer-meeting & ours yesterday and led Baptist meeting and preach tomorrow here, so I am almost a pastor again. Diana is well. Plenty of corn, pears falling off the tree front of Arbor - very sweet. Fall apples about all gone. I mow & Frank hoes paths. One vine has got to top of bay window. Your room is very nice but very lonely. Seems like a house after a funeral because you and your dear mother are away.

Your loving  
Father

Mr Curtis & children start for Katahdin Springs beyond Bangor today & will be gone 10 or more days.

---

282 8/31/1886 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Dear Sir [Prof. Geo. T. Little]

RBH-240

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, NO. 1 SOMERSET STREET,  
BOSTON  
R.B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

[Boston] Aug 31, 1886

Dear Sir [Probably Prof. Geo. T. Little]

I was glad to learn that a new edition of the College history with errata &c was to be published. In the 11 lines which honor my obscure name there were 4 errors -

Page 705 - (No of line in Notice)  
Line 1st - Name. "Rowland" not "Ro-"  
Line 1st Birth: "1834" not '33  
Line 2d Law - "one year" not two years

Page 706  
Line 6 - of the page  
Name of 2d wife "Graves" not Groves

Should there be room and it be thought wise to add anything:

It might be said, Page 706 amending and adding -  
"Princeton Ill. Five years: four and a half at East Orange N.J. and five years in Rockport Mass. He was associate editor of the Advance seven years travelling in and writing from Europe in that capacity, 1875. In May 1884, he became Secretary of the American Peace Society and Editor of its publication of which The American Advocate of Peace and Arbitration, a Bi-monthly, is one. With an Office in Boston and home at West Medford Mass."

Page 706  
Line 6. Substitute for "three children" three "sons".

Respectfully Yours  
R. B. Howard

---

283 10/13/1886 *From:* Rowland [B,  
Howard]

*To:* Mrs E. Gilmore

RBH-241

Boston

Care of Gen. O. O. Howard  
San Francisco  
Cal.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Boston Oct 13, 1886

Dear Mother

We were rejoiced to hear from you directly (the first time since you went to Otis). Miss Bodemeyer has written of Rheumatism in Otis family & we feared you might suffer. Glad to have you nearer us and we will not take "no" for an answer as to a visit. But I wish you could stay at Otis long enough to shorten and break the force of the long shut-in Winter at Glencoe.

I shall not go to Chicago & do not know that Nina will come. Will write to send her here with some one. I will send the \$15 Nov. 1st even if coupon does not get round. Otis [Rowland's son] talks of going to Denver to try his fortune. Hope you will stop & see David & Del on your way back.

We are all a little better, except me. Rowlie's ear has "broken". Glad to hear about Grace & children. They seem almost like strangers to us.

After 5 hot days it is cool & easterly again.

With love to all, affy  
Rowland

[ENVELOPE]

Mrs E. Gilmore  
Care of Gen. O. O. Howard  
San Francisco  
Cal.

[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS OCT 16 10-15 1886

[Note: There are a number of family references. Miss Adelheid Bodemeyer is a teacher at Andover and the future wife of James Waite Howard. Nina is CH Howard's daughter, Nina Foster Howard. "David and Del" are Rowland's son David Parker Howard and his brother Rodelphus Howard Gilmore, both lawyers in Denver. Grace is OO Howard's daughter, Grace Ellen Howard, who married James Taylor Gray in 19 Sep 1879, and had 4 children at this time.]

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284 10/23/1886 *From:* Rowland [B,  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-242

W. Medford

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, NO. 1 SOMERSET STREET,  
BOSTON  
R.B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

W. Medford Oct 23 / 86

Dear Mother

You will sympathize with us in the loss by fire of the old homestead at Farmington. Helen will go down tomorrow & I hope will bring her mother & brother here. Homeless and destitute, with an invalid son, at 76 and the household savings all swept away in a moment. It seems very hard. Mrs Graves brother is over 80. He lost the "Beale Block" (4 stores 2 halls, many offices &c a large lot of wool). We have not heard of Insurance but it was small if any.

My cold is much better & the children are pretty well. Rowlie's deafness is no better. We have found a place in a hospital for "Tilda" and I will take her there as soon as she can be safely moved.

Helen will be gone but a few days. Farmington was more a home to me than any other place. All but one of my children were born there. With ch. & Parsonage both gone it will be hard for the Congl Church to go on. They will have to occupy a hall & wait for ability to build. Ella seems better. I am using Dr Peno's oxygen for my cough.

Yr aff son  
Rowland

[A sketch of the block destroyed by fire was drawn in the margin, indicating the location of the Graves' house, the Church and other buildings.]

---

285 11/27/1886 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

RBH-309

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[missing first pages]  
circa 1882? [Written in another hand. See Note]

5 [Page. A graphic of Christmas bells is in the top left corner of the page.]

the office on his way to Andover. ( I hear Helen hallowing to the girl "Julia", under the impression that loudness facilitates understanding English.) Jamie looked well, spoke of his frequent engagements to speak on religious subjects and that he earned \$40 per month. He is to survey the Seminary grounds for grading at Andover. Ella perseveres very well with her music and is less nervous than she was. Rowlie is well except his chronic cough. He & I are taking Oxigen from Dr Reiso.

One of our Rockport friends Mrs. Bartlett, sent us each a mince pie yesterday. I dared only taste of mine. Our dinner was excellent & gives me no uneasiness which is becoming uncommon with me.

Mr Carey of Princeton sent me 10\$ for the Socy, the other day. Howard Graves helped me mail the papers as the boys used to do. He has had no epilepsy since he came, but cannot be left alone. His mother hopes to get back to Farmington & to rent a small tenement & keep house. She is 79 and we dread to have her try it. Laura Burgess is living with Lucia near us for the present. Sarah writes every week - has had courage to speak in meeting for the first time.

Helen joins me in love and Mrs Graves wishes to be kindly remembered. The children send love. Ella said she wished Grandma Gilmore lived where she could go and visit her as people used to when she lived in Leeds.

Louisa wants to hear from you as we all do when you can write. I have not heard of your coming East so I will send this to Denver to be forwarded if you are not there.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

It is feared [Cousin] Nelson Leadbetter will not recover from a long malarial sickness.

[Note: This letter is probably written between 10/23/1886 and 12/10/1886, the dates of two letters that have two issues referred to in this letter. Firstly, a fire in Farmington prior to 10/23 forced both Helen's brother, Howard Graves, and her mother, Julia Ann (Beale) Graves, to come and live with them. Julia Graves was born May 4, 1807, so that she would have turned 79 in the year 1886. Secondly, Nelson Leadbetter, the son of Jabez and Lucretia (Howard) Leadbetter died in New York city, Dec. 9, 1886. In the letter of 12/10, written to Eliza Gilmore, Rowland writes that Nelson had died. Eliza was living with Oliver Otis in San Francisco. The reference to the mince pie probably puts it around Thanksgiving, which was on Thursday, November 25. Therefore I estimate the date to be 11/27/1886. Jamie is probably James Waite Howard, a civil engineer, a graduate of the Phillips Academy in Andover, and the son of Oliver Otis Howard.]

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286 12/10/1886 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-243

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, NO. 1 SOMERSET STREET,  
BOSTON  
R.B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

Boston Dec 10, 1886

Dear Mother

I hope Dellie sent forward my letter to you directed to Denver. We have had a severe storm of snow & bitter cold weather for a week but it is milder and the house quite comfortable. Helen & I went to Andover and attended the Wedding Reception of Rev. Chas H. Cutter yesterday. Nina [Note 1] went with us and is to go on after a visit to Miss [Adelheid] Bodemeyer, to Bangor tomorrow with her brother John [Note 1]. She was here from Friday to Thursday & we enjoyed her visit very much. Ella was perfectly happy in it. They slept, played & worked together incessantly. The snow is about a foot deep & the children are active with their sleds snow houses &c.

The wedding was in response to 1000 invitations the bride the daughter of a Boston Bank President (Ripley) with rich relatives. Charley C is smaller than David, & his wife smaller than Nina. Carriages took the guests from the Depot & back & a Boston Caterer furnished a fine collation. Adelheide B. was there & seemed to know all the Andover people, and was as usual very agreeable.

John's future wife, Miss Eames of Worcester, was in Boston and Nina came there to meet her yesterday after the Reception where John acted as usher. He is to be married in January. [Note 1]

David writes of his wifes <carcinoma> for six months in her knee [Note 2]. Otis is thro' with his first "job" - earned about 60\$ which no doubt is all gone. I do hope he will find some thing else to do soon. He wants me to send him one of their carpets, some crockery &c from the goods stored here.

Last evening Helen & I heard Henry M. Stanley tell his interesting African stories at Fremont temple. Mark Twains introduction was eloquent & witty.

Cousin Nelson [Leadbetter] died in N.Y. yesterday at 1 P.M. He is to be taken to Monmouth for burial tomorrow & I hope to see them tomorrow in Boston at 9 a.m. as they go thro. Wish I could go with them but am engaged at West Brookfield Mass 73 miles west of Boston for Sunday. Nelson died of a lingering malarial sickness gradually failing. His oldest daughter Lucretia is the wife of a widower in N.Y. His 2d Annie, 26, postponed her marriage on account of her fathers death. His son with Rodolphus takes his fathers business for the present. Laura Burgess is here with Lucia for the present. I hope to go to Winthrop

[Missing Page]

P.S. Miss Bodemeyer heard from Otis (Gen) & through her we learned you were still at his house. Chanceys cards did not reach us till after his marriage [Note 2] but we will write him. Mr Foss sent us ½ a bag from the old farm to day.

[Note 1: Nina was Cornelia (Foster) Riggs. She was the sister of CH Howard's wife, Mary Katherine Foster and the wife of Thomas Lawrence Riggs. Their brother was Rev. John McGaw Foster, who married Grace Greenleaf Eames on January 4, 1887 in Worcester, Mass. They were children of John Burt Foster and Charlotte McGaw.]

[Note 2: OO Howard's son Chancey Otis Howard married Alice Gertrude Rustin on December 4 1886 in

Omaha, Nebraska.]

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287 9/9/1887

*From:* Geo F Hoar

*To:* My dear Sir [RB Howard]

RBH-244

Worcester

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Worcester Sep. 9 / 87

My dear Sir,

I have an unusual profuse of engagements for the month of October, so that I cannot make an absolute engagement now, without knowing the date of your proposed meeting. But it seems altogether likely that I can perform the service you desire.

I am  
faithfully yours  
Geo F Hoar

---

288 10/18/1887 *From:* Andrew Carnegie

*To:* Revd R. B. Howard Esq

RBH-246

510 51st  
New York

Sec'y American Peace  
Society  
1 Somerset St  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

510 51st  
New York 18 Tuesday [October 18, 1887]

My Dear Mr Howard

Your note just recd.

It is most gratifying to know that Boston is to set the stamp of her approval upon the great effort now making to banish war from the English speaking race.

The Deputation goes first to the President of course. The date of interview will be fixed in a day or two. After that receptions &c will be in order. That of New York we are despaired to think had better be the last - a kind of farewell when they are about to sail.

I run out to Pittsburgh tomorrow morning for a few days, returning here & go to Washington. It might be well for you to come here & confer ere we start for Washington & perhaps go with us, if we find arrangements cannot be definitely fixed here.

You will see by the newspapers the date fixed for interview & can correspond with me here, in regard to further arrangements.

Hastily yours  
Andrew Carnegie

[ENVELOPE]  
Revd R. B. Howard Esq  
Sec'y American Peace Society  
1 Somerset St  
Boston

[POSTMARK] NEW YORK OCT 18 8 PM 87

---

289 11/9/1887 *From:* Edward E. Hale

*To:* Mr [RB] Howard

RBH-247

30 Highland St  
Roxbury, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

From Edward E. Hale  
39 Highland St  
Roxbury, Mass

Nov 9, 1887

My dear Mr Howard,-

I regret to say that I am engaged on Saturday evening next.

But if there is any other opportunity when I can show my interest in this cause, I shall be very glad to be called upon, and will do my best to promote it.

Can you tell me if Lord Kennard is of the party of the English delegates, and, if so, what is his address?

Very truly yours,

E. E. Hale

---

290 12/15/1887 *From:* Philip C. Garrett

*To:* Mr [RB] Howard

RBH-248

*Source:* Bowdoin

Fairfield,  
Logan,  
Philada.

---

[LETTERHEAD]

Fairfield,  
Logan,  
Philada.

Confidential

12.15.87

My dear Mr Howard,

I was only in Boston a couple of days, & wanted to spend a week & talk things over with you, visit Miss <Stewart>, &c; but my whole time was so crowded, that I could not even repeat my call on you, when I was greatly disappointed not to find you. I dined & spent the night after my call, with Mr H. O. Houghton, but did not so much as know he was interested in the Peace Cause.

My impression is, that the Arbitration League consists of John B. Wood, just as the Universal Peace Union consists of Alfred H. Love, - & I fear it is fatal to it. John's wife is a very dear cousin of my wife, & he is nephew of my former partner, & I know all about him from boyhood. He is full of zeal and energy, to overflowing, & as wanting in discretion & good judgment, as a hen. I do not know much of his new Society, but would expect to find he had not the full assent of either Andrew Carnegie, or J.C. Strawbridge, to the use of their names. In this I may prove mistaken. He has taken 2 rooms, has the name of the Association & those of the officers, painted on the door, & appears to have two clerks at work. I called there today to learn about it, but he was not in, - & I had the same fortune with Mr Strawbridge.

What I fear is, that he will spend a lot of money, not be able to collect it, & run aground, & bring discredit on the movement. He will not counsel with others, & cannot brook advice, or objection to anything he wishes to do.

I earnestly hope that my apprehensions may prove groundless.

On the night of the large anti-Arbitration meeting here, I was in Albany. I am told it was largely composed of Irishmen, & was, strictly, a Home Rule meeting. It was backed by Jos. Wharton, who presided, & is one of our wealthiest citizens. He is uncle to the proprietor of the American, of which Robert Ellis Thompson is editor.

I was invited to a seat on the platform, - it was not, I believe, heralded as an Anti-Arbitration meeting, but only to consider the proposed Arbitration treaty, & probably many were there under a wrong apprehension.

The fallacious arguments presented by Prof. Thompson, ought to be met & refuted.

Very Sincerely Yours,  
Philip C. Garrett

---

291 4/11/1888 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-250

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY

No. 1 Somerset Street, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

ORGANIZED A.D. 1828

REV. ROWLAND B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

Boston Apr 11 / 88

Dear Mother

Lauras housemate, a Mrs Wood, died of Pneumonia yesterday. Laura thinks she will remain in the house & get some one to live with her if she can. She is some better of the eruption on her body.

Nelson Leadbetters widow died in New York & was carried to Winthrop for burial today. Lucia going down.

Ella is having a pretty hard time with measles & her mother has slept but little for a week. But Ella seems better - all but the cough today. Mrs Graves and son have a chance to board in Farmington near their old home &, I think, will go down about May 1st. Helen must go with them & fix their rooms.

We have no house yet, but are looking for one every day - must give up our house May 1st. Helen & children can go to F. But what to do with me, Frank & the household things is the question! But Franks school will be brief - only to June 1st & he can go to Portland then.

We are all fairly well except Ella. I feel anxious to hear from & to see you, but nothing seems to require me to go West this Spring.

Love to all. Your Aff. Son  
Rowland

---

292 6/1/1888 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Mr. Geo T. Little,  
Librarian

RBH-249

Boston

Brunswick  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]

[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS JUN 1 1888 7-45 P

Mr. Geo T. Little  
Librarian  
Brunswick  
Maine

R. B. Howard [Written in another hand]

56 [Class of 1856]  
Boston June 1, 1888

Dear Sir

I send Gen Howards Nez Perce Campaign & <> to add a badly edited memorial of "Camp Meeting John" - full of repetitions &c.

It seemed to me there ought to be some permanent record in a good place of so remarkable a Maine character.

R.B.H.

---

293 8/23/1888 *From:* Father [RB Howard]

*To:* My dear Daughter [Ella Howard]

RBH-251

Arlington Aug 23 / 88

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Arlington Aug 23 / 88

My dear Daughter

I thank you for you letters. Frank seemed to want to go to Portland and did not love to work, so he went. I kept pretty busy on the office books today, but came home in time to hoe the flower beds and mow a little while. I walked to the P.O. & round to Russell St. & would have gone to W. Medford to prayer meeting if I had not felt too tired. (Some bags pound on drums till I get tired of them)

Last night the Sun shone on a great cloud till it looked as if Jesus was coming in the clouds of Heaven with the glory he had with the Father before the world was.

I bought 6 ears of sweet corn of Mr Russell & we had them for Supper & Diana liked them - the first she had had. Enough was left for breakfast. I was afraid blueberries would be gone before we had our blueberry cake so I bought some in Boston for 5 cents. The furnace is done but the old one is not all taken away & I cant clean the cellar. We have plenty of pears, but Mr Wilder gave us some for sauce. I am pulling the beans. The cucumbers do not bear much now & the tomatoes are waiting till you all come home. Ditto the grapes.

The Kidders are away & I nailed up the fence today. I did not have the register changed - no carpenter to cut the hole. Diana has spent two days looking at the carpet spread down in your room seeming afraid to cut it. I will offer to do so if she will make it up.

I wonder how you & Rowlie will like the schools here. Fred Wilders toe is better, but he has stubbed another one. I have catarrh & fear you will when you come back. (I would like to "drum" on those bags for awhile).

Love to Rowlie & a kiss to Mamma. Bell rings for 9 oclock. I fear Mamma won't brush her teeth.

Father

I wish Rowlie would go up to Dea Fitcows & get ½ peck of apples & bring home to fry. Why can't you both go for the walk & the apples. Mamma will give you the money to buy them.

---

294 11/16/1888 *From:* Rowland [B Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-252

Arlington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, No. 1 SOMERSET STREET  
Boston  
R. B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

Arlington Nov. 16 1888

Dear Mother

Charles is very kind to write, and it is a kindness I appreciate more than any other that I can think of - for you are present with me in your weariness and nights of pain, nearly all the time. When I read I see you between the lines, when I write your condition colors my expressions, and when I pray it seems as if I had no burden of prayers except for your comfort and relief & for my son Otis - tho other objects press me at times. I rejoice in the <ardor> cast within the veil which holds your soul from drifting. Helen has just written her mother who keeps well and seems so happy in her new home that we judge she likes her companion old Mrs Allen, a widow, now childless needing such a home.

Everybody expects an office from Gen. Harrison and everybody dreads Blaines influence. I can only be thankful that a Christian is to be President and pray that he may have grace to resist the Devil who will appear in so many subtle and deceptive forms, to destroy home. If I had his ear I would say, "be much in secret prayer".

I have changed the address of the Angel [Note 1] - to Supt of S.S. Glencoe. Have just finished my work on the Dec. Thanksgiving number.

Frank goes to Portland and we will be alone. Helen is cleaning house with a venerable colored woman to help. Frank is proud of his new & very long hood Ulster, but came near melting the day he wore it. He waits for cooler weather. His success in Architectural drawing is fair. David & Otis both wrote this week - no news.

The papers yesterday told us of Otis coming to N.Y. which pleases us all especially as we hope it will be for the best and please Lizzie. If Schofield gives Otis charge of the Frangeral Military, perhaps I can get a chance to go and a seat near magnates!

I knew Alexander Harrisons private Secretary - a graduate of Bowdoin 1873. I knew when 3d Controller of Treasury in Washington & met him at Terre Haute Ind in 1875, when I was on the Advance. He is from Maine & a Christian man, active in S. School work or was.

Lizzie Rogers spent last Sunday with us, after a visit to Northampton to Maria who is well again. Helen & the children are well & all send love.

Your aff. Son  
Rowland

[Note 1: The "Angel of Peace" was a publication of the American Peace Society for children.]

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295 11/25/1888 *From:* Rowland [B Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

RBH-253

Arlington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
THE AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND ARBITRATION  
ROOM 6, No. 1 SOMERSET STREET  
Boston  
R. B. HOWARD, Secretary and Editor

Arlington  
Nov. 25, 1888

Dear Mother

Charles' last letter led us still further to hope that you had seen & felt the worst of those pains, and that you had some relish for food. So Otis [Gen] left San Francisco Friday. You will, I hope, see him early this week and even if that visit is brief it will be comforting.

Since Four O'clock A.M. we have a rapidly falling and driving snow-storm. It was very windy & only with some wallowing & much catching of breath did we get to church & S.S. & back. All went but Helen & I preached to about 100 in the big church & there were 61 in the S.S. Rowlie went round & got two bags of vegetables for the "little wanderers" before meeting, and enjoyed battling the snow in air & drifts.

But this P.M. we were at home and the entire evening - a very unusual occurrence. Our new Swede girl who came yesterday is neat, "handy" & quick & we hope for a mutual liking. She has a married sister here. Diana is still about but will go away after she sews a little for herself. Helen has finished housecleaning and has hard & rough palms.

Helen Brooks from Gloucester is visiting Ella who is beside herself with excitement on that account. Rowlie & she went to a Punch & Judy show at an Episcopal Fair yesterday. No meetings tonight. We sang & played - Frank on the flute & Ella on the piano - for a long time and then Frank & I read that unequalled poem of an old N.E. farm-house "Snow-Bound" [by John Greenleaf Whittier] in turns. After prayers Frank read us a piece on the Engravers art & we repeated texts & hymns till Rowlie fell asleep & Helen went up stairs at 8 o'clock.

It has been a very pleasant day to me because I have had no care & have succeeded as I seldom do, in forgetting that of tomorrow, when we have a committee meeting at Pilgrim Hall & the Angel for Dec. to mail at the Office. I wrote Jamie how glad we will be to see Harry. Frank goes to Portland Wednesday night for Thanksgiving. I want him here when Harry is. He spoke of shaving off his moustache today or I would not have noticed it. The ulster comes in play these winter days.

A friend, ("Cousin Nell", of Andover) has written Helen to go into Boston to select a cloak for & with her tomorrow, but the streets, if passable, will be very bad. I had Rowlie's class in S.S. today & enjoyed it. He coughs a good deal & gets pretty tired every night.

Now good night, mother. I hope pain will let you rest, and "patience" & "fortitude", from God will answer your constant prayers & mine.

Helen sends love & sympathy. With love to all.

Affly your Son  
Rowland

We feel anxious to hear that Charles was able to throw off that cold without congestion.

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296 5/18/1889 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* My Dear Ella [Howard]

RBH-254

CUNARD-ROYAL-  
MAIL-STEAMSHIP-  
"CATALONIA"

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
CUNARD-ROYAL-MAIL-STEAMSHIP-"CATALONIA"

May 18, 1889, 1-30, P.M.

My Dear Ella,

They are still at lunch around me but food repels me and Society does not attract, so I came over to this table, and write.

A girl of 14 goes with me north and another girl and her mother to Milan Italy to study to be a singer. Tonight we are to have a little entertainment with singing reading &c & I have been asked to make a few closing remarks. The boys of which there are half dozen have nice times playing on deck. There are two nice little girls aged 2 & 5 from Brighton. They go to London to live. It is a week today since we left home, or rather Boston.

I fear you would find it dull unless you had Josie & some story books with you. I do little but snooze & read. Uncle Frank is lively as a cricket & goes like a bee from flower to flower, till he talks with all. He goes not to get honey but to leave it. Momma will read you some things I have written her. When I get to Ireland I will try to write Uncle John Allen, perhaps in <Sligo>. Help Mamma all you can & be faithful to your School & music and read good books, not for intoxicating, but for feeding your mind.

Give my love to Frank. He would find a guitar & a banjo & a piano to accompany his flute & would help tonight if he were here. It is too early in the season for the students & the teachers. They come over in their vacations.

Nothing but water everywhere outside the steamer. The dishes slide about on the table when the great waves roll the vessel about. The fishes all stay down below. A few rats squeal socially in the walls between the rooms.

Uncle Frank brought some Jamaica ginger. Mr Moen gave me a plaster. We have a small but good library on the vessel.

Tomorrow we have the Episcopal service as regularly as if at church. It is adapted to all the vessels of the Cunard line (10 on the Atlantic). I want to go home in a faster steamer and if my inability to eat & think continue, I will go home as soon as possible. Pray for me & be good to Mamma.

Your loving Father  
R.B. Howard

---

297 6/29/1889 *From:* Whitelaw David

*To:* My dear Sir [RB Howard]

RBH-255

Legation des Etats-  
Unis di Amerique  
Paris

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Legation des Etats-Unis di Amerique

Paris 29 June 1889

My dear Sir:

Your two notes concerning the Peace Conference have just reached me. I am sincerely sorry not to be able to attend at the meeting tomorrow at eleven, having already made an engagement for that hour.

Noting your desire to find members of Congress in town, I take pleasure in sending you the addresses of two who called at the legation this morning:

Hon. Wm E. Mason  
M.C. from Chicago  
Hotel Binalas

Hon. W. C. Wallace  
M.C. fr Kings Co, N.Y.  
Hotel Normandie

Begging you to express to the officers who joined in your invitation my regret that the change of day prevents my attendance, I am  
very truly yours  
Whitelaw Reid

---

298 4/2/1890

*From:* Papa [RB Howard]

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-256

Washington

Care of Miss M. L. Petersen  
90 Sassex Ave  
East Orange  
N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]

Washington April 2/90

Dear Ella

I was very glad to get your card & know you were safe with our dear friends. I am pretty well & very busy. I expect now to leave here Tuesday & may spend the night at E. Orange & take you along Wednesday. Glad you went to school. Can't you study those things that you would if you were at home next week?

Give my love to Mr & Miss Petersen & let me hear again.

Papa

[ADDRESS]

Miss Ella Howard  
Care of Miss M. L. Petersen  
98 Sussex Ave  
East Orange  
N.J.

[POSTMARK] WASHINGTON D.C. APR 3 90 4 AM

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299 6/3/1890

*From:* Robt. C. Winthrop

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-257

Uplands  
Brookline, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Private

[LETTERHEAD]

Uplands  
Brookline, Mass.

3 June, 1890

Rev. R. B. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Your note of the 26th was duly rec'd, & I kept it on my table till the last moment, hoping that I might find myself able to comply with your request. But, apart from some infirmities of health which indisposed me, for writing any public letter, I found myself very unwilling to be implicated in the chance extravagances of either male or female orators.

I have read your Annual Report, & I rejoice in the progress of the Arbitration Cause. I dare not discuss the Disarmament doctrine. Meantime, as your treasury seems almost empty, I inclose a little contribution, which I will thank you to receive quietly & without any special acknowledgment in the Newspapers. It may help towards the expenses of yourself or some other Delegate to the London Conference next month.

Yours, with best wishes,  
Robt. C. Winthrop

[Written in another hand] 25\$ Enclosed

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300 6/25/1890 *From:* Robt. C. Winthrop

*To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-258

Uplands  
Brookline, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Uplands  
Brookline, Mass.

25 June, 1890

Rev. R. B. Howard,

My dear Sir,

I have not forgotten your note of June 4th, & I am unwilling to leave it unacknowledged longer, as the date of your sailing for England is so close at hand. But I must be excused from writing anything for public use.

I heartily concur in all that may be said or done, by yourself or others, in favor of International Arbitration, & I rejoice in all that has been accomplished in this cause during the five & forty years since I offered the Resolutions in Congress, to which you have often alluded.

I write, however, only to thank you for the kind expressions of your note, & to assure you of my best wishes for your mission, & for the work of the Congress or Conference which you are to attend in London.

Yours, respy, & truly,  
Robt. C. Winthrop

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301 7/24/1890      *From:* Father [RB Howard]      *To:* Dear Ella [Ella Patten Howard]

RBH-259

Watford England

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watford England, July 24, 1890

Dear Ella,

Your three good letters were all very thankfully received and read. I was glad to hear about Concord, Portland and the family. I hardly recognize my old acquaintance the Dentist Dr under the name of "Phillebrown". I felt so badly at the bad news from Grandma Graves that I could enjoy the rest of the letters but a little.

I came down here 30 miles in an hour from London to spend the night with my friend Mr Darbys family. Arthur inquired for the Bank they sent you. The two older children are away at work. Edith (20) is teaching & studying at home. Arthur is 8 and Will five. Minnie & her sister are very little girls. There is one of your age (15) who <teaches> to let her sister go away for a day or two. The house has not changed. Like us, they are too poor to have new things. They remembered what I liked & had some currants, and ice water & caraway seed bread for supper. There were tomatoes & a cucumber a foot long on the table. I went to see them play at Lawn Tennis at Mrs Fries lovely place after tea. It is light till now and I write without gas - 9 P.M.

Mr & Mrs Frye are sick and away. But their grounds are covered with flowers & fruits - apricots & apples & pears grow upon the walls & peaches & cherries just like vines. There are many kinds of roses, pinks & flowers blossoming. The lawn tennis ground is very smooth & surrounded by a netting. A table under tree had raspberries, sugar and cakes on it, which the players ate when they rested.

Clarence Frye has a Zita & they are to have some music tonight. I am so tired that I must go to bed and finish this tomorrow morning. It was 1 A.M. before I got to sleep this morn.

July 25, 8.30 a.m. Your mothers p.c. July 15 from F. saying you had arrived & that Grandma was a little better has given me hope that she may recover. It is so long since I heard from you that I do not know what to pray for except that you all may be blessed today as you need it - Grandma and all.

I slept well but have a bad cold - cannot keep warm in this chilling climate.

Last evening Clarence Frye came over with his flute and Zitha & Edith played the piano & we had nice music. We have breakfast one at a time here & I must go down to the basement dining room now. I return to London today.

Your Loving  
Father

Your mother writes 7 cavities & you 13 filled!

---

302 8/18/1890 *From:* Father [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Ella [Ella Patten Howard]

RBH-260

Arlington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Guion Line

Royal Mail Steamer Nevada

Agents, Guion & Co. Liverpool and

A.M. Underhill & Co., New York

Arlington [Mass] Aug, 18, 1890

Dear Ella,

How empty & lonely your room seems! I enjoy the bigness of the house, the access to the bath room, the ease with which I can get the family together for breakfast, the quietness that ministers to composition, the unanxiousness as to store wood, etc, but I feel like Robinson Crusoe after all tho "monarch of all I survey, my right there is none to dispute". Yet - many things suggest "O solitude where are thy charms"!

But I am training Rowland B. Howard a little - I say to him - "Leave no door open" - "Hang up your clothes. Keep things in order, Take time to dress and wash & shave"etc. Outside I notice no change in the broken hinges of the bulkhead, am oppressed by the grey tennis court and the generally dried up garden & yard. The leaves have begun to fall & must be swept. Mrs Smiths hose must be used. (She rings the bell for me in a most alarming way, proclaiming my boardership.

At tea tonight the <group> telegrapher who sent my cablegram spoke of his interview with your mother in Boston.

The Robbins house has taken a back seat. The Depot is painted. Ditto the bakery & house beside it. The church is waiting for heating apparatus.

Christian Endeaver meeting only today. No S.S. I went to Baptist & saw many of our people there. Have not seen Russell Tufts or any of Rowlies cronies, or yours. They are away, I suppose. I send you Arlington Advocate. I hear the Parmenters are at home, but they make no sign. They are remodeling their Ell.

I am glad you have pleasant times at F. Mamma has not mentioned "hay fever" so I hope you do not have it. I hope to run down & see you all next week or before.

Mr Fron is severely shaved as to head and beard. Dea's Lane, Taylor & Mills look natural. Mr Bushnell will be away till Sept. 7th - at New Bedford. I saw Miss Barker when I got the key - have not seen the father & mother of her tho I called. They were out.

God bless & keep you.

Your loving  
Father

P.S. Give my love to Rowlie. Does he want the fire crackers left on the marble top of his bureau, or the neckties in my drawer or the little bottle of perfumery? The hammock lies on the wash-bench. It has been a hot, hot day with a smart but hot south wind. The mill pond is drained. The aqueduct water undrinkable. I must go over & see & pay Miss Gleason & call on the Howards of W. Medford this week & go out & see Mrs. Gilman. O for rain!

---

303 9/27/1890 *From:* Ethel Darby

*To:* My dear Friend [Ella Patten Howard]

RBH-261

*Source:* Bowdoin

The Rowans  
Essex Road  
Watford

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The Rowans  
Essex Road  
Watford  
September 27th/90

My dear Friend,

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I was very pleased indeed to receive it, and also the one from your Papa.

I was glad to hear that you have had such a delightful summer, but I am afraid I cannot say the same, for until the last three weeks or month, we had such miserable weather, it did not seem like summer at all. However for the last month we have enjoyed ourselves very much. We almost lived out of doors taking either a book or some work and sitting in the park in the mornings & afternoons and going for a walk in the evening.

You ask me if I go to school. No I do not, just at present, for not being very strong, if I do regular work at school I get the headache very badly and then have to stay away and so miss a good many of the lessons and get behind the others. But I am studying a little, German and Physiology, which Edith helps me with. Next Tuesday I am going to the first of a course of lectures on Physiology. We have to take notes on them and then during the week, we write an essay on the previous lecture, and at the end of the term we take an examination on all we have done during the term.

We have several different kinds of schools here. There are the Board or Free schools for the working mens children. They are usually divided into what are called standards, and have about thirty or thirty-five children in each standard. There is the Endowed School, which is divided into Forms with about twenty girls in each form. It is called "Endowed School" because some lady who had a good deal of money died and left her money to build the school, and if the Board School children pass a certain examination they get into this Endowed School for two years, free of charge, and that enables them to get a little better education than they otherwise would.

Then there are Ladies Schools. The children at these are divided into classes. For instance the school I have been going to until lately, is kept by a Lady Mrs Innes by name, and her three daughters and with the addition of a French Governess they are the only teachers. We had six classes I think it was, with about fourteen or fifteen girls in each class. The first class was of course the babies class. The children were about four or five years of age, and they get older as the class gets higher & the sixth class is for the most advanced girls. I was in the fifth class. We had to go for a walk every day for an hour and we took it in turn to walk with the French Governess in order to get in the habit of talking French fluently.

There were three Canadian girls at this school and they were very jolly girls indeed and if they are good specimens of American girls in general, I am quite sure, as you say, that I should like them very much, though they do not seem very young for their ages. I quite agree with you on that subject. I like girls that are rather young for their age better than those who are old. My brother & sisters tell me that I am rather old for my age & sometimes call me "old fashioned".

I have not seen the Queen yet. I have not happened to be in London when she has been anywhere near, or perhaps I might have. The old historical places are very interesting indeed and I am sure you would enjoy seeing them very much. I wish you could come over to England and see some of them.

Will you tell me what date your birthday is? And how old you are? Your papa did tell me, but I am sorry to say I have forgotten it. My sister Edith has returned from France. She enjoyed her trip very much and it seems to have done her good.

In some towns they have Christian Union meetings, but we have not any in Watford. I should think they would

be something like your Christian Endeavour meetings.

My sister tells me that I ought to explain to you about High Schools. We have not one in Watford but in most towns there is one. These schools are carried on under the "High School System". They give a first class education and are rather expensive, but anyone who can afford to pay the fees can go. This is not the case with Ladies Schools, as the higher class trades people do not like their children to go to school with the lower class tradespeople. Don't you think this is very funny? Some of us do.

Will you thank Mr Howard very much for his letter and also for his kind enquiries after "Maysie". She is very much better. After having to be sick nurse for a week or two, it was my turn to be nursed, for I got two very badly gathered or rather festered fingers and have not been able to do much for some weeks. They are getting better now, though I am afraid I shall loose both my nails.

I have never had my Photograph taken, but when I do I will send you one. We have been talking about getting it done, lately. We (Edith & I) have yours upon the chest of drawers in our bedroom.

We are all very glad that Mr Howards health is improved and hope he will get a great deal of good from the trip he is going to have now.

I should like very much indeed to go over to America, and see some of (or at least one) the great cities that have grown up from a single cabin.

I hope you will write to me again soon, as I like to have your letters very much, though I have never seen you. Perhaps I shall some day. We all send love to Mr Howard.

Hoping you will write again before very long. (I wish the letters did not take so long to come.)

I remain,  
Yours very sincerely  
Ethel Darby

---

304 10/12/1890 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* Dear Ella [Patten Howard]

RBH-262

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Board of  
Commissioners for  
Foreign Missions  
Eighty-First Annual  
Meeting  
October 8th to 12th,  
1890  
Headquarters  
Committee of  
Arrangements  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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[LETTERHEAD]

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions  
Eighty-First Annual Meeting  
October 8th to 12th, 1890  
Headquarters Committee of Arrangements  
Minneapolis, Minn. Oct 12 1890.

Dear Ella

Your letter came yesterday but, Mamma was in St Paul a city 10 miles South, visiting former friends (Mrs Williams from Farmington) and therefore I had the reading of it. I will send it or give it to her tomorrow.

I was very glad to hear from home & glad you liked Otie's hat. Mamma forgot to tell me that she gave him permission to go to Boston with the Kindred boy.

Our great meetings closed yesterday and today the ministers preach in the many churches of this immense new city of 164,000. I went to Friends meeting & spoke there & go there again at 3 P.M. and preach this evening at a chapel five miles away.

Mary Thwing is studying German at a private school and is learning it fast. I stopped to pick acorus - much sweeter than ours - as I came home through Central Park where 100 ducks, geese and swans were swimming in a great pond.

Mamma is very well and has enjoyed the rest, the journey & the meetings. One of the latter was in the Swedish Tabernacle - a big church that holds 4000. It was packed. It had scripture texts in Swedish on the walls.

Give my love to Rowlie, Mrs Nickerson & Courtney. There are few colored people here.

Mamma & I drove to St Paul & back day before yesterday and called on the way on old friends. Yesterday the St Paul people gave all the American Board a car ride to that city & a carriage ride all about it. It has 146,000 people and many grand buildings, public & private. I left Mamma, & will go down tomorrow to join her & we will go to Chicago Wednesday & to Princeton Thursday & spend Sunday & start back Monday & stay one day with Aunt Katie at Glencoe. Uncle Charles will be away in New York, but she (Aunt Katie) expects to get home.

I notice you spelled "Derby" with a small "d". Keep the Insurance Policy safe & if I get killed Mamma will have \$5000 and if I am disabled I will have 10\$ A WEEK. But I don't expect either event. (Definitions & not "deffinitions" as in you letter. Think of "define" not def-fine) but it was a good letter & will be a comfort to Mamma as it is to me.

Your loving Father  
RB Howard

---

305 11/5/1890 *From:* Renen Thomas

*To:* The Rev'd Rowland B.  
Howard

RBH-263

[Arlington]

Congregational House  
Boston  
Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]

My Dr. Bro.

I cd not render the service you asked till Novr 30th. If that will do, & I can be conveyed to <> from Arlington, I shall be glad to accede to the request. Let me know further.

Yrs cordially  
Renen Thomas  
Nov 5 90

[ADDRESS]

The Rev'd Rowland B. Howard  
Congregational House  
Boston  
Mass.

[POSTMARK] BROOKLINE STA MASS 7

[POSTMARK] NOV 7 90

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306 2/10/1891 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Prof. Geo. T. Little

RBH-264

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Peace  
Society  
No. 1 Somerset Street  
Boston, Mass, U.S.A

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'56 [Written at the top in another hand. RB Howard was in the Bowdoin Class of 1856.]

[LETTERHEAD]

American Peace Society

Organized 1828. Incorporated 1843

Edward S. Tobey, President

Robert C. Winthrop, Vice-President

John G. Whittier, Vice-President

Robert Treat Paine, Vice-President

Rowland B. Howard, Secretary and Editor

No. 1 Somerset Street

Boston, Mass, U.S.A.

Monthly Publications:

Advocate of Peace

For Adults, \$1 a year

Angel of Peace

For Children, 15 cents a year

Feb. 10, 1891

Prof. Geo. T. Little [Bowdoin College Librarian]

Dear Sir

The bound Vol's of the Advocate of Peace from 1835 to 1848 might be used by us to complete sets in other libraries. If I could see the tracts, I could tell whether we could use them. Must stop off some time & run in & see what you have. Fear bound copies of the Advocate have been made late years, beyond those required for our own use & for exchange with London & other Soc's. If the recent Advocates have been preserved in full & in order for binding, we will pay the expense if you will have them bound. Perhaps two years would make a fairly sized volume.

I wish I could do more to really enrich your Library and hope to do so some time.

Thank you for writing me.

Yours as ever

R. B. Howard

---

307 5/20/1891    *From:* David Dudley Field    *To:* Rev. R. B. Howard

RBH-265

22, Gramercy Park  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
22, Gramercy Park

New York,  
May 20 / 91

Dear Sir,

I wish I could attend your meeting in Boston, the last of this month, & still more the great gathering in Rome in the latter part of this year, but it is not possible, that I should attend either. I am far from well yet, though better, & I am not able to write more.

Very truly yrs...  
David Dudley Field

Rev. R. B. Howard

---

308 9/3/1891

*From:* W.W. Story

*To:* Rev. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-266

Villa Story - Campfer -  
Engadine

Sec'ry of the American  
Peace Society  
1 Somerset St.  
Boston (Mass)  
U.S. America

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

My dear Sir

I beg through you to express to the American Peace Society my warm recognition of the honour they have done me in electing me to represent them at the Universal Peace Congress to be held at Rome on Nov. 9.

My sympathies are completely with the Society in all the objects they propose, and as I hope to be in Rome at the time when the Congress is to be held, be assured that I shall, as far as my small efforts may avail, do all in my power to further those objects.

Please also accept my thanks for the interesting and able oration of Mr Quincy which you have had the kindness to send me. The Story old family blood is in his veins I am happy to see, & I earnestly hope that his clear & powerful words will be listened to, read, & acted upon.

Yours faithfully  
W.W. Story

Villa Story - Campfer - Engadine  
Sept 3. 1891

[ENVELOPE]

Rev. Rowland B. Howard  
Sec'ry of the American Peace Society  
1 Somerset St.  
Boston (Mass)  
U.S. America

[POSTMARK] CAMPFER [Switzerland] 4IX91

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309 10/24/1891 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dear Cousin Lucy [Foss]

RBH-267

Cunard Royal  
Steamshp, "Catalonia"

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Typewritten]

Cunard Royal Steamshp, "Catalonia"

Oct. 24, 1891

One week from Boston.

Dear Cousin Lucy:

You must always let me think of you and treat you and speak to you just a little as the Lucy I first new, for first impressions are very strong. I hoped a little I might hear from Lena when I came on the ship, but found no letters from anyone. Mr. Richards who helps me in the office came to see me off and to get more final directions for it will be 24 days or so before he hears again. We will stop at Queenstown in Ireland, 10 days after we start and get to Liverpool in Eleven.

It has not been very rough and stormy but two days and nights, and I have gone to the table every meal, though for nine days I could not eat. I bought two snow apples and two others. They make a pleasant order in my room as they lie in a half open drawer in a little bureau of two drawers fastened to the wall. I wish I had taken more for the English boys and girls where I visit - Mrs. Darby's family of eight, at Watford.

Ella and her mother came down the day before I sailed and saw my state-room and Ella left me some flowers with a little note which I did not find till the next morning. It was a pleasant surprise and I kept them in one of my tumblers three or four days till they withered. I went home that night and wanted Rowlie to come to the steamer with me the next morning but he had engaged to go nutting at 6 A.M. with a neighbor. So I came alone and only knew Mr. Richards of those about the steamer when I sailed.

The crew consists of over 100. The Steerage passengers about 300. Those in the second cabin about 40 and only seven of us in the first cabin which was full when I went before. The Captain, Surgeon and Purser sit at table with us. Sometimes the great waves lift us very high and the deck is about like this [space for a drawing perhaps] and if you don't hold on the side —. When the waves dash over the decks everything is made tight and no passenger is allowed on deck. There are three masts, but we do not have all our sails set. We have 90 tons of coal a day to keep the engine going. There are 24 firemen to hand and throw over the coal. Everything is kept very clean, the men love to wash and scrub nearly all the time. There are a lot of cooks, and bakers and stewards. The last take care of the rooms and wait upon the tables. There are a great many children playing and crying most of the time, but they do not belong to our cabin.

I have to give \$60.00 for passage which includes room and board for the 11 or 12 days. The 2nd cabin people pay \$35.00 and those in the Steerage about \$16, and provide their own mattresses and take care of their own rooms.

Not much happens. One day is about like another except for the storms. We have seen no vessels since the first day or two. The gulls keep always with us and rest by sitting down in the water. One steamer passed us ten miles away. The fish all keep out of sight except the porpoises which they call "sea-pigs". They are so fat.

The food is too abundant. I eat a little boiled rice for dinner and part of an egg for breakfast. The smells of food are not pleasant. The rooms are very close and I always have bad dreams and headache even if I can sleep. I was on deck from 6 to 7 this morning.

As we go north the sun gets farther south as it does in winter at home. After I get to Liverpool, I begin to go south again and suppose it will be quite warm in Rome. I wear my winter cloths now but suppose they will be too warm in Italy which is like Florida. It is 12 years since I was there. I expect to be a day or two in London and to go through Paris and the tunnel on that side through the Alps and want to come back by Milan and the St. Gothard tunnel which is in the Austrian side of the Alps.

I will not get much time to write when I get ashore so send this with love to all at your home.

Your aff. Cousin,  
Rowland

[Note: This is probably to Lucy Foss, b. 1878, who had a sister Lena. They were children of Adoniram Judson Foss and Maria Theresa Howard.]

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310 10/26/1891 *From:* R.B. Howard

*To:* Dear Ella [Patten Howard]

RBH-269

Steamer Catalonia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Steamer Catalonia

Monday, Oct 26, 1892 [91 was written in by someone else, and it should be 1891. Rowland died Jan 25, 1892]

Dear Ella [Patten Howard]

Will you kindly "translate" the enclosed letter & send it to Lucy? [Lucy Foss. See letter dated 10/25/91]. I thought she might like to hear of a sea voyage. She hasn't as many books to read as she wants. You will see by it how I got on nights when slipping back and forth in my berth wakes me up. I put a pillow in front and the sofa pillow behind. A head wind has come on again and we will not get to Queenstown before noon tomorrow. I am "miserable, I thank you", most of the time. Have been several days without much eating. The Sea seems to aggravate all the dispepsia troubles I have at home and adds head ache and dread of doing anything. I have slept on my sofa two hours this morn to make up for the long dismal nights. The Miss Ledge from St Johns N.B. is 17 & can play the piano well and the Capt makes of her & she is in his room often & plays games on the deck. She is the only one who wishes the voyage longer.

I often think of you at home so fully occupied with school and books, and meetings. We had only the usual service read yesterday. I planned for a prayer meeting in the Steerage, but the weather did not allow the people to come on deck. We have nothing but the English Church hymn & tune book to sing from, and so have sung nothing together. The piano is good a "Chickering Upright". I have managed to read about Rome considerably, but have written nothing. Italy has been the battle field of the world. I hope she will be that no longer. I am sorry I didn't take some apples at least for those Darby children - four younger than you! I can write no more for want of head & hand. I am sorry I forgot to leave the "Cypher" with mamma's address at the Boston Telegraph Office. But I should have sent "Fair" as nearest the truth of any of the words.

Frank is coming up to see his Society & will be at home. Mamma can tell him that white shirts are much better fitted & cost less in America than anywhere else. He wanted me to get him some.

Our head waiter or "steward" at table is a cheerful Irishman called Murphy of 45. He has charge of the ink & Stationary and the library where there are quite a number of good books.

Give my love to Rowlie. I may not write him but it is not because I love him less. I seem to see him with his dog every day. I wish he would wash off those fleas. I expect them to bite me in Rome.

Your loving Father  
R.B. Howard

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311 11/5/1891 *From:* Rowland [B. Howard]

*To:* Dear Cousin Lena [Lena Foss]

RBH-268

Florence, Italy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Typewritten]

Florence, Italy, Nov. 5 / 91

Dear Cousin Lena:

You have been much on my thoughts and a little on my poor prayers since we parted. I do hope you did not have a run of slow fever which threatened, but heard nothing. My 11 days trip was not worse than the average, but not to relish food and to be generally miserable is my fate at sea. I spend much time in bed & come ashore upset. A day & two nights in England - one in a cold bed in a cold room followed by a chill - a day and night trip via Paris to Turin, did not help matters & at Genoa I consulted a Dr. & have had one twice here. I am now picking up & hope to be all right for my Congress next Monday. You need not say I have been sick, but am just getting over various ills of the Sea.

The old Italian woman who cares for my room and speaks less English than she thinks she does, is kind but like her sex.

When she will, she will  
You may depend on't,  
When she wont, she wont  
And there is the end on't.

She persists in washing out my medicine glasses with her fingers in the cold water of my wash-bowl.

I have a wood fire to keep off the chills, the weather being about as at home. A bushel basket of wood was \$.60 at Turin & it cost me \$1.80 for wood to spend Sunday there and entertain two English travellers - Judson - excuse me, your father would like to sell at that rate. Ordinary charges are about \$2.00 a day as at home in a good hotel, but they but soap for you & chg. 10cts., & a candle and chg. 20 cts. I take the soap along but generally leave the candle. My trunk stuck in the Custom House - so I have few conveniences - it will be along in good time. I has to pay \$5.00 for my small steamer trunk, from Paris to Rome. Italian R.R's exact pay for all but hand baggage and I was too unwell to tug a big valise. Those two trunks I took home for O. would have cost me for the same distance \$10.00 at least.

I had many views of the snow capped Alps 12 years ago but never one more beautiful than when we came down into Italy Sat. Morn. from the Mt. Cenis tunnel which we climb up to by a long river and descend from by curves along a gushing river of icy water which goes to make up the Po flowing eastward through the tree-planted prairie like fields of Tuscany and Lombardy. The trees are apt to be willows or poplars planted in rows with the crops sowed between. Winter wheat is green. The last cabbages are being gathered. The vineyards on the sides of the Alps & the plains are red-tipped but no frost has killed the herbs and foliage as with us.

The views I spoke of are indescribable. You look straight up toward heaven where the golden sunlight falls upon miles of pure white crags and peaks, fissures and great rocks, and the frost has crystalized on the trees which grow lower down, while a rolling fog fills the deep valley and a flitting cloud caps the mountains' head. Little villages of stone houses and a church are seen here and there below the snow and now and then (as on the opposite peaks of the border between France (Savoy) and Italy) great forts frown at each other. Summer villas are perched on and old ruined castles crown the heights - so placed as to guard the villages of this country cursed with war from the time Hannibal & Napoleon invaded Italy.

The rich plains that I have mentioned are the granaries of the world. Irrigated from the mountains - gifted with much sunshine, the crop never fails. It is sometimes washed away by the mountain torrents that suddenly overflow the now almost streamless beds. Here have been the battle fields, and their consequence, ruined farmers - desolated towns and now a people taxed to pauperization to support an idle army of 600,000 and an idler navy larger than that of the United States.

But no demonism can rob this country of its beauty and its fruitfulness. They quickly bury the dead Italians, Austrians & French. They repair the homes. They raise new families and get ready for new wars. All have

been Roman Catholics, except a few Waldensians, for centuries.

The prospect of Italy United, would be grand but for this bad government which foolishly puts workingmen in armies where they cannot work or taxes them so as to send them to America & elsewhere. "If I were a little younger I would go", said an old man to me.

At Turin we looked up at the Alps, rode out on the horse cars in the country, looked through the two grand palaces of the Duke of Tuscany, kept furnished for show & owned by King Humbert, who lives at Rome and is feeble and has one rather weakly son. All these cities have the old royal palaces kept up. You see the bed-chambers, parlors, libraries, picture galleries etc for 20 cts. (1 franc or 1 lira Italian). French and Italian coins circulate alike & Italy has a lot of postal currency like ours after the war, English gold is current - not silver & no U.S.A. money is known of course. We exchange as we go along so as to have the coin of the Nation. Italians think Italy, the world, they travel little and are very narrow every way.

I have a pocket dictionary & can read better than I can pronounce and accent. I try to get the news from the papers by translating but often blunder. I go on to Rome soon. Florence is like nothing you ever saw - narrow streets stone walled buildings, yelling men and boys whose voices echo as in bbls. Side walks are 2 ft. wide - stores are often only a room in some great building. The palaces, cathedral, churches and river Arno are beautiful. The noise of the boys to 2 A.M. is unbearable to me & no policemen suppresses it. No drunkenness - plenty of bad smells - no wooden buildings.

This hotel Chapman is kept in the old Beauharnais palace where Pauline Bonaparte lived in glory and shame. I have a lofty, narrow room, fireplace in corner, wall three feet thick, iron bedstead - some servants' apartment - & roam at will in the great parlors & look at the splendid paintings. There were 13 of us today but two go tonight. It is the resort of Americans, in part because they give you something for breakfast except coffee, bread, & butter - which is the rule all over England and Europe, unless you pay extra, which you always can do of course. But you must pay porters, boot-blacks, chambermaids, etc. till you get poor & tired. When I come to see you again I want all the fire I need, all the milk I want (I paid 15 cts. for a glass the other day because I was an invalid & must have it) some "pie" (none in Europe) etc. and will try to do half as well when any of you will visit me.

Give my love to Lucy and your father & mother. I expect to be in Rome till Nov 20 and in England Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 - & to start home from Liverpool Via N.Y. by Dec. 10th. Providence permitting. I gave one of your Gravensteins to a friend in London. If you are well & write me -

47 New Broad St.,  
London. E.C.  
(Peace Society)  
G.B.

Will reach me.

Your Aff. Cousin  
Rowland.

Remember me to Geo. Lane, Chas. & Sarah & Seth's folks.

[Note: This is probably to Lena Foss, b. 1867, the sister of Lucy. They were children of Adoniram Judson Foss and Maria Theresa Howard. It was probably typed by Rowland's daughter, Ella Patten Howard.]

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312 11/18/1891 *From:* W. W. Story

*To:* Dear Mr [R.B.] Howard

RBH-270

Palazzo Barberini  
[Rome]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Mr [R.B.] Howard

I am delighted to hear that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you at our house tomorrow (Thursday), at one o'clock - to lunch. I regret to hear however that you had "as you say" a sharp debate & defeat" at the Congress. I did not myself attend in the afternoon session, not thinking that there would be any thing of importance done and supposing that there would only be a winding up of the Congress.

If you have any interest to visit my studio (Via de San Martini - no 7) I shall be very happy to see you, & show you what I have been doing on the year gone by & what I am doing now. I am there every day, all day, from 10 o'clock until the light goes away, & I can see no more to work.

Yours most faithfully  
W. W. Story

Palazzo Barberini [Rome] - Nov. 18, 1891.

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313 1/5/1892 *From:* D. Richards

*To:* ARTHUR T. PARKER,  
Secretary

RBH-271

144 HIGH STREET  
BOSTON, MASS.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTAL CARD]

[ADDRESS]

ARTHUR T. PARKER, Secretary

144 HIGH STREET

BOSTON, MASS.

[POSTMARK] Boston, Mass Jan 5 1892 12 M

[PRINTED] I intend to be present at the dinner Jan 12.

January 5, 1892

[HANDWRITTEN] Mr. R.B. Howard will not be at the Association as he is in Rome.

Yours

D. Richards

Mr H's Clerk

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314 1/26/1892 *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Hon. Robert Treat Paine

RBH-272

*Source:* Bowdoin

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE EAST,  
GOVERNOR'S  
ISLAND, NEW YORK

Pres. Am. Peace Soc.  
Boston, Mass

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[LETTERHEAD]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST,  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

January 26, 1892

For the aid of Mrs R. B. Howard

Hon. Robert Treat Paine,  
Pres't. Am. Peace Soc.  
Boston, Mass

Dear Sir:

I learn from my brother Gen. Charles H. Howard who passed through Boston and saw Mrs. Howard the wife of my brother Rev. R.B. Howard that the American Peace Society had appropriated \$500 towards the payment of the expenses of their Secretary while ill in Rome. It seems Mrs. Howard was authorized to cable her husband that that amount had been so appropriated. You have doubtless ere this learned that my brother died about noon yesterday. A cable came to me from the physician in charge. My son Harry who was in France had also been sent for by the Dr and arrived in Rome last night.

Owing to the sad event it has been concluded that my brother Charles shall not go to Europe as he had planned to do, hoping to bring home our sick brother but my son Harry will attend to all the last offices in Rome and can if the Society so decides attend to auditing and paying the expenses of the sickness as far as appropriated for. In that case it has occurred to us as better that the draft for the funds be sent to me here and my son will draw on me to meet all the expenses. They will, no doubt, considerably exceed the \$500 appropriated. But I will instruct my son to settle all. We know that the charges at the Hospital from about the first of December were to be, including nurses and medicines, \$5 a day. The charges of the physicians who visited him three times a day for some 60 to 90 days we cannot determine but suppose they would exceed the other.

Apprehending that the funds might be sent to Rome in my brother's name and so become unavailable owing to his death I telegraphed my sister the suggestion to have them sent here that I might have my son Harry attend to the necessary business in Rome. This latter seemed desirable to put the case fully before your Society and the reasons of my suggestion as to the funds.

Original mailed to Pres. Paine Jany 26, 1892

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315 1/29/1892 *From:* Susan A. Gilman

*To:* Dear Frank, [Frank  
Gilman Howard]

RBH-273

Hawthorn St.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hawthorn St.  
Jan. 29th 1892

Dear Frank, [Frank Gilman Howard]

It was a great shock when I opened carelessly the Argus yesterday, without recognizing your initials on the wrapper, and read the notice of your dear father's death. I could hardly believe it. Then I read the notice over again - what a great tribute it was! My thoughts went straight from that sad Hospital bed in Rome, to the joyful meeting in Heaven where he & my dear husband looked into each other's eyes once more. They loved each other more than most brothers. They were lovely & pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not long divided.

All day long my heart has been grieving out in sympathy with you all in your sorrow. But most of all for your poor mother knowing so well what she is going through. I long to hear all that you can tell me. Did she know of his illness, did they send for her in time or was it just a terrible telegram that broke it all to her? Do tell me too when you can of those last days? Did he suffer consciously. I hope not, with his affectionate nature missing his loved ones around his bed in that foreign land. O how much harder that makes it for you! And yet he was sure to be surrounded by hosts of your friends even there & the Saviour he served so faithfully sent his angels - perhaps my angel - to bring his spirit safely on its way.

I want to write your mother but do not know where to send it. Do send me a line. I want much also to hear something of your self in this sad time. I have learned many things in these two sad years. One is that God is truer to his promises, & does not leave his children comfortless.

Roger & Edith send love & sympathy for you. So does your affectionate friend,

Susan A. Gilman [Widow of Frank Gilman, the namesake of Frank Gilman Howard]

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316 2/3/1892      *From:* Frank [G. Howard]

*To:* My very dear sister, -  
[Ella P. Howard]

RBH-274

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feb 3, '92

My very dear sister, -

You have already got uncle Otis' letter to me. He will of course let me know just when the steamer is expected and what one it is, as soon, anyway as Harry lets him know.

Although it is not absolutely necessary for David to come on, yet if he can afford it, it would be well for him to come in order to take charge of what ever business there is. I could do it all, but he is a lawyer, you know, and is thus more familiar with all the necessary points.

I send you Mrs. Gilman's lovely letter to me which will explain everything if she has not already written. She loved and admired our dear father.

If we could explain the mysteries of God's all-seeing superintendence of our lives so that everything would be clear to everyone, then we would work the greatest miracle of all time. Christ did not explain, you know, but he comforted, and he said that all these things, which were incomprehensible to mortals, would be understood all right by and by. That is one great thing which distinguishes the Christian from the world's man. The Christian takes His words and trusts, because he knows that Christ is divine and that every word He said was true.

If you live in the world, you must face its sorrows as well as its joys. That is something that people don't seem to consider. Think of all the sorrow that our dear father had to go through! Then why cant we take our share of it and be equally courageous and light-hearted under it all? If we had no great sorrow, we would never become strong and firm like hardened metal. The metal has to be melted and pounded before it can be moulded into a beautiful or a useful piece of steel.

Don't let your spirits sink for long, but work, work, work, and keep busy with life. Give joy to others and your own heart will be lighter than ever.

Give my tenderest love to mother and Rowlie and take lots for yourself.

Affectionately  
Frank

P.S. Send for me and do not hesitate if you need me. F. G. H.

[POSTMARK] PORTLAND FEB [unreadable]  
Miss Ella Howard  
Care Mrs. R.B. Howard  
Arlington,  
Mass

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317 2/3/1892

*From:* Aunt Lizzie [Hannah  
Elizabeth (Patten)  
Rogers]

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-275

Portland

care Mrs. R. B. Howard  
Arlington  
Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Feb. 3 / 92

My dear Ella

In taking your dear father, God has taken a great deal of brightness out of many of our lives, but the loss to you & your dear mother & Rowlie, is so much greater, that we can hardly think of ourselves, in our sympathy for you, & we shall all love you more than ever, now that the great heart that loved you all so well, has been taken home to Heaven. He was such a good & unselfish man, so full of sympathy for others, & so ready to do for those in trouble, that from the first, I have seemed to see him in glory, & to feel that he has entered into the joy that awaits the true disciple of God.

He knows now what God meant in allowing him all those weeks of suffering, among strangers, away from the home, and all the dear ones, whom he was always so fond of having about him. I am sure that he felt all the time, that hard as it was, it was right, because he believed that "God makes no mistakes" & He will bring good out of suffering. Just think how He bore to see His own Son suffer, that good might come.

A good life often has more influence after it has passed away from earth, than while it is right with us, & I think this will be true with the dear boys that their father has prayed so earnestly for. I can see it in Frank already, he seems more anxious to be what his father wanted him to be.

This is your first sorrow dear Ella, & there will soon be another quite like it. So far your life has been a very happy one, & your dear father has tried to do all that he could to make it so. I am so glad that you have had him with you until you are old enough to appreciate all that he has been to you, and just what he would have you be. You will be so much now to your mother & Rowlie, & fill your fathers place so far as you can.

I know that Heaven must seem farther away to you than it does to me, because your father is the first one whom you have loved very much, who has gone there, but I have so many there, that it would seem but a step to go there myself, & now that your father has gone there too, it seems nearer than ever, for I loved him as I would our own father.

I was only a little girl, eight or nine years old, when he first became a friend to my family, and he has always been one of us since. In all of these years we have passed through many joys, & many sorrows, in all of which he has shared.

Your dear patient mother! I can see her moving about in her sweet quiet way - bearing her terrible heart-ache without a murmur, taking up each duty as it comes along, and comforting and helping all about her. What a strength & help she has been to your father, "like a pillow to rest upon". When he has come home from his office tired & nervous & worn, he has been sure to find such rest in her. And we all love him so much, and what comfort she is going to find in you & Rowlie. It was like her to write me, when the shock of her own trouble was so fresh, & she had so many things to think about. Give her my tenderest love, & to Rowlie.

I am writing in bed. Am gaining, but am still weak. I begin to sit up a little now.

Be sure that your Aunt Lizzie loves you dearly, Ella dear, and be as bright and happy as we know Papa wants you to be. As happy as his life here has been; his is far happier now. Could we want him to come back to us? No, No. Let us be ready to go to him.

Your loving  
Aunt Lizzie [Hannah Elizabeth (Patten) Rogers]

[ENVELOPE]

[POSTMARK] PORTLAND FEB 3

Miss Ella Howard  
care Mrs. R. B. Howard  
Arlington  
Mass.

[POSTMARK] ARLINGTON MASS REC'D

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318 2/29/1892 *From:* Robt Treat Paine

*To:* Miss Ella Patten Howard

RBH-276

6 Jay St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

6 Jay St.  
Boston

Feb. 29, 1892

Dear Miss Howard

I shall be happy to have the pleasure of calling on you at the Peace Society's office on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, if that hour meets your convenience.

Yours truly  
Robt Treat Paine  
Pres't. Am. Peace Soc.

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319 3/1/1892

*From:* Joseph Cook

*To:* Mrs. R. B. Howard

RBH-277

EDITORIAL ROOMS  
Our Day  
28 Beacon Street,  
Boston

Arlington, Mass.

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[LETTERHEAD]  
EDITORIAL ROOMS  
Our Day,  
28 Beacon Street,  
Boston

March 1, 1892

Dear Madam,

Our Day wishes to publish a biographical notice of 3 to 4 pages of your lamented husband, the Rev. R.B. Howard, D.D. Can you furnish us with material in writing or print, or refer us to any one from whom we can obtain it promptly?

With high respect,  
Yours truly,  
Joseph Cook

Mrs. R. B. Howard,  
Arlington, Mass.

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320 3/10/1892 *From:* L. Deane

*To:* Gen. Charles H. Howard

RBH-278

Law and Patents  
637 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

L. Deane  
Law and Patents  
637 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

[Letter is typewritten.]  
March 10th 1892

Gen. Charles H. Howard  
Chicago,

My Dear Friend:

When the sad announcement came of Roland's death I was taking great comfort over the news that his condition had assumed a more favorable aspect. All of his friends here were shocked at the first tidings of his illness, and we had anxiously waited the telegrams about the state of the disease. The fact that he was so far away from home added to the intensity of our feelings. Whatever professional care by nurse, or physician, or the attendance that travelling friends could give, he was far, far away from wife, family and the dear ones who would so gladly have ministered to his wants, and brought comfort and consolation to his soul. So the sorrow over our loss is saddened by sympathy, if not a pain, as we think of the isolation and desolation that must have attended his last hours.

I never knew a man more worthy of being loved; who was so full of the milk of human kindness. I do not speak of this in its weak aspect,, but as a characteristic that seemed to beautify the disposition of a man who knew what was right and just and true and lived up to this high plane. He had a spiritual and loving way of viewing all points of duty and life. While there was now and then flashed out a token of his strong and determined will, usually there was but little to be taken the harsh or severe in any matter of morals or religion, of faith or of practice.

Though he was some years my junior I well remember in my visits to the college how the men of his time esteemed him as one of the best in debate and composition, and that he was popular to a degree, not as a good fellow, but as a whole hearted, big-souled, all round man.

Later, when he became pastor at Farmington, Maine, I knew about the esteem and respect which were manifested to-ward him, not only by his own parish people but by all the town.

During the war, or soon, after I saw him often in Washington, D.C. I think he preached to the organization that afterwards became the First Congregational Church, on the second Sunday after it began to hold services.

We also frequently met at the Conferences of our Congregational Churches while he was a pastor at Orange, N.J. We came to regard him as our sweet singer, because he seemed to know precisely when to start a song and what one was the very best for the occasion. He was one of our best in Counsel and debate.

His writings for the "Advance", whether as a correspondent or an editor, were always to my mind and expressive of my views. I did once say to him that I could not understand how one of such sunny disposition could now and then allow his thoughts to get into a minor, or saddish vein. But he was all unconscious of any such tendency because he insisted that the sad coloring of an occasional sentence of his was only in my mind.

After he became Secretary of the Peace Society he visited Washington several times. On these occasions I saw a great deal of him and took very sweet counsel in my interviews with him.

I have seen many obituary notices of him, the beautiful one in the New York Tribune, those in the Advance, The Christian Mirror, and in our college paper, the Bowdoin Orient, and others. It has been noticeable how all these

bear testimony to a career fragrant with good deeds, good thoughts and rich in all that beautifies and glorifies poor human life.

In most tender sympathy with you and the General, and Mrs Howard and her children.

HEARTILY & SINCERELY

L. Deane [signature]

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321 3/14/1892      *From:* Rev. J. E. Rankin      *To:* Gen. C.H. Howard

RBH-280

HOWARD UNIVERSITY  
Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Rev. J. E. Rankin, D.D., L.L.D., President

J.B. Johnson, Sec. And Treas.

Washington, D.C.

Mar 14th, 1892

Gen. C.H. Howard

My Dear Sir,

The telegram that brought the news of your brother's death was a shock & a surprise to me. I knew of his illness & your contemplated trip to accompany him home. But, our Father had other counsels & an Elder Archer came to fulfill His promise: "And if I go & prepare a place for you, I will come again & receive you to myself, that where I am ye may be also."

I think your brother has gone to enjoy the beatitude of the peace-makers. Indeed, I do not know how one could more gracefully pass the riper years of his life, than in trying to get the golden rule, <introduced> among nations. I believe, the day is coming, when the nations shall learn war no more. Indeed, I think, as to the greater Christian nations, it is already at the door. Your brother was especially fitted for such a mission: genial, large-hearted, full of faith & the Holy Ghost, he has gone from land to land with the message of the Prince of Peace, to the nations - urging them to prepare the way for His coming.

And so he falls asleep in Jesus, where so many old true souls have been called home: not a foreigner anywhere: since in Christ Jesus, the earth is denationalized.

It is a loss to the Peace Society, & to the great, & greater growing cause, which it represents. It is a loss to your own family brotherhood. Sir, I know how dear you all are to each other. But, it is a gain to your brother. It is a gain to the society of Heaven. May you all be comforted with the consolations which are in Christ Jesus.

Very truly,  
J. E. Rankin

P.S. The University is full & happy. We just observed Charter Day, Mon 2d & had many interesting addresses. We shall be glad to see you on your return from Florida. Thanks for your suggestions as to <Mrs. R & P>. Mrs. P. has given a portrait of the ex-senator, which is excellent - made by a Japanese student here.

Very truly,  
JER

---

322 5/13/1892 *From:* Helen G. Howard

*To:* Mr Geo. T. Little

RBH-281

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[LETTERHEAD]

American Peace Society  
Organized 1828. Incorporated 1843  
Edward S. Tobey, President  
Robert C. Winthrop, Vice-President  
John G. Whittier, Vice-President  
Robert Treat Paine, Vice-President  
Rowland B. Howard, Secretary and Editor  
No. 1 Somerset Street  
Boston, Mass, U.S.A.  
Monthly Publications:  
    Advocate of Peace  
        For Adults, \$1 a year  
    Angel of Peace  
        For Children, 15 cents a year

May 13 1892

Mr Geo. T. Little

My dear Sir:-

My husband fitted for college at Yarmouth, Me. I cannot give you the dates of his entering and leaving, as the papers which would give this information are stored; but if it is important to have them, I will have the desk unboxed, and find them for you, with great pleasure.

I will enclose a slip which will give you some dates, later in life. I also send Advocate of Peace, which I supposed was sent long ago.

Any further information, I will be glad to furnish you if possible.

Very truly yours,  
Helen G. Howard

---

323 6/20/1892 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Ella [Ella P. Howard]

RBH-282

*Source:* Bowdoin

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S  
ISLAND, NEW YORK

---

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

June 20th 1892

My dear Ella:

You are doubtless still at Farmington. I went on to Newburyport & then met Capt. [James Taylor] Gray (my son-in-law). We were taken by Mrs E. Moody Boynton when Mrs B. & her four daughters entertained us in lovely style. At night I was carried by Mr & Mrs B to the large Church near the edge of the city, where I talked for a half hour or more to the Christian Endeavor young people.

Capt. Gray stayed at the mansion. We had a royal sleep & pleasant forenoon on Tuesday. Afternoon back we go to Boston. Three minutes too late for connecting train to New York! Then next Fall River: but that brought a railway accident, Engine broke down. We came into New York at last & I, sending Capt. Gray to Governor's Island with my soiled garments, went on to Scranton, Pa.

Lt. McDonald followed with a new supply of linnen straw hat &c. Oh how warm!

The Soc. Of the Army of the Potomac had a good anniversary, & I got home Friday morning.

This morning I have enclosed some money to Ellie Gilman and told him to select some present. His name was Wm Lincoln Knisele who can remember? I told her that it was a sweet thing to marry when there was a superabundance of love (real love).

Give lots of good words to your Angel Mother and write me every time you feel like it or want a letter. David must be with you. Remember me in affection to him.

Sincerely your uncle  
O. O. Howard

Guy, Jeannie, Alice & Chancey join in love & sympathy. O.O.H. [Note 1]

[ENVELOPE]

[POSTMARK] NEW YORK JUN 20 92 3PM

[RETURN ADDRESS]

Headquarters Dept. Of the East,  
Governor's Island, N.Y.H.

[ADDRESSEE]

Miss Ella Howard  
c/o Mrs. R.B. Howard  
Farmington, Maine

[POSTMARK] REC'D FARMINGTON MAINE JUN 1892 5 PM

[Note 1. Jeannie Woolworth married Guy Howard and Alice Gertrude Rustin married Chancey Otis Howard.]

---

324 8/10/1892 *From:* [OO Howard]

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-279

*Source:* Bowdoin

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S  
ISLAND, NEW YORK

Care Mrs R. B. Howard  
Farmington, Maine

---

[LETTERHEAD]  
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

August 10th 1892

Miss Ella Howard  
Care Mrs R. B. Howard  
Farmington, Maine

My dear little Niece:

We let our day follow another without fulfilling our intentions. It means I was to write you days ago, but hav'nt! Your mother said you had become a teacher of music with one scholar. I wish I was that one scholar! but as it is piano-playing Fair Oaks has forever deprived me of the possible privilege. But you might if I were near you, teach me to sing my hymns better than I do and that would be something. "But uncle Otis" you exclaim "you are too old!" Everybody puts me on age, and yet here am I taking lessons every day in the French language. "What for?" Well, like other <civys> I like to accomplish that which I have undertaken. I began hoping to speak the language. I have kept on & on, and yet I do not speak it very well. Dr. Fisher (our 2nd asst. Surgeon) says: "It is for the General intellectual Gymnastics." It cheers me when I'm dull. It rests me when I'm tired, and, I guess" c'est ce la qui me fait jeune = that is that which makes me young. I mean all sorts of mental Gymnastics. My French Teacher did not come today at 4 P.M. the appointed hour, so I write you.

Mamma, Harry and Bessie came back, arriving the 27th ult [from Europe]. Guy & his entire family went off for Europe that very same day. They did not see each other. Oh, the thousand of little things which have come out of those three trunks. John up at Fort Brady (Sault Ste Marie Mich), is calling loudly for the party to go up there & see him. They will soon do so.

Meanwhile I must go to Ohio & back starting tomorrow, then to Scranton Pa. & back, then to Mountain Park, Ma to give Capt. Pierce's daughter away in marriage (The Capt. is not living) - and then I must go on duty to Fort Niagara (mouth of Niagara River) & distribute medals to successful competitors in target shooting.

When I get it all done I hope then by & by to look in upon you in Maine. Harry who was so ill at Rome, five days on his back, is yet far from well. If he gets back from John's post in time and is then well enough I want him to go with me to Maine & help us build the proposed Monument & do some other things that ought to be done.

Give much love from all to your good mother. I presume that she is back at Farmington from Arlington before this. Give lots of love to Rowlie when you see him. His father, much <> started on a farm

[ENVELOPE]  
[POSTMARK] NEW YORK AUG 11 92 3PM  
[RETURN ADDRESS] Headquarters Dept. Of the East,  
Governor's Island, N.Y.H.  
[ADDRESSEE] Miss Ella Howard  
c/o Mrs. R.B. Howard  
Farmington, Maine  
[POSTMARK] REC'D FARMINGTON MAINE AUG 12 1892 5 PM

---

325 11/27/1892 *From:* Ethel Darby

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-284

*Source:* Bowdoin

"Ferndale"  
Aldenhams Rd  
Watford, Herts.

Farmington  
Maine  
U.S.A.

---

"Ferndale"  
Aldenhams Rd  
Watford, Herts.  
Nov 27th /92

My dear Ella,

Very many thanks for your kind letter. I was delighted to receive it after waiting for so long. I was deeply interested in the sweet account you gave me of your dear Father's funeral services; you must indeed have had a hard time of it, and have missed him very much, but you have still, the hope of meeting him again, have you not?

I should like very much indeed to accompany my Father to America next year, for it is one of the wishes of my heart to see you & make your acquaintance (if it is not already made through our correspondence), but I am afraid it is quite out of the question. For one reason, I could not leave my business for so long without losing my situation, & another and more important reason is that it is so very expensive. I am afraid my own funds would not allow me to go, and my Father having so many wee ones to provide for could not spare enough, so we must be content, for the present, at least, with writing to one another as often as mails will allow must we not?

I am very glad you are enjoying your school so much! How much longer do you think of remaining there? And what do you think of doing when you leave? If anything, you must tell me all about yourself you know, I am very interested.

My sister Lilian is teaching in a large school quite near home. It is the London Orphan Asylum for boys & girls. The boys have one large building & the girls another. Lilian teaches music & german & some English in the girls school. There are about 500 children altogether three hundred boys & nearly two hundred girls. She does not sleep at home but usually comes in for a hour or two, two or three times a week. She likes the work very much, tho' she is not very fond of teaching. My other sister Edith is in a family near Hastings. She teaches one little girl and acts as companion to Mrs Graham, the mother of the little girl. They are very kind to her and treat her quite as one of the family. She is very happy there. My elder brother, Herbert, is at St. Albans, which is about 8 or 9 miles from Watford. He is proof-reader & clerk in an Editor's office, & gets on very well. He comes home for Sunday every fortnight & keeps us all alive when he does come, he is so amusing. We were quite dull when he first went away.

And now a little about myself. When last I wrote to you I think I had just left the post office at Sidcup. After leaving there I stayed at home, until February this year, when I met with something that seemed to suit me exactly. I became clerk to the manager of the Watford Dye Works. I had to receive the goods as they came in to be cleaned or dyed and book them & mark them, & then I had to receive the cash from the carmen & do sundry other little things too numerous to mention. I had a mile and a half to walk 4 times a day (for I came home to dinner) which took me 20 minutes and did me any amount of good. After I had been at "The Rookery" that is the name of the works for about 6 months, the Company opened a receiving office up in the town, and put me at the head of it. I have one young lady under me there. I missed my walk very much at first, because the office is only 7 min walk from home, but now I go down to "The Rookery" to do the packing two or three times a week, again, so am not entirely without my walk. I think it is necessary for one to get a walk almost every day to keep one's health in order do not you? Are you fond of walking? I am very.

You do not tell me much about your brother Rowlie. How old is he? Is he clever? Is he full of fun? I do not like boys to be too serious do you? I have a brother Arthur, who is about 12 years old I think. He goes to the Endowed School here in Watford. He has only been there this term, & when he started he was at the bottom of his class. (There are 35 boys in the class.) The 2nd week he was 18th, the third week he was 12th & then 3rd, and has been near that ever since. Nearly all the boys are a good deal older than he is so we are very pleased with him.

You will not receive this letter until very near Christmas, so I will wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. I hope you will write me another nice long letter soon. I am very sorry I have not answered yours before. Mother sends her kindest regards to you all & was very pleased to hear that Mrs Howard was very well. We hope your Grandmamma is better now.

If your brother Frank does at any time come over to England I am sure Father will be very glad indeed to see him. Father is over at the Channel Isles this week lecturing there. He is away a great deal in the winter lecturing at different places all over the country. So we do not get very much of him.

Edith sends her love to you - and now, dear, I must close this rambling letter. With love

Believe me,  
Your ever loving friend  
Ethel D. [Ethel Darby]

[ENVELOPE]  
[POSTMARK] WATFORD NO27 92  
Miss Ella Howard  
Farmington  
Maine  
U.S.A.

---

326 12/27/1892 *From:* Henry A. Hazen

*To:* George T. Little

RBH-285a

AUBURNDALE, MASS.

Library  
Brunswick  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[POSTALCARD]

'56 Howard

AUBURNDALE, MASS., 27.12.1892

Dear Mr. Little,

Howard's wife was Mary Ellen, dau of Capt Daniel & Elizabeth Lambert (Hunter) Patten. His son names a <> "Gettysburg as I saw it". It was curious that Dea Duren sh'd either have led, or followed, in confusing Samuel L. & M; but the man who does not make more than his own share of such errors may be thankful.

A Merry Xmas to you. I am 60 today!

Yours truly,  
Henry A. Hazen  
Secretary National Council

[ADDRESS SIDE]

[POSTMARK] BOSTON MASS DEC 27 1892 6 15 P

George T. Little, Library  
Brunswick  
Me

---

327 12/24/1893 *From:* Lincoln Patten

*To:* Prof. Geo. T. Little

RBH-285b

Bath

Brunswick  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[POSTALCARD]

Howard '56

Bath Dec 24th 1893  
Prof Geo T. Little  
Brunswick  
Me.

Dear Sir

Your questions to Miss Fiske or her Father regarding Mrs. D. Patten's maiden name they have handed to me.  
In answer, it was,  
Elizabeth Lambert Hunter  
Very truly yours  
Lincoln Patten

[Written in another hand]

m 1st Mary Ellen dau. David & Elizabeth Lambert Hunter Patten

[ADDRESS SIDE]

[POSTMARK] BATH

Geo. T. Little  
Brunswick  
Me

.

---

328 5/27/1894 *From:* Lindley H. Osborne *To:* Gen. C.H. Howard

RBH-286

North Weare, N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

North Weare, N.H. 5/27, 1894

Gen. C.H. Howard,  
Respected friend,

Thine of the 8th inst. was duly received. I send No. 4 of the Advocate for 1888 and ask for no compensation, for I am glad to be able to furnish the missing copy, and only wish it were in better condition.

It affords me pleasure too to recall some of the incidents connected with thy brother's visit here. As I have talked with other members of the family about it the recollection has been precious to us.

The visit occurred early in Sept. 1891, and his own account of it appeared in the last number of the Advocate for that year. He had never been here and knew no one in the place, though he had noticed my name on their subscription books, and knew I was to meet him at the train.

The first impression he made upon me was that of a remarkably close observer; for as he stepped from the car he came directly to me and inquired "Is this Mr. Osborne?" I am still puzzled to know how he selected me so readily. Before we reached home, a distance of about two miles, he had questioned me carefully about the town, its character, and resources, church privileges, etc and enquired especially with regard to my own family. Remarking that he was suited with being placed at our home, I suggested that on reaching it he might have occasion to change his mind as these old farms are often rusty places; when he pleasantly rejoined "I was brought up on a farm, but have backslidden."

Our conversation touched upon a great variety of themes, and he dwelt with especial interest upon persons connected officially or otherwise with the cause he had at heart. He expressed much satisfaction with the appointment of R.T. Paine as President of the American Peace Society, in place of E. S. Tobey whose faithful services received a fitting tribute. The oration of Josiah Quincy gave him great delight, as also H.D. Ward's story in the Century entitled "The White Crown." He read us a letter from the author of this story, and told us he was hoping to make arrangements with the publishers so they could have it in the Advocate.

One subject, however, seemed to overshadow all others and that was the approaching Congress at Rome, - the special topics that would be treated there, - the propriety of trying to secure the co-operation of the Pope, - and many other points relating to it.

Thus conversation ran on with the freedom of old acquaintanceship, from rare and perfect freedom too, that we could almost as easily differ as agree with him. Our sons have pleasant recollections of conversations with him on the Bible School lesson, and on a variety of other topics as they walked to the afternoon meeting. His public discourses were animated and hopeful; the descriptions of battle scenes extremely vivid, followed by earnest pleas for a "more excellent way" of settling difficulties; - and one of them closing with a most impressive appeal to all to use their best endeavors to hasten the coming of that day when "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord."

My wife often refers to her first impressions. Wearied with her week's work, she thought of entertaining a stranger, as she looked forward to his arrival, with almost a feeling of dread. He had hardly crossed the threshold, however, before she was perfectly at ease.

He referred somewhat sadly to the fact that he was "often reminded that he was the fifth wheel of the coach," the idea being that if people were only converted to Christ the cause of peace would take care of itself. After all it was not altogether what he said but the whole atmosphere in which he lived that lent such a charm to his presence.

I enclose a letter and postal which illustrate his kindly way of dealing with new acquaintances, & which I would like to have returned at thy convenience.

The purse referred to was one he accidentally left in his room here and missed it when he had reached the station at No. Weare.

I feel that this is a meagre account of a most interesting visit.

Sincerely thine,  
Lindley H. Osborne

---

329 1/20/1896 *From:* E. B. Palmer

*To:* Mrs [Helen G.] Howard

RBH-287

Newfane Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Newfane Vt.  
Janry 20, 1896

Dear Mrs Howard, [Helen Graves Howard]

My office work in Boston, has been such that I could not find time for even a hurried copy of our class expression, such as I enclose herewith.

Our meeting was small, and smaller for the reason that some of the class could not bear to face the vacancies in our ranks. Those who spoke and those who wrote had but one voice - and that the voice of grateful memory, and sincerest sorrow, that precious life should have to give place to memories even though tender and blessed.

I am sure you will be glad to receive the report of our action, even though it so faintly responds to the facts you have known so well. It gives me personally great pleasure to send them with my best wishes and prayers.

Yours faithfully  
E. B. Palmer

I expect to be in Winchester tomorrow.  
E.B.P.

Rowland B. Howard was one of the "all-around" men. Kindly by nature his sympathies were quick and large, and his judgment little likely to be warped by prejudice or self-interest. He could frankly face an opponent without either acrimony or undue compromise.

He took life seriously, yet cheerfully and hopefully. He had an impulse and aim to live usefully achieving somewhat, that should help set the world a little further on than his advent found it.

Patriotic and courageous, his experience of army life did not generate love for war, but loathing.

Hence the last years of his life were given in high energy, to the promotion of international relations and methods, that should tend to the ultimate abolishment of war and to the reign of peace.

It were no invention of fancy to suggest that possibly something from his spirit, breathed in the very convention where he spoke his last words, now survives, moving men to establish a permanent international court of arbitration for the avoidance of war. So "he rests from his labors, and his works do follow him".

We (the undersigned) members of his college class, gathered to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our graduation, heartily endorse the above as, so far as it goes, a just tribute to brother Howard's memory.

Bowdoin College June 24, '96

The above expression prepared by Rev. James H. Taylor D.D. of Rome N.Y. was unanimously adopted by the representatives of the class at the re-union, and the Secretary was instructed to forward a copy of the same to the widow of our beloved classmate.

There were present classmates, Farrar, Loring, Luce, Melcher, Moses, Palmer, Robie, <Stronk> and Yeaton.

E. B. Palmer.  
Class Secretary

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330 2/3/1897

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-288

156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

Walnut Hill School  
Natick, Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

Feb 3d 1897

My dear niece:

Thank you very much for your good letter. It is possible that I shall go to Boston again about the 19th inst. If so I shall write & let you know. Your Aunt says she had told me that you were at Natick, but I hardly think it, for I remembered what she said about the University of Vermont, but did not remember anything concerning Natick. But still even your Aunt did not think how easily you could have run in to see us at the Vendome. Yes, Theresa was my playmate, and it seems as if there was now nobody there to hold the fort for us. Her father, mother & brother are over there on the other shore. I hope they are, hers, mine, & thine will not have to wait long before seeing one another with the Lord our Saviour.

Affectionately your uncle with abiding love,  
O. O. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

[RETURN ADDRESS]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

[POSTMARK] BURLINGTON 97

[ADDRESSEE]

Miss Ella Howard  
Walnut Hill School  
Natick, Mass

[POSTMARK] NATICK MASS RECD FEB 1897 12 AM

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331 11/8/1897 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Dear <Maria>

RBH-290

Charter House,  
Media,, Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
Charter House,  
Media, Pa.

Nov. 8, 1897

Dear <Marnie>:

Your brief letter was refreshing. Your papa & I puzzled ourselves over the superscription in the corner of your rectangle [a sketch was drawn showing a rectangle with some scribbling resembling an address on an envelope.].

Thank you much for your congratulations - on my being 67 today.

Affectionately yours  
Oliver Otis Howard

P.S. Love to all.

---

332 11/8/1897 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Dear <Maria>

RBH-289

Charter House,  
Media,, Pa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

May 7th 1897

Dear Ella:

Tomorrow night I lecture at Hotel Brunswick (Boston) for the "Mass. Club". I want to go out to Natick & see you sometime Sunday, but cannot tell just when it will be possible, as my friend Mr S.S. Blanchard may have some engagement. A note from you will meet me Saturday evening, if not before at Hotel Brunswick, Boston.

Lovingly your uncle,  
Otis

[ENVELOPE]

[RETURN ADDRESS]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

[POSTMARK] BURLINGTON VT MAY 7 97 4 PM

[ADDRESSEE]

Miss Ella Howard  
"Walnut Hill"  
Natick, Mass

---

333 5/27/1901

*From:* Gen O. O. Howard

*To:* Miss Ella Howard

RBH-291

156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

Farmington, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Gen O. O. Howard  
U.S. Army Retired  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vt.

May 27th, 1901

Dear Ella:

I meet your note on my return from Cumberland Gap. Strange, strange, strange, that I did not recognize Mr. Smith! Somebody else from Farmington spoke to me. He told me how well and happy you were, and said that Mr. Smith was expected at the Convention and he did not know why he had not come. Really I was not tired enough to amount to anything and I cannot see how I could have passed him by unless he had grown two or three inches taller, or broadened out unexpectedly.

I will attend to the matter you speak of right away, though I do not get at any openings. I have tried for Chancey until my heart is sick.

Give my prospective nephew my humble apology and earnest love.

Very lovingly your uncle,  
O. O. Howard

[ENVELOPE]

[RETURN ADDRESS]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
150 Nassau Street,  
New York

[POSTMARK] BURLINGTON VT MAY 27 1901 7 PM

[ADDRESSEE]

Miss Ella Howard  
Farmington, Maine

[Letter is typewritten except for signature.]

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334 8/14/1901 *From:* Helen G Howard

*To:* Wedding Invitation

RBH-292

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs. Rowland B. Howard  
invites you to be present  
at the marriage of her daughter  
Ella  
to  
The Reverend Edwin Ray Smith  
on Wednesday, August the fourteenth  
at eleven o'clock  
Old South Church  
Farmington, Maine  
Nineteen hundred and one

---

335 1/2/1904

*From:* Gen. O.O. Howard

*To:* Rev. Edwin R. Smith

RBH-293

156 COLLEGE ST.  
BURLINGTON, VT.

Lowell, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
GEN. O. O. HOWARD  
U.S. ARMY RETIRED,  
156 COLLEGE ST.  
BURLINGTON, VT.

January 2, 1904

Rev. Edwin R. Smith,  
Lowell, Mass.

My dear Children:-

Your kind letter to Harry is just received. I will be sure to drop in upon you sometime when I am in your vicinity. I have spoken several times in Lowell. Gen. Adelbert Ames who is now in Washington has generally entertained me.

Your aunt and Harry join me in love and hearty wishes for the New Year, that your church may be prospered and your family be very, very happy.

Very sincerely your uncle,  
O.O. Howard

Just had a good letter & pictures from Rowlie. What was his wife's name. He forgot to send me the cards!!!  
O.O.H.

[Typewritten down to the signature, and then handwritten by Otis below the signature.]

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336 4/23/1904 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Nephew [Rev.  
Edwin R. Smith]

RBH-294b

Burlington, Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Burlington, Vt.  
Apr. 23d/1904

Dear Nephew:

Sunday next - May 1st & Monday I can be with you. You can give me part of the day, or the evening, particularly the S.S. talk.

Shall I come? Give much love to Ella & yourself.

Aff. your uncle  
O.O. Howard

I cannot be with you for some time except May 1st.

---

337 6/25/1904 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Rev. Edwin Ray Smith

RBH-294

Burlington, VT.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Lincoln Memorial University  
At Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.  
Gen. O.O. Howard,  
President of the Board of Directors,  
Burlington, Vt.  
Hon. Darwin R. James,  
Treasurer,  
123 Maiden Lane, New York City.  
Rev. John Hale Larry D.D.  
President,  
Cumberland Gap, Tenn.  
Burlington, VT.,

June 25, 1904

Rev. Edwin Ray Smith,  
Lowell, Mass.

My dear Nephew:-

I have just seen Ella's mother. She came down, after a telephone, to Leeds and stayed with me three days and we had a very nice visit with Lucy Foss who is as beautiful as she can be. Her cheeks are as rosy as a peach and her figure keeps improving. It makes her seem taller than she was. Her father is kindness itself and they had there a Miss Herrick who is eight years older than I, and could tell me everything that ever happened in Leeds.

I spoke on Sunday at the church at the urgent request of the pastor, and made innumerable visits during my stay.

I was at Brunswick Monday evening and was entertained by President Hyde and his wife right royally.

I managed to get back so as to give a lecture here at Burlington last night to the alumni of the high school.

Give my love to Ella and tell her that her mother looked well and happy and will doubtless write her concerning the details of our excursions in Leeds. We visited her father's grave and monument.

Do not forget to thoroughly establish our scholarship and name it. I want to get the money, \$50, before August next and I want to put the young woman or young man selected in direct correspondence with you or with your Sunday School Superintendent.

All at my house join in love. Harry's engagement, which makes him very happy has been announced. The young lady is Miss Sue Hertz, a niece of Commander Wadhams of the navy. Ella would be glad to write Harry congratulations, for his intended is one of the peculiar women that satisfy the taste and even the criticism of Aunt Lizzie.

With love to Ella and yourself, [See Note]  
Ever aff. Yrs  
O.O. Howard

[Note: The letter had been typewritten, except for the signature.]

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338 12/6/1904 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Rev. Edwin R. Smith

RBH-295

Burlington, VT.

Lowell, Mass.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Lincoln Memorial University

At Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.

Gen. O.O. Howard,

President of the Board of Directors,

Burlington, Vt.

Hon. Darwin R. James,

Treasurer,

123 Maiden Lane, New York City.

Rev. Wm. L. Stooksbury Ph.D.

Acting President,

Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

Burlington, VT.,

December 6, 1904

Rev. Edwin R. Smith,

Lowell, Mass.

My dear Nephew:-

We did receive the \$50 all right and I forwarded the amount to the University and have instructed the President to have the student communicate directly with you for the same. I have told him too, to name the scholarship "The Pawtucket Scholarship".

It is a wonderful revelation that you make. I did not suspect that that little boy was coming into your home. Give my love to Ella and tell her that Bessie (\*) is a little in advance of her. Her baby is a little girl by the name of Elizabeth and was born the 23rd of August. I am glad that her mother is with her. You must give my hearty congratulations to each member of the family. All at our house join in love and congratulations.

Affectionately your uncle,

O. O. Howard

(\*) Elizabeth (Howard) Bancroft Wilmington, Del.

---

339 1/1/1905

*From:* Frank G. H.  
[Howard]

*To:* Dear Ote:- [Oliver Otis  
Howard Jr]

RBH-296

New York City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York City  
New Years Day, 1905

Dear Ote:- [Oliver Otis Howard Jr]

This letter is so full of eloquent pathos of it's own that no word of mine is needed to mar it's beauty. I send it with the thought that it may be an inspiration to us all and I suggest that you copy it and send to "Dadie" who is mentioned. I am specially impressed today by the contrast between the vivid ideals fought for by our father and his generation and our own aims. Perhaps ours are broader in some respects but I often doubt whether they are so nobly generous and idealic in character.

-O-

All those intimate and endearing relations that existed for him so keenly have vanished and only a few lovely landmarks are now left of the many sweet relationships that were so vital only 30 years ago. Sometimes one thinks, "will we never get over this eternal unrest and this mixture of bitter sorrow in the cup."

-O-

So in wishing you a Happy New Year, I feel bound to confess to almost all the faults of my ancestors as I read their naive confession. But let us endeavor, anyhow, to be happy ourselves and make others happy during the next 365 days. So be it! -

Affectionately  
Frank G.H.

[Written in another hand] From Frank G. Howard, to his brother Otis Howard.

---

340 2/3/1908

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Rev. Edwin R. Smith

RBH-297

Burlington, VT.,

N.H. Home Missionary Soc'y,  
Concord, N.H

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Lincoln Memorial University

Near Cumberland Gap. Tennessee.

Gen. O.O. Howard, of the Board of Directors,

Hon. Darwin R. James, Treasurer, 384 Washington St. New York.

Chas. F. Eager, Assistant Treasurer, Cumberland Gap. Tenn.

Wm. L. Stooksbury, Ph.D., President, Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

E. P. Fairchild, Financial Secretary, N.Y. Office, Room 11, 9th Floor, Mills Building, New York City.

Burlington, VT.,

February 3rd, 1908

Rev. Edwin R. Smith,

N.H. Home Missionary Soc'y,

Concord, N.H.

My dear Nephew and Niece:-

Thank you much for your letter of February 2nd. I was at Manchester yesterday and spoke five times (5 addresses). I did not know that you were at Concord, so that I have come back without visiting you. I come to meet an engagement at Brandon Vt. tomorrow night. I am going to send your letter to Aunt Katy.

Give my best love to Ella, the baby and yourself. Charlie's death [See Note] is a great loss to me, - still the reunion is not far off. (?)

Lovingly yours,

Oliver Otis Howard

[Note: Brother Charles Henry Howard died on Jan 27, 1908.]

---

341 12/21/1908 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Rev. Edwin Ray Smith

RBH-299

Burlington, VT.

174 Warren Street,  
Concord, N.H.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]

Lincoln Memorial University

Near Cumberland Gap. Tennessee.

Gen. O.O. Howard, of the Board of Directors,

Hon. Darwin R. James, Treasurer, 384 Washington St. New York.

Chas. F. Eager, Assistant Treasurer, Cumberland Gap. Tenn.

Wm. L. Stooksbury, Ph.D., President, Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

E. P. Fairchild, Financial Secretary, N.Y. Office, Room 11, 9th Floor, Mills Building, New York City.

Burlington, VT.,

Dec. 21, 1908

Rev. Edwin Ray Smith,

174 Warren Street,

Concord, N.H.

My dear Nephew:-

I see that I am 74 years older than Rowland, minus 22 days [Rowland Howard Smith, b. Nov 30, 1904]. Indeed I wish I was nearer his age. Give my love to him and to Ella. If it be possible either myself or Harry will put in an appearance Feb. 23rd and 24th at the 2nd New England Congress of Congregational Churches. This year I am working, as you know, for a memorial fund of half a million. Thank you for the information.

With love for the family from all of us,

Affectionately

Your uncle,

O. O. Howard

---

342 12/30/1908 *From:* General O.O.

*To:* Edward Ray Smith

Howard

RBH-298

15 BROAD STREET  
NEW YORK

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
GENERAL O. O. HOWARD  
15 BROAD STREET  
NEW YORK

Dec. 30 1908

My dear Edward Ray Smith:

You have seen by the press how a large committee of New York business men have undertaken to raise an endowment fund which shall honor the name of Abraham Lincoln, especially this coming Centennial year of 1909. Now if you can possibly help in this matter by a generous subscription my heart will go out towards you with gratitude and thanks. To educate the youth of the Mountains near where Lincoln was born and among the people whom he loved appears to me to be the best possible bequest of Lincoln to all patriotic hearts of this generation. Do this in appreciation of Lincoln's great heart and of the cause which is grand in itself.

Very sincerely yours,  
/s/ O. O. Howard  
Major-General U.S. Army, &c.  
Secretary of the Committee

[The below is handwritten.]

Love to Ella & happy New year to all the family. Send a small check & do go without one meal as I did yesterday. O.O.H.

---

343 10/28/1909 *From:* Frank G. H.  
[Howard]

*To:* Dear Otis & Helen [OO  
Howard Jr]

RBH-300

Burlington, Vt.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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(Copy)

Burlington, Vt. October 29th, 1909.

Dear Otis & Helen:-[brother Oliver Otis Howard Jr & his wife Helen (Dalton) Howard]

You will receive the postals from me showing the fine old church and the picture of the place, near which our dear old friend was buried today, also I am sending some papers.

At the house where I made my first sad visit, there was only the family and the honorary pall-bearers, including the leading men of the Town and State.

A guard was furnished from the regiment stationed here, and the body carriers were six stalwart negro seargents from the famous 10th Cavalry, which by strange coincidence is here now.

The General was laid in State in full uniform, on the sofa, just as though he had fallen asleep, his breast covered with his army decorations and the commander of the French Legion of Honor about his neck. A great number of beautiful flowers were about him and his sword by his side.

His noble face was the personification of the great soul at perfect peace.

I went in alone and knelt for a few moments by his side and said good-bye.

Only a few days ago I packed his valise in New York and laughed together with him over my wanton destruction of a couple of old worn out collars, that he insisted on hanging on to. "Here you rascal. You are throwing away perfectly good collars!" I said good-night then and never saw him happier or in better spirits, and didn't dream I would never talk with him again.

General Peck had charge of the funeral, and the carriers marched out with the casket under the flag that he loved, and put it on an artillery caisson. After it followed a riderless horse draped in black, with his fifty year old sword hanging from the empty saddle. Then came the cavalry escort, and, after, the carriages: Jeanie (his oldest son's widow), Otis, (the son of his oldest son), James (second son) and Chancy (third son) in the first. Harry (youngest son) Sue, (Harry's wife), Myself, (second son of his brother, Rowland Bailey Howard) and Lawrence, (second son of his youngest brother, Gen. C. H. Howard) in the second; and the others including Sam'l Lester Hazzard, Jr. who said he knew you and David and asked for you.

Aunt Lizzie (Gen. O. O. Howard's widow) came down to the family service, led by the fine young minister Mr. Guthrie. She wept but not violently and said only "he can't speak to me". I saw her after for a few moments. She will not live long but is not helpless.

We then went to the beautiful church here where an impressive service was held. The church was full and we sat in front of course. Three seargents flanked the casket on either side and then marched out with it and placed it on the caisson. A band stationed near by played beautifully and the organ also was perfect.

There were three wreaths on the coffin, - Howard University - American Missionary Society - and Loyal Legion.

We then went to the cemetery near the lake with the splendid mountains across the water and saw the casket lowered into the ground after prayers. Then three volleys by the troops over the grave, and the last "taps" sounded, over the grave by the bugler.

It was all splendidly simple, sincere and beautiful, but terribly sad; the day being cold with occasional sunbursts and the glory of the autumn all about.

Then we went back to the house, and I saw the two lovely babies (Harry's) and walked about a while with "little" Helen (Grandchild) [daughter of Guy (deceased) and Jeanie Howard] who did not leave the house in the morning.

The work so dear to the General's heart will be carried through by his friends. I feel sure of this as I have been so intimate with him and his helpers for the several months they have been pushing the matter. A "Howard Hall" will be given to Lincoln Memorial University at once I think, and under the leadership of General Hubbard of New York and his able aids the whole matter will be pushed to a reasonable quick conclusion.

The love that the General inspired in everyone he touched was, as you know, remarkable, and the sorrow for him is universal and real among high and low.

Of course personally I had given him my own heart, and his going makes a big hole in my nature that is only known to myself. My aim will be to be worthy of his confidence, and if I cannot add to the lustre of the name, I can strive towards the highest conceptions of service and their practical demonstration as I see them.

It occurred to me that you would like to hear the above as I know your love for him and your unselfish interest, so I have written thus. I sent cards to David [brother David Patten Howard], Uncle Rodelphus Gilmore and Aunt Lizzie.

Affectionately  
Frank G.H. [Frank Gilman Howard]

---

344 10/29/1909 *From:* F. H. [Frank Gilman Howard]

*To:* Mr & Mrs O. O. Howard, Jr.

RBH-307

Burlington, VT

Berkeley Inn  
Berkeley  
California

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[POSTCARD]

[Picture of Burlington Vt. First Congregational Church]

[POSTMARK] BURLINGTON VT OCT 29 1909 6 P.M.

Mr & Mrs O. O. Howard, Jr.  
Berkeley Inn  
Berkeley  
California

Oct 29, 09

The funeral service was in this beautiful old church. The body born by six stalwart negroes from the famous 10th Cavalry, was brot from the house on a military caisson draped with the flag & followed by a black draped horse with the General's sword at the empty saddle. Accompanied by the Regiment who afterward fired 3 volleys over the beautiful grave.

F. H. [Frank Gilman Howard]

[POSTCARD]

[Picture of Lake Champlain]

[POSTMARK] BURLINGTON VT OCT 29 1909 6 P.M.

Mr & Mrs O. O. Howard, Jr.  
Berkeley Inn  
Berkeley  
California

The grave of the General overlooks this superb lake with glorious mountains in the distance. He blessed the negro & negros buried him with magnificent simplicity. The bugler sounded "taps" over the grave and we said good-bye. A cold autumn day, full of color & full of tears

F.H.

F. H. [Frank Gilman Howard]

---

345 2/22/1910 *From:* O. O. Howard [Jr]

*To:* My dear Ella [Ella  
Howard Smith]

RBH-301

Berkeley Inn, Berkeley,  
Cal.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[LETTERHEAD]  
THE NASSAU MINING CO.  
NEVADA CITY, CAL.  
WORKS AT GRASS VALLEY, CAL.

Berkeley Inn, Berkeley, Cal.  
February 22, 1910.

My dear Ella:- [Ella (Howard) Smith]

The enclosed are comments and editorials on the life and work of Uncle Otis that I cut out and saved from various sources at the time of his death. I have no scrap book or place to keep one in my nomadic life, so I send them to you to put in your scrap book for the boys as they grow older. I hope they will grow to be like their maternal Uncle, whom I think was the best and finest man it has ever been my fortune to meet. No man of my personal and intimate acquaintance so represented in his everyday life the true spirit of Christ and his Apostles as did the dear, simple, sweet and valiant General. It was like the loss of my most intimate friend and relative when he was taken from us. No one can ever fill the exact place in my life that he occupied.

We are having our first really rainy day, today, for sometime. Have been enjoying beautiful June like weather, i.e. June in New England. The grass is green and the flowers blooming, the roses will not be in full flower for three or four weeks but then the country about us will be one great bouquet.

Helen is well and enjoying her life in California. I have had a touch of my ancient friend, rheumatism, the past week resulting from a prolonged cold which in my peregrinations from valley of summer to mountains of snow and cold I gathered unto myself. Its years since I have had such a thing, but now I am nearly as limber as usual. I go up to the mine about every two weeks and spend the rest of the time looking after things down here.

Mary, Mrs. Mell Dalton, is here with us now, she has an apartment on the floor below ours and we feel as though the family were almost together again. Mell is on his way to New York as usual except when its on the way to the Pacific Coast.

All hands join in love to you and the boys. Rowland's photo hangs on the wall of our bed-room among a group of "our children" and is the handsomest chap in the lot. Mother says he is no saint which speaks well for his future. You must send us a picture of Edwin as soon as he gets big enough to make an impression on a camera.

Well we wish that we were rich and could have you all out here for a visit of a few months. One of my ambitions is to get the family all together some time on the Pacific coast, when the cold snows and raw winds of New England are raging and we can enjoy the open air and sunshine of this clime together.

Helen is dressmaking, i.e. has a woman sewing trying to evolve some dresses out of antiques and some goods that she has had in stock for innumerable years. I think they are making a great success from what I hear and see.

We all join in love to you all and will be glad to hear from you as you get time to write.

Your affectionate brother  
/s/ O. O. Howard [Jr.]

[Note: Mell Dalton is Oliver Otis Howard Jr.'s brother-in-law.]

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346 7/25/1935 *From:* Arthur Deerin Call

*To:* Mrs. Ella Howard Smith

RBH-302

*Source:* Bowdoin

THE AMERICAN  
PEACE SOCIETY  
734 Jackson Place  
Washington, D.C.

Orchard Street,  
Farmington, Maine

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[LETTERHEAD]

John J. Esch President  
Arthur Deerin Call, Secretary and Editor  
U. S. Grant, 3d, Treasurer  
THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY  
Founded 1828  
Publishers of World Affairs  
Continuing the Advocate of Peace Through Justice  
734 Jackson Place  
Washington, D.C.

July 25, 1935.

Mrs. Ella Howard Smith,  
Orchard Street,  
Farmington, Maine.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Your very gracious letter of July 23 is received.

Of course we should be very glad indeed to receive the items you mention. I regret to say that we are not in position to pay for them, our income having been sorely hit.

I feel that I must have known your father, Rev. Roland B. Howard, so often have I run across the evidences of his work for this Society, and so often have I heard him spoken of especially by such men as Dr. Charles Francis Thwing.

I am distressed to find that you are not on the mailing list to receive copies of WORLD AFFAIRS. I am having sent to you under separate cover the June number as I am sure you will be interested especially in the report of the One-hundred-seventh Annual meeting.

With thanks and appreciation, I am, my dear Mrs. Smith,

Yours very sincerely,  
/s/ Arthur D Call  
Arthur Deerin Call

ADC-mgd

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347 8/7/1935

*From:* George T.  
Goodspeed  
Goodspeed's Book  
Shop  
No. 7 Asburton Place  
Boston, Massachusetts

*To:* Mrs. Ella Howard Smith

RBH-304a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Orchard Street  
Farmington, Maine

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[LETTERHEAD]

Goodspeed's Book Shop  
(incorporated)  
No. 7 Ashburton Place  
(Old South Branch at No. 2 Milk Street)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Charles E. Goodspeed, President

August 7, 1935

Mrs. Ella Howard Smith  
Orchard Street  
Farmington, Maine

Dear Madam:

We return herewith the list which you sent us recently. We have marked a number of items which would probably be worth about twenty-one dollars for the lot. Condition is such an important factor that this can not, of course, be taken as a definite figure. If you care to send the books on approval, we shall be glad to give you an exact value.

Yours very truly,  
GOODSPEED'S BOOK SHOP, Inc.  
By: /s/ George T. Goodspeed

GTG:HC

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348 8/7/1935

*From:* W. F. Tenney

*To:* Mrs. Ella Howard Smith

RBH-304b

*Source:* Bowdoin

Goodspeed's Book  
Shop, Inc  
No. 7 Ashburton Place  
Boston, Massachusetts

Orchard Street  
Farmington, Maine

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[LETTERHEAD]

Goodspeed's Book Shop  
(incorporated)  
No. 7 Ashburton Place  
(Old South Branch at No. 2 Milk Street)  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Charles E. Goodspeed, President

August 7, 1935

Mrs. Ella Howard Smith  
Orchard Street  
Farmington, Maine.

Dear Madam:

In reply to your favor of Aug. 6th., the list has been sent down to this department for inspection, and we have checked such items we are able to use.

This has been sent back to our Ashburton Place store, where it will be returned to you within a short time.

Very truly yours,  
GOODSPEED'S BOOK SHOP, Inc.  
BY: W. F. Tenney

WFT:R

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349 11/9/1937 *From:* O. O. H. [OO  
Howard, Jr.]

*To:* Dear Ella [(Howard)  
Smith]

RBH-305

Los Angeles Cal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Los Angeles Cal  
Nov 9 1937

Dear Ella:-

Too tired to correct the enclosed but send it on as it may amuse you.

Lenerl was over last Evening as fine as ever. "Jane" Collier has left us - for Texas - otherwise we run on as usual. Weather "devine". My plants look full. Helen has been very lame for a few weeks past, almost unable to walk across the room at times. Better today - heat's over.

Helen joins in love to both.

Yr  
O.O.H.

Helen sends the Sept Advance, as she thinks you should enjoy it. We enjoy the <sermons> sab. O.O.H.

[Note: Lenerl may have been Lenerl Morehouse Howard, the wife of their cousin Arthur Day Howard, a son of Charles Henry Howard.]

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350 11/9/1937 *From:* O. O. Howard [Jr.]

*To:* Miss Julia Burnet

RBH-306

503 South  
Commonwealth Ave.  
Los Angeles, Cal.

12 North Grove Street  
East Orange, N.J.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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(Copy for Ella)

503 South Commonwealth Ave.  
Los Angeles, Cal.  
November 9th, 1937

Miss Julia Burnet,  
12 North Grove Street,  
East Orange, N.J.

Dear Miss Burnet:-

Your letter of the 1st. inst. enclosing the Grove Street Church folder addressed to the Holingsworth Building, reached me yesterday. I regret to say that I have been "under the weather" a bit since 1932 and gave up my business offices and have for the past couple of years or more have been "in retirement". In fact, a year ago last May they took me to the hospital saying that I was suffering from "angina pectoris", kept me there some weeks and then, somewhat to the surprise of my medical adviser, I rode away in an ambulance instead of a hearse. We gave up our attempts at housekeeping and have been boarding, now for over a year in this delightful place, where I have sat in my big easy chair looking out over the green trees and lawns and flowers at the great new 1st. Congregational church on the next corner. Whether it is looking on such a magnificent specimen of church architecture, or some other reason, I have steadily gained and kept the undertaker waiting on the steps for over a year. Yesterday I rode with a friend to the chemical works (some five miles) in which I am interested, and suffered no ill effects from the journey. So you see we are "marching on" even though "on borrowed time".

You say that it was in Dec. 1875 that Grove St. gave my father a "Call". Then it must have been early in the Spring following that the Howard tribe descended on East Orange from Maine, where my stepmother and the three boys she inherited, had been living while father was on his first trip to Europe. How well I remember the arrival. I, at 10 mature years of life, closed the family procession from the railroad station to the old Hedden house on the corner of Grove and Main Sts. now occupied by modern business blocks I believe, but then a spacious "yard, of lawns, trees and garden". Quite a long stretch of picket fence along the Grove st. side, and behind that fence were posted some of the youthful hopes of the Grove St. church, female in gender, who made beautiful faces at the Minister's progeny, thrusting out the tongue and using the thumb at the nose with a wriggling, of fingers. A most delightful "welcome to our city." Such was my introduction to my new home, and some of the young hopefuls of the supporters of the beautiful little church. My sister Ella was born in Dec. 1875 in Farmington, Maine, so she must have been "an infant in arms" carried by her nurse. Rowland, the youngest hopeful of the Howard family was born in the old Hedden house in 1878, the year before the family left for Rockport, Mass.

How your letter and the church folder turns back the years, bringing vividly to my memory the experiences of the four years of residence in East Orange with the activities centering about the little church. The individual personalities of my memories are mostly gone to their long rest. "Grandfather" Dodd, his right hand man, George Dorer and wife. Mrs. Dodd the first, Addie", Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Mitchell and their family, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Jennings and their family, Mr. & Mrs. George Mitchell and family, the McKays, the Wallaces, the Hunters. "Deacon" George Boise his wife and daughter Gertrude, Simion Runyon and family who migrated to San Francisco, all gone I believe, but with whom I used to contact from time to time in my peregrinations (for I have always been more or less of a tramp). Miss Marie Petersen, her sweet little German mother, her dignified German father and her brother and sister. They all stand out clearly with their individual peculiarities. Then there was Miss "Georgie" Stevenson and her sister, the backbone of the choir. I can see and hear Miss Stevenson now in memory. My Sunday School teacher, Mr. Riker the florist, much liked because he never bothered much with "pointing" the lesson with moral lectures but was content to follow the "Quarterly". How I hated prayer meetings, attendance on which was of course compulsory on the Minister's children.

Somehow my beloved father had not the "flair" for intimate relations with his children. He to me was the rather

austere authority to whom I was referred as a last court after the infractions of family statutes. As I grew older and came to know his contemporaries I found that he was much beloved and reputed to have a "kindness and understanding of children" which I confess never to have discovered. Strange how the contrariness and "cussedness" of boy children can fail to realize the true nature of parents and their blessings.

Father made lasting friendships in his pastorates, which were four: Farmington, Maine, ten years, Princeton Ills. four years (where my mother died), East Orange four years, and Rockport, Mass. four years, before taking up the American Peace Society work in Boston, which took him much over the world. He was "only a boy" at 41 years of age when he came to Grove Street. Only 58 when he died in Rome, Italy. I once called on "Grandfather" Dodd after my father's death in 1892. Sitting on the piazza with his second wife, the old gentleman looked at me and remarked; "Otis, we loved your father, he was one of the Lord's own." "The front room, upstairs we always call Mr. Howard's room, and now that he is gone I want you to know that it is now yours, so whenever you come East (I was then living in Denver, Colo.) I want you to always come right here and occupy your father's room." I was much flattered, but regret that I never was able to avail myself of the privilege so kindly offered. How well I remember one occasion at the little church when the raising of funds to lift the church debt was the subject. Mr. Dodd always sat in the front pew on the left of the right hand aisle. As the verbal subscriptions lagged, the old gentleman spoke up. "I increase my subscription to \$1,000." and was immediately followed by George Dorer increasing his to, I believe, \$500. The desired sum was raised enthusiastically.

A funny thing happened in my experience some 23 years after we left East Orange, which merely shows how vivid can be the memories of youth. Mrs. Howard and I were spending a vacation in Europe. Leaving Vienna one morning, by boat for Budapest, when we came to the river and transferred from the small boat on the canal to the larger river steamer, a man spoke to me as I stood by the rail. "You are an American aren't you?" He said. "Yes thank God." Was my impolite reply (I felt that way that morning). Then he said, "I used to live in America." "Whereabouts?" said I. "In Newark New Jersey". said he. "What were you doing in Newark?", I asked. "I worked for a butcher on the corner of Orange Street and Broadstreet". I said, "I used to live in East Orange and remember that corner very well." Said he, "I used to go to East Orange to see a girl in those days. Her sister was the wife of the head farmer on a large estate there." "Yes", said I, "and the girl's name was Emma Younger." He looked at me in astonishment and could not understand how I knew the name of the girl he used to call on 23 years before. It was easy enough as I knew the Dorers well and that Mrs. Dorer's sister Emma Younger used to spend a good deal of time with her, and George Dorer was the only "head farmer" of that type of "estate" in East Orange that I knew of. So much for the vividness of childhood's memories.

The little Grove Street church was a beautiful example of ecclesiastical architecture I came to realize as the years passed. It's simple lines and the handsome black walnut wainscoting, with the choir gallery and pulpit in excellent taste were always a joy to behold after the bare "meeting houses" of New England and the non-descript architecture of the Illinois churches where my earlier youth had been spent. I always felt sorry that in building the new building it could not have been an extension of the type of the little building. But I presume architecture matters little, for the preaching of those days was aimed at heavenly things and not earthly.

In 1890 my wife and I joined the Episcopal church in Ogden, Utah, where the mission congregational body was presided over by a man who did not measure up to our ideas of a "guide to heaven". We were very happy in the little church there under a splendid christian minister, and when we removed we took our letters to another Episcopal church and have remained members of that organization ever since, some 47 years. However, living on "borrowed time" sometimes produces physical drawbacks and ours have prevented attendance at any church the past year or more. So we thank the good Lord for the radio, and get mental religious food from the splendid sermons of Dr. Fosdick and others of his type who are doing so much to awaken the clear religious thinking of the youth of the country.

This is not a church letter. Not to be read at any dinners. There is hardly anyone left to whom the name of Howard means anything in Grove Street church today. I am sure none besides yourself who would even remember the writer. I am however sending your letter and folder on to 55 Morning St., Portland, Maine, where my sister Mrs. Ella Howard Smith is now living. She may have more useful recollections of her father's pastorate than have I.

My brothers David and Francis are both gone to their reward. Ella and Rowland, of the next family, are alive and well. I expected to hear that Miss Petersen had passed on as the last letter I had from her was written by an amanuensis because of her illness. Sometimes I feel that all the people of my early life are dead and gone. There are very few left anyway.

I hope, and know that your 70th. Anniversary will be a success from all standpoints. East Orange has so grown

that you must have a large congregation by this time and an Active one judging from the "Announcement" sheet. "Flowers to the memory of "Bert" and Anna Wallace, bring them both vividly to my mind as I knew them as a boy. Gone on! Well that generation is mostly gone on. Well, thank God, my wife and I have had a happy married life of 52 1/4 years and are still "carrying on" happily if not physically very active.

My father's work of his last 8 years stands out more and more, as general conditions of the world come before us. His work for Peace was based upon the precepts of his Master and I fear that that incentive has been a good deal lost sight of by his successors, and what is called "practical things" substituted. I was told some years ago by the head of the British Peace Society, during a call at their headquarters in London, that my father's character for solid Christian life and example was greatly missed in their work. "No man his equal has succeeded him." A remark which brought the mist to my eyes. But it is so. Father placed his Master's work before every other consideration and sought to make that work the key to his life.

Please consider this rambling letter as personal and not for any church celebration. Your letter awakened in me a lot of personal reminiscences, so dear to those of us who are getting into senility. Forgive me.

With kindest regards and best wishes, in which Mrs. Howard joins, I remain  
Yours very sincerely  
O. O. Howard.