

here at all. It is rather  
dark so that I do not see  
the lines, but hope you  
will be able to read them  
so hardly written. Winter  
has begun & it makes  
me nervous to hear the  
indistinct ringing of the  
distant bell. It reminds  
me that college is going  
on but I do not & probably  
cannot stay a minute.  
This house I found when  
I board consist, of 1 room  
& two bed rooms & a bath  
2 little irls & a young man  
of 22 that go to school &  
a father & mother - you  
see the chance of staying  
is small. There is a hole  
in the toe of my new boot  
which must have needed tonight

If will take my last quarter  
in dollar too I will be glad  
to have some more & direct it  
I suppose I'd have taken some for  
your affection of your mother  
My dear Mother

I thought to have written & sent you a letter Monday. The train came in safely! Rowland came the same train of ours. It was a pity father did not go down to the Junction with it on Sat. & consign it to Rowland but you did not know he was coming there I suppose. It came by express & therefore cost a dollar instead of 75c. I guess Solomon did not mark it with the check for Garmanth Junction. Have could not find it. But while I was talking with Rowland I had just mentioned



the Expressman  
at P.M. Came up & asked if  
there was any such person  
as Charles H. Howard in  
their party. He knew Howard  
& spoke to him. I took  
it over to Mrs. Maynard  
where I spend my Sabbaths.  
Since I came out to me, which  
I have had so many things  
to attend to, and cares  
that not till I had gone  
to bed last night did I  
think that I ought to  
write & let you know of  
the safe arrival I had  
thought of so many times  
of the Editor but when  
I had the opportunity had  
not thought of writing.

No, mother I had not heard  
from this side yet here.  
I expected to hear from  
you by the time we should  
write but last night I  
wondered. Oh what a  
splendid day it has been  
today. I have been looking  
for N & E. all day. I am  
going out to the Pillsbury  
after supper to see if I  
cannot find them.  
He said he stayed  
down. He looked as  
well I said he saw  
Ellie at Auburn.  
We were. Truly warm  
& pleasant weather for this.  
Do you have any I should  
have heard hardly but any

---

1/27/1858

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-031

Brunswick, Maine

---

Brunswick Jan. 27, 1858.

My dear Mother

I ought to have written and sent you a letter Monday. The Aeolian came in safely. Rowland came on the same train of cars. It was a pity Father did not go down to the Junction with it on Sat. and consign it to Rowland but you did not know he was coming thro' I suppose. It came by express and therefore cost a dollar instead of 37 cts. I guess Solomon did not mark it with the chalk for Yarmouth Junction. Howe could not find it. But while I was talking with Rowland and had just mentioned the Aeolian the Express man came up, and asked if there was any such a person as Charles H. Howard in these parts. He knew Rowland and spoke to him. I took it over to Mr. Meryman's where I spent my Sabbath. Since I came out to my school I have had so many things to attend to, and cares, that not till I had gone to bed last night did I think that I ought to write and let you know of the safe arrival. I had thought of you many times and of the Aeolian but when I had the opportunity had not thought of writing.

No, Mother I have not heard from Otis since you have. I expected Rowland up from Bath to see me Monday night, but last night it rained. Oh what a splendid day it has been today. I have been looking for R. and Ella all day and am going out to the Village after Supper and see if I cannot find them.

He said he should come up. He looked as usual and said he saw Dellie at Auburn.

The term has begun and it makes me homesick to hear the ringing of the distant bell. It reminds me that College is going on but I do not and probably cannot study a mite. This house and family where I board consists of 1 room and two bed rooms and a "butry" 2 little girls and a young man of 22 that go to school and a father and mother. You see the chance of study is small.

There is a hole in the toe of my new boot which I must have mended tonight. It will take my last quarter of a dollar and so I would be glad to have some more. Did not suppose I'd have to pay so much for Aeolian.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H.Howard



dict - one by Prof. Packard & by Dr  
Adams. Dr Adams was up at my  
room this forenoon - He has never been  
here before. I I have never known  
him to call on any student since  
I have been in College - He knocked at  
the door - I said "Come" & he opened  
the door & looking in and seeing several  
in here studying (as it was just about  
recitation time) he remarked that  
he would call again at some other  
time & retired. Keep Mory a particular  
friend of mine of my class who rooms  
on this floor has just indulged in  
hope in Christ - There have been  
some out of every class.

Possibly I may come Tuesday, Mother,  
but if it is not perfectly convenient  
you needn't send to the cars I can  
walk down - if I come.

I have heard from Nellie - He is well.  
Give my love to father - I am gladder than  
ever that vacation is at hand -  
Chas. H. Howard

Pond Hall  
April 5 1858.

My dear Mother

I meant to have written  
you a letter last week but did not seem  
to have any opportunity. Sat. afternoon I was  
writing on my pt. theme. I am now pretty  
much made up all but my themes.

Our vacation is at hand. I suppose  
our Examination will occur on Tuesday  
two weeks from tomorrow. Expect me as  
soon as Wednesday for my stay at home  
is to be so short I don't mean to delay  
getting there. I hope you are well  
mother if so it seems to me I shall  
have a very pleasant visit. My clothes  
perhaps more than usual will need  
your attention if you are well. I have  
been away a long time now. I want  
a pair at least of good shirts &  
if you could get the clothes as to

Don't mind me selling my suit dry.



have them set about soon after I  
get home it would be well. I want  
a couple of Collars to save the last.

I have left in a condition to be worn  
only that pair of black pants which were  
Oliver's. I have just put them on. Hope  
they will last the fortnight. Mrs Taylor is  
making me a pair of black Jacket  
as I found those there were remarkably  
warm. I have one shirt which sets well on.  
I will I think have the others made by it.  
They told me this winter that some of my old  
shirts deserved new buttons.

So much for clothes. Now I want you  
to tell me what you think about bringing  
my Eden home this vacation. I would like  
to have it here during term time and it is  
questionable whether during this short vaca-  
tion it could pay for the expense of  
transportation. If you think best I will  
pack it again. I want to read

studiously while at home because I have  
not read a word this term owing to  
making up. I am not one to read fast I  
remember without effort and I feel as  
though I shall be deficient when I  
come to call in my term paper thoughts  
on the various subjects which must be  
treated of while here & when I have  
left College. I shall not be able to read  
this letter today - Tuesday - as my lesson this  
forenoon will take up all my time &  
I now go to Breakfast.

Sun. afternoon - I have just returned from  
dinner. There is a preparation at this  
time down at the battery every noon for a  
half an hour. I sometimes go down. We  
have a meeting in one of our associations some  
three times a week from 12 to 12 1/2.

There was preaching almost every night  
last week at the battery - three by Mr.  
J. S. G. Abbott - once by Mr. Moore the Metho-

---

4/5/1858

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-032

Bowdoin College

---

Bowd. Coll .  
April 5, 1858.

My dear Mother

Saturday afternoon I was writing on my 1st Theme. I am now pretty much made up, all but my themes. Our vacation. is at hand. I suppose our Examination will occur on Tuesday two weeks from tomorrow. Expect me as soon as Wednesday for my stay at home is to be so short I don't mean to delay getting there. I hope you are well mother if so it seems to me I shall have a very pleasant visit. My clothes perhaps more than usual will need your attention if you are well. I have been away a long time now. I want a pair at least of good shirts and if you could get the cloth so as to have them set about soon after I get home it would be well. I want a couple of Collars to say the least.

I have left in a condition to be worn only that pair of black pants which were Otis'. I have just put them on. Hope they will last the fortnight. The tailor is making me a pair of black Doe Skin as I found those others wore so remarkably well. I have one shirt which sets well and I will I think have the others made by it. They told me this winter that some of my old shirts deserved new bosoms.

So much for clothes. Now I want you to tell me what you think about bringing my Aeolean home this vacation. I would like to have it here during term time and it is questionable whether during this short vacation it would pay for the expense of transportation. If you think best I will pack it again. I want to read studiously while at home because I have not read a word this time owing to making up. I am not one to read fast and remember without effort and I feel as though I shall be deficient when I come to call on my mind for thoughts on the various subjects which must be treated of while here and when I have left College.

Tues. afternoon. I have just returned from dinner. There is a prayer meeting at this time down at the vestry every noon for a half hour. I sometimes go down. We have a meeting in one of our recitation rooms three times a week from 12 to 12 1/2.

There was preaching almost every night last week at the vestry, once by Mr. J. S. C. Abbott, once by Mr. Morse the Methodist, once by Prof Packard and by Dr. Adams. Dr. Adams was up at my room this forenoon. He has never been here before and I have never known him to call on any student since I have been in College. He knocked at the door, I said "Come" and he opened the door and looking in and seeing several in here studying (as it was just about recitation time) he remarked that he would call again at some other time and retired. George Moody a particular friend of mine of my class and who rooms on this floor has just indulged a hope in Christ. There have been some out of every class.

Possibly I may come Tuesday, Mother, but if it is not perfectly convenient you needn't send to the cars. I can walk down, if I come. I have heard from Dellie. He is well. Give my love to Father. I am gladder than ever that vacation is at hand.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard



Bowd. Coll. Mar. 28, 1857

My dear mother

I have an opportunity of sending a letter  
thru' by Mr. Fuller of my class. He is going up in the car.  
So I thought I would write a few lines at least.

Mr. Fuller's mother is just gone with the Consumption. His  
father wrote Saturday for him to come home and he  
will not be back this term. He has been fearing  
she would be worse this Spring. His sister was at the  
Maine State Sem. but went home last week. He looks  
pretty well. He will probably for a most estimable parent  
making his home in a pecuniary destitute. He will also  
lose his college privileges of the remainder of this term  
which is about 3 weeks and they are of more account  
as Prof. Chastanour goes away at the close of this term.  
and he will lose his lectures & other instruction.

Fuller has been with me about as much as tho' we  
used the same room. We have got nearly all our papers  
together. We read the Mental Philosophy aloud reading  
each alternate sections. Sometimes I am in his room  
which is by the side of mine & sometimes he is in  
mine. He is reading my Independent here now. He tells  
the Transcript & I have the reading of that. I forget  
whether I have written since I got my last papers or  
not. I will not trouble you to send any more this  
term as I have my part to attend to now & can



have little time to read.

What a beautiful morning we have. I got up about 5 o'clock & got my Chemistry. After breakfast I went down to Mr. Meeryman's as I do every pleasant morning to hear Vetterlein but we frequently go out to catch the morning air. Today we went to walk & I talked on the subject of the lesson with him instead of having a lesson from the text book.

I went to Church on the Hill yesterday. Dr. Adams exchanged with Mr. Walker of State St. Church in Portland - He is a young man & very interesting preacher. On the evening I went to the Vestry to hear the first of a series of sermons by Prof. Ogbert Smyth. His subject appeared to be God as the moral Gov. of the Universe - Besides the natural evidences of this & those from the reason of the thing he spoke of the direct communications of God recorded in the Bible - 1<sup>st</sup> the Prohibition of Adam & Eve - 2<sup>d</sup> the Decalogue - 3<sup>d</sup> the Transfiguration scene when He said "this is my beloved Son - Hear ye Him."

We have every reason to believe what was commemorated in the two last holds good now & will always hold good. Christ came to fulfill the Law.

I was over to Mrs. Frost's last Thursday noon. Saw Mrs. Patten there. She went out in the train expecting to meet her husband on Brunswick side & go to Bath. They came up the day before to Mr. Center's

funeral. He was a cousin of Mrs. P. I believe. One of her daughters Anna Patten was there & was going to stay till Sat. Ann Octavia was down to Bath. Her hour then some time going to a private school & taking lessons in music of Ella.

Ella I suppose you know talks of going to N. York & to West Point among other places. C. has invited me to come & spend the next winter with him. I should like to go - What do you think about it?

I have a great notion of getting a school to keep this fall.

I have not heard from Richard for some time nor from Dillin for a week. I want to get a letter from home soon. How does the wood pile come on?

They expect Albert Patten home the first of May or before & Ella will not probably start for N.Y. till after he comes. She is going to Mr. George Patten's wedding which occurs in June.

The snow is almost all gone here but I suppose you have a goodly quantity yet. I must now bring my letter to a close & get my lesson. It is full time. I see I have written this rather poorly - be much for haste. Give my love to Fanny & remember me to Richard & Elizabeth & Johny - To Thomas & Abbie if they are there. How does the R.R. come on?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard -



---

3/28/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-033

Bowdoin College

---

Bowd. Coll.  
Mar. 28, 1859

My dear Mother

I have an opportunity of sending a letter thro' by Mr. Fuller of my class. He is going up in the cars, so I thought I would write a few lines at least.

Mr. Fuller's mother is just gone with the Consumption. His father wrote Saturday for him to come home and he will not be back this term. He has been fearing she would be worse this Spring. His sister was at the Maine State Sem. but went home last week. He looks pretty solemn. He will probably lose a most estimable parent making his home in a measure desolate. He will also lose his college privileges of the remainder of this term which is about 3 weeks and they are of more account as Prof. Chadbourne goes away at the close of this term and he will lose his lectures and other instruction.

Fuller has been with me about as much as tho' we used the same room. We have got nearly all our lessons together. We read the Mental Philosophy aloud, reading each alternate sections. Sometimes I am in his room which is by the side of mine and sometimes he is in mine. He is reading my Independent here now. He takes the Transcript and I have the reading of that. I forget whether I have written since I got my last papers or not. I will not trouble you to send any more this term as I have my part to attend to now and can have little time to read.

What a beautiful morning we have. I got up about 5 o'clock to get my Chemistry. After breakfast I went down to Mr. Meryman's as I do every pleasant morning to hear Nettie recite but we frequently go out to take the morning air. Today we went to walk and talked on the subject of the lesson with her instead of hearing a lesson from the text book.

I went to church on the Hill yesterday. Dr. Adams [Rev George Eliashib Adams] exchanged with Mr. Walker of State St. Church in Portland. He is a young man and a very interesting preacher. In the evening I went to the Vestry to hear the first of a series of sermons by Prof. Egbert Smyth. His subject appeared to be God as the moral Gov. of the Universe. Besides the natural evidences of this and those from the reason of the thing he spoke of the direct Communications <> recorded in the Bible. First the Prohibition to Adam and Eve, 2d the Decalogue, 3d the Transfiguration Scene when He said "This is my beloved Son, Hear ye Him." We have every reason to believe what was communicated in the two last holds good now and will always hold good. Christ came to fulfill the Law.

I was over to Mrs. Frost's last Thursday noon. Saw Mrs. Potter there. She went out in the train expecting to meet her husband on Brunswick side and go to Bath. They came up the day before to Mr. Center's funeral. He was a cousin of Mrs. P. I believe. One of his daughters Anna Hattie was there and was going to stay till Sat. Ann Octavia was down to Bath. Has been there some time going to a private school and taking lessons in music of Ella.

Ella I suppose you know talks of going to N. York and to West Point among other places. Otis has invited her to come and spend the next winter with him. I should like to go. What do you think about it? I have a great notion of getting a school to keep this Fall. I have not heard from Rowland for some time nor from Dellie for a week. I want to get a letter from him soon. How does the wood pile come on?

They expect Albert Potter home the first of May or before and Ella will not probably start for N.Y. till after he comes. She is going to Mr. George Potter's wedding which occurs in June.

The snow is almost all gone here but I suppose you have a goodly quantity yet. Give my love to Father and remember me to Roland and Cynthia and Johnny, to Thomas and Abbie if they are there. How does the R.R. come on?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard



I had the highest hopes  
& I trust noble sons to  
attain but for some months  
yes for years now I may say  
I have with difficulty  
refrained from feelings of  
discouragement. I want  
to benefit the world, but how  
can I? I feel like a man  
lugging under an insupportable  
weight - sometimes I'll muster  
strength enough to lift it up  
& try on for a little distance  
& then I give away & soon I go  
down - down. But now there  
is something bright ahead is -

Especially of you & Melville. I can't  
stop to tell you my dear boys - I'll  
come when I have finished what my  
hands now find to do. I'll Apr. 27, 1839.  
do this with what little "might" there  
left in me - Affectionately yours  
My dear friend L. H. Newman

You don't know how  
glad I was to have such a letter  
from you & Melville. I did not  
know Melville was with you before  
& did not even know certainly when  
you was or what you was there  
for. I am bad enough off to  
be sure but after thinking & pray-  
ing over the subject a good deal  
I cannot think it is better for  
me to leave college now. If I  
left I could not graduate in  
this class & I should never want  
to enter another - My friends  
would not appreciate my case  
fully - no one would understand  
it as you & Melville would. I  
am no worse than I have been



for four or five years that I  
know off. To be sure I have  
had sniffles three or more  
times during the week past  
but I don't expect to have  
another for several weeks.

I am delighted at the prospect  
of your being cured but don't  
dare to hope such an attain-  
ment for myself. No one  
had spoken to you my dear  
fellows - I thank you so

much for your interest in me.  
If I live till the 10th of Aug. with  
you are benefited in the mean-  
while as you expect to be, then from N. Y. to see me graduate.  
I will go to Hill. I was  
intending to teach this fall  
but I will give that up.

Write me what you do say  
when you get up in the morning  
when breakfast what you do  
before & after. I think you enjoy

yourself during <sup>the day</sup> - Don't the Doc.  
think you better read any? That  
is strange. Are there any  
others with the same trouble  
as yourselves. You said other  
patients but I didn't know  
what their ailments were.

I shall - if I live so long - sure  
come to Hill, but I do hope  
that you know how glad I'd  
be to have your company that  
you will be well here before  
that time. My folks are looking  
with high hopes to see you -  
Some one coming

I shall not do very well  
& chiefly I think owing to this  
deplorable difficulty - I shall  
not be good for anything in this  
world - with this body unless  
I am relieved from this  
life-drawing disease.



---

4/27/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Julius ?

CHH-034

Leeds, Maine

---

Leeds Me.

Apr. 27, 1859.

My dear Julius

You don't know how glad I was to have such a letter from you and Melville. I did not know Melville was with you before and did not even know certainly where you was or what you was there for. I am bad enough off to be sure but after thinking and praying over the subject a good deal I cannot think it is better for me to leave College now. If I left I could not graduate in this Class and I should never want to enter another. My friends would not appreciate my case fully, no one would understand it as you and Melville would. I am no worse than I have been for four or five years that I know of. To be sure I have had stuffiness three or more times during the week past but I don't expect to have another for several weeks. I am delighted at the prospect of your being Cured but don't dare to hope such an attainment for myself. Go on, God speed to you my dear fellows. I thank you so much for your interest in me. If I live till the 10th of August and you are benefited in the meanwhile, as you expect to be, then I will go to Hill. I was intending to teach this Fall but I will give that up.

Write me what you do, say when you get up in the morning, when breakfast, what you do before and after and how you occupy yourself during the day. Don't the Doct. think you better read any? That is strange. Are there any others with the same trouble as yourselves. You said other patients but I didn't know what their ailments were.

I shall, if I live so long, surely come to Hill, but I do hope (though you know how glad I'd be to have your company) that you will be well men before that time. My folks are looking with high hopes to my Commencement. Some are coming from N.Y. to see me graduate. I shall not do very well and chiefly I think owing to this deplorable difficulty. I shall not be good for anything in this world, with this body, only I am relieved from this life draining disease. I had the highest hopes and I trust noble ends to attain but for some months, yes for years now I may say I have with difficulty refrained from feelings of discouragement. I want to benefit the world, the human race, but how can I do it if dragged down by this load. I feel like a man tugging under an insupportable weight. Sometimes I'll muster strength enough to lift it up and try on for a little distance and then I give away and more, I go down, down. But now there is something bright ahead, especially if you and Melville get cured. God bless you my dear boys. I'll come when I have finished what my "hands now find to do." I'll do this with what little "might" there is left in me.

Affectionately yours

C. H. Howard

I go to Brunswick week from Friday. Write before if you can, if not write me just as soon as you can. I want to know how you get along. Gratify me will you?

C.H.H.



Miss Alden of Bangor who was here & formed  
Nattie's acquaintance two years ago - a relation  
of Webster - another classmate - will be there. Miss  
Mason of Portland who is a young lady friend of  
Nattie's & who will remember as being here last  
year & becoming interested in Religion, will be  
another one - Then on three other ladies - 2 from  
Portsmouth N. H. & one from Bowdoinham that they  
expect somewhat - So you will be prepared for a  
crowd. There may not all come. If they do all  
will be just as well - only perhaps the men  
won't fare so well. - I forgot to say that on Thurs-  
day there would be a Devotion by Dr Hedge of  
Cambridge before the Maine Historical Society.  
I had a letter from Della last night - He don't  
know when to come - so I have written him to come  
Monday with you. - I want you to be sure &  
tell Otis what I forgot in my letter to him - that Della  
Lard sent a word as long ago as the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. to bring  
both the children at any rate. Perhaps this has been  
the intention I perhaps not - but she & they all are very  
anxious to see them both & Helen says she will take  
all the care of them if they will only come.

Don't think, brother, that Nettie was unhappy at Leeds, these days. It was one of the pleasantest & happiest weeks of her life & she wants to go again & would after Comm. if it was agreeable to you & her school was done. But she teaches a week after Comm. She has never mentioned to any one what I said to you - wouldn't have told me if I had not seen it myself & spoken about it - It was of no consequence.

I can write you if you like - But  
I will write you if you like - But  
I will write you if you like - But

Rowland T. Howard  
July 26, 1839  
Horton College

It was with the greatest pleasure

It was with the greatest pleasure I received your letter last night. I meant to have written you before but have been so busy with my part that I could not get time. I have written two since that one Rowland knew about - that did not suit the president & after talking with Prof. <sup>Chamberlain</sup> but not seeing the Pres. I wrote another. This seemed to suit Prof. C. but when I came to see the Pres. I found he wanted me to write on a different plan or rather it was almost a different subject. That was only last Thursday. I felt rather discouraged at first but finally sat down & wrote Friday but did not like what I had got at all. I felt well satisfied & began & wrote the whole thing & after rewriting part of it yesterday I carried it in to Prof. C. & the Pres. & neither found any fault & so my part is done - finished last night!

You did not write when you was coming but I suppose the first train on Monday - arriving here at 2 1/4 - At 2 1/2 the exercises of our class day begin - You would enjoy witnessing them I doubt not - First an Oration & Poem by members of our class - then at the Old Tree - a Class History - a Prophecy - an address to the tree - an ode written by



Fulber will then be sung by all who can sing - then we each take one draught from a big pipe - the Calumet of peace and all our difficulties & differences vanish away in smoke. Prize Decl. of Juniors Mond. Eve.

Oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Tuesday forenoon will probably be the most able production of Government work - It is by President Sears of Brown University. Tuesday P.M. Oration & Poem before the United Societies Attn. Please.

Dr. Holland Editor of the Springfield Republican & author of Litchcomb letters & a new Poem "Bitter Sweet" is the orator & will give something exceedingly fine - Poem by Melville Fuller of Augusta. Concert by the Germania Band in the eve: will be the best you listened to here it is said - They will try to out-do Dordworth as this is the first time a change has been made for several years - and as they do not come so far we can expect to have 6 more pieces (instruments) than we had from Dordworth.

I am glad you are preparing some shirts for my broom button-holes are giving out. I am intending to go home after home. so you must not bring them. I want two night shirts - and shall want two undershirts fixed up out of some old ones - these we can see to after I get home.

I want them very short not coming below my wrist. I shall want some mending done.

You ask about Nettie she gets along admirably in her school - all seem to love her & they have had trouble for a good many years before. She said she wanted to write to you & that she should get a chance this week but she is very busy out of school sewing for herself - she had a great deal to do as she has been going to school & then went right to teaching & she has some idea of going away to school this fall. She thinks very thing of you & has been intending to see you a good deal this term. She spoke about Laura & said she wanted her to come & stop then. Give my love to Laura & tell her I shall be glad to see her every day & hour except a few minutes on Wednesday when I am going to send all my friends out of the shuting-house - But now I think of it I shall keep Laura because she will be looking so cheerful & will laugh & not cry if I should happen to blunder. You never can dispense with people of this cheerful spirit.

Unavoidably there will be a great crowd at Mrs. Meryman's - But you must expect such at home. Mr. Howe's lady. Miss Bushman of Auburn who stopped there last year will be there - She is a fine - unassuming - easy - appearing young lady - she is preceptor of a Female Seminary in Penn.



---

7/26/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-035

Bowdoin

---

Bowdoin College,  
July 26, 1859.

My dear Mother

It was with the greatest pleasure I received your letter last night. I meant to have written before but have been so busy with my part that I could not get time. I have written two since that one Rowland knew about. That did not suit the President and after talking with Prof. [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain, but not seeing the Pres. I wrote another. This seemed to suit Prof. C. but when I came to see the Pres. I found he wanted me to write on a different plan or rather it was almost a different subject. That was only last Thursday. I felt rather discouraged at first but finally sat down and wrote Friday but did not like what I had got at all. I felt well Saturday and began and wrote the whole thing and after rewriting part of it yesterday I carried it in to Prof. C. and the Pres. and neither found any fault and so my part is done, finished last night!

You did not write when you was coming but I suppose the first train on Monday, arriving here at 2 1/4 At 2 1/2 the exercises of our class day begin. You would enjoy witnessing these I doubt not. First an Oration and Poem by members of my class, then at the old tree, a class History, a Prophecy, an address to the tree, an Ode written by Fuller will then be sung by all who can sing. Then we each take one draught from a big pipe, the Calumet of peace and all our difficulties and differences vanish away in smoke. Prize declamation of Juniors Mond. Eve. Oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Tuesday forenoon will probably be the most able production of Commencement week. It is by President Sears of Brown University. Tuesday P.M. Oration and Poem before the United Societies Ath. and Peac. Dr. Holland Editor of the Springfield Republican and author of Titcomb Letters and a new Poem "Bitter Sweet" is the Orator and will give something exceedingly fine. Poem by Melville Fuller of Augusta. Concert by the Germania Band in the eve, will be the best ever listened to here it is said. They will try to out do Dodworth as this is the first time a change has been made for several years and as they do not come so far we can afford to have 6 more pieces (instruments) than we had from Dodworth.

I am glad you are preparing some shirts for my bosom buttonholes are giving out. I am intending to go home after Com., so you must not bring them. I want two night shirts and shall want two undershirts fixed up out of some old ones and these we can see to after I get home. I want them very short, not coming below my waist. I shall want some mending done.

You ask about Nettie. She gets along admirably in her school. All seem to love her and they have had trouble for a good many years before. She said she wanted to write to you and that she should get a chance this week, but she is very busy out of school, sewing for herself. She had a great deal to do as she had been going to school & then went right to teaching & she has some idea going away to school this fall. She "thinks every thing" of you & has been intending to see you a good deal this <>. She spoke about Laura and said she wanted her to come & stop there. Give my love to Laura and tell her I shall be glad to see her every day and hour except a few minutes on Wednesday when I am going to send all my friends out of the Meeting house. But now I think of it I shall keep Laura because she will be looking so cheerful and will laugh and not cry if I should happen to blunder. You never can dispense with people of this Cheerful spirit.

Unavoidably there will be a great crowd at Mrs Meryman's . But you must expect such at Com. Mr. Howe's lady, Miss Cushman of Auburn who stopped there last year will be there. She is a fine, unassuming, easy appearing young lady. She is Preceptress of a Female Seminary in Penn. Miss Alden of Bangor who was here and found Nettie's acquaintance two years ago, a relation of Webster, another classmate, will be there. Miss Mason of Portland who is a young lady friend of Nettie's and Otis will remember as being here last year and becoming interested in religion, will be another one.

There are three other ladies, 2 from Portsmouth N.H. and one from Bowdoinham that they expect somewhat. So you will be prepared for a crowd. These may not all come. If they do all will be just as well, only perhaps the men wont fare so well. I forgot to say that on Thursday there would be an Oration by Dr. Hedge of Cambridge before the Maine Historical Society. I had a letter from Dellie last night. He



don't know when to come, so I have written him to come Monday with you. I want you to be sure and tell Otis what I forgot in my letter to him, that Helen Sands sent a word as long ago as the 4th inst. to bring both the children at any rate. Perhaps this has been the intention and perhaps not, but she and they all are very anxious to see them both and Helen says she will take all the care of them both if they will only come.

Don't think, Mother, that Nettie was unhappy at Leeds. She says it was one of the pleasantest and happiest weeks of her life and she wants to go again and would after Com. if it was agreeable to you and her school was done. But she teaches a week after Com. She has never mentioned to any one what I said to you. Wouldn't have told me if I had not seen it myself and spoken about it. It was of no consequence.

I am sorry you did not write some of your intentions and I guess you must either write or get Rowland or Otis to. But Rowland is going to preach at Harpswell next Sab. I hear. Father will come won't he? Farewell,

Your most Affectionate Son  
C.H.Howard.







other. My room opening out of this is warmed by the coal fire  
they always keep here - The water house is supplied with gas.  
I rise at the firing of the gun at 5 1/2 o'clock - Go down & kindle  
a fire & warm some water as speedily as possible - Eliza comes down  
before it is ready usually & gives me my morning bath in a little kind  
of closet about 16 by 6 feet which is under the cellar stairs - Opening  
out of the kitchen - He has a tub about 8 feet long made to sit down in - I am  
in - In this I wash the clothes too - I am full of water upon me & on the  
floor for many miles - Can see where Arnold lived - Get a  
then gives me a brisk rubbing first with towels & then with his  
hand - I then step out where water is caught in the tub & clean  
out & go out & split wood till nearly seven when I come up & get  
ready for Breakfast. We have prayers when B. is over & by that  
time it is nearly or quite 8 when Eliza goes to his recitations. We  
later we get three prayers in time for me to go out & witness "Guard"  
mounting - for the first time, I have spent yesterday - passed at night.  
Sometimes Eliza & very frequently Lizzie goes with me to parade.  
Two or three times I have been down to Butterfield Falls. Eliza  
makes some of his purchases down there. He got my two & a half & a quarter  
down there last at another time he went to the mill & got some  
Cordons flowers & some Indian corn which are almost indispensable  
in my diet - I find that almost all the dishes as cooked for the  
family are spoiled for me either by salt or spice or fat & grease of  
some kind - But I have persisted in telling Lizzie till I now ~~mean~~  
get my vegetables without salt - bread without this or any other  
was ingredient & sometimes lean & "cracked" wheat & green hominy in  
its primitive purity. The weather has been very cold since I  
came till yesterday when it was quite warm & pleasant - This  
morning the air is mild & the sun bright - the most beautiful

weather. My health continues to improve I think - It is at  
least as good as it has been any time since I left home.  
I enjoy the scenery & sights of this place very much - Lizzie  
& my aunt with me up to the fort Putnam yesterday - brought  
a good view from there & we had an opportunity of seeing one  
of the old fortifications of the Revolution - It is quite in ruins but  
gives me a good idea of how forts are constructed - We can  
see where Arnold lived - Get a  
complete view of Cold Spring & can take in West Point at a glance.  
I very enjoyed the climb made - the first part of the way led me  
to his mother's home but it brought me down gathering materials by  
the way which he wished me to carry in my pocket. He & Anne  
were playing here in the room now - I am getting used to their noise  
playing now but at first I could not well write when they were  
about. Lizzie is making away a play - I have got home a stuff.  
He mended a pair of old black pants for me yesterday - I wish I  
could make my clothes last this winter - The officers in Eliza's dressing  
room to wear in the house - said he never saw it. This seems very  
good coat & looks better than the old one which I work in.  
Eliza went to N. Y. yesterday to get Helen Land to come & make us  
a visit - as Nathan wrote she would be there on her way to Depart N. Y.  
& teach - He could not find her - a fact he learned that the Porters boat  
did not arrive till this afternoon. He may go this way going by Newburg.  
He is going to the Rev. Mr. Wilder's school - He used to live in B. & in  
Lopshaw when Rowland & I went to school there - Lizzie his daughter was Nettie's  
teacher in the High School. Perry Lee wrote Eliza a few days ago from  
Port Jervis (if we read it right) a point above here where he is  
carrying a vessel for Ashmole - He is so fortunate as to have bought a



---

10/25/1859      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-036                      West Point, NY

---

West Point Oct. 25, 1859.

My dear Mother

A week ago last Friday I came here and Otis wrote you a letter that night after I went to bed. Since then I have been so much occupied with choring for Otis and visiting the novelties of West Point that I could not get time to write the letters I desired to. I feel badly sometimes to be fully absorbed before when I was engaged in no regular employment. My baths take considerable - the water is down in the entry room of the cellar kitchen. It has to be tempered with warm. My tub sits in my bed room, which opens out of the dining and sitting rooms. The house has two rather small front rooms with a hall and front stairs between they come up from the kitchen underneath the stairs of the front entry. But instead of taking my water through the sitting room (where I am now writing at Otis' desk) I turn to my right and go back into a little entry on the west or back side of the house and that opens into "Lizzie's" company bed room" the only unoccupied room we have and through that I go to my room with the water entering it on the opposite side from this room. They have but one chamber where Otis and Lizzie sleep with Grace in her little crib at the foot of their bed and Guy in a kind of box-bed Otis has made for him, in another corner of the room two "Luthern" windows open into the chamber and one small window at one end. There is a bedroom for the girls partly behind the parlor and in the west by north part of the house. They like this home better than they did the other. My room opening out of this is warmed by the coal fire they always keep here. The whole house is supplied with gas.

I rise at the firing of the gun at 5:30 o'clock - go down and kindle a fire and warm some water as speedily as possible. Otis comes down before it is warm usually and gives me my morning bath in a little kind of a closet about 10 by 6 feet which is under the cellar stairs - opening out of the kitchen. He has a tub about 8 feet long made to lie down in. In this I stand and he dashes two pails full of water upon me and then gives me a brisk rubbing first with towels and then with his hands. I then dip out what water is caught in the tub and carry it out and go out and split wood till nearly seven when I come in and get ready for breakfast. We have prayers when B. is over and by that time it is nearly or quite 8 when Otis goes to his recitations.

Yesterday we got through prayers in time for me to go out and witness "Guard-mounting" for the first time, I have often witnessed parade at night. Sometimes Otis and very frequently Lizzie goes with me to parade. Two or three times I have been down to Buttermilk Falls. Otis makes some purchases there. He got my tub and a pail and thermometer there and at another time they went to the mill and got flour - graham and some Indian which are almost indispensable in my diet. I find that almost all the dishes as cooked for the family are spoilt for me either by salt or spice or fat and grease of some kind. But I have persisted in telling Lizzie and till I now usually get my vegetables without salt, bread and "cracker wheat" and even hominy in its pristine purity.

The weather has been very cold since I came till yesterday when it was quite warm and pleasant. This morning the air is mild and bright the most healthful weather. My health continues to improve I think. It is at least as good than it has been any time since I left home. I enjoy the scenery and sights of this place very much. Lizzie and Guy went with me up to old Fort Putman yesterday. You get a grand view from there and we had an opportunity of seeing one of the old fortresses of the Revolution. It is quite in ruins but it gave me a good idea of how forts are constructed. We can see the river for many miles - Can see where Arnold lived - get a complete view of Cold Spring and can take in West Point at a glance. Guy enjoyed the climb much - the first part of the way he held on to his mother's hand but at length ran alone gathering walnuts by the way which he wished me to carry in my pocket. He and Grace are playing here now - I am getting used to their noisy playing now but at first I could not well write when they were about. Lizzie is making Guy a flag - I have got him a staff. She mended a pair of old black pants for me yesterday - I wish I could make my clothes last this winter. She offered me Otis' dressing gown to wear in the house - said he never wore it. This covers my good coat and looks better than the old one which I work in.

Otis went to N.Y. yesterday to get Helen Sands to come up and make us a visit as Nettie wrote she would be there on her way to Deposit, N.Y. to teach. He could not find her - in fact he learned that the



Portland boat did not arrive till this afternoon. She may go this way – going by Newberry. She is going to the Rev. Mr. Wilder's school – he used to live in B. and in Topsham when Rowland and I went to school there. Susie, his daughter was Nettie's teacher in the High School.

Perry Lee wrote Otis a few days ago from Port Ewen (if we read it rightly) a point above here where he is loading a vessel for Aspinwall. He is so fortunate as to have bought a share in and later the command of a brig this time. Otis feels his loss but does not mind it much. He saw Mr. Bacon his agent yesterday. Has not invested the remnant yet. I think Otis lives for something higher and better than the accumulation of money and he is really prudent and saving in order that he may have something to be more useful with and may educate his children.

He and Lizzie spoke of my staying here till next spring. I had not expected to remain so long. Perry wrote Otis not long before I came. He is probably back at Bangor ere this. Dellie sent us a letter in Nettie's the day before I left Hill. He saw considerable of Ella during the Fair at Topsham. I took dinner Wed. and Thurs. with Mrs. Hazard. She seems very glad to see me. Gave me a full account of Oliver's and her father's death [Note 1]. She said that Oliver's wife had sent her a very saucy letter demanding a brocade silk pattern for a dress and a very elegant parasol that was in Oliver's trunk when it came on. After consulting Mrs. Pain Esq. she took no notice of the letter. Wed. night I spent with Harris and King – my class mates at Newton Seminary – Carleton, Rowland's classmate was also there and helped entertain us. I was very glad I went out there – only 6 miles – took the train in the Worcester Depot. Otis will soon be back from Rec. I have taken my bath. Since breakfast shoveled into the wood-house some coal. I now go and get the mail. It is half a mile or more across the plains to the P.O. We are right up by the dock where the ferry boat lands, but you stopped down at Cozzins - Lizzie says.

We are a few steps south of the Academic building and the P.O. is away over by the Soldiers Barracks. This is one of my regular duties to go get the daily and have it here for Otis. I am going to tell you of our S. School and of Otis preaching down at Buttermilk Falls last Sat. and how he and I walked down and he preached again in the eve and I was up here and went to church with Lizzie and at 2:30 took a class of the S.S. while he was down there attending the funeral of a little child. But I must close with my love to all and any abundance to yourself.

From your affectionate son,  
C.H. Howard

[Note 1: Mrs. Olive B. (Woodman) Hazard, a first cousin of Charles, married Samuel Lester Hazard Feb. 9, 1840. Her parents were Ephraim Woodman (d. Sept 24, 1859) and Sally B Otis (d Sept 27, 1822). Her brother Oliver Otis Woodman died Aug 30, 1859, aged 42.]



contradicted the report - Some one must have assumed  
Leapt Patten's name. Dellie was doing fine, when last  
we heard which was not very recently. - We all say  
"Poor Perry"! but he was <sup>presumed</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>sent</sup> the Corps.

Mr Bacon wrote that he <sup>(Perry)</sup> lost his baggage.  
We called the children up & read to them what you wrote. They  
remember Uncle Barney & at least his visit there. From  
what you wrote of the little girl who has been with you  
Hannah House - we have hopes that a good work is al-  
ready begun in Leeds. We were glad to learn of any such  
good indications from Oscar.

You speak of my coming home in March - There is little  
chance of my doing so. For if I should leave here as soon  
as that it would be to go to Nassau I think. Otis & I  
have written to Vaughan. Hope you will find him  
in a good state of mind & body. One of the most  
efficient men in Otis' Bible class - a Sergeant - was taken  
with a ~~lung~~ fever last week & is not expected to live.

"Papa" (Otis) just told the children I was writing to Grandmother  
more so that they both came & kissed me & read you & they spoke  
up & said "I want to read one to Grandpa tomorrow too" - so  
Grace & I chose it & both gave me a kiss again. Otis said <sup>Grandma</sup>  
has no present <sup>for</sup> Christmas - Grace says a "kiss" for kiss. They  
have innumerable presents & fine things & their parents try  
hard to make their good children. Seems as tho' they  
must be good worthy members of society if they live.

My love to Roland & Elizabeth & little Johnny & a happy new  
year to them & the little one - My love to Father - Affectionately  
yours C. H. Howard -

P.S. My writing seems to be unusually poor today which  
is entirely needless. I hope you won't have difficulty in  
deciphering - C. H. H.

West Point Dec. 27, 1859 -

My dear Mother

Being desirous you may get a letter before  
leaving home I will begin this today tho' I cannot mail it  
till tomorrow. Your two letters to Otis & myself came in good  
time bringing the news of Uncle Barney's death. Otis cried  
out Oh! before he had read for told us Uncle Barney was  
dead. It seems as tho' I could see his good natured  
countenance now but I can never see it again on  
earth. We were glad of the particulars & have felt like  
<sup>removing</sup> the remnants of the family in our family prayers.  
We kneel twice a day - just after breakfast in the  
morning when the children are with us & just before  
retiring at night. They kneel down between his father  
& me by his little chair & Grace beside her mother & Otis  
begins always with the Lord's prayer which they repeat with  
him. - Naturally enough we felt much attached to  
Uncle Barney for he took a lively interest in us & in  
you dear mother. Still we cannot wish him back  
for his end was peaceful & he is now at rest in  
the Saviour's bosom. What better words could we wish to  
have upon the lips of a dying friend?

The members of the Baptist Church pass rapidly  
away and few come forward to fill their places. May  
we not hope that these afflictions of the people may  
effect what prosperity has failed to do - may lead some



to renounce the service of the world & cleave unto the Lord.  
From the distance we view it there seems good  
ground to hope for better things - an awakening to a  
sense of the importance of divine things among the people  
of Leeds. Let us look to the Lord for his blessing.

Yesterday we had our Christmas tree for the S. S. & S. S. at our Soldier's Chapel - It was a pleasant occasion. We  
have been preparing for it for weeks. Lizzie & I went to  
Newburgh & got many of the toys, candies &c & then we  
sent to N. Y. & also received presents. Many of the young  
officers sent Otis a dollar or two to be spent for this  
purpose. - We got it ready to light up about 4 1/2 last night.  
The children received delight. The tree looked beautifully lighted  
with wax candles of all colors & covered with glittering toys.  
While the presents (of which there were 3 or more for each  
of the 70 scholars, including a book of pieces) were distrib-  
uted the scholars sang little children's hymns such as  
we have been wont to sing Sabbath days. When we got  
home Guy had the present of a little Chest of Carpenter's  
tools from his father - a beautiful little gift & Guy was  
perfectly beside himself with delight. Grace had a little  
ten set. They also rec'd the present of two splendid books  
from Mr Wright a young officer, down here from  
West Troy - He graduated last summer & came down  
to a wedding of a classmate who was, (with the bride  
also) a teacher in our Sabbath school.

It has been a pleasant & not cold day today - the  
sun maintaining the surface of the ground by his warm rays.

Not enough snow for sleighing. The Cadets were skating on  
the river yesterday. They were released from duty for one  
day. We expect to attend a lecture at the Falls today.

Roland I suppose spent Christmas with Ellen as  
she wrote us not long since that she ~~participates~~ a  
Christmas present - a letter from Nettie  
containing an ambrotype of herself. She has had a bad  
cold but is well again - She was quite sick with it for  
a while missing two days of school. She is wishing for  
a vacation - I sent her no present - Wish the Motion could  
have been transferred to Brunswick as you are to that  
it up in the cold. It might have been sent for a New  
Years present by express to <sup>Care of</sup> Mr Waitelle's, <sup>Meriden</sup>, her  
father. If you had known my wish before I suppose  
you would have had it done but I fear it is too late  
now. - Otis has finished his lecture to be given  
in the ~~cones~~ at the Falls, week from tonight. Subject  
"Ambition". We are to have some Concerts by the Cant  
given in the Library during the Winter - It on tomorrow  
(Wed) night - To the officers & citizens exclusively tomorrow  
eve - To the Cadets & others Sat. eve - the same being re-  
peated. They are free Concerts. The library is beautifully  
lighted with gas & well warmed with 3 big stoves.  
Otis & I study the Greek testament there on loan from  
12 to 1 every day.

We were astonished by seeing in yesterday's paper  
that Capt. Lincoln Potter had been working in the Pictorial  
House "wonder" but as we anticipated today's paper



---

12/27/1859      *From:* Charles H Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-037                      West Point, NY

---

West Point Dec 27, 1859

My dear Mother

Being desirous you may get a letter before leaving home I wil begin this today tho' I cannot mail it till tomorrow. Your two letters to Ots & myself came in good time bringing the news of Uncle Barney's death [Barnabas Howard, d Dec. 14, 1859, was a younger brother of Charles' grandfather, Seth Howard]. Otis cried out Oh! before he had read far & told us Uncle Barney was dead. It seems as tho' I could see his good natured countenance now but I can never see it again on earth. We are glad of the particulars & have felt like remembering the remnants of the family in our family prayers. We kneel twice a day just after breakfast in the morning when the children are with us & just before retiring at night. Guy kneels down between his father & me by his little chair & Grace beside her mother & Otis begins always with the Lord's prayer which they repeat with him. Naturally enough we felt much attached to Uncle Barney for he took a lively interest in us & in you dear Mother. Still we cannot wish him back for his end was peaceful and he is now at rest in the Savior's bosom. What better words could we wish to have upon the lips of a dying friend?

The members of the Baptist Church pass rapidly away and few come forward to fill their places. May we not hope that these afflictions of the people may effect what prosperity has failed to do - may lead some to renounce the service of the world & cleave unto the Lord. From the distance we view it there seems good ground to hope for better things - an awakening to a sense of the importance of divine things among the people of Leeds. Let us look to the Lord for his blessing.

Yesterday we had our Christmas tree for the S. School at our Soldier's Chapel. It was a pleasant occasion. We have been preparing for it for weeks. Lizzy & I went to Newburgh & got many of the toys, candies &c & then we went to N.Y. & also received presents. Many of the young officers sent Otis a dollar or two to be spent for this purpose. We got it ready to light up about 4 ½ last night. The children seemed delighted. The tree looked beautifully, lighted with wax candles of all colors & covered with glittering toys. While the presents (of which there were 3 or more for each of the 70 scholars including a book apiece) were distributed, the scholars sang many little children's hymns such as we have been wont to sing Sabbath days. When we got home, Guy had the present of a little chest of carpenter's tools from his father - a beautiful little gift - & Guy was perfectly beside himself with delight. Grace had a little tea set. They also rec'd the present of two splendid books from Mr [Moses H] Wright a young officer down here from West Troy. He graduated last summer [USMA Class of 1859] & came down to a wedding of a classmate who was (with the bride also) a teacher in our Sabbath School.

It has been a pleasant & not cold day today. The sun moistening the surface of the ground by his warm rays. Not enough slow for sleighing. The Cadets were skating on the river yesterday. They were released from duty for one day. We expect to attend a lecture of the Falls today.

Rowland I suppose spent Christmas with Ella as she wrote us not long since that she had anticipated a visit. I had a Christmas present - a letter from Nettie containing an ambrotype of herself. She has had a bad cold but is well again. She was quite sick with it for a while missing two days of school. She is wishing for a vacation. I sent her no present. Wish the Aeolean could have been transferred to Brunswick as you are to shut it up in the cold. It might have been sent for a New Years present by express to care of Mr Waitstill Meryman, his father. If you had known my wishes before I suppose you would have had it done, but I fear it is too late now.

Otis has finished his lecture to be given in the caves at the Falls, week from today - subject "Ambition". We are to have some concerts by the band given in the library during the winter - 1st one tomorrow (Wed) night - to the officers & citizens exclusively tomorrow eve - to the Cadets & others Sat. eve. - the same being repeated. They are free concerts. The library is beautifully lighted with gas & well warmed with 3 log stoves. Otis & I study the Greek Testament there one hour from 12 to 1 every day.

We were astonished by seeing in yesterday's paper that Capt Lincoln Patten had been saing in the "Piratical Slaver Wanderer" but as we anticipated today's contradicted the report. Someone must have



assumed Capt Patten's name. Dellie was doing finely when last we heard which was not very recently.

We all say "Poor Perry!" but he was insured & also saved the cargo. Mr Bacon wrote that he (Perry) lost his baggage.

We called the children up & read to them what you wrote. Guy remembers Uncle Barney at least his visit there. From what you wrote of it - little girl who has been with you Hannah Gould we have hopes that a good work is already begun in Leeds. We were glad to learn of any such good indications from <there>.

You speak of my coming home in March. There is little change of my doing so for if I should leave here so soon as that it would be to go to Nassau. I think Otis & I have written to Vaughan. Hope you will find him in a good state of mind & body. One of the most efficient men in Otis' Bible class - a Sergeant - was taken with a lung fever last week & is not expected to live.

"Papa" (Otis) just told the children I was writing to Grandma Gilmore, so they both came & kissed me to send you & Guy spoke up & said "I want to send one to Grandpa Gilmore too" so Grace echoed it & both gave me a kiss again. Otis said "Grandma had no present for Christmas" - Grace says "a "tiss" for kiss. They have innumerable presents & fun things & their parents try hard to make them good children. Seems as tho' they must be good worthy members of society if they live.

My love to Roland & Cynthia [Gilmore] & little Johnny & a happy year to them & the little one. My love to Father.

Affectionately yours  
C.H. Howard