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8 1/13/1844 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0008

South Leeds, Me

Hallowell

Care of John Otis, Esq.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Leeds, January 13, 1844

My dear Boy.

I have received your letter by your uncle Ensign [Otis] and am glad to hear you are getting along so well, and so happy. My mind has lately been called to very tender reflections by the death of your aged Grandfather [Seth] Howard, whose remains were committed to the earth last sabbath. [Seth Howard died 5 January, age 81] I did not hear of his death until eleven o'clock of the day he was buried. I prepared myself and the two little boys as soon as possible and went to the meeting house the place of the funeral but the appointment being at ten o'clock the funeral was over and his remains were moving toward the place of interment. All I saw was the coffin that contained the remains of one who I have much reason to remember with respect for his parental came over me my dear little boys. I learn that he has been in a very stupid state this winter, did not know even his own children. Therefore it would not have been much satisfaction to have seen him. We have heard nothing from my father for some time and therefore conclude he is more comfortable.

I called at your uncle Ensign's on the sabbath, found the family well as usual. Sister Ann remains with me. He health is about as it has been. I keep no girl this winter. Your Aunt assists me about my work. Arza has been confined from business nearly two weeks with a bad thumb and mending it. [torn edge].

<[torn bottom edge]> better. Rowland A, and Rowland B and C.H. are at school, and like their school this winter. I have kept Charles out some days. The weather is so cold I am anxious for fear he will suffer on the way with no one but R.B.H. to take care of him. He has frozen one of his ears twice this winter. Your brother Rodelphus is healthy, and busy as anybody. He can talk some. I expect to come to H... this winter to stay one day. If I do I shall have Charles come with us.

I have prepared your clothes and wish you had them especially your drawers. I am afraid you need your drawers. When you get them you had better sleep in them as you get up to build the fires they will make you quite comfortable.

The remains of Thomas Jenning were carried past here last Saturday evening brought from Lowell by Thadeas More. He had a short sickness and soon as he died Thadeas brought his remains to his parents wholly unexpected, they not knowing even that he was sick. A melancholy errand it was too. He came into the neighbourhood and got a neighbor to go before him was all they knew of the fate of their son. He was buried on Monday. Mr. Peter Lane is now laying in a dying state if not dead. So death seems to be our constant visitor in some shape or other. Some times I think it matters but <little> <when> if we are <only> prepared [torn bottom edge]

Saturday morn, [Jan 15, 1844]

Dear Otis, I snatch a few minutes this morning to prepare better for the office.

Give my love to William, Maria, Vaughan and the little babe. You must kiss him for me. Remember me to grandma and grandpa, uncle John and Frances. Your mother feels grateful to them all for their kindness to my dear Otis. Give my love Addison. Tell him he must come and see us in the vacation, give my love Sarah Lee. Her mother thinks a great deal about her. Remember me to Laury Ann. Tell her I hope she got home well from here.

We have heard of the death of brother Dean Lane. His funeral is tomorrow at ten o'clock. The traveling is very bad here and has been some weeks. Take good care of your cloths. You will always find real advantage from such care. Never dispute about small trifles. If you are right you can enjoy your own opinion and let it go. I have no particular reason for saying this. Only that boys sometimes do it without thinking of the confusion it makes and the annoyance it is to others. I think you must have a much better opportunity for school than you could have here and I want you to improve it to the best advantage. "Time is money" to a boy of your enterprise. Your mother is always thinking danger and hoping for the <> [bottom of page is torn].

Yours with affection.  
Eliza [Gilmore]

[Envelope]  
[From ] South Leeds Me  
Jan 13

[No postmark]

[To] Master Oliver O. Howard  
Hallowell

(Care of John Otis, Esq)

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9 1/14/1844 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0009a

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Jan 14th 1844

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity, Sabbath noon, to write you a few lines. I heard the sad news of Grandfather Howard's death last Wednesday, which was told me by Mr. Samuel Bothby and I inquired of him, from the rest of the family. He said they were all well when he left home and I hope you are still the same. I have thought many times of grandpa since I left Leeds and thought it a wonder if his life should be spared much longer as he was very old, but I could not help hoping that God would spare his life a little longer, that I might once more see him. As it is so we have to submit.

I am much obliged to your for my gloves, for I needed them much, and colars [collars] also.

There has been a great deal of sickness here this winter and many deaths, but I have been very well. Laury Ann said that Rowland B had a bad cold. Is he well now, and how does little Charle do and Rodelphus, are they well. I hope that you are all well. I should like to see you all, and I think I shall come to Leeds in the vacation if Uncle and Aunt are willing and William too. If I do not I hope you will come here and bring Charles or the babe with you.

I get along very well. Uncle and Aunt are very kind to me, and we have a good school. It keeps three weeks before the vacation, and at the close of the term we have an examination. I have writen 8 compositions this term and commenced one for the close of the term.

New years evening Miss Caroline, Vaughan, Sarah, William, Maria and I rode to Gardner in one sleigh and I drove, and we went to the Episcopalian Church, where the minister reads his prayers. Grandpa and Grandma are well as usual.

Give my love to Roland and Arza, Louisa and Warren. And if Aunt Anne is there give my love to her and tell her to give my love to Silas and Perry. I suppose Rowland and Charles go to school. Tell them I should like to visit there school. Does it not tire Charles to walk up that hill every day and can he read yet. How far has Rowland Bailey got in Arithmatic. Do they have a good school. Give my love to them both, Excuse bad writing and mistakes.

Your most affectionate son.  
Oliver O. Howard

[See the next entry for a continuation of the letter]

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10 1/15/1844 *From:* Frances Otis

*To:* Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0009b

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is a continuation of the previous letter by OO Howard ]

January 15th [1844]

Dear Sister

Otis wishes me to add a few lines to his letter and if I had time I could find enough to fill what he has left. But as it is washing day I have not much lesure. Otis seems very happy and gets along as well as any one of his age could be expected to. Mr. Burnham speaks very highly of him as a scholar.

Mr Thurston had a donation party Christmas evening and the children all went the next afternoon and carried some little present. There were 76 children there - they enjoyed themselves very much. There was a table set and plenty of cake and apples for them all. Our children all went. Mr Thurston made them a short address. John and I were both of us unwell and not able to go. John has been and is still quite unwell. He has lost a great deal of flesh and strength.

The influenza has prevailed here very much and is nearly as bad as a fever. I suppose you have seen in the papers and account of Mr. Alden's niece. It was a most melancholy thing and spread a power over all. Mr Belden's death was very peaceful. He was a good man (though rather peculiar) and we feel that we have one the less to pray fervently for the prosperity of <hvon>. Your Mother went to the funeral and remained to tea with a few of the neighbors. Give my love to Ann and tell her that we all want to see her very much.

Yours truly

F. Otis [Frances Otis]

[Envelope]

[No Postmark]

[To] Mrs. John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me.

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11 2/5/1844 *From:* C. Polard

*To:* Master R. B. Howard

OOH-0010

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Master R. B. Howard  
South Leeds Me

Hallowell, February 5th 1844

Dear Rowland:

I wish you was here this evening so that we might have a good time as Otis is here and I should like to have you go to school again with me. I have got a little dog I think you would like to see. His name is fido, which is by interpretation I trust. Otis and George is studying latin. I hope some day or other you and I will study latin together. The boys say there is a wolf out in Dr Nurse's pasture. There is some first rate slides out in our garden. If you were only to your grandfathers we should have a good time. Our school Mistress is married. The one that you and I went to school to. But we have another one Mrs. Park that we like full as much as the other. Mother sends her love to you, Mrs Lee and Silas. I can not find anything more to write so I think I must close by requesting you to write me a letter in return. Give my love to Mrs Lee and Silas. Tell him I should like very much to see him.

Your affectionate friend.  
C. Polard

To: Rowland B. Howard

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12 2/11/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore  
OOH-0011                      Hallowell, Me                      South Leeds, Maine  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell February 11th 1844

Dear Mother

I take an opportunity Sunday after Meeting to write you a few lines. We got here about half past one o'clock and had a very good ride. When we got to Winthrop we went into the tavern and warmed ourselves. Our block and brick we also warmed, and the rest of the way we came very comfortably and met very few sleighs. Once between here and Winthrop we met a couple of on teams with stones. The first one we got by very well, but the next we had to go out into very deep snow, and it was as much as the horse could do to get through and he jumped against another sleigh that was ahead and broke the back of it.

I hope you are all well as usual. Grandfather is about the same. He can't eat any thing hardly. All the rest are very well. Give my love to them all, kiss Rodelphus for me. It is so soon since I saw you. I cannot find much news, so I leave room for grandmother, and the rest will be unfilled. Give my best respects to Mrs Turner and all the neighbors. Give my love to Aunt Anne, father, my brothers, Roland and Arza, tell them I should like to have another as good a time as we had. Write to me as quick as you can.

Your affectionate Son.  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] Hallowell Me Feb 12

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds, Maine

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13 2/11/1844 *From:* Betsy Otis

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0012

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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My dear children

Your Father is no better altho he is more comfortable this few days. just apatite is no better and his flesh and strength fails dayly. I hope you don't forgit to ofer up your praers at the throne of grace that his Faith may be strengthed and his love to God increast and that he may have patence to bair his sevear sufferings and be prepared for that solem chang wich must shortly come. Oh how little can we realize the great change that awaits my Anna. I am afraid you will put off coming too long. It is dark and Otis is waiting. Love to all

Your afect Mother

B. Otis

[Betsey Otis]

[Note: This letter was probably included in the previous one from Otis dated 2/11/1844]

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14 3/15/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore  
OOH-0013                      Hallowell, Me                      South Leeds  
*Source:* Bowdoin                      Me.

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Hallowell, March 15th 1844

Dear Mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines to send home by father. I am very well although I hurt me a little this morning. Father will tell you how. Mr Burnham excused me from reciting that I might write to you. There is a writing school here now and I should have gone but could not get the money. Uncle is going to Boston and grandpa would not let me have any. I should not wanted to have gone but I am a poor writer and have considerable writing to do. And you said if I would not attend at Day. I might go to one here so I think you will be willing. I shall ask fathers opinion.

My cloths want repairing and I have no pieces I don't but father brought some. I had holes in my nees and Uncle told me to wear my best ones, and when I sliped this morning from the hay the fork forced its way through the ful cloth. I am sorry to ask for more this year, but hope when I am older, that I may be able to repay you and father.

I trust that you are all well. I shall not say any thing about grandfather for grandmother is going to write. I shall ask father for a little money, for if I should meet with any accident I could not get any. But I trust to Providence that I shall not meet with another.

I like my school very much this term for the school is not so large as it was last term. Give my love to my brothers and the rest of the family. Kiss the babe for me. Ask Rowland how far he went in Arithmatic this winter. To tell me, let them come here as soon as you can conveniently. Excuse mistakes

Your affectionate Son,  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[No Postmark]  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me.



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15 3/16/1844 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0014

South Leeds, Me

Hallowell  
care of John Otis Esq

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 16th 1844

My Dear boy,

I wish I could be with you then I could direct you what to do in all cases. I could save you some in your clothes by keeping them in repair, and have them in good order. I was aware of this before you left home, but you was so desirous of attending school, you thought you could put up with that. But your inconveniences are small in comparison with thousands of other in this world.

I am sorry you lost this opportunity of attending writing school as I wish you to be a good writer. I never was a good writer myself but I improved very much in attending writing school. If there should be another term try to attend. I will send you the money the first opportunity. I will make inquiries and see if I can get some one to fetch it down to you. Your Pa has just been fixing Arza away and has paid away all the money he had by him and has been disappointed of some he thought he could call in any time. I don't want you to ask your grandpa for money because he is very sensitive about his money and everything troubles him now because he is so sick. But if your Aunt Ann had a dollar by her that she can spare a short time you may ask her to let you have it if you attend writing school, and I don't send it soon enough.

You may ask your Aunt Ann to fix up your pants for you when she gets rested from her journey. You must be kind to your dear Aunt Ann. She has many troubles and poor health to bear them.

Be kind to all with whom you have any concern, and be discreet in your observations if you see that in others which is not right pass it over and say nothing about it. Be a good boy and always try to do as near right as possible yourself.

I hope you still love your teacher and he will love you. I often think of what a tedious time you had last year attending school through the snow and water and how very much fatigued you were when you reached home every night and how anxious I was about you in the storms when I knew you must walk two or three miles through the deep and new fallen snow. Now you have a pleasant walk just enough for exercise.

Now my dear boy how would your mother have felt had your fall been fatal. I hope it will not essentially injure you but I have known many a person from a small accident as that labour under poor health through a long life, good health is very much to be desired. We cannot live very happily without it. I read in the newspaper of last evening just such an accident with the exception of a broom handle. It went into the child's bowels and it died immediately. If you my child had been plunged into eternity at that moment was you prepared for happiness or more as the word of God teaches, it certainly is very essential we should look to our future prospects in the world to come. This life is short at most only a morning to prepare for a long eternity and we see others dying around us which should remind us that the same will be required of us. Seek first the kingdom of heaven and all the rest shall be added unto you. I think every enjoyment has a double relish when accompanied with religion.

We received a letter from Arza last evening dated Boston March 11th No 318 Washington Street. He has gone into a Carpet store. He got business very quick. I hope he will do well. He is so slender the labour will suit him better than farming.

Rowland B is sitting beside me using a pen. I fear but poorly but I hope he will improve. He went as far as simple proportion in <Smith's> arithmetic. I think he does not love arithmetic as well as other studies but I hope he will like it better when he gets older. Charles H. reads some better than he did when you heard him read. He reads every day but he does not take that interest in reading that I want he should.

Now Otis take good care of your health. Be careful and keep your feet dry, especially now while you are lame with your bruise and take good care of your clothes and cultivate that habit while young. You will be the one to receive the benefit from it.

R. A. G. is chopping wood at the door. R.B. chops off the small wood. We have no hired man now and Mrs. <Mewan> is with me now, so I don't feel quite so full of as common. You did not say how long your Uncle would be gone. I hope you will leave nothing undone while he is gone that is necessary to be done or that he would like to have done if he were there. Take good care of his things and do as your aunt would like to have you.

Give my love to William. Aunt Eliza hopes he had a good visit at Leeds and he must come again. Give my love to Maria. Her Aunt feels a great interest in her and wants her to be a fine young lady which will soon be the case. I wish she would write me a letter. I should like to have one very much. I have no daughter of my own but I feel an interest in all my Nieces and all of their improvements. Tell Vaughan I remember his little smiling face. I hope he is still the same little happy fellow.

I am very much obliged to your Grandma for writing the particulars about your Grandfather as I am very anxious about him and when I do not hear from him only by people who call on him I frequently get wrong accounts. Give my love to your grandfather and grandmother, Laura Ann, Addison, Sarah Lee and Aunt Frances.

Always bear in mind when you see your aged grandparents that they are as dear to your mother as your mother is to you, and as your fond father was to you.

From your affectionate Mother,  
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[no postmark]

Master Oliver O. Howard  
Hallowell

care of John Otis Esq

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16 3/18/1844 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0015

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, March 18th 1844

Dear Mother

I sit down a few minutes this evening to copy a few lines of thoughts and reflections to you. How do you do this eve and how is the health of the rest of family. I have been to school today. I have made as much progress in my studdies as I expected. In regard to my coming home, I have thought much about it. I should like to stay here in Hallowel all summer if all would permit, but Uncle thinks it would be foolish for me to leave off work. I have many reasons that prompts my desire of remaining here, but I shall not relate them now. I have attended sabbath scool constantly for a few weeks past. I have attended dancing school twice a week,. We have a very pleasant time indeed. How did Rowland say he enjoyed himself while here. I do not think he did very well for Aunt is rather selfish, which would be apt to make him think she did not like to have him here that I feared would make him unhappy. Is his school done. You may think it queer why I did not send his Shoes and Grammar by Uncle Ensign. The reason was becaus he went away much sooner than I expected and when I did not know it.

Liddia has heard from home once or twice within a week past. She heard that her mother had had two fits, and she remained in the last one two hours. And to day she had a letter from her father. There was something in it which affected her very much, but she did not inform me what it was. But that was not very surprising, for she permits things to trouble her that any one else would hardly notice. One of Lydia's acquaintances married a young widower and he treated her very unhandsomely indeed. The reason was he loved another better than she, but he thought he could not have her, so he married the one he did and in eleven days after the marriage he threatened her life because the former told him if he had waited a little while she would have married him. And worse than all he what he did was without any provocation.

They are all very well here, as I hope you are. Give my love to my three little brothers, and tell them I should be very happy to see them. And give my love to the rest of the family. Tell Rowland he must write to me and I will try to answer it. I will send his things the first opportunity. I should like to reside in town during the summer, with your permission. But you may decide as you think it is for the best.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Hallowell Me Mar 21

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

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17 3/31/1844 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0016

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Mar 31st 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines this afternoon and to inform you that we are all well excepting grandpa [Oliver Otis]. The Dr. was in to see him this morning and said he was a great deal weaker than last Sunday and he said he did not think he would continue more than a month if as long as that.

Warren Woodman [a son of Sarah Otis (who died in 1822) and a grandson of Oliver Otis.] went home from here this morning and Grandpa told him he had better tell Martha Jane [another daughter of Oliver Otis] to come down right away for he was told what the Doctor said of him. I suppose you would like to see your Father once more. Grandfather's folks had a letter from Uncle Amos [a son of Oliver Otis and an M.D.] the other day. He wrote that he was not any better than he was when here. He does not go out any only when it is very pleasant.

Aunt Ann sent her love to you and said she would write but did not feel much like it to day. We are all well here at Uncle's. Maria and William as unpleasant as ever, but I try to bear it as well as I can. Talking to me while writing &c. I attend writing school now but I suppose you won't think I improve much but I have a very poor pen, and always do when I write to you for my pen is at school. I like my writing school very much for the writing master is very pleasant.

I went to the frewill baptist this forenoon. The text was the 2d chapter of Isaiah and 5th ver - O house of Jacob, come ye and let us walk in the light of the Lord. And the Minister told two stories. The first was that in the island of Madagascar the gospel was sent a little while since. And great many embraced it but after the king died there was a Queen who rejected or opposed christianity, and commanded that all who embraced it should be executed. There were 16 persons found praying by the executors of the law, and they took them to the queen. She command that they should be put to death in the most hideous manner if they did not renounce their religion, which they would not do. But they escaped and were just going to set sail when they were detected and brought back to the queen and then they were boiled alive. Then the Minister made a few remarks. He said how much easier it is to obtain religion in a free country like this where we have no such obstacles as this. And then related another anecdote. In an Island, he told the name but I have forgotten. Most of the individuals had embraced religion and there were some princes who had been fighting among each other. They joined and were laying plans to massacre the christians in the night. But they hearing of it before the time appointed, took chance to escape from the island. And the princes finding their disappointment fought among themselves and killed each other. And the christians returning to their island found them all dead.

Give my love to Rowland and tell him I should like very much to see him. Ask him how he liked the papers. Give my love to Charles and tell him I like him as my affectionate little brother. And kiss the babe for me and try to make him remember me. Give my love to Mrs Murry, father and Roland Alger. I should like to have my boots as soon as you can <send> them down.

Your dear son with affectionate regard for his Mother.

Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Hallowell Me, Apr 1

[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

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18 4/16/1844 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0017

Hallowell, Me

Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Apr 16 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines and to inform you that I am very well, and to ask how you do this morning. Grandfather is as comfortable as usual, and they are all as well as usual here to Grandfathers. Aunt Frances was mistaken about my shirts. I have four new shirts now that have not been worn scarcely any & two besides that I have not worn any since I have been here. These two that I shall send out you need not send back without you wish too. I suppose they may be of some use this summer when I am at work. What do you think about my going to school in hot weather. Don't you think it will be better for me to work out to the farm than to go to school. For I am afraid it will make me sick to go to school in the summer because I broke of from work and went right to school and have been some time. Therefore I think it best to work this summer and go to school again in the fall, but I will do as you say.

Give my love to my brothers, remember me to Mrs Murry, and Roland Alger.

Yours with affection Dear Mother

Oliver O. Howard

Write me a letter as soon you can and I will answer it, and will take time to write it and show you my improvement. I am in a great hurry for father is going soon.

[Envelope]

[No Postmark]

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Leeds

Me

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19 4/30/1844 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0018

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Apr 30th, 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to send by Mrs. <Mans>. Are you well. Are my brothers well. Are all the family well. Grandfather is considerably better. He is able to set up most all day and walk out some. As I am coming out to Leeds soon I shall see what you think concerning my cloths, &c. Therefore I shall not write any thing about them only tell you that I have to wear my best jacket to school for my old jacket is rent badly. Maria, William and I have been to walk this morning before breakfast. They are all well he at Uncles. Give my love to all. I don't know when I can come out, but our Vacation is next week and week after next.

Yours affectionately, Dear Mother  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[no postmark]  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

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20 7/1/1844

*From:* Betsy Otis

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0019a

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Eliza

I was very sorry to hear Roland was so sick. Your father is very feeble but comfortable as we could expect the most of the time. Henry T has continued to come to Hallowell has gone to Boston. Martha Jane is coming down to morrow. Lydia Martin will go to Leeds to day. Frances wishes to have her come to stay with her if you don't want her to stop with you. She will make a visit and then come to her uncle's till her Father comes. Nathan and Harrot <Woodbury> was hear last Sattarday. Say Laury has failed fast. Her apatite is very poor and the fever and canker is very trouble some. Her simtome are very discouraging. They are gone Monro will return the last of this weak. You need not send me any cheese. Martha sent one large one.

My love to all. In haste your <old> affectionate Mother. [Betsy Ots]

Otis is very well. Goes to school all the time. Have not heard from Otis Woodman. Warren is hear on the farm as wen you was here. Your Brothers family is well.

[Envelope]

[From] B Otis & O O Howard

July 1844

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

So. Leeds

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21 7/1/1844

*From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0019b

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines at grandma's request. I never have heard that Roland was sick before to day, and I am very sorry to hear so, for I was expecting him down when Arza came. Tell Charles that I am much obliged to him for the apples, and give my love to him.

Your affectionate  
O. O. H.

[Envelope]

[From] B Otis & O O Howard  
July 1844

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
So. Leeds



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22 7/7/1844

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0020

Hallowell Me

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell July 7th 1844

Dear mother

I take this opportunity to write you a few lines informing you that I am well and desirous of the good health of you all. How is brother Rowland? Is he any better that he was when you were here? I have thought considerable of you since you were here, because you appeared so melancholy or unhappy and low spirited. If I am the cause of it do let me know, I do not wish to give you any trouble. If you wish me to come home please write to me or Uncle requesting that and I will come. I do not wish to make you unhappy in the least. Give yourself no trouble on account of your second Marriage [see note 1] concerning me, for I have no doubt that it was all for the best. I have no doubt but that it was right for you to be married, for it would have been very difficult for you to have taken the care of the place then as young as I was then. I think it was all for the best as it was or is as it is, and we may some future day find it to be so. Therefore let us not mourn over the past what cannot be helped but try to do what is best for the present. Do not say I have lost my mother, for you are as dear to me as ever you was, and as much for me. Let us trust in providence for good, and strive to do that which is right and I have no doubt good will be obtained.

I attended meeting all day to day and Sabbath School this morning.

Give my love to Rowland. Tell him I was very much disappointed in not seeing him and hope he is better. Addison said that you said I might go to Circus and I went with Maria and Vaughan. William went to Boston last Monday and has not returned. He spent the fourth of July there. Uncle went to Bangor last Tuesday and returned on Friday last. The fourth of July I worked in the forenoon and in the after noon I went to the farm and got some strawberries and cherries with Harriet. Give my love to little Charles and Rodelphus. Give my love to Roland and William. Tell them I hope they are getting along well in haying if they have begun. And give my love to Susan and father. Please write often. Excuse Mistakes.

Yours with respect & affection  
Oliver Otis Howard

Grandpa is some better than he was. He has rode about two miles and a half, twice. Grandma is well as usual. Maria is unwell to day. The rest are well here at Uncle's. Uncle Amos and Uncle Ensign have gone to Boston.

[Envelope]  
[From] O.O. Howard  
July 7th 1844

[Postmark] Hallowell Me Jul 8

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds Me

[Note 1: Eliza and John Gilmore were married 1 June 1841.]

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23 7/7/1844 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master O.O. Howard

OOH-0021

Leeds, Me

Hallowell, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds July 7th 1844

My dear boy

I have thought of you much since I parted with you on the side walk. You and I both of us so much fatigued with the excitements of the day that our natures required rest. I have enquired of myself again and again why we are separated, why we are not enjoying the comforts of the same table, why at evening we do not sit by the same fire side, why before retiring to rest I am deprived of passing into your room to see you in quiet slumber or know your wants and try to satisfy them with my own hands and why in the morning I am not one of the first to greet you with my welcome and my inquiries after your health, why is you Mother deprived of this and many other nameless privileges which no one can appreciate but herself. I can tell you at once how I answer myself. It is his best good. It is his improvement his own advantage I am looking at. It is because I cannot give you those advantages which I do know you can enjoy where you are, and how should I feel to have your time pass along with little or no improvement. Do improve your time to your own best advantage, ask yourself every night what have I learned this day that will make me more useful and how is my integrity. Have I been perfectly upright in all things, towards my companions, and towards my employer, and above all towards myself. That is have I done all that I designed to do and in the best way for my future usefulness. I know your sabbath school privilege must be far superior to ours and I want you should treasure up what you learn at sabbath school for if you live to old age it will do you good and make you happier to look back upon your youthful improvements. I know that our town school is not to be compared with Mr. Burnham's school, but I am always full of anxiety for you. I hope you will imitate the good you see and hear, and shun the bad.

On the fourth of July I went to the meeting house where we had prayer and singing and two sabbath school lectures. One from Mr. Mariam of Winthrop and one from Mr. True, from Monmouth. They were good and I thought much of you while listening to them and seeing the little boys and girls who have been reared in the same town and neighbourhood with you. They looked happy.

R.B.H. is well now and goes to school. Charles goes to school and improves some this summer. He can read a story so that he understands it tollerable well. Give my love to your Aunt, and William and Maria, Vaughan, and the babe. I shall send your stockings as soon as possible. Try to have care about everything. Do be a good boy.

From your dear Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

P.S. I thought I should write a great deal more when I began but being fatigued and all the family have retired for the night, I shall not. E.G.

[Envelope]  
From  
Leeds to  
Hallowell

Master O.O. Howard  
Hallowell

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24 8/4/1844      *From:* Oliver Otis Howard      *To:* Mrs John Gilmore  
OOH-0022                      Hallowell, Me                      South Leeds, Me  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug 3d 1844 [this should be Aug 4th, see notes below]

Dear mother

I take this opportunity sabbath eve to write you a few lines. Uncle arrived from Bangor about half an hour since bringing the affecting news of Uncle Amos's [Otis] death last night (Saturday) an ulcer broke, which immediately suffocated him. He rode out a little while before. I was up to grandpa's when Uncle came. I was reading to grandma, and Aunt Frances came in to the room and took grandma by the hand and led her into the room where grandpa was without saying a word. But in a few minutes Uncle John came out and told us, that is Addison, Warren, and I, that Uncle Amos was gone, and Aunt requested me to write to you. Please let Uncle Ensign know. Uncle and perhaps grandma will go to Monroe tomorrow. I did think of coming home on the morrow but do not think I can because they are going away. I have worked out to the farm enough to earn to \$12.25 cts, spent 4.00. Give my love to all. I think I shall see you soon. Dear mother this is bad news which I write you. The death of a dear brother for what good purpose this affliction is laid upon us. We only know great affliction is just, and we must try to bear it as well as possible. We must all die some day or other, either former or latter. Lauren [Laura D Woodbury, Amos's wife died Oct 12, 1844] is also sick, she may not live long. I suppose that Aunt Anne was at Monroe at the time he died. I suppose that you would like to be to the funeral, but I think you will not be able. I don't know when it is, but think it is pretty soon by Uncle's going tomorrow. He does not say much about it.

Give my love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Aug 3d 1844

Informing mother of Uncle Amos' death the night before [This must have been added later]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

Single  
Pleas forward it

[Note: the date of the letter should be August 4th. Otis refers to this being sabbath eve which would have been Aug 4 1844. Also Amos Otis died on Aug 3 from consumption.]

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25 9/19/1844 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0023

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell, Sept 18th 1844

Dear mother

I sat down this evening to write you a few lines concerning my brother. How does he do. I saw William Turner this afternoon and I inquired of him from Rowland, who said that his wife was in there the night before and thought him to be very sick although she did not know as you thought him dangerously sick, but she thought he was and I did not know that he had the Typhus fever until night before last; Grandma said that Thomas Bridgham said so. I thought he had only a slow Fever like Rowland Algers. If he is so very sick I should like to come home. How does Charles and Rodelphus do? And how do you stand it having Rowland to take care of, and having been broke from your sleep, as I suppose you have.

I went up to Grandfathers last evening. He was very low indeed. He had to be helped up and down when he kneeled to pray. He has not got hardly any flesh at all. I do not think he can live a great while longer, but I hope he may. All the rest are well as usual at grandpas.

Oliver Woodman [the son of Oliver Otis' daughter Sarah Otis Woodman] is here now. And Mrs. Woodman came here and stayed two nights in succession and settled with grandfather which pleased him very much. Mrs. Levett and Mrs <Norcross> were at grandpas last evening. Mrs. Levett was from Leeds.

I am very well indeed and get along well in my studies, but I feel very anxious about Rowland. Give my love to him. Tell him I should like to come and see him, and read to him. Tell him he must try to have patience and try to bear his pain. I know it is hard but we must endure it. Give my love to all.

Yours affectionately,  
Oliver Otis Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Sept 19 1844

[no postmark]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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26 9/21/1844 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0024

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Sept 21st 1844

Dear Mother

I take an opportunity to write you a few lines, to send by Uncle Ensign. How do you do? And how does Rowland do? Is he as sick as he was or not? How does little Charles and Rodelphus do? I am intending to send Rowland and Charles each a book which are presents from cousin Oliver O. Woodman to them. He gave me a very nice bible, and I shall send your bible home. I have written you a letter by the mail, perhaps you have got it.

Is it not best for me to buy a pair of pantaloons and waist-coat as Rowland is sick and you cannot make any very well. If it is best please write. Write often dear mother. If Rowland is worse let me know it that I may come home.

Give my love to all at home.

Yours with great affection.  
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O O Howard  
Sept 21st 1844

[no postmark]

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me

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27 10/23/1844 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* My dear boy [Oliver O.  
Howard]

OOH-0025

Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds October 23 1844

My dear boy,

How do you do how are you getting along with your school. It is now vacation I believe. When the next term commences don't let any cares take you from your studies. Think every day these are precious moments never to be recalled. Take good care of your health. You will be disappointed about your clothes but your father has had so much to do of late he could not go to Lewistown after the cloth but will go soon. And when I get them I shall come to Hallowell and bring them. Rowland B. H. rides out and pains past is very cheerful.

Yours in haste.  
E. Gilmore.

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28 11/24/1844 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0026

Hallowell, Me

South Leeds  
Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Nov 24th 1844 [Eliza's father, Oliver Otis, died on Sept 28 1844]

Dear Mother

I set down this noon to write a few lines to you. How do you do? And how does Rowland, Charles and Rodelphus do? I hope you are all well. I suppose father and Uncle Ensign are gone to New Hampshire. Uncle John requests me to inquire of you whether you desire Grandma to have more than she has been allowed or not. He says that all the heirs excepting you desire it very much, but whether you do, or not he does not know. And he wishes you to write as soon as you can for he says Judge Emmons is scrupulous & uncertain how to act until he knows that you also desire it, and it is something that they wish to know as quick as they possibly can.

I am very much obliged to you for my clothes, they set very well indeed, especially my sack, which I am very much pleased with indeed.

Sarah, Lidia and I expect to come to Leeds the day before Thanksgiving and if nothing happens to prevent we shall come. And if you are willing I should like to have Rowland invite some company Thanksgiving day evening if he is able but if he is not I can after I get there.

A converted Jew lectured here three days this week, one of which I attended. I have been to meeting this forenoon and heard Mr. Thurston preach and it was very interesting. Part of which was on the fulfillment of the Prophecies spoken of in the Bible.

You spoke of Charle in your last letter, saying that he thought of me, and you wished I would think of him. I do think about him. I should like to lead him to school this winter, or be with him. I know I am very negligent to my brothers. I ought to do more for them than I do, and I ought to be kinder to them, but notwithstanding all I love them and would like to give all in my power for their good. And I do not wish you to give me better cloths than you do to them.

The dress does not make the man, but the disposition to do what is right in the sight of God and man, or as near right as it is possible for us in our state of existence to do. Scorners and slanderers may scorn and slander, but what will it amount to in the end. It will all be treasured up to their shame, ignominy and disgrace. Was not the best man that ever lived scorned, disgraces or put to shame? And was it in the end recorded to his disgrace? It was not, but to the shame of those who put him to shame. And so it will be with all others who follow his example. They may be laughed at at the time of their action, but sooner or later they will have their reward.

You tell my three brothers I will try to bring them some thing when I come home if I can. Grandma is very well. She came down to meeting this forenoon, and stopped here to dinner. All the rest of the family are well except Aunt Ann. She is unwell. I have been to school a fortnight and get along very well in my studdies. Liddia is here. Give my love to all.

Yours affectionately  
O. O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] Hallowell Nov 25

[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Me