
35 1/18/1846 *From:* I. F. Brown

To: Friend Howard

OOH-0033

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Jan 18/46

Friend Howard

I hope you will excuse me for neglecting to write you for it is nothing but negligence and you know that I am extremely fond of leisure and idleness. Your short but friendly epistle was received a few days since by the kindness of my Brother also two from Harvey one directed to Bangor. I am happy to hear that you and Harvey are enjoying your school so well this Winter for it always gives me pleasure to hear of the good success of my friends for it is seldom that we find a friend that will think of me when absent. But contrary to my expectations I find two old Monmouth friends that yet remember there is such a person as Brown in existence. I was happy to hear from you just at that time for I had had some trouble in my school about that time which made me feel rather bad but it is all over with. There was a fellow that came into school and used some Profane language which injured my feelings. I am a perfect Methodist and have renounced Infidelity in good earnest without joking. As my intimate friend Bill Shakespeare would say "alls well that ends well".

I have not quite so pleasant a place either to board or teach as I wish I had although it is not so bad as it might be. My school is about 5 weeks longer. Probably I shall be at Monmouth in about six weeks from today (ie) if nothing happens.

How does dear little Francis get along. I would like to see her. Harvey writes you write her twice a week. That's right stick to your text and allways do so. She is a little Ducky Darling sugar Lasses Dear. Do you see any of the rest of those women that belong down that way. Tell Harvey that I cannot think as he does about some things. He will know what I also tell him if a person injures me once I allways remember them especially if they do it without a cause. I hope to God that I may live to seek sweet revenge on those that tried to do it last fall. If I live to have a family I will teach them to do the same. You may say this is not right but I cannot help it. Thomas comes to see Sarah according to your lett. He has got just about as much spunk as I expected.

Friend Howard you are aware as Othello says that I am a poor plain spoken man and have not words to grace my cause. I allmost hate every thing that is earthly. There is nothing but deceit and vanity in this world. If a person happens to turn aside from popular opinion he is branded as a miscreant and a worthless fellow.

But I hope such sentiments are fast being erased from a civilized world.

Already have I written longer than will be interesting to you. But you are aware that it is not my disposition to be affectionate. Neither do I cultivate such a feeling any other way than by outward appearance. Deception is the watch word and plans the intention of all in this section. Neither do I cultivate my mind to writing such matter as will interesting to you I am afraid. But believe me Howard I am as capable of appreciating the affection of others as ever. Yes when read those short but friendly letters from you and Harvey I was satisfied that there was an exception to the rule that I had made. I shall ever esteem you as one of my best friends. Do not take from this that I am low spirited for I have had these feelings for more that a year. And with this I will close by wishing you prosperity and success untill I hear from you or see you and requesting you to commit this to the flames as soon as you read it.

Yours with respect
I. F. Brown

P.S. Say to Harvey that I will write him soon and shall be happy to receive communications from either of you any time you can make it convenient. IFB.

36 3/9/1846 *From:* H Harvey

To: Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0034

Dixfield, Me

North Yarmouth
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Dixfield March 9th 1846

Dear Howard

Unwillingly do I like my deal to inform you, that however unpleasant it is to me to forego the pleasure of Attending School at North Yarmouth as I intended, yet I am obliged to By Bad health. My health which as you know has not been good the past winter is rather worse of the two, owing to too much exercise of the lungs and the phisecian tells me if I do not omit study for a while Consumption will ensue. I need not tell you it is a great disappointment to me. You know such is the case. But however much I am turned from my purpose, I most sincerely hope it will be no detriment to you, though an unepected disappointment. Fondly had I hoped to be able to tread with you dear Howard, "side by side" and "hand in hand" up the "hill of science". Many were the happy hours I had anticipated spending with you coning the pages of "ancient lore". In the "animated debate" or walking over the pleasant fields of Yarmouth and viewing its "Beautiful Island Scenery". But alas; the pleasure for the present I must omit and I do sincerely hope that you will find a roommate who will be more agreeable or as so as much I can possibly flatter myself I could have been.

You have my best wishes for your success, which I have no reason to doubt both in the Academy, in College or in Life. May your path brighten as you advance. May the blessings of providence be yours on every hand. Life be happy and all things prosperous. Perhaps you may want to know something of my future course. I will say that to create the rugged though pleasant paths of service is still my aim and wish. That when my health is improved sufficiently I shall renew my studies. With you if possible. Till my health is better I shall be at home in Dixfield, mourning that I am not with you.

So Dear Howard write to me frequently won't you? But if you do not, if you forget poor Harvey, he will never forget thee. Yet though you forget me, your remembrance shall not fade from my heart, but shall be cherished there while it continues its pulsations. I shall retire to Leeds and may a few days after which I shall be in Dixfield. You will direct your communications to "Canton" "Point" as I am nearer that P.O. than to Dixfield P.O.

If you write immediately as I hope you will, direct it to Leeds.

With the most sincere wishes for your success and happiness and sorrow for my "ill luck" in being unable to join you, I am dear friend, your humble friend and servant.

H. Harvey

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Canton Me Mar 19

[To] Oliver O. Howard

North Yarmouth

Maine

37 3/14/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0035

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds
Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth, March 14th 1846

Dear Mother,

I have not yet rec'd a letter from you but I suppose you cannot get time to write. I am very swell & get along to my satisfaction in every thing but lately I have one with a disappointment. Mr Harvey is not evening here this term. His health will not permit of it. He says that the physician told him if he did not leave his studies that he would have a seated consumption. I think it is for him best good to leave off studying, but I can hardly feel reconciled to his not coming at all.

How is your health? I suppose the boys have got most over there cough. Write me everything new, when you can get. Give my best respect to Jane, Roland &c. Give my love to Rowland, to Charle & Rodelphus. I think now that if my health permits, I shall enter college in the fall. Tell Rowland Bailey, if he will study English hard, in a year or two he can come here & have an excellent to study latin, greek &c. Mr Pettingill is here now with me & he will be here all the term.

Did you have much of a rain shower in Leeds yesterday. We had quite a heavy rain here.

Have you seen Mr More since he got home from Yarmouth. If you have, tell me what he said about the place, Mr Weld &c.

I see that come to be here & have my Rooms done up that they do not look as they do when my mother takes care of them, but anyone cannot expect a home & a kind mother to be found in every place. Those things done poorly makes us enjoy what is done well. Is John Otis at home this spring? How does Aunt Martha do? Mr Harvey said he was coming to Leeds. If he came did he come to your house. If so did he pay for the hat and cup. I hope he hadn't for it is uncertain when I shall see him. If he comes there after you get this letter pleas give him 2 dollars. You had better if you have not send me five dollars that I may pay what is required in advance, but not without you think best. The board will probably amount to about 10 dollars.

I had a paper from Orvill Jennings the other day. He is very well & says that Mr True from Monmouth is attending medical lectures there & says that he is quite sociable to what he used to be. I must stop now & get my greek lessons. Everafter do I think of you & the more I am away from home, the more I consider & think of my mother & contrast the cold kindnesses & formal friendship of other to the kindness & affection of a mother by whom every virtuous son is governed.

Your affectionate & loving son
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Mar 16

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

38 3/22/1846 *From:* E. Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0036

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth Seminary,
Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds. March 22th, 1846

My Dear son,

After receiving three communications from you I have at last attempted to write you. I never parted with you when parting seemed so hard as when you left home the last time for Yarmouth. I knew you would feel what it is to be among strangers but I have long learned to trust my all in the hands of One who seest as not man see's. You little think how many conflicting feelings your Mother has to combat with. I wish you to always bear in mind that a virtuous life is what your Mother desires for you. I know that youth is the time one is more subject to the vanities and indiscretions of this life than after tis past. I wish you could feel the presence from time to time of the kind and protecting care that is ever over you. I hope you will be happy and your happiness will consist in preparing yourself in every respect for good and virtuous actions.

I expected your spring term of lessons would be hard but am in hopes your health will be equal to the task. Perhaps the summer term will be less arduous. I very much desire you to value your health, and pursue such a course as will promote your health. Do be very careful how you venture about vessels too much as you have never been vaccinated.

I heard before you wrote that Mr Harvey was not going to North Yarmouth. I understand he has been in Leeds, but did not see him. He had a lecture appointed for him on Saturday evening and I intended to have heard it but we had a very heavy rain on the day and spoiled the traveling. I understand he lectured the next Tuesday evening. I hope he will yet be a useful man, and not be confined to an early grave.

I went to Hallowell last Wednesday and returned on Thursday, went out by Monmouth center and called at S Blakes to warm as Mr Gilmore had some business with S.B. I found all our friends well at H. Heard Laura A Leadbetter was engaged to be married to Henry Wingate. The wedding is to be next fall. I did not see L. A. L. She was gone to Montville. You can't tease her any more for being an old maid. She will be Mrs Wingate.

Today is the sabbath but the traveling will not admit of attending meeting at the center. We have Methodist preaching at the schoolhouse on the ridge to where Arza, Rowland A and RBH are gone. The rest of us are at home. Mr. Gilmore has a bad cough - is coughing now. Charles gets along with his hooping cough tolerable well and Rodelphus minds but a little about it. We have begun to make some preparation for moving into the other house. I suppose we certainly shall move, as Mr Gilmore has let a part of the farm and the dairy to a Mr Washington Jones who is expected here the first part of Apr. and I have cleaned the setting room and my bedroom for Betsey to move in tomorrow to give us a chance to paint the inside of that house before we move into it. It is very quiet here today but tis the last quiet day I expect to have here as Betsey's children are such rowdies. We shall reserve the parlor chamber and keep it furnished. We have a lock on the door so as to have it completely ours, and a hasp on the parlor door near the top so that it need not be common. All this I write to let you know a little how home is getting along. The funeral of Olive Berry was attended last Tuesday, the young girl who has been confined through the winter near where you boarded.

I shall enclose a five dollar bill in this to you as you desired. I have been to Green and seen Warren since he came home and heard all about your days journey &c. Charles and Rodelphus have just been into the room, both delighted with the prospect of finding eggs. Charles has got thirteen and Rodelphus has brought in one. I want you to be punctual to write to me if I don't write always to you and write how you get along. I wish I was acquainted with your room mate. But he has my good wishes for his welfare. Rowland Bailey has just drove down the hill from <[torn hole]>. Yesterday he undertook to prepare a paper to send to you but did not get it to look to satisfy him and gave it over next time. I will assist him. Tis a charming day. I should like to live in a village in the spring so that I could attend public worship on the sabbath. Warren said when he stopped in Yarmouth the people spoke highly of the Institution where you are. I understand the young Mr. Pearley is no better and his friends are discouraged about him more than ever. I want to see you very much in May. It will be just such a journey as I should like to take but altogether uncertain how it will be.

Your affectionate Mother

E. Gilmore

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me

March 24

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

North Yarmouth Seminary, Me

39 3/25/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0037

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds
Me

Source: Bowdoin

March 25th 1846, North Yarmouth, Me

Dear Mother

I have been waiting with much expectation to receive a letter from & I cannot conjecture any appology for my not receiving one excepting that it must have been miscarried for I have been here now three weeks & have not once heard from you for you promised if you could any way to answer my letters if I would write every week & this is my fourth . I am getting along very well studying <satlust> & Cicero together with my greek reader, reciting 3 lessons a day.

I had a letter from Harvey when he came to Monmouth after his things. He said he was not so well as he has been through the winter. He wished me to let you know the particulars which I believe I related to you in my last letter. I was sorry that he did not come but I must reconcile my self to things contrary to my wishes some times.

I hope you are well. Write me if anything takes place that I do not know of.

My health admits of harder study than I should have thought it would. The more I study the more appetite I have for my victuals, which are nothing but wholesome. Brown bread for inst. We have pies once a day, & considerable many <rarihes>, but as a general our nourishment is rustic & coarse but as I think well appropriated to those who study to give them health & strength, activity of both body & mind.

I think that I can, if my health permits, enter college without the least trouble. John Pettingill rooms with me. He is a very accommodating & pleasant young man. I said that I never sat still five minutes <> study but now I am obliged set an hour yes even three hours without getting up. As soon as I return from the recitation I am obliged then to prepare for the next before I have my recreation what ever. All the recreation I have had is to walk about 20 rods to the post office twice a day. And I have been to the corner twice about half a mile.

Give my love to Rowland, Charles & Rodolphus to Roland Alger, father & all the rest. Tell Rowland he must write to me & I will answer him. I suppose their coughs must be well by this time, are they not.

I received a letter from Seth today. He talks of coming here in the summer. He is attending school at Monmouth. I hope I shall receive a letter from home before long for I have not heard from you since I came here & I am very anxious to here. I suppose Warren told you how I am situated & all about the place &c. How does aunt Martha do? Write me in haste. I like Mr E Weld very much. The more I get acquainted with him the more I like him. I have been learning to sit still. When I come home perhaps I shall have the task so well practiced that I may set still five minutes.

Your most affectionate son
O O Howard

[Envelope]
[From] O O Howard
Mar 25 1846

[Postmark] North Yarmouth [date too faint]

[To]
Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

40 3/25/1846 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

To: Rowland [B. Howard]

OOH-0038

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College, March 25th 1846

Dear Brother Rowland,

I am very happy to receive your short epistle, although so long after you wrote. And am glad (as mother says in that following yours) that you are attending school at Wayne to Mr. Harvey. He is a fine young man & excellent teacher which I can testify from the short, but pleasant association & acquaintance with him.

Strive to learn (dear Brother) & you may acquire many laurels by his instruction. Excuse a brother's advice. But if you would make a scholar, a thorough scholar, you must have fixed & good habits; & prepare well but not long each lesson. For I regret to think that I have so poorly traversed so much ground. If I budget well one half of what I have passed over I should be a much better scholar, or at least be conscious to myself of knowing something & that for certain. One principle fixed firmly in the mind & memory is worth hundreds of superficially scaled ones, with an obscure idea of each.

Also shun the bad company & companions, which & whom Wayne always affords. I do not wish you to follow my example, for I have been much in the wrong. But it is easier for me to point out errors, after I have experienced the sad effect of them, & to warn my younger brothers not to tread the same thorny & erroneous path. Then it was for me to select the right place yourself in whatever situation you may. For they serve to discipline the mind, tho barely having patience to study out the dry, hard & uninteresting "stuff" as some of it is, fits & prepares you to "stick" to what ever you may undertake for you cannot always expect pleasure or pleasant & agreeable in life. By perseverance we may overcome every obstacle, and the study of language is the best thing to fix & establish the habit of perseverance, so say the best of authors, besides it gives us a knowledge of our own language, a clear idea of the meaning of the words that compose it, & the knowledge of their derivation.

As to mathematics you hear some say that they are of no use in practical life (that is the higher branches). But do not believe them, for so much the more you study the higher branches of mathematics so much the better you understand the lower. It is true you may learn the rules of trugths arithmetics, & do its sums, but can you tell the why's & wherefores of those rules; you may be conscious to yourself of having done the sum right or according to the rule, but you have no principle by which you may do similar sums, should you perchance forget the rule. You must go to the foundation if we would understand mathematics, the same as with the languages.

Give my best respects to Harvey. Tell him he must write me, when he has an opportunity. & also my respects to Allen & Arza. I have not that Dollar paper you spoke of, but have the next but one.

I think I shall not be ought without an adviser. You may say my mother should have had an influence on my conduct. She did & continues to. But there are many things to which we & every youth are exposed of which a mother without the experience necessary can form no idea. She may advise us to shun bad companions, we commence our associations with the intention & firm resolve to do so; firstly we are apparently welcomed with a cordial greeting, & wish for our prosperity & welfare by the pleasantest fellow that we ever saw. When on the other hand there is one who scarcely speaks to us, & when he does it is formally & seemingly coldly. Therefore we should naturally be drawn into the society of the former & even intimacy and are too deeply ensnared before we perceive our error & regret our want of consideration wishing our steps retraced, that we might become a friend of the latter, who is not so enticing, & prepossessing in his appearance at first, but will make a true, lasting & beneficial friend. It is invariably the case that he who is the most bland & cordial at the first meeting is the least stable, if not a dissolute character. Therefore be not too hasty in your choice of companions, for as is the maxim and a true one "we are judged according to the company we keep".

Mother says you will not take up any thing new this spring. When you do, should you resolve to study the languages, I can furnish you with books. If you think of going into a <school> when you are old enough, something else may be of more advantage to you than latin & greek, but they would not be without advantage place yourself in whatever situation you may, for they serve to discipline the mind. The barely having patience to study out the dry, hard & uninteresting "stuff" as some of it is, fits & prepares you to "stick" to what ever you

may undertake, but you cannot always expect pleasure or pleasant and agreeable in life.

By perseverance we may overcome every obstacle, and the study of language is the best thing to fix and establish the habit of perseverance so say the best of authors, besides it gives us a knowledge of our own language, a clear idea of the meaning of the words that compose it, & the knowledge of their derivation. As to mathematics you hear some say that they are of no use in practical life (that is the higher branches). But do not believe them, for so much the more you study the higher branches of mathematics, so much the better you understand the lower. It is true you may learn the rules of <truths of> arithmetics, and do its sums, but can you tell the why's & wherefore's of those rules? You may be conscious to yourself of having done the sum right or according to the rule, but you have no principle by which you may do similar sums, should you perchance forget the rule. You must go to the foundation, if we would understand mathematics, the same as with the languages.

Give my best respects to Harvey, tell him he must write me, when he has an opportunity, and also my respects to Allen and Arza. I have not that Dollar paper you spoke of, but have the next but one. I think I shall not be apt to send many since that new law (making me pay three cents for every paper I send & that in advance). Write as often as you can, & tell me all the news. I have joined the Ath' Soc' and went to the supper of the same after their yearly anniversary, which was held a week ago to night. & I have joined another soc' called the Theological. As you know, I am very pious.

From your affectionate brother,
Oliver O. Howard

41 3/26/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0039

S. Leeds, Me

Brunswick
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, March 26th 1846

My dear son,

This is indeed a very pleasant morning, and I hope it finds you in health and cheerfulness. It is now five weeks since you left us. Minerva went home soon after, and our family have had the measles. R.B.H. and Charles H. after taking them from Betsey's children, and R.A.G. and Rodolphus, took them from R and C. They have had a hard time especially R.A.G. He could not have been any sicker. It is now a week since he gave up to them and this morning he put on his pants himself and I think he is in a good way. I thought of you much while standing over him (for three days his father and or I kept by him all the time). How much gratitude I ought to have for your narrow escape situated as you are. R now keeps his room dark, and yet suffers much with his eyes.

Meynerva has matured and is now a doing my work. I have had no help while she was gone. I find my nervous sistem much shattered. I can hardly collect thoughts to express myself to you. This morn being broke of my rest so much o nights I recollected after you left I did not stop the little hole in the <pocket> of your pant which might cause you many little losses which in process of time would amount to something more than a little.

Your letters gave me much comfort. Write as often as you can. I felt truely thankful that you found your studies not as hard as you imagined. Write to me in your next whether you have got through with your back studies or not, after R.B.H. C.H.H recovered from the measles. I took a walk up to Mr <Baily's> and Mr James Wings & enquired of Mr <Band> wife about your friend Bunker. They never heard of him, but they said Temple did not belong to their Monthly Meeting but they have delegates from one monthly meeting to another and they would find out whether there is such a man. I have not seen them since they returned. I have even had my doubts whether there is such a man or not. The letter was to particular, and the hand writing did not look like a man of business. It is of no consequence whether there is or is not.

We have not much news in Leeds. Mr Augustus Foss & Miss Caroline Lathrop were married since you left. I had a hand-some slice of wedding cake together with a <candy>. Mary Wing has been to James Moulton's. Went Thursday morn and staid untill Saturday night. Harriet Bates is published so much for Leeds. I forgot to tell you she went with Orrin Bates and he staid there with her through the visit when I was at Mr Wings. He talked about you and your school. He said you kept the best school we ever had in the district and Mrs Baily said the same. That sounded well to me as I thought you merited it and I think the majority of the district take pleasure in giving you your just dues. Your father is the agent this year. I expect Louisa Additon will teach next summer which promises well.

I hope your days are bright and happy. I desire very much they should. I have not written any thing that I anticipated. I write with considerable bodily suffering to day. I was looking over your fathers papers (to find a deed transferring the farm where you uncle Frank lived from doctor Bridgham to your father, in consequence of your Aunt Aurelia's demanding her thirds of that farm). I took up a letter from his Brother Rathburn (written to your father) just arrived in Lexington, describing his journey and his arrival and his prospects. Then it reminded me very forceibly of my youth, and my <preduches> [prejudices] at that time and how hard it is for young persons to struggle with poverty. How much I desire you to proffit by the experience those who have gone before you. I wish I could talk with you more when with me and you took pleasure in talking with me. But I must stop for tis mail hour. [See note]

Give my love William and Mr Perley. I understand Miss Elmira Parcher is riding about with <Jon'l> Moulton. Tell Mr Perley he must not get too much in love there.

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]
[From] S. Leeds Me
Mar 26

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard
Brunswick
Maine

[Note. The people referred to in this paragraph are relatives of Eliza's first husband, Rowland Bailey Howard. Frank is Benjamin Franklin Howard, Rowland's brother. Doctor Thomas W Bridgham was married to Aurelia Howard, Rowland's sister. He died in 1842. Rathburn was Dr. Valentine Rathburn Howard. He died at age 25 in 1828 in Alabama.]

42 3/29/1846 *From:* Oliver Otis Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0040

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds,
Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth March 29, 1846

Dear Mother

Excuse me for writing so soon, but why I do it is because I wrote the other a day before I received yours. & I did not know but you would think that it had stopped by the way & I should not receive it or the money but I received both. I began to think you had forgotten me, but it gave me great pleasure to hear from you & likewise to learn that you are well. I was quite surprised to hear that Laura <> was so soon to change her situation but I am glad that she is about to rid herself of that detestable man, detestable especially to the possessor. Is Jane with you now? If so tell her I hope she will meet with as good Luck. What did the folks say at Hallowell about my coming here &c. Uncle especially. & does William intend to enter College this fall. How did grandmother do? Did she receive any injury from being thrown into the snow that day I carried up to Uncle Ensign's. I am glad to hear that Charles & Rodolphus get along so well with the hooping cough.

Tell Rowland Bailey he must not get discouraged the first time but he must try again to send me a paper. I wish I could have the paper every week. If father is willing, I wish you would send it a week after it is recd and I will keep them all being filed. I should like to hear the news. Then if you could not get him to write a letter every week you might write a little on the paper letting me know how you did. When I can get a paper I will send Rowland one. But he must write, not only to write to his brother, but to practice writing & he had better begin by writing to me than to any one else, for I know how I used to make mistakes, when by a little practice I soon overcame them.

Give my love to Rowland Alger. I must leave my writing now & go to meeting & after meeting I will write more. I hope Peleg Perley will get better. Did not Dr. Man do him any good? Mr Pettingill sends his best respects & thanks for your good wishes. Seth Howard talks of attending school here this summer. I had a letter from him the other day. His health was very good excepting his eyes are weak. Frances Turner attends school there this spring. What is John Otis doing this spring & how does Aunt Martha do? The snow is all gone here and the stream that runs past here into the bay is all broken up. Is Rowland Alger going to attend school this spring.

I have attended meeting this forenoon. We had a very good sermon. Delivered by a man not accustomed to preach here. I begin to like to study & it comes easier to me to get my lessons than it did. The place appears much more pleasant than it was when I first came here. The ground is bare and begins to dry some & makes a very pleasant place before the Acad, where thirty students play ball between sunset & dark. To day is a very fine day. The sun shines bright from a cloudless sky, making every thing sparkle with its penetrating rays and to the north a few steps is the stream flowing over the dams. & the sun shining directly upon it makes its white foam appear very beautiful.

The Congregationalist Church is situated but about 20 rods to the east of the seminary, which the path being dry, makes it but a very pleasant walk together with 20 or 30 students. The law of the school obliges every one to attend meeting twice on the sabbath and the preacher inquires Monday of each one whether that one has been to church or not & therefore all the students attend meeting if they are well. Such is the meeting. They or their parents choose. I have been to the Congregationalist every Sunday since I have been here. If you attended meetings today tell me when you see & all about my acquaintances at the center. Does Elder <Lastho> Preach now or has he settled in Leeds.

I am afraid it will not seem much like home to me when I come to find you & all the family all up there. But then it will seem like, or it will be home wherever mother is. Is Arza at home now, if so what is he doing? Is he going into trade this spring at Wayne?

Your affectionate & obedient Son
Oliver Otis Howard

[The first two names were written in circles for the O and the rest of the letters inside the O]

Mrs E Gilmore

P.S. Having recd the money I paid 3 dolars to the commons but the remainder I shall reserve in case I should want. O. O. H.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] [very faint]

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds,

Me

43 4/11/1846 *From:* Oliver O. [Howard]

To: Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0041

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds
Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth, Apr 11th, 1846

My Dear Mother,

I wish you could be here one sabbath & attend the Congregationalist Church. You would say that there was a wide difference between Mr Leighton's preaching & Mr Shepley's. Between the singing & yours size of the congregation, but still there are many endearments to a church that any one has been accustomed to attend from infancy, and every sabbath meeting those with whom he has always associated that cannot be felt or enjoyed in attending publick worship among strangers, where every face is unknown except a few of short acquaintance. It is more to be loved and desired, to prepare for meeting at home, ride three miles, and sit beside one's parents, brothers and friends, to hear what is said beautify nature & <happify> the soul.

It begins to seem pleasant here. There is no ice or snow, but the river is open & the frogs begin to croak which makes it seem like summer. I know that in one sense I should enjoy myself at Monmouth better than at Yarmouth for I should be more amongst my equals, for nearly all here are Lawyers sons and thorough scholars and aristocratic a little with all, although I am treated with respect. Yet there are some who being educated in the country and having rusticated habits & manners for a while are made fun of as it is termed, although I say nothing about it here yet I think it is because they do not wear, so costly a suit of broad cloth. Connected with this Institution (including the Acad) there are three Frenchmen & as many Spaniards, all of which are very pleasant young men, one of which boards in commons.

You had better get some thing (what you think best) for my summer suit, so that when I come home it may be cut & made & I suppose then I can choose what I shall have, for I shall see what the students in general have. I have worn my grey pants that I have worn all winter every day & the others to meeting, but my coat and pants have not come to mending, except a few buttons have come off from my coat & my chum (who understands it quite well) has replaced them again.

Give my love to my brothers & the rest of the family. Mr Harvey informed me that you were about to move. I suppose you have moved by this time.

Perhaps my expenses will be a little more than they were at Monmouth but I can learn more in one term than I have at Monmouth in two. My board will be cheaper, but there are the first term many small expenditures. I have bought 1 book only as yet, but I ought to buy a large greek lexicon, but I believe I shall try to do with out until I enter college. I have tried to be as prudent as I could, & shall try to be prudent during my college course. If I can get along for 20 dollars I shall. If there is any thing you see that I have bought that was unnecessary I wish you would tell me & I will not repeat it. I have not bought any cigars but one, & then was when I had the cholick.

How long did Harvey stay at Leeds & how was his health. I hope he will soon get better so as to come here next term. Did he look sick.

The overseer of this Institution came in to the recitation room & said that it was a law of the Institution for the students to settle in advance for Tuition & room rent, which is 6 dollars. My room mate paid for both himself & me. I paid 3\$ to the commons for board & kept the rest of the five which is two. You can do as you pleas about sending the money before I come home or not. But if you do you better send enough to settle for the whole. The commons about 7.00\$ more, tuition & room rent 6.00 & to Mr Weld for furnishing 1.00. The amount is 14.00.

I have recd 8 letters since I have been here. <40 its>. I hope you are well. How does little Rodolphus & Charles do? Will you pleas write to me whether you will come after me, or I shall come in the stage in about five weeks. Mr Harvey said he & Arza had been catching <sup>. Did they take many trees? Has Betsy moved down into your house yet? Will Rowland Bailey go to school this spring. I wish he could attend school with me but Monmouth, I think, is ful as good an english school as this. But when he studies the language if he does this would be far preferable. Write all the news. I wish you would send me a paper once in a while.

Your most affectionate Son
Oliver O.

[Envelope]
[Postmark] [Too faint]
Mrs John Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

44 4/12/1846 *From:* R B Howard

To: Master Oliver Otis
Howard

OOH-0042a

Leeds

North Yarmouth Seminary
[North Yarmouth, Me]

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 12th 1846 [Sunday]

Dear Brother

Mr Harvey was here last week. He says his health is improved some since he finished his school. We have moved into the home that Francis occupied & there has a family gone into ours by the name of Jones. They have eight children. We had quite a freshet here when the ice left the river. The grass looks quite green. We intend to go to <Jlonghiny> tomorrow. We had considerable of a thunder shower last night. How is your health. Do you like as well as you did when you first went there. When are you coming home. We are not going to have any hired help on the farm this summer. Frank Lothrop came home last Friday. Arza is going into trade at Wayne in company with Mr Charles Alen a young man he lived with when at Boston. The measles are pretty thick around here but we are all well. Charles & Rodolphus have got over with the whooping cough & are very well. We are all well. I send you a paper by this mail. You must send me one when you can. I went to meeting today on horse back. You must write me a letter as soon as you can. Mother says she will fill this out. I do not know as you can read my letter but you must do your best.

Yours in haste
R B Howard

45 4/12/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Master Oliver Otis
Howard

OOH-0042b

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth Seminary
[North Yarmouth, Me]

Source: Bowdoin

[continuation of previous letter from Rowland on a new page]

My dear Son,

One Saturday has passed and no arrival of letter from North Yarmouth. I was in hopes you would be punctual in your letters. I prepared a box for them, and have put them in as fast as I had read them. I hope sickness is not the cause of your delaying writing the last week. You desired me to write all the news about town. We have nothing new that is worthy of note. Our house is in rather an unsettled state. We staid here for the first night last Tuesday night and have been moving ever since. Jane Jennings and Julia Gilbert are with me. I have good help. John Otis is in the midsts of the measles. Not very sick his father said. A number of others in that neighbourhood have been and are now sick with the same. I have attended meeting to day. I find Mr Lawton an interesting man. The traveling is very bad at present. Arza will leave here for Boston in a few days to purchase goods for trade in Wayne. Mr Allen has been here and stoppped from Saturday to Wednesday, assisted us very much in moving. We keep one chamber furnished in our old house. I hope you are getting along well with your studies and happy with the teachers and students. I have had some idea of coming for you at the end of the term but more of that in future. I want very much to see you in the vacation. Be sure and come home if anything should happen that you should not hear from me. Take particular notice to know what summer clothes you will want. Give my love to your Chum. I hope you are happy in him.

Yours affectionately
E. Gilmore

[new page]

Tuesday 11 o'clock [April 14]

Dear boy,

We are all in good health to day. It is bitter cold, the wind sounds as it used to where we once lived. R.B.H. has gone as far as Winthrop with Arza to carry him to the boat. He will [have] a bad night I think. I intended your father should have written some to day to you but he is not here and mail hour is fast arriving. Don't neglect writing to your mother. That is your duty.

Your affectionate Mother,
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me

April 14

[To] Master Oliver Otis Howard
North Yarmouth Seminary

46 4/16/1846 *From:* Seth Howard

To: Mr. O. O. Howard

OOH-0043

Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth
Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 16 '46

Dear Cousin

I do not know but you may think me neglectful in not answering your letter of the 25 ult. sooner but I think you will not blame me when I tell you the whole story. On the morning that I read your letter, I returned home from Monmouth on the account of ill health and weak eyes, and have been unwell ever since. But I am better now, so well that I have undertaken to answer your letter, but how I shall make out, I cannot yet tell. I presume it will be bad enough how ever, as my hand trembles very bad.

I have nearly concluded not to go to school again until fall, to stay at home and work part of the time and study the rest until my health becomes good again. You need not engage a room for me at present. I think it a fine thing, that you have no females at N. Yarmouth for I think if you did you would not study much however I am glad to hear of your good progress in you studies. My folks are as well as usual, and I presume yours are. I have not seen them however since I came home, but if they had been unwell I should have heard of it.

In you last letter you wished to know if the Tilton Girls, Mary Robinson &c attend School this spring. I perfectly understand what the "&c" means and will answer it. Frances does not attend school this spring. I suppose this is all you wished to know by this question. Charles Muliken does not attend school at the Acad. John Otis is sick with the measles, and I intend to call on him this after-noon if I am able.

Write me soon and tell me how you do. Hope you are blessed with good health &c. Excuse this (as I told you before) written with an uncontrollable hand.

Your ever affectionate Cousin,
Seth [Howard, 1828-1923, son of Stillman and Lydia (Lothrop) Howard]

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]
[From] Leeds Me
April 18th

[no Postmark]

[To] Mr. O. O. Howard
North Yarmouth
Me

48 4/19/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Rowland Bailey Howard

OOH-0044b

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds Me

Source: Bowdoin

[Continuation of the letter to Mother]

Sabbath Eve April 19th 1846

Dear Brother Rowland

I was very much gratified to receive a letter from you and with much pleasure will I recapitulate. How do you enjoy yourself this spring. I wish you were here to attend school with me, so I could see you every day, go to meeting with you. Have you begun to work any on the farm yet? You must not work too hard this summer. Perhaps you can attend school next fall. Write me everything new.

How does John Otis get along with the measles. I suppose you will be obliged to have them, but I hope not, because do not want to catch them when I come home, for it might hinder me a year in my studies by keeping me sick for weeks & perhaps longer. If any of the family have them please write then.

This is a very pleasant place, much pleasanter than when I first came here. What is Roland doing this spring. Give him my best respects. I should not think it would appear like home up there.

Give my best wishes to all that you see of my acquaintances & my love to Charles & Rodelphus. Be kind & good to them for me. Excuse bad spelling if there is any.

Your Most affectionate Brother

[very fanciful drawings, that might include an O, O & H]

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me APR 20

[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds Me

52 5/29/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0048

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth
Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds May 29th 1846

My Dear Son,

How are you this morning. I hope in good spirits and pursuing your studies and in good health. The date of my letter brings to mind one of the pleasantest months in the year - full of life and animation. I am sensible. I do not enter into the beauties which this season of the year brings to view with that gratitude and delight which such real loveliness deserves. I feel bound down under a weight of cares and gloomy feelings, which I am always telling myself are unprofitable for me at the present and equally so for the future good and well being of every object which I desire to promote. I have thought I should come to North Yarmouth for you myself at the end of the term, but I have concluded not to think anything more about it. Our conveniences for riding are so out of tune that I could not think of taking so much of a town or even to show them out of town.

The measles have not been in our neighbourhood yet. I am in hopes we shall escape this time for there are 21 individuals in three houses to take them, and we do not know how to afford time to attend to them this spring. If any accident should bring them among us I will let you know in due time.

John H[arrison] Otis was here yesterday. He has mostly recovered from the measles. His eyes are very weak yet. Mr. Harrison Gould's building were all burned down last Monday morning. His wife sick in bed, I saw the fire and thought about its being our old buildings, concluded there never would be any rebuilt on that ground again.

In one of your letters you spoke of the superiority of the advantages of North Yarmouth has over Leeds. I am well satisfied of that, nor am I so much attached to this town that I could not enjoy society any where else. But I wish to live as happy as possible in whatever place or circumstances I am placed. I know that riding over hills three or four miles to attend meeting is more labor than to walk a few rods into a well regulated meeting. But I hope I shall not covet that which is not for me.

R.B.H. is in the room and desires me to say to you if you have the yankee blade that comes next to that you sent, you will send it to him. We have all had good health this spring. Warren and Louisa were here last sabbath. L's health is poor. She is taking medicine which relieves her and I hope will finally benefit her. Warren has a fine flock of lambs to tend which is pleasant you know. Mr Gilmore will enclose eighteen dollars to you to pay all the bills of this term and bring you home. You must secure all your things in the seminary before you leave with care and write when and where R.B.H. will meet you. At Green I suppose. I shall not purchase any cloth untill I see you. I shall not know what to buy and I think we had better talk about it. We shall have a plenty of time in the vacation I think.

Your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]
[From] South Leeds Me
May 29
[no postmark]
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard
North Yarmouth
Me

49 5/3/1846

From: O O Howard

To: Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0045

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth May 3d 1846

Dear Mother

You must excuse me for not writing last week. I did not feel much like writing on Sunday & I could not get time to write during the remainder of the week. Tell Rowland Bailey that I received a paper from him & have guessed all the riddles except a few, 5 or 6. Give him my love. Tell him I shall be at home a fortnight from next Friday. I should like to have you come after me here but if you cannot, you must come or send to Monmouth for me Friday or Saturday. If you do not send money to pay my expenses you must send me to come home with, but you had better send a part, for Pettingill paid our fraction & room rent & he will want it to pay his.

Give my love to Roland A., Charles, Rodelphus. I hope they are well. I should feel bad if I should come home and have the measles, & by that be hindered from entering College this fall. Please write me if the boys have got the measles or if there is any danger of their having them.

How do you like your new situation? I suppose you have got settled by this time. What is Rowland Rowland doing now days. Of late I have been obliged to study very hard. Mr Weld gives us such long lessons. A next term I must study just as hard as I have this.

You must come after if you can. I look forward with pleasure when I can return home & spend the vacation. Having been to meeting since I wrote this morning I have again resumed my seat to finish my letter. I attended the baptist church this forenoon. We had a very good sermon. The Baptist House is about a half mile from here and it is quite a pleasant walk. There has been quite a refreshing rain this forenoon but now it has ceased & I think it will be pleasant this afternoon.

There has been considerable excitement about the railroad now it is decided that it will go through. I suppose from what I can learn that is going through Dixville. I do not know but it would be better for me to leave my studies & learn to farm it, so as to go up there.

I am very well & have been expecting a letter from you for some time past. Give my love to father. How is his cough. Excuse bad writing for I have written in haste & my pen appears to be unusually bad.

Your most obedient Son,
O O Howard

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Post mark]North Yarmouth May 4

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds

Me

50 5/9/1846 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

To: Mr Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0046

Monmouth, Me

North Yarmouth
Me

Source: Bowdoin

Monmouth, May 9th, 1846

Dear Old Shipmate,

As I have a few leisure moments now, I thought I would improve them, by scribbling a few words to you. I fulfilled your requests as far as possible, about giving your love to the women. They are very glad that you are coming down to see us once more. I saw the Tilton girls the other day. They were well and flourishing. They wanted to see you very much indeed. Cathalena is in town. I tell you she is a pretty girl ain't she.

We get along first-rate with our School, only rather few of us. Brown & Turner stick by yet. There are only 15 schollars now. O! How I wish you were here to go. Frank has got a Beau so I understood so you are lost for this world. You might as well give up the ghost. We are all in town I tell you!

We adjourned the Clionian to the first Monday in next term. One of the Tilton girls is going to keep this School here by Mrs Fogg's this summer I believe. I don't know whether I shall be here, when you come here or not. If I ain't here I want you to come down and see me. If you don't, I will whip you the first chance I get. You know don't you. Brown & Turner send their love to you, and want to know why you don't write them. But I must draw to a close.

You must excuse this miserable writing & composition. Not any more till deth

Your friend

C. H. Mulliken

[Envelope]

[From] Monmouth Me

May 12

[no postmark]

[To] Mr Oliver O. Howard

North Yarmouth

Me

51 5/10/1846 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0047

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth May 10th 1846

Dear Mother

I have again seated myself to write you a few lines after another week has past which in fact seems but a day and now we have the pleasure to enjoy a beautiful rain. Beautiful because it makes every thing delightful around, the trees bud, & the grass springs up green and surpassing in verdure.

I hope you are well and are equally happy in beholding the beauties of nature so delightfully displayed in May. With myself, I have studied hard this week. Our class has been on a review. I expect our examination will be in about a week from now. I received the money you sent, and shall come home directly after the examination. Pettingill intends to walk home, but I think he will have rather a hard time but I do not know. It would nearly wear my feet out.

How does Rowland Bailey do? Give my love to him, to Charley, & Rodelphus. Tell Rodely I shall come home soon. Ask him if he will not be glad to see me.

There is some excitement in the commons to know whom they shall elect President. For we have a President among ourselves to keep order & to procure food, wood & various other things necessary for convenience and use.

Give my love to Roland Alger and father. Has Arza got settled at Wayne Village yet? Have you heard from Mr Harvey of late, if so how does he do. I hope he will come next term, but I suppose it is uncertain. I hope I shall see you before I write again. May you ever be <happy>, & enjoy all the pleasure it is possible with your many cares.

Your most affectionate son
O.O.H

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

[Postmark] North Yarmouth May 11
[From] O O Howard
May 10, 1846