
53 6/2/1846

From: O. O. Howard

To: Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0049

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth June 2 1846

Dear Mother

After having got a little settled I have seated myself to comply with your request. I arrived here about 3 o'clock yesterday. I had a very pleasant ride in the stage. There were six passengers of us. We arrived at Buxtons about 4 o'clock and I waited about an hour and there was a boy who was coming down this way so he brought me and my trunk. I paid him 20 cts. The stage driver took his pay out of the note.

Pettingill has not got here yet, but I expect him every minute. There were a few students here when I got here but since then has quite a number more come, some that have not been here before from Washington Cnty & three from other places. I got Miss Mason, the cook of the Commons to wash my floor, <partitions>, windows & furniture of the new room that I occupy. I have two tables in this room. Upon the one I put the table cloth that you let me have & on the other that large red shawl makes a beautiful tablecloth. I set the later in one corner of the room, oposite the bed and upon the back side of it I put my book case. The room is papered, & I don't think you have a handsomer room. It is the west side of the building & in the afternoons I can put down my curtains which make it cool & comfortable. I have paid Mr. York & Mr. Farrington, but I have only just seen Mr. Weld yet.

Give my love to Charley & Rodelphus. Tell Charles he must try and lern all he can this summer. How does Roland feel since he washed sheep. Tell him I saved myself a bit of sickness with out any liquour.

Excuse bad writing for I have a poor pen. Give my best respects to father & Roland. My health is good & I feel in good spirits.

Your affectionate Son,

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Jun 3

[To:] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

55 6/15/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0050

South Leeds Me

North Yarmouth, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds June 15th 1846

My dear Son

Two weeks have past, since you left home out of the eleven that you were to be gone. Scarce an hour I think has passed away without my thinking much of you, how it was going with you, whether you were happy or not, and in what you could be most happy. My thoughts pass round and round and view you over and over, and why is it that your mother finds herself so often engaged in thought about her son. Perhaps you too think mother need not trouble herself so much about me, but I do. How much I regret your love of frolick and fun. Oh! how much pleasure it would give me, if I thought you felt a contempt for that light mindedness which I perceive you have a great share, and how much consequence you attach to what you call pleasure. I recollect you said while at home the students were thought nothing of at Yarmouth (what matters it) whether they are thought of much or little consequence there. If you conduct yourself properly and have a clear conscience as your object in attending that institution is wholly to press your studies forward as fast as possible and not to resent other people's feelings. Every body has there aim and object in what they do, yours in being where you are, is study. And if you persevere in them and obey the laws of the institution I have no doubt you will be thought as much of as you deserve.

Now I will leave this subject, but one thing more when you study have your mind free from cares of every kind. Give yourself wholly up to your lesson. Oh! how much I desire to be capable of directing you and I think I am in many respects. However lightly you may think of your Mother's advice. When you have lived as many years and had as much experience as I have, you will think how much anxiety my mother has had about the welfare of her children and now I know, and feel it myself.

The Sabbath after you left home I was thinking how you would spend the day. It was a beautiful day. I thought Otis has hired a seat in the Baptist meeting house and gone into the sabbath school and will be happy to day and I was happy in the thought. I attended meeting that day myself and enjoyed the day well.

I found a letter in the office for me from Lydia Martin, and the day you left home a paper came into the office for you from Limmington. I shall mail it tomorrow for Yarmouth. I saw John Otis at meeting. He was astonished that he did not have a visit from you.

Last sabbath I heard your friend Harvey was to lecture on the subject temperance at the town house and I went out there to hear him. He delivered quite a learned lecture on perseverance in the cause and brought a great many evidences to prove what great achievements had been attained by perseverance. I spoke with him after the lecture was over. He told me he was going out to New York and was on his way now. He regretted very much not seeing you when at home. He looks very pale and thin and became so hoarse before he got through, he was hardly intelligent. There was quite a full house to hear him.

Rowland B H came home when the time expired that he was to come and is helping Roland A hoe his corn. Mr Gilmore has been to Lewiston and brought your great coat home. I like my girl well. Charles and Rodelphus attend school every day. I sincerely hope you will get along well this summer.

I cannot conceive it necessary to join in all the folly there is going on among the students. Oh! Otis these are precious moments to you and I presume you will consider it so. The Bible tell us to seek first the kingdom of heaven and all the rest shall be added unto you. If you could feel to give yourself unreservedly to God every day your unhappy feelings would be done away in part.

The little boys are playing horse their favorite play and the two Rowlands are milking the cows and singing and Rowland has touched upon as much as ten tunes in ten minutes and Rowland B H breaks out now and then to try his tune. Tis getting quite dark. I must stop. Good night.

[Envelope]

[written later] June 18th 1846. From Leeds to Yarmouth

[From] South Leeds Me
June 16

[To] Master Oliver O Howard
North Yarmouth

56 6/18/1846 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0052

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth June 18th 1846

Dear Mother

It grieves me to think what anxious feelings you give way to for me, and your expressing your fears in regard to my delight in frivolous conduct. But believe me dear Mother but few spare moments are there for frivolity, nor have I since I came here engaged in any sport, nor do I desire to. What recreation & exercise I take is in walking. You must not give yourself necessary trouble in regard to me, although I never can be under too much obligation to my mother for her constant & watchful care, and for her deep & constant interest in the welfare of her son, yet it gives me unhappiness to think that I am such a source of grief and trouble to her. I do not regard sport & <past> time pleasure. When I spoke of pleasure, I intended happy feelings, an inward consciousness, that would give me delight while I was passing my time at school, a consciousness that I was not a burden to my <my> mother, and my unhappy feelings that I gave way to when I was at home were from my not having been more economical as regards my pecuniary affairs and for my being obliged to be under so much extra expense for clothes while attending school, than when at home, <in fine>, for constantly spending and not gaining, although I am gaining in one respect, yet I may never be able, if I live, to repay you.

As regards your advice, I think mother you do me injustice, to say or rather to harbor a thought that I am disrespectful & regardless of a mothers advice. Whatever opinion you must have formed of your son, can any one but he who is plunged into the deepest degradation & debauchery, regardless of both moral and intellectual reverencing. Neither God nor the opinion of man, from recreant to a mothers counsel and admonition. Although I am frivolous, boyish, heedless and indeliberate in every thing else, but save me from depreciating my mother's opinion and counsel. Do not, dear mother, be too anxious for I get along well and am as happy as any can be away from his parents & home, young & unaccustomed to cares and responsibilities of any kind.

You said you saw Harvey & he looked very pale. Is he any worse than he was. For what is he going to New York. For his health.

Pleas send me a newspaper once in a while or ask Rowland Bailey for me. Give my best respects to every member of the family.

Did Harvey say any thing about my books. My eye has got as well as it was before, and I am in perfect health. Our first class gets along very well indeed. Mr Weld has given us our <stant> between now & the fourth of July and we have taken only lessons so that we may get done about a week before the fourth which time we have to use selfless and I intend to spend mine in reviewing. I have resolved to remain here the fourth of July, most all are going to Portland, but I tell them that if I went I should be so tired the next day that I could hardly stand and that I shall feel better in the end to stay at home and study.

Tell Charles & Rodolphus that I send my love to them & desire them to be good boys & learn as much as they can and likewise to Rowland Bailey. Tell him not to forget to send me a paper & the first interesting one I get I will send it to him. I supposed you excused my not going to see John. I wished to go but had not time as it rained when it was convenient for me to. Give my best respects to all my acquaintances if any you see. Ask Rowland Bailey how the so well paid office of Clerk suited him. It is a very pleasant day & it is nearly school time. I must bid you good bye this time. I hope you will be well and not have so much anxiety that it will make you unhappy. I do not think I am uncommonly frivolous & foolish & hope I may, if I have not, treat all your wishes with respect & regard and comply with. For I know you do not wish or require of me any thing unreasonable. You must excuse bad spelling, for I have written this in less than half an hour.

From your affectionate Son,
Oliver O Howard [The first O is large enough for him to write the rest of his first name, "liver", inside the O.]

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[written later] O O Howard, June 18 1846
[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME JUN 17
[To}
Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

54 6/14/1846 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0051

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth June 14, 1846

Dear Mother

I hope you are still as well as you was when I came from home. Has Rowland returned from Wayne yet. If he has tell him he must write me a letter or send me a paper. Give my love to all at home. How do you like Cynthia. Is she well. How does Charles & Rodolphus get along at school. Do they learn well? Tell Charles he must be a good boy & not play to hard & study.

It has now been over a week since I have written. I attended meeting last sabath, but I think shall not today. My eye looks & feels so bad. I have got two styes on one of my eyes and I expect I have got cold in them for it has swollen up all round the eye so that it makes it difficult to open. But it is getting better now.

It is some pleasanter here now than it was last spring since the trees have leaved out and the grass has grown up. My room being on the west side of the building makes it very cool in the forenoon but towards night it is considerable warm, but I have got green paper curtains & my room mate has got some very dark cloth ones which when they are put down makes it very comfortable when the sun is on this side.

I have studied quite hard since I have been here this term & must continue to do so if I expect to get into college this fall which I expect to do if I can any way possible. But I expect to have some to make up, but if I do not get in at the end of this term there will be six weeks in which I can make up what I am deficient in.

Pettingill is not coming this term, so a young man said that came from Winthrop, because his father is very sick. Therefore, I have got a room mate belonging to the first class, perhaps you have heard me speak of him A. McArthur of Limington Me.

If I enter College, I shall before I come home. Our class talks of writing down to Brunswick & have a private examination before the customary time. I am considerable anxious about going but I think I shall get in well enough. I shall try.

I do not like to have styes come along to plague me but they will in spite of me. These are the first I have ever had.

Give my love to all. Write soon & all the news. I paid all the expenses of last term as soon as I arrived, which were about six dollars. Then I paid 3 dollars to the commons and shall pay two more soon. I have not spent a cent this term I believe not but that I was obliged to. I have not rec'd a communication from any one this term, except a paper from Augusta from Charles Turner. Give my love to father, write often.

Your affectionate son,
O O Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]
[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME 15
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds
Me

57 6/21/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0053

South Leeds, Me

North Yarmouth, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds June 21 1846

My Dear boy,

We are very well now and have no ill health worthy of remark since you left home. The three last mails I could not help looking for a letter from you, and was relieved from anxious looking when I saw R.B.H. receive a letter from the mail carrier thinking it was from you and I was not disappointed. I regret exceedingly your eye should become inflamed. If it should continue to gather matter be sure and have your ears board and silk drawn into them. That will turn the course of the humor. If your eyes continue bad don't strain them to study. Come home and cure them. I had my fears when you were at home how it would be. I noticed your eyes were swollen more than is natural. You had better take salts. Buy two ounces and take one tea spoonful three mornings in succession and then go three and not take them and follow that course untill you have taken them nine mornings. You cannot be too careful of your health.

I am glad your room is so satisfactory to you. Do not be so anxious about entering college this fall. You are young enough yet. If you do not go there until another fall consider well what is best. I am not able to say what is best, and I know there is no one in this world that feels that heart felt interest that I do and I desire to feel it candidly. I know you must have perseverance and patience and a great many words might be added to express what are needed to carry forward our undertakings in every situation. But to climb the hill of science is slow and often impeded in its course in various discouragements, but if that is your determination keep a steady and cheerful course. Don't let small matters disturb you. Never estrange yourself from your mother. No body can sympathize with you as she can.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs Capt Turner and Joshua's wife took tea here. I spent the afternoon very agreeably and at night received a communication from my only absent son. Those are temporal blessings in which I delight much.

The little boys are all well. Charles and Rodelphus begin to show some improvement in their studies. Rodelphus is as uneasy as even he is sturming the room all about now. He just now was on one foot and fell against my table and spoiled one of my ell's and now is fretting with being hurt. Charles has read three little Books through of late and certainly improves in reading. He is very much pleased when you notice him in letters. RB and RA are hoing the corn. RBH reading every minute he can get, watching congress and the state legislature in all exciting questions. I believe he likes very well to get home again and enjoy his old customs. (Cyntha says in a very softly manner dinner is ready). I return again to my pen determined to set an example of filling up my sheet, it being so disagreeable to me to find a blank spot in a letter from those I love, or to say the least of it, I feel regret when a letter finishes.

Arza came home last Sabbath day or after meeting. He feels the anxiety of business very much, going into Wayne and underselling the other traders has created a feeling of competition all around him which was what I expected. Perhaps it will do him good, by arousing his energies not to be outdone. Mr Allen's health is better than it was. I sincerely hope he will have good health. I have not seen him since his return from Boston.

Give my respects to your roommate. I must feel interested in one who studies, sleeps and eats and indeed receives all his daily comfort with my dear son. However do as you please about saying Mother wishes to be remembered to you. This is indeed a rainy Sabbath. The rain has fallen incessantly through the day until this hour, which is 4 o'clock. It is a week since I have heard from your soar eye. <[hole in paper]> know it would indeed be a privalege to be near you and know how you are getting along. Write me how you spend your sabbaths.

I hope you will be particular in observing the laws of the institution. There is nothing like being particular in small matters as well as great ones to get a good name. I do not wish you to be sycophantic to obtain favor, a person can maintain an independent spirit and still keep in the path of rectitude.

I have not seen or heard anything from any of our Hallowell friends since you left home. One subject that I

intended to mention that is your keeping school next winter. You need not think any more about keeping school. I do not want you to keep school next winter. It will be attended with some perplexity and I had rather you would spend the vacation with me. Then if you are behind in any of your studies you can devote your time to study at home. I think our house will be quite convenient when it is finished. I shall be obliged to draw to a close by subscribing myself your

Affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

Be sure and fill your letters full. You cannot write anything that is not interesting to me. E.G.

[Envelope]
From Leeds to N.Y.
June 24 1846
[Handwritten postmark] Greene Me 1 day June 24
[To] Master Oliver O Howard
South Yarmouth

58 6/25/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0054 North Yarmouth, Maine South Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth June 25th 1846

Dear Mother

It gives me a great pleasure to receive a letter from home, as it does you to receive one from me, for I am always anxious about your health & how my brothers are getting along. My health is perfect at present. My eye is entirely well and every thing goes to suit me. And there is nothing wanting to make my happiness complete, but the absence of my best friends. Which absence must happen for we cannot always be with those whom we would but this term is fast passing and soon again shall I return to my friends.

I have just now finished my dinner, and the other students are exercising themselves by playing ball. It is truly a glorious day but it was rather cold this morning. Our class will finish Sallust this week & all but the poetry in the Greek Reader. I expect to have a hard time to get into college this fall, but I think at present that I shall make out. We are now about to have a vacation of about a week from Latin & Greek to review Algebra. And some of the class have never been over half of it.

I am glad Rowland takes so much interest in reading the newspapers and other things for by which he will gain great information & knowledge and he will treasure up the language & learn manner of expression, & the style of others which will enable him to appear better both in writing & speaking and to gain the respect & esteem of others, which, I must confess, an empty head & an uninformed mind can with difficulty gain. Give my love to him, and my old request that he will send me the paper after it is read. Tell Charles to tell me by way of your letter all about his school & school fellows. Tell him to be a good boy & read Otis' book if he has not and give my love to him too, and a kiss to Rodelphus, and tell him I shall expect him to read short sentences in reading when I come home again.

I thank you for your prescriptions but it was nothing but a sty that I had. The eye itself was not at all affected, but only the flesh around it and now it is entirely well. I expect my blood is in rather poor order for I have not had my accustomed <shol> of the cholc this year and therefore I have taken nothing to cleanse the blood.

I have had a letter from Harvey mailed at Rowel. He was well and said he should start for Springfield the next day. It was Sunday when he directed the letter therefore I suppose he was going Tuesday & after remaining there a short space of time, he should either come home or go to N. York, he was undecided which.

You said you was sorry when the letter was filled but perhaps you could take another sheet and continue it. I think you could put 2 or 3 of those thin sheets of paper together and then not weigh more than the sheet I am writing on.

Tell Rowland Bailey he must write me all about how he spends the fourth of July, where he goes and how he enjoys himself. I do not intend to go into Portland myself but I will write all I hear from others. As I probably shall, for my chum is going & nearly all the students that belong to the institution.

Give my best respects to Cyntha and Roland. Remember me to father. How does he do. Is he at home, at work, collecting debts? Or at court extracting himself from the grasp of John Kean. How does that come on and how did he accomplish in favor or against himself. When I came here after the vacation I left my cane at Smal's store, where father left me. Did he get it and cary it home or not. It is most time for me to get my greek lesson, for it is nearly the middle of the afternoon. You must write me often and all the news. Are Uncle Ensign's folks well & the rest up that way of my acquaintances. Give my best respects to them if you see them, and likewise to Frances Turner.

It is now evening. Since supper I have been to take a pleasant walk of about a mile and now I have returned to finish my letter. Since I came from home the last time I have enjoyed myself well neither in playing nor sport of any kind but in studying the most of the time & likewise in reflection.

What can be the motives of my mother in giving me an education. Is it that it may advance her resources. Far

from that for she gives it freely to an uncertain son, liable to be taken away at any moment, or by imprudence bring ill health upon himself. Or even if succeeds in getting his education, his success is uncertain in whatever business he undertakes. Therefore (thinks I to myself) what can be the motives of my mother. At last I struck upon the right thing, it is pure, maternal affection, which only a Mother can feel for her child.

I shall expect to see you in about 3 weeks, either having entered college or not. I cannot now tell which.

May you be well. I spoke for a seat at the baptist Meeting house, with a Mr Lufkin.

Your affectionate and faithful son
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth ME, Jun 26

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds, Maine

59 7/5/1846

From: Oliver Otis Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0055

North Yarmouth, Maine

South Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth July 5th 1846

Dear Mother

It is now over a week since I have taken my pen to call your attention to my scribbling. I have acted very different from what I thought I should when last I wrote as the person that was going with my chum to Portland could not go. I consented to take his place. Perhaps I did wrong.

I saw Col Lothrop & Uncle Stillman Howard. Col. said Uncle Ensign & Aunt stopped at the Elma house but they had left for Boston before I could see them. The people that were collected were estimated to be about 15,000 in number. Some say there were more. They had a very long procession, extending nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in length & four persons walked together. It was composed of the Governor, the Legislature, rail road Proprietors from Canada, as well as from Maine, Rehabites, stock holders, the different Loges of Oddfellows, and a few citizens & strangers. They paraded in the streets, then they marched all through the city. (I forgot to mention that they had 4 or five bands of music.) After that went, up on the hill where stands the observatory, where the Collation was prepared, sufficient for 6,000 people, they had tongue, beef & crackers, and good cold water, after the collation they proceeded to the place where they went through the ceremony of breaking ground. Judge [William Pitt] Preble made a few remarks, then a prayer was made, after which the Governor, Judge P. & some of the Legislature went to shoveling. They shoveled for a while then they made speeches, as I understood, one man from Canada, but I did not stop to hear them. There was so many there that it was not very comfortable standing. After which they all had an excursion in the steam boats to the Islands. (I did not go there either).

I had a fine time, but now it is over & I have returned to Yarmouth again on the morrow, to resume my studies. Such times if not so frequent can do one no injury, excepting those who are intemperate & given to so appetite & passion. But the remainder of this term I have resolved to keep close to my book and have that my best companion.

I was very sorry that I could not have seen Aunt & Uncle Ensign before they left for Boston for last fourth of July I promised Olive that I would come up to B the next. But as I could not I should like to send some word by them. I hope you are all well. How did you spend the fourth. Write me as soon as you can. Uncle Stillman said that he had been to our house, that he saw you & that you were all well. Col Lothrop said that Aunt Frances had been very sick, and for some time was not expected to live. But now she was getting better. If you have heard from Grandmother lately, how does she do.

Nearly all the people in North Yarmouth went into Portland yesterday. Mr. Weld & his family.

Tell Charley he must tell me in your letter what he did on the fourth of July and what the day is celebrated in memory of. Give my love to him, Rodelly & Rowland B. I have received a paper from Rowland not long since & as soon as I can get any, I shall send him one.

When I heard that Col Lothrop & Uncle Ensign were at P I thought that I might with father some where but did not. Have they got done hoing yet. Give my best respects to Roland A & Cyntha. Remember me to father. Write me all the news. I shall expect a letter from you in next Tuesday's mail.

Do you know whether William is intending to go to college this fall or not. Give my respects to all my friends at Leeds if any you see.

From your most affectionate Son
Oliver Otis Howard
Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]
[written later] O O Howard
July 5th 1846

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me, July 6
[To] Mrs John Gilmore
South Leeds Maine

60 7/5/1846 *From:* R B Howard

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0056a

Leeds, Maine

North Yarmouth Seminary,
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 5th 1846

Dear Brother

In compliance of your request I take my pen in hand to write a few lines to you. I went to Wayne yesterday with Rowland Alger. & staid til almost sunset. We had a fine time. In the morning there was a procession formed at the new methodist meeting house & marched to the grove this side of the town house, where there was a table set one hundred & fifty feet long. But it would not accommodate more than half of the cold water army. There was seven hundred in this procession, then another was formed called the mecanicks consisting of about 100 mecanicks, who wore all kinds labells. They dined in front of the hotell, the first procession reached from Mr Smithes house to the grove about 20 rods this side of the town house. I should think there were about 2000 in all who were there. The Hon L.P. Benson of Winthrop delivered a lecture on the evils of interference & the best way preventing them. There was a band of music who played very well. There was excelant singing accompanied by the pianaforte.

Are you well. Write me all about the fourth of July in your parts. Send me a paper as soon as you can. You must forgive bad writing & spelling. We have got through hoeing the second time. We are all well, but I must leave room for Mother. Write as soon as you can.

Your affectionate Brother
R B Howard

61 7/6/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0056b

Leeds, Maine

North Yarmouth Seminary,
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[This letter is a continuation of the letter by Rowland, written on July 4, 1846]

July 6th [1846]

My dear Son,

Your letter came to hand last Saturday. I was very glad to receive it and much pleased with the contents, but had it been a little fresher, you would have probably had a letter from me ere this. Your letter was nine days old before it reached me. You said in your letter you expected to see me in 3 weeks. That is sooner than I expected. This is the twelfth day out of the time you mentioned which will only have 9 more. Will you be so kind as to write more particularly to me about it.

If you should not succeed in your examination do not be discouraged nor ashamed. It is all nothing I could not advise you what was best because I was not capable. But if you should not bear the proper examination I should most certainly think strang of Mr Weld's management in encouraging you to come, and then giving you a place in the first class (I do not know under what circumstances all these things happened) I suppose you have been regular in your lessons as the rest of the class. I am not over anxious whether you enter college this year or next. Only there would be a regular course of proceeding in finishing your preparation at Yarmouth and then entering college at Brunswick and so on. If you should not enter there this time there would be future considerations to attend.

Your Father said if the travel to Portland had not been more than twenty miles he should have liked well to have gone with you on the fourth. I suppose it was a great day there for this state, but your Mother does not consider it much loss to you if you did not go (probably if you live you will see many rare sights). At this season of the year tis so fatiguing to be where there are so many people.

If there is anything about your dress that you need before you go to Brunswick a nice shirt, or any other article get it at Yarmouth. Perhaps you can send to Portland by some one. O how much your Mother desires you to have everything right.

Now about coming home write very particular what help you need from home. Laura A Leadbetter and Mr Wingate rode out here from Hallowell on the fourth of July and returned last evening. All the ones who have been here from that place this summer. Your Aunt Frances is in a very low state of health. She has been reduced to such a state that her death was expected hourly but her disorder has taken a favorable turn and she is quite comfortable so that she sits in a chair to have her bed made up. Her complaint is on the lungs. I hope her life will be spared for the sake of her family. Your Uncle E. Otis and wife have gone to Boston I understand. I suppose for her health.

Of late I have heard bad news from the Woodmans at Wilton. Mr Woodman has absconded to keep out of the way of officers of Justice. His long head has not answered his purpose this time. Warren is married.

Write soon and write everything about yourself you can think of. I hope this will find you well and happy.

Your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore
O.O. Howard

[Envelope] [No Postmark]
[To] Master Oliver O Howard
North Yarmouth Seminary

62 7/19/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0057

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth July 19th 1846

Dear Mother

You must excuse me for not writing last week. I was not very well & was obliged to study very hard. For of late we have got about 800 lines in Virgil a day. But we are now reading Cicero in review.

I have just been reconing up my expenses. They will be \$20.00 more than I have paid, which will make the terms expenses 25.00 exceeding what I expected. In this 25.00 I recon my expenses on the fourth. I shall not be obliged to buy any thing before I go to Brunswick, but I shall be oblige to hire my passage down & back and the class are going to give Mr Weld the rest from subscribed 5.00 apiece, but I did not subscribe & shall not untill I consult you. I don't wish you to consider my expenses of this term but 25.00, five of which I have paid out of the 12.00 you let me have, some of which I have left, but the rest, Mr Weld's present & my going to Brunswick are not reconed. I think you had better send me the money soon or in your next letter & I will settle up. I shall get along just as cheap as I can. I suppose you will blame me for going to Portland, but I think you will excuse me.

Now it is noon having attended meeting a half day I again resume my seat for the purpose of completing my letter. We had quite an interesting discourse this forenoon, continued from last sabbath's discussion concerning the making the Ark of the Lord by David & the death of <Ugar> together with the feelings of David and his actions on that occasion. He delivered a very eloquent sermon, I think pleasing & acceptable to all. The Minister is a man of about the middle stature, neither too short or too tall, & well formed. He is quite intellectual in his appearance. His head a little bald, not from years, for I should think he was about thirty or thirty two, of rather dark hair, & very light complexion. He is very effeminate as to his delivery, but his sermons are of a deep & comprehensive character, presenting an elegance & beauty in their very style. It is a rainy sabbath.

I suppose you are all at home enjoying youselves in reading some pleasant & interesting book or paper or father, siting with his spectacles on, his paper having droped down, sleeping. Now & then being aroused by a nod, and Rowland Bailey pouring over his newspaper with intense interest, heeding not what is on arround him & Charley sits in his chair, smiling his winning & affectionate smile while listening to Rodelphus standing by his mothers knee & talking with her about his school mates or his brother Otis. And Rowland Alger is siting by the window reading or looking out humming his favorite tunes. Thus do I picture in my imagination the scenes of home, with the endearing & delightful appearance, that naught else can present, and while enjoying the pleasures, the delights & privalege of home.

Know them not nor can we estimate their value or know how highly, they should be prized. Untill we are separated from them, then on reflection we behold them in their vivid color. Then can we realize the privalege of having parents to watch & guard our very footsteps, to preserve us from wrong acktions & wrong motives, to bear our responsibilities, to advise, restrain & protect us on every occasion. And in all circumstances on whom we can rely to whom we can relate our troubles, and gain solace from their kind admonitions & friendly advice. Our nature is such that without these comforts, & without the trust & confidence of friends, not knowing whom to believe, & whom to rely upon, we are unable to be happy, & we are unable to enjoy ourselves in any <[hole in paper]> but with these things (if we know how to estimate them) we must consequently be happy & enjoy this short life given us.

I have again seated myself to close my letter, after the after noon sermon, I hope this letter will find you well. Give my love to all. Have they commenced haying. It is uncertain about my coming home, whether I shall come in four or six weeks, if we have a private examination (which I do not much expect) I shall be at home in 4, but if we wait untill commencement in 6 weeks. But then I will let you know in season for you to send to meet me in any place.

From you affectionate Son
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth Me Jul 19

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds, Me

63 7/26/1846 *From:* R B Howard

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0058a

South Leeds, Me

South Yarmouth, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 26th 1846

Dear Brother

Mother has just started for Hallowell. Aunt Frances is dead. She died yesterday Morning at nine o'clock. The funeral is tomorrow at ten. Mother went down today to get rested before Addison came last evening to let us know & to get Vaughn who has been at Uncle Ensigns. We received your letter last night. In your last letter before that you said you were coming home in three weeks & in your last you thought you should be at home in four or six weeks. & we do not know what to believe. We are all well at home. Uncle Ensign and his wife have had the varioloid [a form of chicken pox] but have got better. Aunt Martha says she has never been so well since she was sick, but thought that no one caught it. We has got about half through haying. John Turner is helping us and is a good workman. You must send me a paper as soon as you can. It is Monday Morning & I must go to work. Mother said that she would fill this out. I think I shall go to school this fall but do not know where to go. Mr Jones gets along very well, but it is rather hard for him to do his haying with only his boys to help him, but he has put yet considerable on the meadow so that it washes it a great deal easier for him. I must leave of writing more and go to work.

Your in haste
R B Howard

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds, Me

Aug 1

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

South Yarmouth

64 8/1/1846

From: E. Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0058b

South Leeds, Me

South Yarmouth, Me

Source: Bowdoin

[Continuation of the previous letter]

Leeds Aug 1st 1846

My dear boy

This is indeed a fine morning and I and mine and all our dependants are in possession of sufficient blessings to draw our hearts in gratitude to the author of every good and perfect gift. I received your letter by Saturday's mail after anxiously looking for one and for several mails. I thought I should hasten an answer to you by the next mail, but you see by the date I have not fulfilled my expectation. I reached home at eleven o'clock on Monday evening fully intending to write before the mail left but did not and the week has passed a way until Saturday.

I thought when I read what you said about a present to Mr Weld, I should lay your situation before you on paper, and leave the subject to your judgment but time nor paper will not admit, but your income cannot exceed more than 150 dollars yearly and your bills far exceed that, your bills the spring term were more than thirty dollars then clothing bills were about twenty more and I feel as though your wardrobe is scantily filled now. Your expenses this term must be 90. more at the least. That is the sum and substance of your case.

I always feel an inclination to gratify you and do even in this instance but duty forbids. I could enumerate causes sufficient to satisfy you. I know how you feel about it. I have been in the same situation. Do as you like but I should rather you would not. I shall enclose twenty dollars to you. You did not say how much you required to get you along until you reach home. Ots you would think you were doing well to earn ten dollars in a month. Now ask yourself the question am I willing to labor one half of a month for Mr Weld.

I lately have seen the mother of a dear Brothers children conveyed away to the grave and I cannot look on without a feeling of grief and sympathy for the future as well as the present. William looked very sad. His infantile moments have been looked after by a tender mother and now we see his younger brothers and sisters deprived of that care, by a wise Providence which cannot err, all the rest of our friends in Hallowell are tolerably well.

I saw a letter from Mrs [Olive B] Hazard mostly on the subject of her father's [Ephraim Woodman, Eliza's brother-in-law] situation. She expressed a great deal of feeling on the subject and charity towards him. I afterward conversed with your Uncle John. He said there was no chance for him only to flee from justice. Only pause a moment my son and think of the situation of a man the age of 59 fleeing from place to place away from his wife and children and in disguise. Make the comparison between home, kind friends, and fond children. An honest man, the noblest work of God. I look back upon Mr Woodman as he once stood in the view of the world, and at the present how he stands and I think had he only kept in the path of rectitude. Let this teach us a lesson. Let us ask our common Father every morning and evening to strengthen us in the path of rectitude.

I was sorry to hear you say you felt unwell but hope you are better. Write every particular how you get along. I do not wish to say to you that you are poor and indeed I consider you in very good circumstances.

E. Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds, Me

Aug 1

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

South Yarmouth

65 8/4/1846

From: O O Howard

To: Mrs Eлиза Gilmore

OOH-0059

North Yarmouth, Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

North Yarmouth August 4th 1846

Dear Mother

I catch a few moments just before recitation to write a few lines in reply to your last. It was very sad news that was born to me & very unexpected. I did not know that she was dangerously sick. Is William going to college this fall; how did Maria appear when you were at Hallowell. I hope you are still as well as when you wrote. I think I have kept rather too close to my studies of late. I do not feel so well as I did, have not so good an appetite. I think the cause of it is because I set so much without exercise. I have arose in the morning at four o'clock every morn except Sunday for about 3 weeks, but then I shall have a vacation of 5 or 6 weeks if I get into college.

As to my expenses, I know that they are much more than I could desire. They would have been as cheap as I said if I had not gone to Portland, but now it is too late to regret my foolishness, but must beware for the future. But as every student has contributed for a present heretofore, and all my class such as depend holly on the <> as well as others. Therefore I could not go to his party & supper, knowing that I was the only one that did not give. But I think I shall give 3 dollars, & if my income will not allow it, I will work when the vacation comes willingly, rather than to seem parsimonious. I will avoid all unnecessary expenses. Neither am I or shall I be intemperate or gamble, to spend money, but mother, I think, as good as Mr Weld has been to me, & to my class, that we ought to give him a present or something that may serve as a memorial of our kindness.

You do not know how I feel about it, I know well that I am not rich, and that I must economize every way possible to lessen my expenses, but prohibit me from appearing small, I had rather more ragged clothes. Perhaps you may say that brother Rowland does not spend so much as I, but place him in the same situation, and it would be very different with him, except that he has more economy or is of a very different disposition. But forgive me if I am wrong, for I wish to follow a mothers advice in all things. But still mother if my expenses have been more than they ought to have been, I most certainly have not wasted my time. This term is something for my consolation.

Give my love to Rowland. Tell him I should be glad to answer his part of the letter directly to him but I have not time at present. Next term I shall not be obliged to study half so hard, & then I can correspond with him regularly. Give my love to Charles, Rodelphus & the rest of the family. My coming home is still uncertain, for we are not certain about the private examination yet. But if there is one I think I shall try to get in. Then I shall come home in about a fortnight, but perhaps I shall stay until commencement about 4 weeks from tomorrow (Wednesday). I shall if Mr Weld thinks it will be better for me.

I suppose you will be about half through haying before I return home. Excuse this broken letter. I will try to write a better one next, when I can get a little more time. I hope you will think of what I have said about the present to Mr Weld, & write me in your next. I do not wish to give more than \$3.00 for it. They will bring it out from Portland to day, a bible costing 25.00. Therefore you must know how beautiful it must be. The Class last year gave him a watch worth about \$40.00 but they had quite a large class.

We are reviewing Virgil now, viz, the Bucholics, & reading in advance the Greek Poetry. We have got but very little time & a great deal to do.

I hope William will go to college this fall. I should like to have him room with me. On some accounts I do not wish to room with the one I do now

Your affectionate Son
O. O. Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] NORTH YARMOUTH ME. AUG 4

[To] Mrs Eiiiza Gilmore

South Leeds

66 8/13/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0060

South Leeds Me

North Yarmouth, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, August 13th, 1846

My dear boy

How are you this morning. I hope you are happy. I am sorry to hear you say you feel unwell but hope you are better. It will not be long before (I trust) we shall see each other. In you anxiety to convince your mother of the necessity of subscribing for the present you did not say whether you had money sufficient to pay up your bills or not, or whether you had received the last twenty dollars. I shall inclose three dollars more in this. Your father is gone to Augusta to attend court. I hope he will be freed from John Keen soon.

You enquired about William, and Maria. Your Uncle said William had attended school but very little this summer. I presume he has not forwarded his studies much. Maria appeared very pleasant and tender towards her infant sister, a fine little babe. Vaughn is at his Uncle Ensign's for the present. You have never mentioned whether Pettengill ever came back to North Yarmouth or not.

Our haying is nearly finished and grain harvest too. It is indeed a plentiful season. Our corn fields are indeed beautiful. I have a charming flower garden this summer which makes it more pleasant here than it was when you left home. I went up to our old home last week. Everything there looked charming excepting the inside of the house. It is as dirty as every. Mrs Rose is confined to her bed. The dairy is mostly lost.

Warren Lothrop entered as an engineer at West Point the first of the summer expecting to stay there a year or more and his family thought he would in that time have the privilege of a cadet, but they are dreadfully disappointed for he is now one of those who are called to go into the Texas war. He is to have his present destination for the seat of war in one month.

I am sorry you should mention the extreme sins as though you thought your Mother should be grateful that yours was no worse. I hope the adjective bad will not apply to you my son. I think you a good son but not a perfect one. Your mother is a close observer of her sons. She sees they have fine qualities and she desires to build on those qualities and have them useful men in this great world. Useful to themselves and to others.

You say tis a custom to make Mr Weld a present and a privalege it seem. You say he has been extremely good to you. That is his duty. It is his duty to be all the benefit to you in his power and he is paid for it on that account. You are under no obligation to him. I am glad you have a grateful heart. It is one of the finest qualities in the world and I see no way for you to get along without subscribing for the present. You never wrote what your bill on the Fourth of July was. Now my boy you are altogether mistaken to suppose I desire you to be penurious. Tis not so. I am glad you are generous but there is a difference between ostentation and benevolence. I desire you think of difference. Your mother always feels a desire to gratify you in every request, but I know it is not always best. I am not offended with you for going to Portland, but I think self denial is a great virtue in practicing which we often have great reward we experience pleasure and I think you will find it even so. I feel as though you were preparing for the future and I hope you take pleasure in your manner of life.

I have of late seen my Brothers family deprived of the council of a dear mother which admonishes me that I may be the next to be called. For to give up my accounts in such a case who but you can watch over the education of your younger Brothers. But I will hope that I shall still be spared to keep <[hole in paper]> together untill time has done more <[hole in paper]> at rest. Son in such a case you would have to think for yourself and for your brothers too. I wish in your next you would be particular to write all about your health and everything else. Write as soon as you receive this. You never have thought how anxiously I watch for the to bring a few lines from my dear boy.

Charley says Betsey says Mr Gilmore has lost the case. I did not think such news would excite me so much as it has. I have found myself in constant perspiration and my stomach flutters badly. I believe I have written all I calculated to.

Your Affectionate Mother

Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

I had no three dollar bill & I have put in five. You must not spend any more than necessary.

[Envelope]

[From] South Leeds Me Aug 15

[To] Master Oliver O Howard

North Yarmouth, Me

67 9/29/1846 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0061

Bowdoin College
Brunswick Me

South Leeds, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd Coll Sept 29th 1846

Dear Mother

On fathers return, I thought I would write a few lines to you & let you know that I have got settled as far as room & the most of the furniture. I went in with a young man from Bangor. I member of my class at N. Yarmouth. He had the room nearly all furnished when I came. It is No. 15 North Coll, south end. It is a pleasant room & quite retired from noise. I have got one lesson & recited it & in about a half an hour I must recite again. I get along with my lesson much better than I expected. This morning, being the first time Proff. Upham heard us recite. There are about 36 in our freshman class at present & they expect more soon. Excuse any more for the bell is now ringing.

Give my love to granma & all the rest. I will write more next time. I hope I shall get along well.

Your affectionate Son
O.O. Howard

[Envelope]
[From] O O Howard
Bowd College
Sept 29 1846
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds

68 10/3/1846 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0062

Bowdoin College
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College Oct 3d, 1846

Dear Mother

After one weeks study & residence at College I have seated myself to write you a few lines. I hope this letter will find you as well as when I left. My health is yet very good. I have now delayed this letter till Tuesday morning.

I like college very much. In the morning at 5 o'clock or ½ past we are waked up by the ringing bell, requesting us to arise & make ready for prayers, which have to be attended in about ½ an hour after. At the tolling of the bell, and as soon as prayers are over we attend recitation, which generally last about an hour & then we have our breakfast. I board at what they call the Grouse club. (Mrs Grouse being employed to do the work & so have the use of her house). It is a good club & they have excellent living (as father told you I suppose). After our morning meal, we have the time until eleven to get our greek (having recited our latin in morning). Proff. Upham hears us in Latin, & Proff Packard in Greek, Proff Smyth in the afternoon in Algebra. It is much easier to get the lessons here than those I was obliged to get at North Yarmouth. I think with all I shall like very well all but being called freshman quite so freely. But that can be put up with for one year.

Our room is (as father must have said) is in the south end of North College. No. 15, 4th story. It tires me very much to climb so many pair of stairs, but I think it is pleasanter after we once get there. The room is finely papered with what is called satin paper. It comprises the study bed room & wood closet. I procured a looking glass new at 1.75 and a desk, book & rocking chair almost new & a very handsome one at 3.00 & I have got me a <cup> at 1.25, I got my bed filled .41 cts.

Is grandmother at Leeds now? If so give her my love & tell her not to trouble herself too much on account of my being boyish for I am more so at home than any where else. How does Rowland Bailey get along at school now with his studdies. Give my love to him, Charles & the rest. Warren was down the other day & called to see me. Perhaps you have seen him since. How does Roland Alger get along now. I suppose he has got all the potatoes dug ere this. Has there been any more paring bees since I left Leeds? Write me all the news. Give my best respects to Uncle Ensign & folks, if at any time you see them. I must leave off writing now to prepare fro recitation, for Professor Packard is rather strict with those who do not recite well. We have short lessons, but they must be well prepared & we are obliged to be punctual to prayers as well as to recitation. I have a very good Chum. Excuse me for not writing more. This is a very beautiful place as Level as can be for two or 3 miles each way. There is not so much noise & disturbance as I expected there would be although once in a while they throw clubs & billets of wood down stairs which makes considerable noise. But for the most part it is as still as if there was nobody in the building but my roommate & myself. Give my respects to Mr Jones's family.

Your affectionate son,
O O Howard

Mrs E Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] O O Howard Oct 3d 1846

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME OCT 6

Paid 5

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds Maine

69 10/21/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mrs. John Gilmore

OOH-0063

Brunswick Coll

South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick Coll Oct 24st 1846

Dear Mother

I have been delaying some time to write with the hopes of receiving an answer to my preceding but as my expectation has not been fulfilled I have again aranged myself at my table to write a letter home again to await an answer. I have got along very well indeed, not having been annoyed so much (as freshman) as I expected. We as a class have fared much better (as they say) than the Class last year, for we have not had any windows broken & we were not held into the Chapel but Once. It may be on account of the faculty for they called up two or three for doing it, suspending them from prayers. But night before last we were rather sadly joke, by the entrails of some chickens. I was waked up in the night by the bursting of my door & when I was wholly awake I got up & found those remnants all over the floor. Some of the students had a roast (having stole the poultry as usual) & after cleaning them, roasting & eating, they thought they would be generous enough to give the freshman the entrails, distributing them at each room. Although there are many wild & dissipated persons in college I think that the majority are steady, if not professors of religion which a great many are.

I commenced this letter on the 21st & now it is the 25th. Having my lesson to get that night I have again taken my pen on sabbath eve after having been to Church all day to hear Mr Sapan, Congregational preacher of Augusta. I have frequently heard him preach whilst at Hallowell. How do you all do at home. I am quite anxious to hear, for I have not been so long a way without hearing from home before. Tell Rowland B he must send me a paper, or a letter for it is full as good a way for any one to learn to write and especially to compose or spell well. I hope he is well & gets along well with his studdies.

There are in College about a dozen Societies of which two are called general societies. Nearly all of the rest are Secret Soc. For the later of which they try very hard to make us pledge ourselves to join and besides these there has been a society got up (as I think) to draw the freshmen in "to hoax them as it is termed". The only answer I have returned to these solicitations & fishing is that I shall not annex myself to any society until I know the principles and motives of that society, and until I am more thoroughly acquainted with its members. Therefore I am safe from any impositions. But there are some I think will or have been rather badly imposed upon.

I will say a few words of William Gardiner. He does not room in the same college as myself, but in south College with Butler. He is beloved by his class & is considered as an excellent young man by all that are acquainted with him here. I am rather inclined to think Grandma's suspicions are ill founded for (if he did once) I do not think he would be guilty of such an act now, but she may be right, yet I cannot look upon him as a thief by any means.

I have not heard from that school agent yet. I suppose if I could have had the school he would have wrtten me long ago, but I asked him to write me as soon as possible so that I might look for another. But I do not know but that it is for the best that I should not teach until a year older.

Nearly 5 weeks have passed since I came from home which seems scarcely more than a day to recall. & I suppose week after week, & year after year, will go in the same manner until my course here is finished.

Give my love to Charles, Rodelphus & Rowland Bailey. Tell Roland Alger he must send me a paper & I will send him the first interesting one I get. Please write soon. I wish very much to hear from home. Jennings has not got a school for this winter & talks of spending it out west. My best respects to all.

Your Most affectionate Son
O. O. Howard

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] O O Howard Oct 26 1846
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME OCT 26
[To] Mrs. John Gilmore
South Leeds Maine

70 10/31/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0064

Leeds, Me

Brunswick, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Oct. 31th 1846

My Dear boy,

How do you do this morn. Happy, I hope, and doing well in every respect. Our family are in health. Your father is trying to hurry the house along before cold weather comes on. Indeed the work in it, the chambers are ready for plastering. Charles & Rodelphus are pictures of health. Rowland B H's health is good. He is so fleshy, he is quite a chunk. C. Millets school finishes to day. I am quite disappointed on R.B.'s account. Your grandmother returned to Hallowell one week ago. Your uncle John came for her, stopped here two hours perhaps, says William is all engaged in hens. He went to the fair at Vassalboro. Maria is at Saco. Your uncle brought her letter. She wrote him for us to read. Everybody is prospering well at H...I. Mssrs Gilmore and Allen are driving business at Wayne largely. Mr. <J> Molton died about the time you left home. He died insolvent. His friends and acquaintances lament him very much. Arza has not commenced housekeeping yet. I attended Howe's wedding. There were forty persons there. This week I went with Mrs Colier to visit Mrs Ansel Turner. Her son was not at home. I hope you will not fall into the bad habits of college life but try hard to sustain good habits, and always bear in mind the object of life is to be useful, and that youth is the time to prepare for usefulness.

Stealing is a sin, let it come in what situation it will. However much it may have been practiced purloining around Colleges. Still the practice is no less <insane> to say the least of it and then the hainousness of the sin in the sight of a good God that delivered the commandments to Moses, that we Sinners might have some rules to abide by and not be like the common beast take from each other whatever gratifies our present wishes. Who knows when they are filching away some indigent person's poultry, what privation they are bringing on that family. Oh! my son there is a confidence within me which says my son will not be guilty of robbing the poor and industrious of their <battle> to help support a night's carousal. What a folly! Who can even in after life look back with any other feeling than regret on such folly.

I am glad you are so happy in your chum. I hope you will be a mutual benefit to each other. I am not particularly anxious on account of your keeping school. What you would earn would help you, if you were lucky in your undertaking. I think you would like the employment, to a benevolent mind there is something agreeable in imparting that to others which we know will be a benefit to them and in imparting knowledge to others we benefit ourselves.

Granma heard you were courting a girl about twenty years old at Mr Brewsters. She heard of it at Joseph Turners and Aunt Martha thinks Hellen will be a grand daughter to grandmother Otis. This is all nonsense but then on this subject caution is necessary not to be pointed in your attentions at the present day, while yet you are a boy. Years change the views very much.

I spent a very pleasant afternoon at Mr Alvin Lanes last Monday. Every thing so neat and Mrs Lane and Lucy appear so amiable. I thought them quite an example. Mary J Lothrop is attending school at Farmington. Your father is packing cheese, dried apples and butter to day for Massachusetts to carry to Hallowel next Monday. Cynthia is with me yet, every thing remains about the same at the old house. The Jones are real industrious I think. Betsey remains the same, with her little ones kicking and smacking, screaming and fighting alternately as they happen to <feel>. Warren Mone was here last evening. He has been sending apples to Mass. which has made quite a business for him for some time. You must write often whether I write or not. I am not very independent in my time with Cynthia for help. Charles can ride a horse to Mr Bate's shop to be shod and to the spring to water, which pleases him much. Charles has done a great deal to help about the work this fall. Our folks have got all their vegetables secured for winter. The fields are white with snow but not enough for sleighing. We have had good traveling untill now. The roads are getting muddy.

Yours with intense interest.
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[From] Greeneville
Oct 31
[Postal mark] Way 6
[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard
Brunswick

71 11/1/1846 *From:* Oliver O. Howard *To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore
OOH-0065 Bowdoin College South Leeds Maine
Source: Bowdoin Brunswick Me

Bowdoin College, November 1st, 1846

Dear Mother

I hope your thus delaying is not occasioned by ill health. For I do not recollect of having been absent so long before with out receiving a letter from home. I have been absent nearly 5 weeks & a half.

Cold weather seems gradually coming upon us & to our great disadvantage some one of the students was foolish enough to set on fire the wood shed containing 150 cords of wood or more on thursday night last. We were woke up about 12.00 by the ringing of the bell. When on looking out we saw the shed in a blaze nearly the whole length. The faculty have been calling up the students ever since & it is thought that they will call up all & have them sworn to try & if possible to discover the one who did it. When (if discovered) he will probably be expelled & be obliged to pay the damages amounting to about \$600.

It is now Monday morning. Having been to the P.O. I am very <since> gratified to find a letter from you and to hear that you with all the rest are so well. I am very well & every thing suits me as far as my own comfort is concerned.

Howethen is married. I hope he will prosper. He has ever been a friend to me. You may be assured the bad habits & practices of college are disgusting & disagreeable to me. So smoothly & calmly does all things pass along that to a casual observer or a stranger visiting college all things take a pleasant aspect & it appears as though all were steady & gentlemanly, instead boisterous, engaged in revelry, drunkenness & the evil practices called jokes, namely, the fire of Thursday's night (spoken of on the preceding page) and the roasts of stolen poultry. This very morning some one was kind enough to give us some delightful perfume by putting assifoeditue [probably Assafoetida, a gum resin obtained from plants in the parsley family and used in medicine] on the recitation room stove. Other like foolishness is daily carried on to the amusement of some and the discomfit of others.

As to that school I should have thought the man might have been kind enough to have informed me whether I could have the school or not. But I never have heard a word from him, perhaps he did not get the Letter. I ought to be doing some thing this winter for my expenses are high, higher on account of so many damages occasioned by fire, the breaking of glass &c.

I am very sorry they assign so many girls to me at Leeds. I do not covet more than one, especially of those at 20. But as Leeds is a fruitful source of stories of such a kind with a few exaggerations, we will not particularly notice them. But I hope granma or Aunt Martha will not be too much troubled, for not very soon shall I make them grandmothers or aunts in or by law.

Who will teach the school in our district this winter? I hope they will have a good school. Jennings talks of teaching a school in North Yarmouth, at about 25 dollars per month. As our catalogues came higher than I expected, I had not quite money enough. I should like to have you send me a couple of dollars in your next.

We have had a little snow here enough to cover the ground but it soon went away not leaving it so muddy as in most places, for the soil is so sandy that it absorbs all the water that carries the rain as soon as it falls & the snow as soon as it melts. We have had a very pleasant day to day seeming allmost like summer & it would pass for a summer's day but for the trees deprived of leaves & the fields here & there with a patch of snow.

Our studies are so easy that now I think some of getting ahead so as to come home thanksgiving day and remain. But I do not know yet when it will be. Therefore I cannot tell yet but will soon enough to send for me. Nearly every one will leave before the end of the term.

Give my love to all. How did Rowland get along with his studdies this fall. Write all the news & as often as you can. Give my respects to Uncle Ensigns family & Hellen if you wish. Has [cousin] Everet Bridgham got well yet.

I believe I have nothing more to write now. Therefore as it is almost recitation time I will close. Hoping that you are & will be well & that I shall study well & get a junior part, which I can easily do if I study & behave well.

Your affectionate son
Oliver O. Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]
[From] O O Howard Nov 1st 1846
[Postmark] BRUNSWICK Me. Nov 3
[To] Mrs. Eliza Gilmore
South Leeds Maine

72 11/16/1846 *From:* R B Howard

To: Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0066a

So. Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Nov 16th 1846

Dear Brother

We have been busied the past week in doing <a> <manuscript> & I have had not time to write or I should. We are all well. Mr <Bashin> finished the carpenter work satterdy night. To day is town metting day. & Mr Gilmore has gone to Wayne. I saw Orville a week ago yesterday. When do you think that you shal be home. I should like it if you could be here Thanksgiving. I liked my school very well. It did not continue as long as I expected. It kept 8 weeks. The scholars beginning to drop of. Mr Willet thought it expedient to close the school. Helen was doing well the last time I saw her. Uncle Ensigns folks are doing well I belive. <Ensgen Warthuy> has not gone away. Jane Jennengs has been to work here . She went away last night.

[Rowland Bailey]

[Envelope]

[From] So. Leeds Me

Nov 17

[To] Mr Oliver O Howard

Brunswick

73 11/16/1846 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0066b

So. Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Nov 17, 1846.

My dear boy,

This is indeed a very fine morning and I have sat down amidst my many cares, to write a few lines to you. We have had our house plastered and our many improvements almost every room is daubed. And our mason is a confounded slouvin and Cynthia is a poor hand to follow him. But I am in hopes we shall get settled in the course of time.

I went to a funeral on the sabbath. It was in the Frost house at the city. Van der Frost a boy about ten years old was kicked by a colt. The blow fractured his skull which caused his death.

I regret very much your loss of dry wood in burning your wood shed. Strange that any person endowed with common understanding would be guilty of such folly and madness. Something within me tells me Otis will not sink into that degraded way. I have heard parents say that they could not think of sending their sons to college because there was such dreadful conduct within those walls. Bad habits formed which followed them through life and was the final course of their ruin. Only think of our best institutions being a scourge of ruin to our most promising youth. What a thought. Is there no remedy? About your keeping school there are reasons why I should like to have you keep school and then objections arise. Just so in every pursuit in life. If you have an opportunity of keeping school you may as well try it if not give yourself no uneasiness.

As for Hellen she has a smile for every boy in town. A vain toy. Davis Francis keeps our school this winter, boards at Oscar Turners. You mentioned coming home at Thanksgiving but have made no arrangements about coming. I looked for a letter by the last mail but none came. I shall expect one to night. I shall enclose two dollars to you in this.

Give my respects to your chum if you are a mind to. I did not notice Orville at meeting myself, but your father did and spoke with him. The whigs have failed in their election. Doctor Bridgham is elected representative from this class. Wayne went strong for him. Rum has prevailed. The rum whigs went for him. Sin abounds but it is no less heinous in pure eyes. Shun evil and study to be useful and do it in the fear of God. It will give you a happy conscience.

Your father has been to Hallowel. All are doing well there. Your uncle Henry [Charles Henry Strickland, the husband of Eliza's sister Martha Jane Otis] has made well this year in business. I have never written to Lydia Martin. I expect she feels grieved about it and so do I. Time seems to carry me along in daily cares without hardly thinking there is any one else in the world but the subject of my <care>. I intend to write her soon.

I hope you are happy and in good health. My health is tolerably good. My nervous sistem is greatly distracted so much so that the common noise of the family sometimes distresses me so much I have to use all the reason I can muster to stay in the room where they are. But I still hope I shall be no worse. Mr Bates has just taken the horse and waggon to go to the funeral of old Mr William Pettengill in the east part of the town. A pensioner. His sister was buried last sabbath aged 95. She was a pauper in this town.

Your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

OO Howard

[Envelope]
[From] So. Leeds Me
Nov 17
[To] Mr Oliver O Howard
Brunswick

74 11/20/1846 *From:* Oliver O Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0067

Bowdoin College

South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College November 20th 1846

Dear Mother

I have again seated myself to address you a few lines. I have not much that is interesting, but I will try to fill out my epistle as well as I can. I received your & Rowlands letter yesterday & the money contained & am glad to hear that you are well.

I have concluded to come home at the end of the term, not before. I should like to have one of the Rowlands come to get me & Perly 3 weeks from next Wednesday. Let him start early so as to be here before noon & we can go back as far as W. <> the same day. My Chum went away the first of this week & will work in Portland the rest of this term & vacation. Since he went away Perley came in with me & he & I shall room together next term. He is an excellent scholar & pleasant good dispositioned fellow. His health is better than it was awhile ago but he is not entirely well yet.

This is a very windy day & rather unpleasant. It is not quite so agreeable to live here now & in the middle of the term when all were here, but we are more apt to study when there are but few of us & all around is still & silent. Besides it is the most expedient way to drive away lonesomeness or perhaps as some say the blues.

There was last Tuesday an exhibition of the Juniors & Seniors. There were 4 or five hundred collected to hear the speakers. 10 of the best scholars are chosen from the Junior Class every year to have part in the Senior exhibition which are held every spring & fall term. 5 of them speak in the fall and 5 in the spring. (I did not mean to say that 10 were chosen every year, but according to the good scholars. If 8 are fit there are 8, if 10 there are 10). Those of the juniors who had parts this fall generally were not very tallented fellows but dilligent students. They earned there reward by labor & hard study, when on the other hand there were very tallented, but rather careless fellows who did not get parts at all. How these persons could sit with such solemnness & resignation & let those (less capable) surpass & excell them in scholarship & receive the approbation of the Professors, by getting parts & prizes, while they themselves are neglected & passed over in silence (is too ambiguous a <> problem for me to unravel).

I should rather leave college now than to study here two years with an equal chance & equal ability, and have my class mates then easy of the <palm>. But should there be any parts given in our class when we become juniors (if that time should arrive) I hope (& shall) if it can be accomplished by study & good behavior, claim the privalege of having one. The faculty have decided upon a certain one of the sophomore class. I suppose it is not best to tell his name yet, but he is a smart scholar & always considered a fine young man before. They said that he crossed him self a number of times in his examinations.

Jennings has just started to go to his school. He teaches this winter in New Gloucester.

I am sory your so plagued with nervousness. But I hope you will get rid of it. I suppose the house will all be handsomely finished off by the time I come home. One reason why I do not come before is becaus the faculty will not let a student go without the excuse of teaching or another as good & I have no excuse. & another is becaus I want the examination off from my mind & any one can learn more towards the end of a term than at any other time is will study.

I hope you are all well. Give my best respects to all my acquaintances, my love to my Brothers, & all the family. Three weeks will soon pass when I shall be with you again. I should like to pass thanksgiving at home, but on consideration I thought it not best. Don't forget to let Rowland come after me, for there is no stage but that either goes through Portland or Augusta.

Your affectionate Son
Oliver O Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]

[Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME NOV 21

[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds Maine

75 11/29/1846 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0068

Bowdoin College

South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College November 29th 1846

Dear Mother

It is sabbath eve, whilst all is still arround. My chum & I have taken our pens to address a few lines to our parents. It has been truly a pleasant day, but rather too wet under boot for the feet. I have attended church all day & will transcribe from my tablet a few ideas & the text of the preacher Mr Addams. The text was in twelfth chapter of Matthew 35th verse "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth good things, but an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth evil things". He says firstly "that the heart controls the man. If his heart is good his life also will be good, but if his heart be evil his life will be evil. That adversity causes rebellion in one where in another submission". "That knowledge does not controll a mans conduct". However much a person may resolve & reason on the side of right, if his heart is not changed, his resolutions will have no effect & his conduct will remain the same." So from this he brought forth for example Judas Iscariot. "Next," says "if we consider this subject we can see why so many who profess christianity do not live better lives & set better examples to the world. That it is becaus they are deceived, Believing they have been regenerated when only their fears have been aroused & their passions touched. But their heart has not been changed.

If every young man would peruse his bible in his closset &c he would discover the beauty of the subject upon which he was treading. "Every unregenerated man should or ought to think & consider his way. But it will do no good no good to take resolutions unless first his heart be changed. Then he goes on to show by what means this change will be brought about" says "If the evil propensities were in some subordinate part the good might over rule, but as the heart is evil the thoughts & actions all must consequently be evil.

I purchased me a little tablet yesterday (a small book containing six leaves on which I can write with a led pencil. & then erase the marks if I wish) thinking, as I do not generally have interesting matter enough to fill out my letters home that I might copy anything interesting that I saw or heard in my walks, or as I have done take down the generall tenor & idea of the sermon & then copy it in my letter. It will not only aid in filling out my letter but it will be good exercise for the mind, giving the power to describe & compose besides gaining a use of words, which is a necessary aquirement to prepare one for an accomplished writer. & the esteem in college & out beside the prosperity of the life of a man who follows as a proffession hangs greatly upon his being a good writer. To be sure there are many accomplishments & acquirements necessary to be combined with this to make a man prosperous but a great writer must have a great mind & with a knowledge of human nature, it seems to me, that such a man cannot fail of obtaining esteem, honor or applaus ammong men if that he desires.

I hope you are better of your nervousness & well and wish you all might be well & suppose you are or I should have a letter. I have been wavering between the opinion of coming home at Thanksgiving & staying for a few days past & hardly know what to think. For I am most out of wood and do not know how to get any more. But I think I shall stay & as the saying is "try to stick it out". It is but a fortnight longer. We commence our review of Latin tomorrow & Greek Wednesday next. Algebra I know not when.

I had a letter from Harvey a few days ago from North Leeds. It was the most sober, advising letter I ever rec'd from him. I guess he has got a hard school. He says he is about to open a singing school at the Chappel.

My health has been good all this term, but I have not taken exercise enough of late. I am waiting for the time to come when our term examination will be over & I shall go home. They say that this has been the worst term or to use their own language "the rawdiest" that has been known for a great many years. Since the fire the students or many of them are out of wood. Therefore they will get it from the recitation room & chapel to the chagrin & displeasure of the faculty.

I was glad to hear in your last that all were well at Hallowell and I hope they are now the same. Give my love to all the family, respectively, best respects to all my acquaintances.

From Your affectionate Son.

O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[Postmark] Brunswick ME Dec 1

[To] Mrs John Gilmore

South Leeds Maine