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76 1/1/1847 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0070

Hallowell

South Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell <Roads> Jan 1st 47

Dear Friend,

I have not seen or heard from you, for some time. It seems as though it was a year since I had even a paper. I should like to see you once more, just to see how you look. I don't know whether you are at Brunswick or Leeds. However I shall send this to Leeds, and if you don't get it your folks will and they can send it to you, wherever you be. And as soon as you get this write me or I shall not like it.

I go to school at home this winter. Have you been to Monmouth, lately. If so how are all of the folks. I have not been there since the 4th of July, but would like to go out and see the Widow once more. How is Sarah Wilcox now? Charles Y I guess has quit her. He don't go out there very often. I see him considerably often and plague him a little now and then, but he don't seem to care much about it.

What are you doing of this winter? Why don't you come, and see a fellow, once in six years at least? You have entered College, who would thought! I hope you will prosper with all the success in the world. A person that has got a good College education can do any thing he pleases. He can be a good Lawyer's clerk, or a Senator to Congress, one just as well as the other. Learning is far preferable to wealth, if we could not have but one. I never expect to have any thing but a common school education. Every one ought to be content with their lot. Those that can't do as they would, must do as they can, but I for one do not want to go to College, nor never did.

Howard I am enjoying myself finely this winter. I go to Dancing School twice a week. (did ever you go if so you know what it is). Ride round with the girls when I am a mind to (and they are willing.) So you see I am roused. As my pen is poor, and I don't know what else to say I will stop.

From your affec Friend  
C. H. Mulliken

[Envelope]

[Postmark] AUGUSTA Me. Jan 11

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard

South Leeds, Maine

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77 1/11/1847 *From:* Unknown

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0071

N. Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This is rambling and difficult to read. I don't know who wrote it.]

N. Yarmouth Jan 11, 1847 [maybe June]

Dear Otis,

I received your letter & accept your apology. I have left the roof of my beloved instructor & have taken lodgings in the ancient commons where I have a joly old time & no mistake. The community in genral have taken to smashing bottles, blowing <frah> horns, drinking brandy, playing nine pins & cards, boiling eggs &c, which our venerable govenor fancys but little & was let resitation powers in jabering about it. He thretens to make the school too hot for me. A very beautiful little parade took place night or two ago. The old man was poking round as normal & had just gone down stares when whack came a bottle at is head. He tumbled upstairs smashed into every room on that story. Went into B A Straws room poked the bottle in the face of that individual. Did you throw that bottle. No sir. What do you dare to say you hadent throw that bottle. Will got up lighted his pipe & took his seat again & said what busines have you to come into my room & ask me such questions held more of your parse or I'll prostrate you on the floor. At that he <arsonked> with his eyes sticking half an inch out of his head. Comeing down he tumbled into a lot of roten eggs. Next morning he mixed Straw before the whole school. <Then> <he asked> him when he came from school asked him what he ment about <> <> [large section unknown]

Mr Weld began to come to reason & made an apology next morning. This the third time I have taken up this letter to write. Matters grow worse & worse. Nearly all the students have heard that the devil knows what will be to pay next. The old man layed the mischif to me though he was not honest enough to say so directly. He said at the beginning of the term that he should leave in about six weeks, and give us a few days recitation but now he warns me behave so that he shall stay the whole term. If he gives us a vacation I mean to come down & see you. Our venerable tutor says he has not had such a rocky class this ten years. I have given you a long acount of the dreadful prosedings here that you may know what a set of reprobates are comeing to demonize this term. But god knows I shall never get there unles I can study better than I have so far. That story of going to Cambridge I had forgotten all about. I shall think myself lucky if I can enter <Apunshis>. I wish I could study as hard as you did for the old man & so mad with me that I'm afraid he wont give me a certificate. However I shall be devlish thankful if I do get in. I look forward to that as a haven of rest. Give my love to Inca Barker & Bea Gardner. By the way I saw your friend Mr Jenings when I was there. I liked his apearunse very much. I hope to hear from you again before the end of the term. I supose you have heard that old Pa <> intends saying us a mort.

Excuse mistakes of wish there are abundanse and beleeve that I am your humble servant.

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80 2/21/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Master Oliver O Howard

OOH-0072

South Leeds, Me

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds, February the 21, 1847

Dear Son,

Received your kind letter last evening which gave me pleasure as you are getting along without any particular trouble and say nothing about poor health. I hope you will take care of your health. Any excesses are detrimental to health. I hope you will have your lessons in such a style as to satisfy your self as I think you could not be contented without a thorough understanding of what you were about as it has been your own ambition which has carried you so far (with the acquiescence of your friends). I can not think you will fall back now. I could be very anxious about you. My mind is awake to all the <sares> which beset youth but I think there is a right way and I desire it to be for my son, I hope for it, self denial, and self respect are requisites, to even our comfort and they often leave a <a> very pleasant recollection in the hearts of those who practice them. Who shall say this boy of mine shall not among good men shine.

I have made a visit to Mr P. Saw Mr Perley's father. I expected to have met with his mother but was disappointed she did not come as was expected by Mrs Re. Esq Perley had seen Mr Keyle. Said he got home safely. Give my love to Perley. I have a very high opinion of his love of justice and truth. I hope he will be sincerely a friend to you. The rebuke of a friend is proffitable sometimes.

Your father has gone to church alone. I have such a tremendous cold I could not venture to meet the chilling air. Cynthia went home last Tuesday. Her brother came after her. I think tis uncertain when she comes back. I am doing my work alone. We are only five in our family. I hear from R.B.H. often. He is contented and happy I believe. The little boys are making a noise constantly which is a great anoyance to me while writing. Rowland Alger is reading a Newspaper a few feet from me. Nothing worthy of remark has transpired (since you left home) in the neighborhood.

Give my respects to Gancelo Stinchfield [Anson Gancello Stinchfield, a second cousin to Eliza Otis Gilmore]. I think he is a pleasant acquaintance. Elizabeth did not succeed in her girl for [Uncle] Henry and I fear you will not. Mother did not come up with your father. Aunt Martha wanted her to stay with her because she is alone.

I hope you and Perley will not go to bed with cold feet. I think that very unhealthy. Do try to secure to yourselves warm and comfortable nights rest always, as that is so refreshing. Don't forget (your propper exercise) in your anxiety to read. I hope your judgement will be well directed in your choice of reading. Perhaps you think your mother penurious because she so often cautions in your expenses but not so much. I have lived longer in the world than you have, my son and seen that a small independence is a comfortable thing, and I desire it for my son. I have not a hoarding mind as some have, but I desire not to be dependant on others.

Tuesday Morn.

This is a truly pleasant day after the threatening of a gloomy storm. Cynthia has returned and I find it quite convenient to have her to wash my dishes this morning so that I can sit down and write my letter for the mail. While I was washing yesterday morning the boys continued to soil my paper and I would throw it aside but as my cold gives me a headache I don't feel so much like writing as common, and you must make the best of it. I hope you will enjoy yourself through the term make a pleasure of your daily labor. I know tis toil, toil, but still to the young mind there is pleasure in pursuing that course of study which will lead them to respectability and give them high hopes of the future. I like to see young men take a high stand in society not by looking down upon others with ostentatious pride but by a suitable dignity. Avoid mean actions of every description, and even the appearance frivolity. I know you are only sixteen years old, but still you are so situated you must act for yourself and bear everything for yourself in a great measure.

Charles Turner was at his fathers last week and called here. Bought two cheeses of your father, and wanted farmers produce of all kinds at a good price. Business seems to be quick everywhere. Rowland A.G. is dressing for a ride he has got as far advanced in that way as pants and boots put on. I ask him if I should tell

you where he would spend the day, but he don't know where he shall spend it himself, but he will take my letter to the Post office, when he sallies forth.

Write often, and when you have the time. Fill up your sheets. If you don't send so soon after tis written.

Yours &c  
Eliza Gilmore to O O Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
Feb 23  
[To] Master Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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78 2/14/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0073

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College, February 14th 1847

Dear Mother,

We arrived here about quarter past six in the evening and lodged that night one with Chamberlain & the other with Wilson whose Chum had not come. We were some time coming but it was not very cold. The next day (yesterday) we opened our room and shoved in the most of our furniture, besides procuring a half cord of wood and getting sawed which we brought in ourselves. We have a very pleasant room (Nr. 4, N.C.) and what I like the best is we have a clean floor, not having been used since it was painted.

The prayers commenced last night in the Chapel. Today we attended Church at the usual place, Rev. Mr [George Eliashib] Adams preached. The same minister we had last term.

It is now Monday noon. We had our first recitation this morning (in Greek). Only about half of the class have arrived yet. I have paid all my expenses & had sufficient money.

It is now Tuesday morning. It has been a very cold night and the air this morning bites very sharply. We have not got a stove, but the treasurer promised to purchase one for us as soon as possible. We have recited this morning for the first time in Latin to Proff Upham. Greek and Latin come a great deal easier to me than I expected after leaving off studying them for so long a time. The time as not yet come for joining the societies, but will arrive in about a fortnight from the commencement of the Term.

Chamberlain who came before I did, moved none of my things but they were all safe as when I left. I found my pocket Book, which I was looking for at home, in my desk & all my bills that I supposed were in it. I have resolved to board at the same place I boarded last term. My Board Bill was 8 shillings & 6 pence per week but they say that it must be higher this term as flour and other provisions have risen so much.

Has Uncle Henry got a girl yet? I have not had time as yet to go to the Factory to see Susan Day which he requested me to do. How do you all do at Leeds? I should have sent my old Sack Coat by Mr Kyle, had he intended to have gone through Leeds. Give my respects to Elizabeth and the rest of Mr Jones's family. I suppose Rowland Bailey is at Wayne yet. When he returns tell him to write to me no matter if he does not write so well at first. I can read it and it is the only way to improve, to practice. Besides he will not be so apt to hurry in writing letters as in copying from his writing book. I find it much more convenient to room, where I am not obliged to climb three pair of stairs a dozen or more times a day.

I shall now leave to get my Greek Lesson. Give my love to my brothers & Rowland Alger. I shall endeavour to get my lessons well & read all my leisure this term that I may be at least a little "better informed" when again I return home. Write as often as you have an opportunity and your letters will be gratefully received and carefully read. Excuse & overlook mistakes.

From your affectionate Son:  
Oliver O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] O. O Howard  
Feby 14 1847

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79 2/20/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

OOH-0074

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College, Feb 20th 1847

Dear Mother,

Another week is finished, and again have seated myself to the pleasant task of addressing a short epistle home. Since the last time I wrote you, we have secured a air tight stove which makes our room very comfortable. It is Saturday & I have just finished my latin exercises, which I consider the most difficult task we are obliged to tax our minds with & when performed I consider myself quite relieved. I get along admirably well with my studies. But the Latin that we read now is much more obscure than what we read Last term.

The class are all here now but three or four. Tell father I have had an election to both societies but have not yet joined. I told him that they would take any fool ("sentential cause") for the sake of his vote. Jennings has not come yet and will not be here for three weeks, when his school finishes. I went to see Susan Day the other day for Uncle Henry to see if she would go to Hallowell. She said that she could not at present & the future was uncertain and I wrote him her answer. She looked as though she was about wried out working by night in the factory.

Has Roland Alger as he talked very strong of leaving home "departed" yet? To go on The Railroad or elsewhere. And how is Charles' health now? I'm fine. How do you all do. I think we shall have a steadier term, than last term, this spring for the students appear more studious & sober! We soon shall commence another lesson, called "Russel's & Merdock's Elocution. Then I shall not have so much time to spare in writing as I now have, although it does not take me usually more than half an hour to write my three pages if you will accept of it thus written. I suppose you have beautiful sleighing now at Leeds.

Oh! I almost forgot. Did grandma come to Leeds with father when he was down. If so give my love to her. William Otis talked of going to Yarmouth. If you hear whether he did <he did> or not, pleas inform me in your letter for I suppose he would never think to send me any thing to let me know. If he would I would write him an introductory letter to Mr Weld.

We have about 13 or 14 in our Club, and one or two belonging to it have not yet come. My health never was better than it has been since I have been here this term. But how long it will continue so if I do not exercise more. I can not. I should presume not very long for I have not even been "down street" more than once in two or three days. Besides I do not have the abundant exercise of running up and down stairs. Stinchfield has called to see me often. I like my Chum better and better the more we are together. He has the most generous & kind disposition of any person I ever have been acquainted with. Besides being an excellent scholar, his health is now very good. He has but little if any cough and appears as well as my own.

Give my love to all, my brothers, father, Roland & the rest of the "house family".

From Your affectionate & obedient Son  
O O Howard

[Envelope]

[From] Brunswick, Feb 20, 1847

[To] Mrs. E. Gilmore

South Leeds

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81 2/27/1847 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0069

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College February 27th 1847

Dear Mother

I received your letter Thursday morning. It gave me much pleasure to hear from home (although I have been absent but a short time). & to hear that you were all well. Yes! I am always gratified when in the morning I can return with your sealed but well known letter & much more pleased to sit and peruse it awhile before commencing my morning task to cherish & fix in my memory the advice & council of a mother which should be properly regarded by every youth without which we are more often led away from the path of uprightness through a careless indifference & want of reflection than from will or a desire of evil & what is wrong. Yes! A mother's affection through which comes her kind soliciations & entreaties has preserved from temptation & likewise from evil many a young man. When another with as good prospects in view when he commenced life's voyage has from want of that safeguard & security against evil has been finally plunged into the deepest disgrace & degradation. Think not dear Mother that I prize of little value your kindness & admonitions for I know you intend all for my sole good without any selfish motives except that which prompts every mother to desire her son to do well & by which honor rather than disgrace her his parent.

I wrote a letter to cousin Lydia night before last. I bought me a piece of a carpet to put down before the stove, 3 yds at 5 cts per yd. I have not been initiated into the Society yet, but expect to be next Friday when the whole class will join one or the other of the Societies. The freshman class met to day & formed a debating club & I received the most honorable office of Treasurer. The object of this Society is to learn to speak freely & with out embarrassment & to improve in our manner of delivery, of which I hope to gain much advantage if we ever have a civil & manly Soc, without the annoyance caused by a few rogues & the disention caused by faction & party spirit. But all these things add extra to my labors.

We have recited four times in elocution this week. & I expect we shall continue the same all the term. It would be laughable for you I think to hear us. First we commence by inhaling all the breath we can & letting it out moderately, & then inhale again letting of more forcibly. Then we give the sounds of the letters after him (Mr Boody) in different tones of voice, after which exercise we read after him. First the solemn & serious, the middling, then the lively and the gay, which causes music enough I can tell you.

I have taken from the Athenaeon Library to day the American Review, such book as I think father would admire to read, about as large as his Revised Statutes of which kind there are nearly a hundred volumes in the Library. I intend to join the Athenaeon Soc and hope I may be much benefitted there by, which Society the majority of our class will join (Perley included) who I feared before I returned, would not, Jennings persuading him to join the other, and the most tallented also of the class have prefered the same Society.

I hope you, my brothers & all at home are in the same state of health as when you wrote. I have subscribed & shall take the Dollar newspaper at one dollar per annum for a year. It is a good paper, containing the news, well writen & well selected tales. Edited & printed in Philadelphia. You may censure my conduct for doing thus without consulting you, but I thought it would be a good thing to take a paper & quite a relief from study & other laborious duties, to spend a few hours weekly in reading such although some of it might be light reading.

How fast time flies. Can it be possible that it is almost three weeks since I left Leeds. "Time on it flying <previous> waiteth for no man". Soon another term will have past, when again. I shall return and be welcomed home with a hearty welcome! It seemeth but a very short time since I first talked of going to Uncle's at Hallowell to live and much shorter since the time I talked of studying Latin first when my Aunt discouraged it. I am not sorry yet that I commenced, but I know not how long it will be before I may regret it. I hope not at all. But should I having perfected my studies & finished my course, <> to be of medium tallent & ability, not above, the <>an herd in a proffesion, rising not in the esteem of others, without resources (having spent all in a useless course of lessons) I might regret it and wish I had become a farmer as was my grandfather desired but my ambition is of a higher & more extensive. Education is my first aim. The rest let it come. I seek not pure money but a cultivated and enlightened mind, becoming & corresponding with the age in which we live. I do not wish to speak derogatory of honest labor & try to avoid "by going to College", as the saying is but I think the

mind should be cultivated previous to everything else. If I desire to be noted or distinguished it would not be to trample upon those below me in rank, property, intellect or power but to show a true noble disposition, instruct & enlighten rather than scorn ignorance, & treat all as though I were not above them. In fact I should not be above them, for I should be made after the same image as all the rest & if I had a better education, it would be the advantage taken of circumstances for the result of chance, rather than a natural superiority.

But let me not indulge in such fancies & immaginings, for in all probability I shall never realize this fanciful dreams of future eminence. But there is a consolation, if education can procure me no advantage in society & the world, if my health is good there are other alternatives enough. & if my health is not good, even that can not benefit me much. But seldom do men of true & virtuous principles fail to succeed well in the end, if they have a hard & hazardous beginning, realizing every perplexity & trouble.

How does Rowland Bailey do? is he at home now. I wish he could attend school this spring, but I suppose it is not best before another year. & how are Charles & Rodelphus? Does the latter read to you often since his school finished? Give my love to them all, Rowland A & father. Perley sends his respects to you and Roland.

It is now Saturday evening and I am about to finish my epistle. It is the longest I have written to you. & have been about an hour & a half or little more. My health is yet quite good. I have now full enough to do to get all my lessons & prepare them well. I have been a visiting scarcely any to other rooms. I made a remark to day that when I had a good chum I did not wish to be visiting others. That is the advantage of having a steady person to room with, who is not always running from one room to another as if he considered every other place preferable to his own room. Two persons who like each others society prefer their own room to write, study & converse together. I hope Perley's health will permit him to remain here, for I want him for a Chum all through my College course.

I wish you to write as often as you can. & encourage Rowland Bailey also to write. If father laughs at him & his writing, he need not let him see it. Give my respects to all my friends & relations. I shall send home my papers after I read them. Pleas let Rowland preserve & file them.

From Your affectionate & obedient Son  
Oliver O. Howard

To Mrs Eliza Gilmore



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82 3/1/1847

*From:* J. Harrison Otis

*To:* Mr. Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0075

Leeds, Me

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds March 1st 47

Dear Cousin Otis

Receiving a paper or rather a novel from you last night knowing that I had nothing of the kind to send you in return which would be new or interesting I concluded to scribble a few lines and send instead and hope you will accept it as a poor apology for a letter and if you can find time to answer it. I should be glad to peruse something of the kind from you when you can make it convenient to write me.

I have closed my very interesting and highly honoured school and have the pleasure of liberty "sweet and glorious liberty" (as the abolitionist tell about) once more and am glad to say that today is my own and that fine woods has no claim on me. You must be aware the fine woods is an aristocratic place, and to be obliged to have so highly dignified a station as teacher in school district No 3, is so far above my usual sphere that I could hardly accommodate myself to it but it is over with and moreover I came out of the school as I went in, master, and if you calculate to teach school winters I hope you may like it better than I do.

It has been so short a time since you left that I can hardly tell you any news for there has no one died nor got married since you left and I don't know as there is like to be a wedding in Leeds until I make one and the Lord knows when that will be say eight years and four months, that was the time the learned pig set. By the way there has been a remarkable hog at Wayne who told among other things fortunes and really he is the ninth wonder of the world (being that I am the eighth) he told the correct time by my watch something that I never could do since I owned it.

Laura Howard [cousin of Oliver Otis Howard and the daughter of Seth Howard and Laura Brewster] has left for Lowell and Everett [perhaps Everett Bridgham, the son of Dr Thomas Bridgham and Aurelia Howard] has gone to Pawtucket to settle his affairs and I expect that money will be aplenty when he returns.

I was very sorry that could not have come over to have seen you the night before you started for B and have attended that party but I felt very little like walking so far that night as I was about sick with a cold, but heard that you had pleasant little party which I think is or was the last we shall have in Leeds this season for there is a series of meetings holden at the Meeting house which will probably continue some time and parties are becoming rather unpopular although they have a ball at Jerre Fosses at Wayne on the 4th of March but I never will go there to a party if I never go to one in my life for fear there may be some dead child in the house again.

Cousin Amanda [perhaps Amanda Additon] is here yet but thinks of leaving this week. The young lady who came from Thomaston with her and stoped at Wayne is a smart pretty young girl as I have fell in with of late and if I don't get smooched (as Sarah Lee used to say). I shall do better than I expect to but eight years and four months is some time to wait. By the way James Sturtevant and his sister on visit here at Leeds now but that chance is past.

Helen says that I must write to you that you must keep your shoes clean and your nose tied up or vice versa and also she and Amanda sends their respects as also Father and Mother.

I saw your Mother at meeting yesterday and presume she is well. Col Gilmore has been out exploring a rail road route three days and returned last night and I wish if you should hear any thing said about the Androscogin rail road by the Brunswick folks that you would say to them that it must go and so clear the track for the old Androscogin.

I must draw my beautiful letter to a close for I fear you will not have patience to read all this if you can find it out even. From Olde Solomon

Excuse me for calling that pamphlet which you sent me a novel for Hellen says it is not but merely a romance and now if you will tell me why this letter is like a down east Steamboat, I will not write any more.

From your affectionate cousin

J. [John] Harrison Otis [a son of Uncle Ensign and Aunt Martha Otis]

Please excuse this scribbling as I always write just as I talk all of a jerk without any <suac> or anything else but I hope it will draw out from you some of your old fashioned letters without any of your College dignity about it or anything that will make a fellow look sober. I hope this will find you enjoying good health and spirits then life will be pleasant but if one feels dull they cannot enjoy life if it is ever so pleasant. In hast, John

[Envelope]

[From] Leeds Mar 2

[To] Mr. Oliver O. Howard

Bowdoin College

Brunswick

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83 3/7/1847      *From:* Rowland B Howard      *To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard  
OOH-0076a                      S. Leeds Me                      Brunswick, Me  
*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Me March 7th 1847

Dear Brother

I came home yesterday. I found the folks all well, but Mother who has a bad cold. I have a cold too, otherwise I am well. I like staying at Wayne very much. Mr Harvey thought of opening a school there but for want of scholars has given it up. Mrs Harvey died about a week ago. Mrs H Gould also is dead. She died last Thursday morning. Dr. Bridgham is very unwell. They don't think he will stand it long. Some think that he is in a consumption. I staid about 4 weeks at Wayne. Mr <Ciden> has been to bangor four times. He made very well. Arza has gone to greene today. While I was at wayne I went to hear a lecture on Arithmetic Mathamaticks by Prof Porter of New York. Arza gave me one of his books said that would require 6 statements & 500 figures can be done by one statement and in 15 to 20 figures thus being an improvement on common mathematick. My writing looks so badly I am ashamed of it and there are so many words spelled wrong. But you must excuse it. Perhaps I may write better by and by. You must send me all the papers that you can and pamphlets and write how you get along. I have said all I can think of and I might as well stop.

From you affectionate Brother [Rowland B Howard]

To O O Howard  
Bowdoin Co

ps. Will you please send me the rest of that story if you have it. RBH.

[Envelope]  
[From] S. Leeds Me  
Mar 23  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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84 3/7/1847 *From:* E. Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0076b

S. Leeds Me

Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Rowland]

[This starts on a new page and seems to be missing a page]

a very high opinion of you and thinks you an example for all your cousins. I think you stand in a very responsible situation to take the lead in example for so many wild cousin. He thinks if William and Silas would take as decided a course as you have it would be all he could ask. Rowland spoke of the doctors ill health. He is much better. Thomas is at home now, and enquired very affectionately after you.

From your affectionate mother

E. Gilmore

To O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

[From] S. Leeds Me

Mar 23

[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard

Brunswick, Me

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85 3/19/1847 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0077

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 19th 1847

Dear Mother

I have been expecting letter from you for some days past but have not received any excepting one at the beginning of the term. I hope that ill health is not the cause of your not writing. My health is very good.

I received a letter from John [Harrison] Otis not long since with much pleasure for I began to think that my cousins did care enough about me to write or had deserted me since I have entered college. We have commenced the Menorabilia (Greek) which requires of me more & harder study than we have had before. But I have divided my time so that I have more leisure than I could have thought previous to doing so. I have worked out for the present term so many hours for study & so many for reading, writing & recreation. For I hold to doing everything systematically that I may know when to study & how long. When to read & write. I devote to study & recitations eleven hours per day. One in the morning to latin. Three after Breakfast to Greek, one at noon to Elocution, three after dinner to Algebra & three in the evening to the preparation of the morning's lesson. I will copy a few lines from my Journal to show you also my recitations in regard to reading:

March 9th. "I went this morning into the library and looked it through & through, not knowing what book to take, wishing to read what was beneficial and having resolved not to spend my time uselessly in the perusal of novels & light reading. But I might have remained there a week & still have been undecided, if I had not resolved to read something, which would enlighten me & point out some regular course to pursue. With this determination I took Todd's Students Manual, have read one chapter this evening beside my lesson & intend to peruse it carefully and abide by its precepts & dictations. I have felt for a few days past as if I knew nothing and was in the right way to continue the same, as if I had no general information & was destitute of genius the, substitute. If there were but few books placed before me I should immediately read them. But at once give me access to three libraries with every kind & quantity of reading I am at a loss which to choose. Therefore read nothing, & benefit myself nothing. But I hope the course I am now about to pursue will assist me not only in the selection of Books, but in other things pertaining to the student"

Such at that time were my thoughts & resolutions according to which I intend to act the present term.

It is a cold raw day and very uncomfortable to be out. I look forward with pleasant anticipation to the summer and when it will be delightful to walk morning & evening (although it may be warm) I think Brunswick will be a pleasant place in the summer. There is now scarcely inducement enough to walk for exercise being very rough & icy underfoot.

I have not received a letter from Rowland Bailey this term yet. Tell him he must write me one & send it certainly by next week and I will immediately answer it.

Our debating Club met last Monday evening. I wrote a piece to its paper of about three pages, not so good as I should like to write. But beauty of style & elegance & superiority of thought, are to be acquired by practice & continued exertions. Although a person may have great ability yet he becomes not a writer or an orator worthy of merit in a day or with out labor & untiring diligence. I also endeavored to speak on the question. But made out very poorly. Still I shall not be discouraged and when an opportunity offers I shall try again to see if such like me are susceptible of improvement. I shall be obliged to read a criticism of my own composition at the commencement of the next meeting on the preceeding.

Give my love to Charley. Tell him he must read to mother every day if he wishes to become a reader. I think he would make a good collegian from his ambition and love of praise (for each one of us are rewarded according to our merit). If he will try to learn it will be but a few years before he can be prepared to take his brother's seat in the recitation room, before he also can vie with his fellows in merit due to diligence & perseverance.

To look back, to trace the time as it has sped on swifter than Eagle's wings, from my eighth year till now, seems but a day. We know, yet we realize not the fleet of time which first finds us a child, innocent and faultless in its

ignorance. Then a youth inexperienced & filled with all the bright hopes & expectation & imaginings of a blissful future of pleasing & delightful reality in short of much happiness in store. But how soon disappointment comes, how often the Bright hopes & lofty expectations of youth are blasted, how often the castles then built prove made of nothing but air & how soon they are demolished, when they sally forth on the world experiencing none of their dreams of happiness, but finding opposition, trial & affliction besetting their path, as they struggle along, & cold reality facing them at every step.

Give my love to to the 2 Rowlands, father & Rodelphus. Write soon & as often as you can. I now wish you good night, & close with a long but uninteresting epistle.

From your Affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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86 3/28/1847 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0078 Wayne Me Brunswick, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wayne March 28th 1847

Dear Brother

Today is very rainy & school does not keep and I have a chance to write. We have a very good school. There is about 25 attend. Mr Cimbal is dead. He died last Sunday at Waterville of the measles. He was brought to Monmouth to be buried. Is your health as good as it was when you were at home. My health good all but had cold which I have had about six weeks and it is considerable trouble to me. Mother was here on Wednesday last. She was very well.

I have not been since I have been here home and do not know much of what has been going on over in Leeds but I believe that they are all smart there. Mother said that there had been 2 deaths there lately Mr Turner Stedson. & Mrs Milet has welcomed Mother. Mother said that she thought of going to Uncle Ensigns to get a miniature copied. Mr Davis a Daguerriotype painter.

Perhaps you would like to know, if so I will tell you I study Chemistry, Philosophy, History, and parse in the night thoughts I find them much easier than I expected. Mr Allens brother was here yesterday. I study Porters Arithmetick. I like it very much sums may be performed by that rule which I would take a number of rules the way & examples that required 4 or 5 statements may be done by one statement. Mr Harvey lectured on temperance last Wednesday evening. He delivered a very good lecture. I think of staying the whole term.

They made out some warrants against Mr Smith the other day but he avoided them by running off and no one knows where he has gone. They think of sending an officer after him to see if they cannot catch him. I wish you would send me a letter and direct it here. I am sorry that you can not send any more papers. But you must write the oftner that's all.

Mother went to Hallowell last week. She said that Grandmother was in good health. William has gone to N Yarmouth & Mother she thought from the appearance of things that he intended to finish up his studies and enter college. I suppose you have been there long enough to be initiated into the black art & have become quite a rowdy. If so I warn you to turn from it or you will get into the hands of the Profs. Have they called you up and given you any salutary lessons as yet I have no doubt but you have deserved them for you were always rather wild and I am afraid that if you get in father's hands again that you won't get off so easy as you did before when you broke into that building and afterwards pretended to be so innocent that they believed you.

Sunday

Today is very pleasant and I have been to meeting this forenoon. Mr Snel spoke. He is an old man aged eighty seven years old. Arza says he is going to Leeds tonight. I said all that I could say and if you want me to write you a longer letter you must write to me and ask me as many questions as you can. For if you don't I shall have nothing to write about. Remember about directing to Wayne.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland B Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] Wayne Me  
Mar 29  
[To] Mr Oliver O. Howard  
Brunswick, Me

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87 4/1/1847

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0081

Bowdoin College

South Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 1st 1847

Dear Mother

With much pleasure I received your last letter. I am glad to hear that Rowland has gone to Wayne to attend school. I have recd a letter from him since he has been there informing me of his good health and pleasure with the news of the death of Mr. Kimbal. I suppose my former preceptor, from his saying that he was from Monmouth but whether it was the same or not, he did not say. Rowland says he likes his school and thinks of staying the whole term. Mr Harvey is a good teacher & I hope Rowland will learn well. But I do not think Wayne is a very good place for young or old.

He also says that Smith has secreted himself to escape the law & avoid justice. I hope the Old Fellow may yet be found & made to pay just retribution and the penalty due to his many crimes both from his selling poison and from his exerting an infidel & immoral influence over those whose minds & intelects he has subjected & made subordinate to himself by cordially & affectionately handing them the glass.

A few days since in answer to his I wrote a long letter to Rowland. Then William has gone to N. Yarmouth. I think it is the best place to which he could go, for he can not get Books to read & will be obliged to be regular in the preparation of each lesson if not study hard. I think Uncle flatters me by placing me as an example to my cousins. Silas <> especially, for he has a good place in a store & is preparing himself for usefulness, as much as I & he can reap the benefits much sooner than I. For while he is earning, advancing both in knowledge & in possessions at the same time, I am spending & will be compelled to do the same for seven years before I can turn the scale. And thousands of misfortunes may happen before that time to prevent my advancement then. Therefore as he pursues the sure & certain, I take the hard & uncertain yet I do not regret. Give me the money or the education, I choose the latter.

April 4th.

I have attended church to day & now after meeting I have seated my self to finish my epistle to send it by Mr. J. Stinchfield who talks of going to Leeds tomorrow morning. My health is very good. I had my Daguerreotype miniature taken yesterday, which is the same O.O.H over again. How do you all do at Leeds now? Give my best respects to all. Perley's health is as good as usual. I should like to have you send me \$5.00 cts in your next. I have had more cost this term than I was in hopes they would be when I came.

From Your affectionate Son  
OOH

P.S. Pleas write so as to send in the next mail after you receive this if you can.

[Envelope]  
[From] OO Howard  
Apr 1st 1847  
Bwd College  
[To] Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
South Leeds



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88 4/8/1847

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0079

South Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 8, 1847

My dear boy,

It seems a great while since you have written. I have been disappointed a number of mails. R.B.H. sent me his letter, perhaps you have written him again. I hope you are in good health, and enjoying your way of life to your satisfaction. How is Mr. Perley this spring. Does his health remain good. We have a long winter. Your father has rode a few miles in a sleigh this morning. The country is covered with snow. Last Saturday your father crossed the pond (with safety) to Wayne. Saw R.B.H. I was in great hopes I should see him before the pond became unsafe but I hope he will not try it now.

I have visited quite a number of my acquaintances of late. Found them in good health. A society bearing the name of "the sons of temperance" is already formed in Leeds which is all the talk now. They meet almost every day or evening, perhaps making arrangements for their future benefit. Orain Bates is still in the neighbourhood diddling away his time waiting for settled roads to team for the traders. I long for the time to come when he will have employment.

I saw Mrs Rackly the other day. She enquired about Mr Pearly but you have not mentioned him in your two last letters. His Mother and sister have had the Measles this spring I understand. Give my love to him. He has my good wishes with him. I am much obliged to you for your kind and faithful lines to Rowland. I hope you will always be a faithful brother, and a faithful examiner of your own heart. When I view in my mind the fleetness of time, and at the longest how soon it will [be] when we shall be called upon to give up our accounts to the great supreme judge of all earthly beings. I wonder I am not more conversant with the will of my heavenly master but I think I feel to trust all that most interests me to my heavenly Father.

Charles is very happy. He has just come to give an account of his hens. Your father is drawing cider for vinegar, and Cynthia is getting dinner on the table. Rodelphus has strolled away with Betsey's children. Roland has been playing ball with the boys in neighborhood and is just now returned.

You see by the papers how our United States troops are doing their work in Mexico.

Sabbath day.

I laid down my pen for a moment on fast day intending to close my letter that after noon. But as I was waiting in the room where we usually stay and some persons came in. I let the time slip, thinking I could easily do it before mail day. But you see by this, how it went in that respect we had company all the time and I gave it up for the next mail. I was disappointed last night again as the mail brought me no letter from you.

Mr Hanke the railroad engineer stopt here Friday and Friday night. I found him a very fine man. His conversation well paid his way. Your father carried him to Readfield yesterday. On his return he saw R.B.H. He came on to the pond, had a great mind to come over but his father could not tell him how he could get back so left him there. He said half crying. I'm afraid he is homesick. I want to see him and encourage him. I wish he had come. I could have managed to send him back.

I am almost homesick myself. You at B. and your Brother at W. and I cannot see you, but for your good no doubt, and I have long tried to school my mind to meet these separations. I have tried to rise above my own weaknesses and hoped thereby to be able to encourage my sons in sacrificing their weak desires to a life of usefulness. I see by R.B.'s letter you had joined the Theological Soc. You did not give any reason for it. How do you get along for expense money this spring. I obtained the first volume of the life Petrark as I had read the second. It was a gratification to me to read it. I do not hear from Susan Day this spring. She said last fall she would live with me next summer but I do not put much dependance on her. I would keep Cynthia if she was not such a careless slutish girl almost. I expect your room is kept in first rate order.

This <[blot]> Mr Clarke told me he had a son graduated at Bowdoin College is now a lawyer at the new city of

Lawrence. Had five sons all in business for themselves and himself now a strong well man at the age of sixty in one of the most <undigous> undertakings but he said he had seen so much of the works of men. He should not be astonished at anything.

Write me how you get along every respect. Take good care of your health. You can form no adequate idea of a state of poor health lingering out one day after another only by experience, a hard lesson. I always desire your happiness. Life is a toil, make that toil pleasant if possible.

Your Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
April 13  
[To] Mr. Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me

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89 4/24/1847 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0080

South Leeds Me

Brunswick Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 24, 1847 [Date taken from envelope.]

My dear boy,

How are you this morn, better I hope than when you wrote. It grieved me, that you should have a cough and at this season of the year. You must take care of it immediately. Thoroughwort has always suited your constitution or at least has removed you bodily suffering. Try that first. You can find it at the apothecarys. Buy the herb, and steep it strong and have a cup of molasses and mix it when you take it, about equal quantities, not more than one table spoonful of each, at one time. If you take too much it may vomit you. Be sure and do this till your cough is gone. I shall be particularly anxious about you, till I know how you are.

I did not get the package sent by J.S..... till last sabbath eve at nine o'clock. I should have answered your letter by yesterdays mail but June Bates came in to help me about some work and prevented me from so doing. I don't know as I can get it in to the mail before Saturday.

About your coming home you had better have one of the boys come directly after you and fetch you home, as it would be about as much of an outfit to meet you at Hallowell as at Brunswick. Besides there would be so many little bills to pay in getting there. I want you to bring home all the clothing you have, that is out of repair. If you can get you a coat as cheap and as well made in Brunswick as Wayne I see no reason why you should not have it there if you need one. I want you to take the matter fairly into consideration and judge well of the cloth. If your fine coat cannot go till September you may as well set yourself about getting it now. Think well of it for your own sake. I wish you to appear respectable. You will want something cool to study in through summer term. I wish you would conclude what it must be. What of your old clothes I turn to account for the other children you must have the benefit of.

I feel more energetic and more like myself this spring than when you were at home. My health is good.

Col. Lothrop's have had a letter from Warren since the taking of <Kenelrute> which was very reviving to his mother. The sixty-five who were killed have left many aching hearts for them no doubt. I have no taste for war nor for the honors of war.

Today is raining and will probably change the face of the country. The rivers are frozen and the snow is laying on the ground. Not much prospect of commencing farming at present. R.B.H. has returned from school. The school finished last Saturday. The school was so small it was not proffitable. I did not expect him to stay only a short time longer. His father would want him about his farming. I hope I shall see people on the farms at work before long.

I am sorry to hear of the fickleness of the students. Sometimes I think it is a general feeling of the day, but we are highly favored as a nation in comparison with others. There is no one of common industrious habits but can obtain a respectable lively hood.

I shall inclose a five dollar bill to you in this, but if you should conclude to buy your coat at brunswick you must pay cash down. You must know how much it will be and have the money in hand to pay. You have the same right to take the advantage of your money as other people, and I want you should think so.

I have just been looking over your bills for your last year suit of clothes, and find your whole suit cost sixteen dollars and sixteen cents. The coat did not exceed ten dollars. I want you should think well of it before you purchase and write me before you have it and have the money sent to buy with. Don't buy an every day coat because you will be obliged to have a fine coat before long and I think your fine coat will have some wear in it for every day. The cloth that was left of your pants, that you had when you had your coat has been found. While R.B.H was with Arza in the store the last of the winter, he found it under the counter. Arza had taken it to send to me, and it got mislaid. <There is> enough to repair your pants handsomely. Be <sure> and bring them home. Don't hire any mending done. Just <> you come home. I can do it for you <whatever> will <you> want done about shirts and bosoms. I would not get for your coat very fine cloth this year. How much finer should

you like to have than your other. Use your best judgment my son in all things.

Do be careful of your health and write to me exactly how you are and be sure not neglect your cough. Give my love to the Leeds boys, and Mr Perley. Write soon as you receive and write your thoughts just as they flow from the heart. That is the way mother wants to hear from you. We are all in good health.

Your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

I think you had better enquire about a coat but not buy till you come home.

[Envelope]  
[From] South Leeds Me  
April 24  
[To] Mr Oliver O Howard  
Brunswick Me

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90 4/28/1847 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mrs John Gilmore

OOH-0082

Bowdoin College

South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 28 1847

Dear Mother

I now hasten to reply to your gratefully received letter of the 24th being able to say that my cold is convalescent having anticipated your prescription in procuring medicine, not Thoroughwort however, but something full as bitter & disagreeable, the herb hoarhound which I steep & take before retiring at night.

I am rejoiced to hear that you are all well and prospering I shall soon be with you, three weeks from today (Wednesday) finished the present long, but seemingly short term. I wrote to William Otis that I would go up to Hallowell in the Boat with him & he expects me to wait for him, but I will let him know that you intend sending for me & be ready to go with whomever may come Wednesday after noon (three weeks from to day).

As to my clothes I have resolved not to purchase until I have seen you. Jennings thinks I can get them made here much better than at Wayne. But even if I do get them here I can at the beginning of next term.

I am sorry Rowland's school was so short yet I suppose to have him return home. There is quite a reformation in Brunswick now. Some of the wildest fellows have been converted. It is now very cold weather and the wind blows very hard, seeming more like fall than spring. I should think that farmers would soon begin to grow discouraged. But I suppose we shall soon have it plenty warm to make up for this. Perley's health is quite good, excepting a cold, which hardly any one is exempt from here. Our studdies are not now very hard, yet they require constant application. We have just so much to do each day, to look ahead it is discouraging, but to view a lesson past it appears simple.

William when he wrote me appeared in good spirits and said he liked North Yarmouth very much. Jennings went up there the other day & I sent a letter to him. If you will send a carpet bag, I shall not be obliged to carry a trunk making it less cumbersome to ride three in a wagon.

I have not yet been matriculated (which is to receive a written billet of admission) but expect to be to day having handed in my bond to the Treasurer yesterday & received a certificate for it. I received the money you sent in full. Every student has a kind of a gown to study in made of calico or some light material. But if the cold holds on like this, I think we had better be looking for Great coats, instead of <thin>. We need nearly as much fire as in the winter time and have burned this term a cord & a half of wood.

Give my love to my brothers & the family. I know of nothing very interesting transacting here now. I can think of nothing to write except to wish the wings of time to flap a little faster & speed my <secured> return to my friends and give me a little pleasant recreation & rest from my studdies. My respects to my friends & acquaintances at Leeds.

Your affectionate Son  
O O Howard

Mrs E. Gilmore

[Envelope]  
[From] OO Howard  
Apr 28 1847  
[Postmark] TOPSHAM Me. APR 29  
[To] Mrs John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine