

W. Howard
June 15 1844

10

Mrs John Gilmore
South Leeds



John Gilmore
John Gilmore
John Gil
John Gilmore

Rowden College June 15 1844

Dear Mother

According to your request I am
commence (at short intervals) to inform you of my good
health, neither affected by the heat, rash or any other
and hot disease. By the way how do Mr Bates' children do?
Mr. Bates and not only in good health as yet, but feel in quite
good spirits. I have not made up all yet except my Latin
and nearly all of algebra. I believe it is colder in Brunswick
than in Leeds for to day any one is scarcely comfortable
without a fire. We had a rather tedious ride
"with the whole" last Friday, for it was very windy & rather chilly
besides the travelling was not extraordinarily good, there being
so many pitches & gullies. I arrived about dusk and I was
greatly struck with some surprise to find the College yard look
so pleasant. I could not have believed that the tearing of
the trees & bushes, & springing up of the grass & plants would
have made so much & so pleasant an alteration.
The President requests an excuse of my absence from one of
your prayers. Ask father if he will write us one in your next
letter which I wish to fore long to save me from a fine of
20cts. per day of which I did not know before. This is sufficient
"Please excuse my son's absence of the commencement of this term"
"being necessarily detained."
Signed
You know that I could not come before Perley did therefore it was

necessary. But tell father "if he thinks that excuse would be
equivocating"; to write that I was retained through his
persuasion or rather through his "not-objection"
I hope you are as well as when I left. How did Rowland like
his excursion to Lay or Canton? I have returned to my old Club
to Board - the price being so high in other places.
I find it rather hard to apply myself since my return, but
as the saying is "I shall soon get broke in" - Ask father
to ~~report~~ speak with John Lane respecting that school
for me. for if I do not get that I shall speak for one in
a report which I can have at \$14.00 per month. but I should
like to come home if possible. Give my respects to the right
honors & friends. I bid good bye for me those whom
in my haste I did not. Give my love to my brother.
It is now Thursday morning I have now seated myself
to finish my letter. Our class had a "adjourn" in Latin
this morning. little expected but very favorable for me
to make up my Greek. It is some warmer here
this morning than it has been, but does not yet
appear much like summer. There is now only
about nine weeks of this term. My room is
quite pleasant but I intend to have it more
so by having it washed to day. I took that large
striped Blanket & made a very good screen for my
clothes with it. Have you heard from Elias
Lane at Cole? if so how does he do? I promise
to call & see him when I returned to Brunswick
but we did not go that way.
That little boy who came with us looked

quite bright when he came in my lot of home.
I rather think he was more home sick than any thing
else at our house. & sorrowed at the prospect of
having to walk & find his way home. I was
examined yesterday on the method of algebra which
I had to make up. & came off very easily indeed
having only one seen to do. Yet I had to make up
all the proceeding before I could go on with the class
because it required a knowledge of that to do the
sums where the class were being the hardest mathe-
matics we have ever had.

From your affectionate Son
O. Howard



Seeds June 20th 1847

Dear Brother I am glad to hear from you
 Today is so stormy that we could not attend
 meeting so I have time to write you a few lines. The day
 I went to Canton was very stormy in the afternoon
 and very pleasant in the forenoon. When I returned
 I stayed at Aunt Sueretics all night and came home in
 morning. The next Tuesday after you left I went to Texas
 a Mexico it is all the same I did not find it a very
 hot country on Tuesday & Wednesday on the contrary it
 was very cold riding in the rain on Tuesday I came as far
 as Mrs. Ross on Wednesday and came home on ^{Thursday} ~~Tuesday~~
 Morning. When we went to Mexico we went through the east
 part of Sag to a Mrs. West, it being about forty five miles.
 When we went up we went through through the town of
 Wagon. The more Sag Canton & Dixfield to Mexico. When we
 returned we came down on the other side of the river
 through Dixfield down Canton Hartford & more down
 to Seeds. It is a very Mountainous Country. I believe your friends
 & acquaintances are all well. Mrs. Coffin's family are all
 getting well. We expect to have the rail road across the
 bog through to Wagon Village there is quite an excitement
 about it now. You wrote that your ride to Brunswick was
 rather unpleasant. What a good thing it was that you did
 not have our old white horse. I want you to work as soon
 as you can get time, and see if there is no fire for it.

Your Brother
Brouland

Smith Seeds & Co
June 22

Wm Oliver Howard
Yarmouth N.S.



My dear Boy,

Nothing ^{gives} me more pleasure than taking my pen ^{to} answer your kind letter, I am glad you have no greater annoyances in the present, than you spoke of, the path of life is beset with perpetual checks on our desires, and there is a pleasure, in cultivating our minds to bear them with patience. I feel I had as though I had scarcely seen you ~~at~~ while at home being situated as I was, perhaps it is quite as well — I know from observation that young people ^{often} feel it a great boon to have parents, and friends say anything that corrects not so smooth, But who that has steered the current of life for thirty or forty years, and seen the errors of life, fall into some, should some, &c. do not feel a fear that some weakness of character may weaken those who are many years in the rear of them in experience and the greater love we have for those younger than ourselves, the greater yearning we have for ^{them} to take the right course in life, Oh what a responsibility there is in the choice we make in life of our principles, and the principles are through out to those whose minds are untaught, About that school at your uncle's district I have seen Ensign he called here the other day he said there was a no prospect he thought of that school and Esq. Penley said Mr. Lane had sent word to him to be sure and take no other school as he should depend on him, the day he was here, I should be sorry to have you go to Freeport, if you could get a school here your Father says he will try Nelson Gilbert for that one, I wish you would ascertain what sort of place in Freeport that is

where you have thought of keeping school, what do you think trying some of the schools in Monmouth? This is a very rainy day. I can hear the voices of the children in ^{the} back part of the house at play, laughing, and singing otherwise every thing is still and gloomy. Doc, Bridgman I understand is no better, C. Lane is no better. I heard he had Watchers, now, I now return to writing after reading through ^{all} your ~~case~~ College laws, I see nothing in them unreasonable or that any person that had any care might obey I think it showed a great want of attention to them your not knowing the consequence of of absent time, do I beg of you read them with care ~~at~~ and don't let another admonition come for want of knowing the plain law laid down for the benefit of students do cultivate more care in every step you take my wish you should not go to Boston this summer, about your bosom pin you may mention it in your next letter what you think I can send you the money if tis necessary you should have it. When Mr. Warren & Kover, was here today and I talked with him about the schools in his vicinity he said he would exert himself to get the school in the next district to him, which is a very good one, I have confidence that he will do it I hope you will pursue your studies with that steady purpose ~~of~~ which will make it a pleasure, we had a young Physician call on us of late who took his degree at Brunswick in May looking for a location I have not heard what success or encouragement proven the people of Leeds his name Lord, of ^{Lemington} ~~Lemington~~, give my love to our friend Penley from your loving Mother, Elizabeth Moore.

P.S. Ask the Pin I bought one & paid for

\$4.00 for it what Peely paid for his (Anchored) ^{which I feel obliged to pay for} ~~asked~~ ^{asked} ~~note~~ ^{note}
I wish the little articles to what I expected like I can ask for
Change. But you can do as you think best about sending
me more as I told father when I left. I would not call on
him again this term.



Mr John S. Moore
South Seal Me.



June 22 1844

W. H. West

Bowdoin College June 22 1844.

Dear Mother

I was very much in hopes of receiving
an answer to my preceding letter before I again wrote, but having
a few spare moments after preparing my algebra lesson
from the present to recitation I thought that they could not be
better employed than in communicating a few lines to you
conspired of possible ideas. if perhaps what is extracted
from my "brain" can assume the name of ideas. hoping that
you are all as well as when I left. I can with truth say
the same of myself. for I think I never enjoyed better
health than I have thus far this term. Not to say that such weather
as we have had inspired me with every thing but long thoughts
or enlivened the spirits, think would be absurd. for if there is any
thing which will make a person tame or look on the "dark side" of
life it is a dark rainy day, for logically one object causes the
thoughts of others similar. in like manner a pleasant day awakens
pleasant thoughts & reflections. Of late we have dropped Latin
& commenced to Logic rather an easy & interesting study
which as it does for the most part on the mind, its reasoning
powers & faculties, which especially ought to interest
any one or every one who wishes to have clear conceptions
& notions of objects continually surrounding him, it is
necessitate to inquire into the nature & principles. Yes, it is our
duty to study so as to understand as fully as possible
the mind, its powers & abilities, in order to direct them the

in the right channel for moral & intellectual advancement
to assist in reasoning & in investigating so as to have clear ideas on
any subject, that we may judge for our selves, not dependent
on the skill or seeming superiority of others, also to help us to
understand our language better that we may not have superfluous
terms or too oft repeated words, but making it (language) more
concise yet not less comprehensive, also besides logic shows how
we may select appropriate language to express ideas, with
various other things. It is now Wednesday afternoon.

It has cleared off very beautiful & warm making quite a contrast between
now & the morning when we were under the necessity of having a
fire to keep us comfortable, the relics of which are still extant.
The Peniceman Soc^y have an election of officers to day causing
amongst them much excitement. They did not elect a President
last year on account the most of the members belonging to
Secret Societies the interest of one conflicting with that of
the other. But I understand they have succeeded better this year.
Our election is not till a week from today. I have been reading of Latin
more modern work on the life of Petrarch than DeBade's the one I read
at home. He makes out Petrarch a great man, yet his writings
are not so flattering as De'Gudis'. I am almost angry
after times when he says any thing derogatory to him
having become so prepossessed in his favour by reading
the other part, such is my disposition! I am easily prejud-
iced for or against a man or object by first impressions
so that it is very difficult for me to change or retract
for instance, if a man appears to me like a fool the first
time I see him, it is hard for me to be convinced that
he has common sense, or if the vice shows himself

my enemy it is long before I can forgive or believe him
a friend. I received a paper from Atlas Lee (a few days
since besides which I have received nothing from any body
but am in hopes to get something from home daily. I
want some framework before I write any more letters,
as you will perceive before perusing half of this. It
is most impossible for me to fill out a letter, for there
is nothing transacting here that will interest you, and
much less passing in my mind worthy of attention
or note. It is Friday morning. I received your & Row-
land's letter ^{Yesterday} and am very grateful for it, as any thing from
home (always being interesting to me) serves to banish an
occasional lowness. I the often experienced tedium
of College life. At the "Precept" school it consists of about
40 scholars, had a fine fellow of our class teach it
last winter, but there is an objection of which I did not
know when I wrote you before, I shall be obliged to board
round, making it rather inconvenient for me to keep
my studies along - carrying my books & clothes from place
to place. Give father my thanks for the excuse, which
I have not yet handed in, but shall before next Monday.
I knew it was against the College laws to stay out with-
out an excuse, but I thought my own would answer.
I was not admonished as you intimated, but Perley asked
the President one day if his own excuse would answer
and he said it would not, if he was under age. And he
said there was no hurry about getting it, anytime this term would
do. Give my love to all. Tell Rowland I will write him as soon as
I can get time. <sup>As to Rowland's school I do not know of any good one, but I should like
to have the one with Howard taught last winter.</sup>
Yours affectionate Son, O. L. Howard

Edward
July 6 1844

Mr Rowland B. Howard
South Leech
Maine



[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text on the left page, appearing to be a letter or journal entry.]

81
Durdain College July 6 1844

Dear Brother,
Since my last epistle home I have had quite
a lot to write. I set out last Friday afternoon with the intent
of going to Hallowell to spend the "fourth of July", went to
Bath in the stage, and when I arrived I heard that the
President Reading was not to be there till
the 12th of the month, so I took a stroll to see the city of Bath.
After walking until I was weary I went to the reading
room, from whence I was announced by the firing
of cannons announcing that the President had
arrived or was near, I ran to the wharf and waited until
all my might to get on board through the dense crowd
and when I got there a man pushed me back, but
at last just as the boat was starting I succeeded
in getting on board. The President spoke a few words to
the men on the wharf but I was so occupied in
passing that crowd that I did not hear him. After
stopping about five minutes at Bath, we started for
Hallowell at the little town of Richardson there
was a Bonfire on each side of the river and they
fired a cannon five or six times as we were passing.
Just as we were opposite the village the President's
men brought him out to be exhibited holding a cane
near each side of his face. Then again as we were

O. Howard

to Gardiner, then were guns fired and again the President
was called from his berth to be looked at as he passed,
When we arrived at Hallowell it was about half
past one at night (they fired a few guns in Hallowell town
but otherwise they were very quiet. He went directly
from the boat, to Augusta where the State House was,
illuminated, and all other public buildings. I
walked up to the ^{of the} village, and then I saw a boy who
told me that Perry Lee was down on the wharf, so I
went up to his house or near it, to wait for him
in a place where I could see the fire works at Augus-
ta, in about 15 minutes Perry came, and I staid with
him the remainder of Friday night. - Saturday morn-
ing I arose about 1/2 past eight ate my breakfast & staid
for Augusta. The President passed the night at Paul
Williams. So they formed the procession at the bridge
and marched to the State house. The procession
was composed of sons of Temperance and cadets of
the same & old fellows - with perhaps a hundred
horsemen. The President led the van with a splendid
equipage composed of six fine large white horses
as white as milk among which was Rufus K. Perry of
Hallowell, worth between 6 & 8 hundred dollars,
with a carriage that was brought from Boston.
Next followed the Vice Pres. after him his suit or
retinue. Then the horsemen, & last of all the before
mentioned footmen. They proceeded to the State house
where he was expected to deliver an address to the
people. But he was so wearied out that, after

addressing ^{the} Senate & ~~House~~ of Representatives, he only
expressed his thanks to the people for their courtesy &
honouring him by their presence, for which speech, Redding
was obliged to swing his hat three or four times, & tell
the people to cheer, it was so hard to get an applause.
After this I was so tired ^{having been} being in a jam so long that I re-
mained to Hallowell being about two o'clock & went to Grand
mother's & took dinner where I staid till after tea. Then
I went home with Perry & staid all night - Perry is as wild
as ever, his mother worrying about him continually - with I
am afraid ere long will break her down - she looks
poor & sick, sad & dejected now - I pitied her - But she has
got an irremediable trouble in that boy -
Monday morning I went on an excursion to the mouth of the
river & returned as far as Butts - I started to walk
for Brunswick - But on the way I was overtaken
by a gunny man & a boy who carried me very much
to my convenience & pleasure for I was so tired
I could but just walk. Grand mother was
very well - Jennings said he saw Thomas
Bridgman & Weller. Everett & his lady & Pernelia
Jennings at Augusta - Give my love to Roland
Charles & Dolly. Tell Mother I am expecting a letter from
her. Give my love to her & father, It is very warm and sultry
making it quite uncomfortable to study - Our term
ends in seven weeks from to morrow or next day. after
which time we shall assume the Dignity of Sophomores.
I saw Charles Pollard in the - he inquired
for you & said he would like to have a visit from you
from your affectionate brother
O. O. Howard.

father have succeeded in obtaining one volume so that I
can decide before long whether to take this at
Freeport or not. From your affectionate Son
Oliver O'Rourke

5
Mrs John Gilmore
South Lead
me



144
July 11 1845
O'Rourke

Bowdoin College July 11. 1845

Dear Mother

I am very much thankful & grateful
for your last kind letter, I wish you would visit
often, it serves to calm & cheer my spirits, I am
naturally of a warm temperament & changing mind
I have hours when I feel cheerful & thank mine
pleasant lot - considering that I have parents & friends
to assist & aid me - then again I am despondent
knowing that I deserve not their approbation, affection
& esteem shown me. That I do not grasp at every
opportunity of improvement, & cultivate my mind to fill
the station expected of me - As I have said your letters
have a good effect to - disbell gloom ^{persuading me} to yield & follow
the advice of one having experienced all the changes,
& vicissitudes of life knowing what are the causes equally
of trouble & affliction, and peace & pleasure,
When I was at Ballwell my uncle talked considerable
with me. he said I ought ^{not} to incur the cost expense or
purchase the least thing without first considering
its essential necessity. - I told him I was naturally
rather frank & generous especially in pecuniary matters
that if a person was a tried friend & treated me well it
was ^{my} intention to return the same, the same principle
I carried to money matters, If as I visited his room he had

freshments & invited me to partake, & asked me to smoke
with him, when he came to mine I would do the same.
Uncle thought it wrong, that I should look for self &
purchase what must be & no other. I grant another his
argument is plausible, & of course will suit your views,
for you wish me to be as comfortably well situated
as possible when I graduate - But to adopt such
a course of conduct would be almost a second nature
to me, to be prudent & saving is my aim, but to be
pennurious or mean is my aversion, you know my
disposition, you have always taught me to be
generous to my friends & so ~~we~~ may receive their approba-
tion & esteem, and in college we form as firm & true
friends as in any other situation in life, we live
alike, pursue the same studies, & it is natural for
us to seek out kindred spirits & dispositions like
our own to associate with, I will not extenuate
my expenses of the last term, I saw that you & father
thought me unreasonable in letting them be so high,
I ~~can~~ felt hurt that I had justly incurred your censure
(whether expressed in words or look ~~I do not say~~
it does not matter), therefore I came here with the firm
resolution to curtail my expenditures in every way
possible, & bring home a smaller bill - And really thought
I should be successful. But when I ^{arrived} here they told me
that the library must soon be established in the New
Chapel, & that many new volumes were necessary
to fill it there, & that this term's end would bring
with it the Bonfire & Freshman celebration, with

other unthought of expenses, I began to be almost dis-
couraged, wishing I had not tried to accomplish the
collegiate course, but had remained at home & pursued
the road of the honest, & respected farmer, Again I thought
that many a young man with less brilliant
prospects than myself had paid all these bills, only
dependent on self - my ambition told me that to
relinquish all my future hopes & anticipations with-
out a trial would cause uneasiness & unhappiness,
and my business & adhesions to what was under-
taken urged me to prove my course foolish & vain before I
deserted it. - To be poor when I am thrown upon the
world will indeed be hard, but what others have done
without education may I not do with, get a
comfortable maintenance, how need we riches when
we have enough to eat drink & wear - "we need only
air and youth provide for old age" - To have distinction
and honor is indeed pleasant & desirable, if I have talents
sufficient, poverty will not hinder the attainment of
these objects, but rather incite me to action, urge
me on to strive, where sufficiency would cause less
perseverance & trial - But no more of this, How is your &
the family's health? Give my love to all, This letter I
have written whilst meditating on my prospects, I
know ^{not} what you will think of it, I suppose you will
think me foolish & short sighted not to look rather
to future good than present affluence. Pardon all
mistakes, & write soon to correct errors - The reason
why I went to the - was in search of a school, but was
unsuccessful in obtaining one, tell me how ~~to~~ when

Ottawa
Burd College
Aug 12th 1847

10

My John Gilmore.

South Leeds Me



Bowdoin College Aug 12th 1847

Dear Mother

Although it is but a short time since I left Leeds, yet I will write you thus soon according to my promise. I trust you are all in good health & spirits. I am now nearly settled in my new room. My carpet was too large enough therefore I have resolved not to have it & think I shall not purchase one this term. When we arrived here my old room was occupied & ^{my} furniture moved into another adjacent - unoccupied room. Bedstead taken apart, and other things in some disorder. We did not get here till dark & it caused us much labor for two weary bodies at least, to bring up our bed & other articles sufficient to make us comfortable for the night - yet at last we accomplished it & had a good sleep. I commenced reciting Wednesday afternoon to Prof Godwin in French, with whom I was much more pleased than I had anticipated. Being rather affable & agreeable than snappish & morose as before I had judged him, therefore I perceive by observation that it is not well to judge too hastily. We recite to Prof Packard in ^(Latin) Horace, immediately after

I gave ever after a love - & well wishing you close
my poorly written epistle to - A kind mother

OO
11

Bowdoin College August 8th 1844

Dear Mother,

After a seemingly long time of "non correspondence" - I have taken up my pen to renew it by a short epistle. Hoping that you are all the same in health & happiness as when I left. I heard of the death of my Uncle the Dr. a few days since by a letter from Mr. Perley, it was not so unexpected as it would have been had I not seen him in so low a state when at Leeds. I pity the bereaved state of his family. my Aunt nearly broken by toil & care & so many helpless or worse than helpless children dependant on their Brothers & her with out resources or assistance. But by their own hands yet many are in a worse situation still, many have no brothers & a mother to care for them. Thrown destitute on the cold & selfish charity of this world & many not even blessed with a free & republican government where the wages of the lowest laborer are sufficient for a livelihood. Subject to tyranny & oppression they wear a way a miserable existence. Their courage blasted

Mr. John Johnson
South Leeds
Ms.



W. Johnson
Aug. 8 1844

energy gone, & the intellect if it ^{the intelligence} could have been
clear & bright. reduced to a level with ~~that~~ of the Route
from its situation. Jennings & I arrived here about
one O'clock took dinner & prepared our after-noon
recitations. had quite a pleasant ride, yet it was
rather warm & dusty - before we arrived. I did not
have time to look for a school a Lewis ton, for Jenni-
-ngs was in much haste to return to Bowdoin having
a hard french Lesson to prepare for & part four recita-
-tion in the afternoon - I rely some upon father to
get me an own school for me, not being wholly deficient
of physical strength I think I can manage it, or
as is the surest assertion "I will try". We have been
on a review of the yearly studies of the year
a little over a week - the examination will
be at fortnight from next Thursday - therefore I can
go home ~~saturday~~ Friday. we did think of staying
-ing till commencement, but a week's expense, &
so long time of error & unemployment soon convin-
ced us to the contrary - You will (if you please)
let Rowland come Thursday. As the horse gets so
jaded before she arrives at Leeds. (not costing much
to keep her one night) & perhaps he will have some
curiosity to see one of the new Bon fire, which is

anti-expected to be splendid if the rain does not
continue till then
Jennings sent some notices of his school about a
fortnight ago. which Mr Lane wrote he did not get
there how he sent some more a few days ago.
I hope he will have a good & sufficiently large
school, for I know there is no greater inducement
to perseverance, or encouragement to action -
especially for a young man than success in
first attempts & undertakings. It seems to awaken
his energy & renew his exertions, but to fail
dis-courages & weakens, It matters not so much
for a man of experience to fail of obtaining, for
he can easier detect his mistake or the secret of
his failure & better retreat & place himself aright.
I attended Church this morn & again the Bellis
summoning me to appear before the Tribunal
of Mr Adams - finish after church - I have
declaimed 3 times this term, twice before the Prof.
& my Class, & once in my Soc. I like to declaim
& therefore shall take some pains to appear well
on the stage - Give my love to All - I shall
soon be with you - I require some more money
But I shall not write for any, thinking I shall have
an opportunity of selling my best man 13 wks

that can be practiced to a great extent I have always known
from your childhood what were the faults of your nature but
I was in hopes when ripeness for manhood you would fight
manfully against them and come off conqueror, now
what you consider generosity my son, you watch in your heart
very closely and see if it is not self gratification, look over all the
past year and examine your motives in every act and say
to yourself was it generosity or was it following my own natural
inclination, or, a desire to please others or some other similar
motive; perhaps want of moral courage, that gained the ascendancy
over me. Now I think allowing oneself at every flash of
feeling, or at every request, to give way to the suggestion
puts it out their power to be generous, when true generosity
is required, O my son I felt no unkind feelings toward
you, nor even censure all the ones but I felt disappointed
in my expectations I felt as though I had done something
to forward your wishes but I felt no resentment to be
cause you had not carried forward my wishes, it was your
own good I was looking at, every year that you live beyond
your income makes your income less next year, you see
that one instead makes way for another you have
a certain portion allotted you and there is no way
to change it, I feel like one with ^{their hands} ~~these~~ tied if you
had a father in the world engaged in business to
profit and you did go a little beyond own calculation
it would not make me feel as I do, I desire to live in full
confidence in you, and it is very pleasing to me that
you so freely express your views to me I hope always
to live as we now live, what is pleasanter than confidence

between parents and children, I hope I have not said anything
in this letter that ^{will} discourage you in your pursuit of ~~the~~
knowledge, or seeking to enlarge your understanding
There has been nothing done here about a school, I have thought
of seeing Warren Mottor, and trying to get him to engage
one for you but I have not seen him and every
thing remains just as when you were here, our haying
has engaged all attention your father has been to
Watterville attending a meeting of railroad directors
the past week there ^{has} been a number of deaths in
deeds since you were here, Elias Lane was one of
the number the Brewsters carried out their neglect
to the last not one of them went to the grave to see
him laid away, whatever their motive was it
lessons them in my opinion, about a school, I
can take one to advantage anywhere I wish you would
as much as I desire you near me I should think you had
better keep school this winter it is not unpleasant teaching
in a pleasant neighbourhood and I expect it is not very
pleasant in College in December you can do what
you think best about going to Freeport. Mrs. Baily
says she has taught in Freeport and it is a good place
and fine people she told me which school she taught
but I do not recollect not being acquainted there
write to me soon as you receive this give my love to
Baily I hope ^{you} will room with him next year I am satisfied
you cannot do better, how much I desire to be useful
to you in every respect, we are all as well as usual at
home, write what day we must send for you, yours
truly O. Howard.

Geneva

Oct 13

Mr Oliver Howard

Brunswick

M

My dear son Leeds Oct. 11. 1841

I have received your kind letter in due time
 I am glad that nothing more has befallen you than you mention
 ed, I thought the tenor of your ^{letter} was rather happy than other
 I hope you make your daily labour rather a pleasure than a bur
 den, I think of you a great deal, there you are placed at the
 best institution of your native state, directed by some
 of the best men in the state, the Officers throughout ^{are} good
 and pious men and men of good judgment, all their
 management no doubt arises from a desire for your
 best good, Oh! how much I desire you would take pleasure
 in obeying their laws, I take no pleasure in hearing of your
 college tricks, I am sorry you have adopted a rule of doing
 as you have been done by, rather than "as you would like
 to be done by" I hope when you return to Leeds, you will leave
 all your college tricks there, and never mention them
 in Leeds, to ignorant minds it gives them an idea that
 you are more depraved than you really are, and to envious
 minds it gives them an advantage to create a prejudice
 against you which it is not in your power to eradicate
 your father arrived on Saturday evening ^{after you left} in good health
 I told him what we had heard respecting the school
 he thinks it will amount to nothing at all and I
 have heard nothing since, your grandmother is at
 your teachers feet, waiting for ~~you~~ the wedding which
 is to take place Tuesday evening, whether I am to be
 invited or not I don't know, I learned what I have ^{ten} writt
 at meeting yesterday but received no invite

Your aunt Fanny is on a visit here, has staid three days
with me, and is now staying for the wedding, Novella
was married yesterday Mary Wing, was Brides Maid
and after the wedding took a ride with Owen they
passed B. Gilmore on his way home from, mayer
meeting which almost upset him, he has paid great
attention to Mary since you went away I dont know
but the dish is upset ^{now} get, between him and Mary, so
much for nonsense, the recent murder at Waterville is
very shocking to me and all other persons with whom
I speak on the subject I ^{am} satisfied there is an avenging
God, let us pray daily to be kept by his all powerful
arm from sin, I hope you will form good and just
sentiments, and have your actions correspond with
them, give my love ~~to~~ ^{to} Benby, he has my best wishes
in every respect, B. B. spent the sabbath at home
he has never ventured to camp in any of his com-
positions for connection, he said he should write
on the sabbath but I did not find that he did
I am sorry he has no more perseverance against
his own inclination I wish Mr Stinchfield would perse-
vere with him, B. B. look'd rather pale and had a poor
appetite, Owen Bates attends Mr Stinchfield's school
Elizabeth has not come home yet I believe she
went to Turner before you left home Francis Rich-
man is with ^{me} yet, our family enjoy good health
Mrs Turner has gone to Augusta to stop some days
the box that contains your letters sets here before
~~you~~ me it is precious to me I brought it down to read
some of them to your aunt ^{who} is always interested

you I have about made up my mind, to make her a
visit next May and have you for my bear if con-
venient, seven o'clock, evening, I am entirely alone
except Rodolphus in the trundle bed, Rowland, H. Gilmore
Francis, Richman are gone to Mr James Wing's to a husking
and your father and Charles are in the barn husking
corn, last wednesday I went to see Mrs Bridgman, Mother
went with me and in the afternoon Mrs Bridgman
went with us to your uncles and Mrs Backly too
so together with aunt Fanny we had quite a com-
pany, it seems Mergennings school is finished
I called at Elden Laughten's ^{and} Mrs Davies, in the morning
of the same day I made the best of my visit,
give my love to William tell him I hope he will
enjoy ~~colleg~~ life, I saw virgil on ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~book~~ ^{book}
shelf in north room perhaps you do not want
it at term, how did you succeed in selling your
Books, do try to have as few bills as possible this term
Charles went to Wayne ^{this morning} to drive the horse home
after carrying Orrin and Rowland to their
school, I think Owen is convinced you did not
meddle with his horse, I have had a talk ^{with} him my-
self and so has B. B. It seems almost impossible
for the horse to have come into our doorway
and turned himself so regular without help.
I have writter all I can think of little and
great, so good night, from your affectionate
Mother, Clara Gilmore

O. O. Howard

W. Howard
Oct-1847



Mr. John Gilmore
St. Leeds

Bowdoin Oct. 1847

Dear mother

I was happy to receive your kind and mindful epistle on yesterday, and with alike pleasure took my pen to reply to it, and continue a correspondence with my only mother and only friend. For by an interchange of sentiments and feelings, through the magic influence of pen and paper, we may mutually share each others pleasure, lighten each others burdens, sharpen our minds, and make life pleasant, and desirable. And last of all, but not least the mother can guide the steps of an absent son, and instill principles & precepts, of which he seemingly careless & regardless cannot always be unmindful. For they are deeply rooted in the mind and will one day spring up & glow with a brighter luster. I am glad to hear of so prosperous & thriving a condition at Leeds, "young men coming & getting married" & the middle aged visiting and assisting the young to build their "Bark for life" and to obtain their bread & perhaps their only mates to aid them in stating the rough & turbulent voyage of life, having confidence, love & virtue for a pilot, to steer them clear ~~the~~ from (the quick sand) slander.

from rocks (the passions) on which they are sure to be shipwrecked, and the "violent gulf stream" jealousy, from which it would be impossible to extricate themselves once drawn in.

I am also glad to hear that there are no more seeds of discord sown in the school district, and yet hope I may have a quiet & interesting school,

William P. is the same he always has been, seldom speaks, very well liked by his classmates, not from his importance or eminent stand, but from his doing no injury.

You said you wished me to make my labor a pleasure rather than a burden, with which request I can & have ever complied, for in the first place I voluntarily took the yoke upon me, and if at her chance is attended with some difficulties, the end and aim of my course will ever cheer & encourage me to proceed. Yet it is not very hard or difficult, to any one to pursue a course of study, after he has once laid a good and thorough foundation, being careful in the preparation of every part, and doing it regularly & in order. And if he does this he will soon find himself capable of accomplishing what at first would have seemed unattainable. Also it is a pleasure for one to feel himself capable, or know that he has accomplished something which requires an ~~entire~~ expanded intellect & a cultivated mind, it is invariably the case that the more intricate & perplexing the work to be performed, the more satisfac-

tion & pleasure is afforded to the performer.

I have engaged in no tricks played upon the freshmen, & in fact all of such ^{measures} initiating have long since passed, the freshmen are treated as well as any other members of college and even better from perhaps selfish motives, they usually, being induced by those who treat them best, join their society. Give my love to my brothers, tell them I frequently think of them, and am willing to do all I can for their welfare & happiness -

It is now Sabbath afternoon. I attended ^{have} church & heard the Harpwell minister, who exchanged with Mr Adams, he is a very interesting speaker, and a young man - I now enjoy very good health & have ever since I returned. Write me all the news from Leeds, and as soon as you can spare the time, Give my respects to Roland's father and all my friends - Tell Rowland Barley to write me a letter if he can spend the time - (With my best wishes for all, and an expectation of soon returning (has five or six weeks will soon pass) I close, hoping that nature has gifted you with a good share of patience, sufficient to trace three pages of my scribbling - -

From Your affectionate Son,
Oliver C. Howard

W. Howard
Nov 4th 1847

Mrs John Johnson
South Leeds.



Bowdoin College November 4th 1847

Dear Mother

I have been waiting a long time to receive a letter from you to answer, but finding myself procrastinating in vain, I have at last concluded to write;

I hope you are in health and are hindered from writing by no troubles, other than those always attendant upon labour. I know of nothing new in Brunswick - except that there has been a little excitement arising from kicking the foot ball - a rivalry between Colleges & Bowdoin places testing the skill of the one against another, comprising exercise & sport in one.

The time is fast drawing to a close when I shall again return to Leeds, whether for pleasure or contention I know not, I hope the minds of the people comprising the school district have not been prejudiced more since I left? Please write me concerning that, in order that I may be prepared to meet any difficulties if there should be any -

I think I shall return home the day before Thanksgiving, so as to have about a week to put in order my clothes, and have a little leisure before commencing my school, Please let Rodden come with us to carry me up Wednesday. Parley will go with me -

Our studies are comparatively easy this term. we have now the addition of a theme or composition containing three or six pages once a fortnight to our last years work, but it can be accomplished like every thing else, if done in

in season, and in its order.

As Rowland Bailey left Wayne yd: if he has, and is at home
Please ask him what he wishes to study this winter, in order that
I may accommodate him with books if I have them.

Halvord Charley & Rodolphus pleased with the idea of my
teaching them this winter, perhaps I may have some
trouble from them, thinking that I have no right to
govern them.

It is very beautiful weather for so late in the fall, almost
as warm as in the summer, an excellent time for farmers
to their ploughing— I suppose John Harrison has got
settled by this time, and Thomas cured & has recovered his
former felicity—

William appears as healthy as ever I knew him, seems to
enjoy the sport of kicking football very much,
so he takes considerable exercise, I think he is not a
very smart scholar, for he does not study much, and
his classmates say he does not recite remarkably well.

You may send me some kind of an excuse for my weeks
or nearly a week's absence at the beginning of the term,
in your next letter, or by the one who comes
after me— Give my respects to all—

From your affectionate Old Son

O O Howard

Houlton Nov. 5th 1886

Friend Howard

I address you with these few lines at this opportunity, hoping you are now realising the full fruition of sophomore dignity and intellectual enjoyment. I have been engaged teaching since vacation, and will probably continue until the spring term. I had a good time at vacation in visiting my friends and in fishing and hunting excursions. I am teaching a very large school now in the village amounting in number to about 80 scholars or more. It is rather hard work, but I manage them with considerable dexterity, and they pay me good wages. I suppose you will teach this winter therefore I shall lecture you a little, as you have not taught before I believe. Be careful the first day when you commence, to show the scholars an intention to be familiar, and an unceasing regard for order and arrangement. Prepare beforehand a Program of the number of classes you intend to have in your school, and the time marked to be devoted to each class. Attend to but one thing at a time. Have a box on your desk for questions, where the scholars are at liberty to put in any thing they wish to have explained. Devote 5 minutes every morning to the reading of these questions which are contributed, and ask others which may be suggested to your mind, by this means a great deal of interest will be excited in your pupils.

Charles P. Howard

Dear Howard

prospects would have been brighter, or I habitually in ignorance,
accept the kindest wishes of an ungrateful, though
affectionate son. O. P. Howard.

Mr. John P. Moore,
Leeds, Vaire.



Nov 11 1844
O. P. Howard

Bowdoin College Nov. 11. 1844

Dear Mother

I am sorry to give you an opportunity
for a reproof as regards my frequency and the length of my letters,
yet I acknowledge it as just; and will endeavour to mend
the past by more constancy in future. When I wrote my
last letter I was much in haste, and ended when the bell
called me to recitation, and I seldom can retake a letter
after once left and finish it, it seems something the same as to
leave my composition or theme half written and afterwards
finish it, which I never do for I lose the connexion of thought and
expression, which I before had, so if I often finish it it seems to
be dry, and uninteresting. Such was my thought when I
folded and locked my last letter to you, thinking that such an
one would be more acceptable than none, and intending
to follow it quickly with another. And I do not always
feel in a mode required for writing a good or a long letter,
because I usually take up my pen to write after having
accomplished my other duties (this being the time I have leisure
) so I either feel tired or cross, and you can judge how hard
it is for a person out of humour to write a pleasant or interest-
-ing epistle, yet because my letters vary as my feelings
differ, think not my intentions less good, or my pleasure
in interesting my mother and my friends less great.
I am spoke respecting my returning home thanksgiving day.
I have resolved since I wrote not to come so early, but as Perley
wishes to return home before his school commences I shall

request you to send for me the wednesday before my school commences that is three weeks from last night yesterday.

In regard to those cigars. William borrowed some money of me to pay his stage fare not having enough left. after paying his expenses at Yarmouth to get home, John did not wish to let his father know of the bill, his expenses having been higher at Yarmouth than they should have been; and when I let him have it I thought he would immediately get the money of his father and send it to me in a letter, but instead of that I did not see much prospect of getting it at all, so to "make a virtue of necessity" I told him as Elias was crossing him something he might bring me a box of cigars in payment of his account. But he says he ~~had~~ paid Elias the money for the box, and when I got here there was but two bunches in the box, so I told him I would allow him, 50 cts for what there were, and instead of putting it down on his accounts as he should for his stage fare, he put it against me for a part of a box of cigars. I do not wish you to say anything about further to any other than me, for William has lately settled it, & also paid me for the books he bought of me. Uncle Philman's forebodings may be fulfilled, yet my courage is not abated, nor am I disheartened. For though Oscar appreciates my judgment in comparison with Seths, I may from necessity if not from natural ability, yet accomplish something, and have my labors crowned with success, but if it is not to be so the blame will rest only on myself. And you my mother will be free from imprecation, for you have striven, and counselled only for my welfare & lasting good.

If Proberly falls me while I have health I shall not suffer. But if Uncle Philman had had his way I should have been penniless ere this. Before I was capable of taking care of myself, when all exertions would have been fruitless, yet I will recollect his sayings & carefully appreciate his good will & good intentions. I am glad you have so good an opinion of me as relates to my teaching and hope you will not be deceived, though I am hasty and passionate, yet I have some reason and sincerely desire that I may by self restraint as well as listening to good & wholesome advice & admonition so nurture & cultivate it that if when it becomes mature, I shall not be so easily affected by opposition and vexations crossings, but may I survey all things with more considerations and coolness. I'll think and I do not appreciate your motives in so kindly admonishing me when you who are wiser & older see defects & failings. As good as I usually am for vindicating self, I never have yet convinced my own heart of my perfection, nor do I even hold to an approximation to that, which has never been possessed by mortals since the fall of man. Give my love to my brothers and may they so notice and criticize my conduct as not to fall in to my errors, and if my uncle's predictions are fulfilled in me, may they never fall upon them. Frequently I think if I had been penniless I should have learned patience, and my

Dec 23 1847

Palmgrove Me
Dec 27

Mr. C. Howard
Leeds
Maine

Palmgrove Dec 23^d 1847

Friend Howard -

Although I have delayed somewhat to answer you, it has not resulted either from disinclination to do so or forgetfulness of you, but rather from notions of self-interest. It is exceedingly pleasant to receive a communication from a friend at any & all times. When I left Brunswick I had made promises to a number of my fellow students, that they should see from me sometime during the winter. A part of these promises I have fulfilled, others yet remain to be performed. I have been trying to arrive home along in such a steamer, that I might be gratified by the reception of this letter for the whole of the term I stop up here. It is of course the good policy, and that is what has brought your letter to about a providential position. I supposed you might hear through Friend Parley of my situation, & that a little delay between his & yours would be quite as pleasing to you & perhaps more so, otherwise I should have sent them together. This you understand is my excuse & doubtless in your mind it is a very good one. It is an delight in the perusal of an Epistle from a friend more than I do; no one perhaps feels a deeper & kinder interest in their progress; no one rejoices more in their prosperity, or sympathizes more heartily with them in adversity.

Can afford to do you for such paper as this. It is the best and all I have
I can get at present - at U.S.

that myself. If I by fresh of fortune, or efforts
of my own, attain to any considerable degree of
comfort or enjoyment, it is doubly valuable, if
shared in by them; & if by any misfortune I happen
to fail in my endeavors & miss of obtaining the object
for which I eagerly strive, my misery, in no part
lessened by holding ^{them} I have learned to prize
pleasures in like circumstances. So far as
my feeble exertions can benefit them, they are
at their disposal. Let them call upon me, if
I can aid them by any civil efforts & effects
they shall be welcome. I do not, say this, boasting of
my philanthropy, but rather to demonstrate to you
generally the disposition that letters from you as well as
from others of my College Acquaintance are full of
interest & pleasure. For if my disposition gives occasion
to such feelings in respect to them, as a matter of
course I cannot wish to be ignorant of their actual
condition. But to hear from them is often as
profitable. I labor under no apprehensions of weariness
to be perused by the too frequent arrival of their
communications. A single letter affords me a fortnight
of enjoyment, from which I can divide long & refreshing
dreams until the perception of another. Particularly
as it feel anxious to hear from about friends, whom
my own circumstances, like those with which I
am now blessed are privation of any thing

Tell Dearly that all the advice I can give is to keep close of
the girls especially Sarah

but pleasurable emotions. But anapping this subject
I will proceed to give an account of myself. I arrived
in St. Albans on Saturday night after I left you on
Friday morn. making a stay of an day & night in
Waterloo. The next Monday I came down here & on
Tuesday I commenced my school. The reports I heard
of it were from the most favorable, & I anticipated
a good time, I have between 50 & 60 scholars. Although
the school was represented to me as the worst in about
"New diggins" I have succeeded in getting through with about
6 weeks, & have not had the slightest difficulty. I have
I weeks more to keep here. I then I go to another
District in the same town, when I shall probably
be detained about 6 or 7 weeks. This will carry me
about 2 weeks into the Spring Term. I shall be
exceedingly glad when the time comes which will
relieve you from the troubles & perplexities of a School
Teachers life in the County, & restore you to the pleasure
& profit of my College Studies & Acquaintance.
But how do you "come on"? How do those boys
keep train, whose hearts persecute you? If they don't
mind "give it to them". What do you think of Peasoguing?
Is it as pleasurable as you anticipated? I certainly wish
you much prosperity & happiness, but if you have it
it will be more than I get here - But don't meddle
with the girls! They are dangerous creatures I believe.
Direct your letter to Palmyra and respectfully
soliciting a speedy answer I subscribe myself Yours truly
W. N. Sewall