
106 1/1/1848

From: Jas. W. Bunker

To: Friend [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0097

Temple Mills
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Jan 1st 1848

Friend Howard

Greeting -

Seeing thy name on a Catalogue of Bow Coll for the year ending 1847, I thought as I had not obtained one for the year 1848, I would write to thee requesting thee to send one with all possible speed in as much as thy humble servant intends to send an only son to be educated at that institution the next fall, and he wishes to know the state of the Institution at the present time and also to know what classics they read so that I can procure them for my son without difficulty. What suggested to my mind the idea of writing to thee in particular is because thy humble servants nearest neighbors are of the name of Howard whether relation to thee I know not.

Thy humble Serv't &C
Jas. W. Bunker

N.B. Please direct the Catalogue should you send one to Temple Mills. (State of Maine - on the Sandy River). All my endeavors to obtain a Catalogue have been fruitless as yet, though I have tried hard enough. Jas W. Bunker

107 3/5/1848

From: O. O. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

OOH-0098

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College March 5, 1848

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time to ascertain whether I should have the measles or not, before I wrote. But as it will be a fortnight tomorrow since I left home, and as yet I have had no symptoms of them, I have decided that I have escaped the disease this time. And I think it better that I have avoided them, for I should be obliged to study as quick as possible after my recovery and it might injure my eyes. Besides it is not a very comfortable place here to be sick. I suppose some of the family are sick with them 'ere this. If so you must write me how they are getting along, if you have spare time. If not perhaps father will write.

I have made up the hardest part of my studies and been examined on them viz - Greek, Geometry and Rhetoric - and have remaining Latin & French. Our everyday lessons have been long and rather difficult. But I found it much easier than I anticipated to get them and then find time to make up my back lessons.

My health is very good except that I have a large bile under my chin, caused I presume by taking the medicine you gave me driving the impurities within to the outside. It is of a different kind from any I ever have had, being very hard and quite painful, yet not worth mentioning.

Tell Father that it was a long time before I recovered fairly from that peculiar ride, which he and I together accomplished. Frequently I found myself driving and whipping horses, and prying the sled, running for oxen and shoveling snow. "But Alas! I woke and found it all a dream".

Tell Rowland Bailey I have spoken with Burbank, his writing master, who spoke very well of him indeed. He said he admired his dialogue the last day or at the exhibition of Stinchfield's school, and was particularly pleased with the manner he spoke it. Have you ever asked Mr Bailey respecting that M. Bunker of Temple Mills. Since I have returned I have written him a long letter and sent an Atheneum Catalogue.

William Otis is quite unwell. He came into my room yesterday looking so cast down & sick that I was quite frightened. But I fixed him as comfortably as possible into my chair, and brought him some warm drink and crackers. And in a little while he looked much better and this morning he went to his breakfast as usual looking quite smart, yet he says his head aches now. You must not say anything about it for if his father should hear of it, he might be unnecessarily alarmed, thinking his cholice the result of some particular cause of which I think he is suspicious. Pollard, his (William's) chum has not returned yet.

After I went away last fall there was an occurrence here of which I did not hear. Four or five Freshmen and two Sophomores went on a ride to Lisbon, for the purpose of having a "bat" as they term it. They went into a Ball Room, and behaving very uncivilly, were quite unceremoniously kicked down stairs & out doors, which was serving them as they deserved. But that was not the end of it. The fame of the expedition came to the ears of the faculty who compelled them all to send (\$10,00) ten dollars each to settle the damage done. But I believe it was sent back. And the two Sophomores & one Freshman were suspended from college, as these three were considered the leading members.

You will recollect that William did not say any thing respecting this occurrence of which I think even he was a little ashamed. This also you must not speak of out of the family for it would not take long for some to make innumerable additions, and the truth is bad enough. The Faculty wrote to the fathers of all engaged in it.

Have you been fortunate enough to find my pen? I have found a gold pen since very similar to mine and if I do not find an owner I shall have one in place of the lost.

(March 6)

I have seated myself to finish my letter this morning after breakfast. I hope you are now well. You may now tell Betsey with certainty that she need not fear longer of her being so unkind as to give me the measles. I wish

you to write me as quickly as convenient. Give my love to my Brothers. Tell them no longer to think of me as their measles, but their affectionate Brother.

Your affectionate son
O O Howard

108 3/5/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: My dear son
[O O Howard]

OOH-0099

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds March 5th 1848

My dear Son,

Now is the sabbath two weeks since we were at the centre at church, where you were exposed to the measles from Sturges Jennings who went home at the end of the forenoon service sick with the measles. If you took them from him probably you will be sick with them before this reaches you. I went to see Mrs Davie, soon after you left home and found her sick with the throat distemper. She was alarmed about you on account of your taking her breath, and felt herself quite unwell at the time. She said she was exposed to some one who had the throat distemper just two weeks before that day. Her throat broke soon after I saw her. I hope you will escape both disorders, but if you don't, do take care of yourself. After persons have had such sicknesses their pores are open, and they take cold easy.

Your father reached home at the beginning of evening the day he left Brunswick very lame and tired. His red horse troubled him very much, both tired and contrary, but he has nearly recovered his limbs. He said you had a jarring time getting to Brunswick but still I hope you did not suffer immediately from the effects of your journey and still hope you will escape the above mentioned troubles.

I was some disappointed last evening in not receiving a few lines from you, hope sickness did not deter you from writing. Let me know how you are getting along, making up your studies and whether you board the same as previous. Your Mother is a close observer of her children. There is scarcely an expression of the eye of one of them escapes her. I don't know but I am touching a tender spot (as the saying is) but allow a tender mother who is interested in every thought of your heart to suggest a few ideas. I have noticed something about you my son while with me this winter which I could wish could have been otherwise. An abstractedness which I never saw in you before and disinclination for study, which you had chosen as your manner of life and seemed to shun the society of your mother as a general thing and her general observations seemed painful to you and insinuated many things which I could not understand though from their manner of being thrown out I suppose them intended for me but could form no definite idea what you intended. The subject is too painful for me to pursue, nor indeed do I keep any confidence in so doing. If you have any thing rapt up in your heart for safe keeping which makes you unhappy, and you even said you never took any comfort in your life. Pray where is the fault. I desire you should enjoy every day, but I will leave the subject and tell you more of what is going on.

Elizabeth and her two little sisters have had the measles and Betsey's children. Mr Jones boys and none of ours have had them yet. We have had a very close time for one week. A snow storm began last Monday night and snowed all day Tuesday and Wednesday. Blew so hard all day that it filled all the roads. Thursday was pleasant and the roads were opened. Another storm on Friday and Saturday blowing again in the afternoon. The men were out again and opened the roads and this morning when I waked behold a snow storm, but it seemed rather mild so Rowland B.H. has gone to carry Minerva home. She has never been exposed to the measles and Elizabeth had such a hard time I did not wish M. to have them.

I hope you are not very unhappy. I hope your daily studies will not impair your health.

Betsey Collier is in the neighbourhood, caught here in the storm. I have seen her some. She told me of William's expensive scrape he got into. I suppose you knew it. She said your Uncle told her. I suppose it is heavy on his mind and he mentioned it to her. Perhaps no one else knows of it. I feel a confidence my son will not be misled in such a way. No wonder a temperance pledge is held out as necessary.

I don't know when Betsey will get back to her station again. Rodelphus reads every day. His winters improvement shows itself much.

Caroline Lothrop was married Wednesday evening after you left home. Something like sixty or seventy persons were present. Mr Laughton solemnized the marriage.

Give my love to Mr Perley. I regret not seeing him when here. I hope you and him will be happy in each other. If you are sick let him write to me.

Yours truly
Eliza Gilmore

Charles wish to send love to you.

110 3/14/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

To: Brother
[O. O. Howard]

OOH-0101

Kents Hill
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill March 14th 1848

Dear Brother

I came to the "Hill" a week ago today. I find the school as pleasant as usual. There is at present about 100 students but the school is not near full. Mr T is still principal with his wife for assistant. I am studying The First Book in Lattin which we shall finish in about three weeks and then take Caesar which I want to finish this term. I had to buy me one after I came here. I am also studying Clarks Algebra which is I think rather harder than Smiths and is considered here better than the same. The class is somewhat in advance of me but by studying I am in hopes to keep up with them.

When you wrote to me you said that you were unwell. Write me soon in regards to your health. I like my chum middling well. He is better than he looks. I don't know but you know him. His name is T F Turner. I think some of studying Greek the last of the term but have not made up my mind. You wrote that you succeeded in your examination. Well I am glad to hear it. I hope you will not have to study harder than your health will allow. You aluded in your letter to some foolish remarks of mine, made in fun about your lecturing me. I am sorry that you remembered therefore I shall always like to have advice from you by letter or otherwise.

My health is very good except my eyes which will not allow me to study much evenings but I partly make it up in getting up in the morning as soon as I can see well. I find do not lose much by it as day light comes cheaper than candle light. I like my boarding place very much better than I did the capt'ns for here afraid of "eating to much". But i do not think he would complain on that score if he had me this term.

Our family at Leeds were well when I left. I have not heard from them since. Mother was very anxious on account of your health, which you wrote was very poor. I went to carry Roland A down to the Falls to take the cars. He was rather flustrated when about to start but doubtless he has got over that by this time. I suppose he is now on the ocean as we have heard nothing from him. Elias L__ went the same day and with him I think he will prove a true friend to him in all matters.

You wrote that Mr Tom was at Brunswick. If he is there now give my respects to him. You said that he accused you of misrepresenting the school. Perhaps you remember the prophicy that I made in a former letter that he would leave and so it proved. I thought by what he said when here that thought leaving Bodoin and entering at Harvard.

Frences is studying (or reading as I should say) Sallust. He has just been ripping tearing and swearing over his lesson. He studies pretty hard. He has never read Sallust before and it comes rather hard to him. He wants me to say to you that if you will write to him he will be sure to answer the letter.

I shall not go home till the last of April or the first of May. It is such a hard work to get back again. I suppose the term will last till the first of June. I do not intend to read any this term although I may since I think I shall take a share in the Library. RAs and Sarah's miniatures were not very good ones. R- forgetting to shut his mouth. I hardly know what to write about as the people with whom I asociate are stranger to you of course news from them would be uninteresting. I hope you will write me soon and I am some anxious about your health.

Your afectionate Brother
R. B. Howard

109 3/12/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0100

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

[Written later] OO Howard, Mar 14, 1848

Bowd College March 12 1848

Dear Mother

I certainly have been very fortunate to escape so many infections and think it wonderful that it should be so, having been so many times exposed. But I have escaped and am now in the enjoyment of good health.

I board at the same place I have previously. I did not like to change very well, and as the price of board was not so high as anticipated I resolved to remain one term more. Besides I thought my expences amounted to enough without increasing them by paying a greater price for board. It does not make much difference what we eat if it but be wholesome.

Our Club behave too with as much propriety as any in town. Hence if I changed my place it would be only to gratify a foolish pride. There is a certain class here, as elsewhere, who think more of greet with a blander smile and meet with perhaps a more flattering welcome, those who dress costly and eat the most luxuriously.

Yet what care me for them. It is well; it is pleasant to be popular, to have the friendship of all. But what is the value of friendship founded on the external appearance, the mere outward show. This is its worth - "I delight in your society and am happy to see you at all times." So long as wealth remains. If this precious boon flees - "Then how mistaken I was in you, I thought you a noble fellow". "But now you are nothing but a vulgar poverty stricken wretch." "I will have no longer such a companion." On the other hand respect, love or friendship founded on real internal worth, having its root in the heart remains when property is gone and riches are no more.

My abstraction of which you spoke arose not from any unrevealed secret, but when my school did not pass to suit me during the day, at night being somewhat exhausted and therefore fretful. I brooded more over small things than I ought. It pained me to have my brothers complain of me. They do not know me, and I fear they will not, for any whole conduct towards them appears different from what I could wish. To whip my own Brothers, as it were in the eyes of the District, I can tell you was no pleasing task. As I said little things, petty grievances, though they be, wore upon me, and therefore made me appear different from what I have when I have returned home to enjoy recreation & rest. Frequently I saw things and actions which perhaps no one noticed but me. And often I worked hard to avoid trouble in school, when I might have appeared to others to have been indifferent. Yet it is past & I will not <> to it.

I anticipated a hard time this winter both from my inexperience and from an envious prejudice always existing in small minds, which I shuned or rather hushed by frankness mingled with flattery. After all I succeeded well; at least, with a few exceptions, was satisfied with myself; which is seldom the case, although I am possessed of much self esteem.

You spoke also of my disinclination to study. This arose from the same cause. From 18 students of my class who taught school, I know of but one who studied so much as I did, and that you know was very little. They say they cannot study & keep school. For a person wants to have a clear head at least to learn Greek or Latin. But you are mistaken if you think I do not love study, if you think I regret the course I have taken. The only real pleasure I take is in the perusal of books and the only regret I feel is that I do not improve more and faster. It seems to me, when I view what is before me, that as yet I have done nothing. I see others, other young men, who have had the privileges I enjoy, benefited thereby, they carry respect & esteem with them wherever they go. They seem to be possessed of talents the improving of which adds to them a superiority, which makes them influencial and beloved by society. My aspirations are high and perhaps my ambition extends beyond my abilities. To use the common phrase "I have wished to be somebody".

Money has never been my aim. That of course to some extent is necessary to everyone. But the distinction

which riches alone confer is disgusting. To be courted & flattered on account of paltry wealth. To ride in a fine carriage, to wear nice clothes may be desired, yes! even longed for by some, but to me these would give but little pleasure, unconnected with the true respect which internal worth ever exacts & receives. I admire a man who by intellectual exertions has made himself celebrated, whether it be in oratory, or with the pen. Hence my ambition is to become a good speaker or writer - either of which requires extensive knowledge and good abilities both natural & acquired, besides a thorough acquaintance with human nature.

These being my end & object. How in reason could I blame the only friend who is willing to assist me. You misunderstand me. I am not what I may have seemed to you. I am sometimes petulant perhaps and say many things for which I am sorry. I notice many times you interpreted me wrong & when I attempted an explanation, you thought I threw blame upon you in vindication of myself. So I said nothing. You said I treated you disrespectfully, all I could say I did not intend to. I would have said more but Mother I know your disposition and my own too well to venture an explanation while excited or in anger. But now, if I ever in any word or deed I have injured your feelings, now I am willing, humbly to ask your forgiveness.

Give my love to my brothers and the rest of the family. Write how you are getting along with the measles.

From your affectionate Son
O.O. Howard

111 3/30/1848 *From:* Oliver O Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0102

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College March 30, 1848.

Dear Mother

I received your letter on Monday last, was sorry to perceive you in so low spirits, and so ill. I suppose the care and anxiety of watching beside the sick bed has worn upon you somewhat and I hope you, as well as the rest may now recover your accustomed health. Tell Roland A perhaps his "boding" wishes with regard to my having the measles, may have quickened in some degree the severity of his disease. But perhaps I am joking too soon, as a student, who returned about a week ago, has been confined with them (the measles) here. He was taken down with them about two days after his return, and it is probable he spread them well. Yet it is not well to predict evil. I hope I may be as happily disappointed with regard to them now as I have been heretofore.

We now have harder or at least longer lessons than we have ever had. They require my almost undivided and certainly my strictest attention in order to prepare them well. We have now finished Rhetoric, which was comparatively easy, as it is plain English, and requires no study to be understood, though it may be difficult to be fixed in the memory. I like it because I have a great desire to be a good writer, to possess an easy & perspicuous style of writing. I consider it a great accomplishment, to be able to convey our thought in an interesting manner, and there is no better indication of the character of a man than is displayed by his taste in the selection of language to communicate his thoughts. To be eminent as a writer certainly requires ideas and ideas of the most elevated kind, it needs a deeply cultivated mind and very extended knowledge. But of what avail are all these materials, if they cannot be moulded and formed so as to give evidence of the superior attainments of the writer? How can one impress others with the importance of his subject, unless he knows how to express its importance?

I forget I am not writing a Theme or scribbling in my Journal.

You asked me respecting my studies, which I had to make up. I have passed examination on all except my Latin, which is not quite all reviewed yet. I think I can say I have not been negligent or slothful this term. When I have not been studying I have been writing. We have a theme (or composition) of four pages to write once a fortnight and this is something which requires particular care and attention. Any thing, upon any subject, scribbled down at leisure, does not answer the purpose. Our last theme was on the "Death of John Quincey Adams". Our next is on Mary Queen of Scots. We shall be obliged to read different authors on the period in which she lived and compare them, and then rely upon our own judgement with regard to their representations for truth, for writers on this subject differ very much. Some praising the Queen of England, and thus necessarily deprecating the merits of the Queen of Scots. And others on the contrary favoring the later, and as I think justly censuring the former on account of her intriguing, malicious conduct. Therefore it will require a great quantity of reading and research, in order rightly to investigate this subject, and much care to give the result of the investigation in comprehensive and perspicuous language.

I think Perley will surpass me in writing, as he has so much greater powers of imagination and an excellent memory. Yet our Rhetoric says "Defects of nature must be overcome by strenuous effort and by the discipline of the mind". I do not think nature has been "niggard" in the bestowal of her gifts even upon me (and I suppose you would say I ought to be thankful for what I do possess). But I do think she has been rather more liberal in blessing many others. I have not arrived at this conclusion from any want of respect for self, but from observation. You may think because I think myself inferior in some respects to some others, that I am discouraged, far from it. As I have hinted, so much greater is the inducement to exertion.

It is now half past eleven o'clock and I must end my epistle. I have sat up this late in order to write this, as my lesson occupied the time till after 9 o'clock.

Give my love to my brothers. Ask Rowland to write me. Tell him I will try to get time to answer him. Give my love to Father & Roland Alger. My health never has been better than at present. I am glad that Leeds folks like the rest of the world are entering upon that universally celebrated institution, marriage, and hope if they conduct

themselves aright therein, much good, and at least much "fruit" may result therefrom. Write me an answer to this as soon as you feel able.

From your affectionate Son,
Oliver O. Howard

112 4/1/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

To: Brother
[Oliver O Howard]

OOH-0103

Source: Bowdoin

April fool day 1848

Dear Brother

You may think that I have been needlessly negligent about answering your letter but my time has been all occupied. I was glad to hear that your health had improved and that you was able to be "round". You mention that your studies are uncommonly hard. I hope that your health will hold out for you to prosecute them. I am sorry that you worried prof C so badly, but hope that you got through it without getting any of your necks broke for by your description of him I should think that would be the natural consequence but doubtless he counted ten before he spoke as is customary with well balanced minds.

Have you found your "<Gindine>" which some one had the kindness to "look". Mud muddy muddiest is most all that we hear between here and the Seminary. The mud is ankle deep but half of the way we have an excellent sidewalk. The rest of the way we fare as we can which is some of the muddiest there are about.

One hundred and sixty in the school and it is daily increasing. I am reading Caesar which I find very easy. There are five at this house that are reading it so we help each other. I think I understand it as well as any of them. They have formed what they call a congress which consists of the students and the convention to draw up a constitution. Met last Saturday and I believe succeeded in their efforts. If I join that and go into the class for composition about being formed I shall have as many exercises in composition and speaking as I shall wish for. I have also joined the Calliopean Society which I have no doubt will help me very much in those branches. I declaimed last Saturday. Failed the first time of going on to the stage but did better the second. Hope I shall do well the next.

I have not heard from home since I have been here although I wrote nearly a fortnight ago. If you have heard from there lately please write as I can get a letter much quicker from Brunswick than from Leeds. I think I had better have my news come that way. I have not seen any of your acquaintances since I have been here except my chum who is well and enjoying himself. I still like my boarding place. There are 12 boarding here besides myself.

I go into the singing class here which I find to be very pleasant. We have an excellent teacher, one who understands the science perfectly. I have written one composition to Mr. Walsh. Expect to have to write two a week to Mr Torsey after his class is formed.

Mr Torsey preached today at the meeting house. The first time I ever heard him I expected to hear a great sermon and was not disappointed. It was not a simple exhortation such as we generally hear here but it was a sound theological sermon. Some such as Elder Lawton used to preach. He that is Mr Torsey will never preach on the Hill when he can get rid of it for he has a sort of diffidence about speaking before the students.

It is now nearly twelve and I must go to bed or I shall have sore eyes for tomorrow.

Write soon. Your Brother
R.B. Howard

PS I guess you'll think the date is like the letter.

113 4/8/1848

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0104

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 8th, 1848

My Dear Son,

We received your kind letter in Tuesday's mail with as kind a welcome as ever. I am quite well now, and your letter seemed to cheer me much. I feel as though you are "pursuing with care the nice design" of your own heart and you speak with so much confidence of your good health, I hope you are still well. Our family have recovered entirely from the measles. Oscar Turner had them last, had a thorough time of it, is out of doors now, and his wife and daughter are having the symptoms. I really hope you will escape them this spring, but if you do not do be careful of yourself. I have heard of an instance this spring of a man who went into the air too soon and left him crazy for a long time.

Rowland B. Charles H. had a bad cough three days before they had any other appearance of them. I fixed a tumbler nearly full of rum and molasses, of equal quantity. Of this they took a teaspoonful or two at a time to ease their cough. In that situation they went out, eat any thing and their habits were as usual. When they grew very sick at the stomach and a bad headache they soaked their feet and drank pererial tea and kept in the house. They were confined to their beds. Two days after that they staid in doors a week and selected a fine day for going out, and after that, whenever the weather was damp they staid in doors. They drank flax seed freely for their cough after their measles turned and cold water as much as they wanted all the time. There is great danger of hoarseness in the voice. Some of Mr Jones family have not recovered their voice yet. Be sure and take salts after they turn. Take them three times in the course of a week. You will probably have a dyareah on the turn. Don't take the salts untill that stops. Perhaps you will not, some don't. In that case take your salts soon as they turn.

I write thus particular because the measles is very bad with wrong treatment. Keep clear of them if possible. Get Perley or cousin William to write me if you are unable.

I have seen Mrs Bailey since I wrote and enquired after your friend Bunker in Temple. She made particular enquiry of a friend and his wife at the meeting. There is not any such person in Temple. It is of no importance at all, say nothing. Mrs B said she would not mention it.

With regard to your natural talents my son don't trouble your mind on that subject. Your mother has just ideas on that subject, and you will feel very different about it five years from now. I hope Mr. P will do well. I have not an envious feeling towards him, if he surpasses my son. Why should I! I do not think that your life in college is all. I hope if others surpass you in attainments you will not <flat> out and think nothing is left for you to do. According to my observations the most brilliant tallents are not always most successful. Be careful and not overstrain your nervous sistem if you fall far behind your classmates.

Communicate your thoughts freely to your mother. It is like thinking aloud, and sacred to her. Although I have heard you say <oldmeanes> told things to each other and sympathized with each other but I have no<cronies> and desire none.

Warren Lothrop is at home. I have seen him. He stays eight weeks. He appears very much improved in his manners whether his heart is better or not I cannot say. The time for mailing this is nearby arrived and my sheet is filled. Give my love to P and William

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

114 4/24/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0105

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

April 24th 1848 Bowd Coll

Dear Mother

I have been for some time expecting a censure from you because I have deferred writing so long, but not receiving such an epistle, I began to feel you would think I was sick and not able to write. So to undeceive you of this you should conjecture I take my pen. I now feel quite relieved, for this morning I passed an examination on last term's latin, which I have made up after ten o'clock on nights when I felt able to study. One reason why it has taken me so long to accomplish it is that I had a "sty" in my eye and while it lasted I had sufficient difficulty to prepare my usual recitations. There are two or more students of College sick with the measles, one from the Club where I board. I have not taken them yet, though I have taken no precaution or care to avoid them. This term ends in three weeks from next Wednesday, after which time I shall be at liberty to return home. I have forgotten to write you heretofore that a classmate, Wilson, talked of spending the vacation with me as it is so far that he cannot return to his own home. You need not take the trouble to send for us, but if you will send me a little money enough to buy my passage, we will come by ourselves. I can return for two dollars or less, and it would cost as much or more to send for me.

I have been particularly engaged of late in writing a theme (or composition) on Mary Queen of Scots. The subject requires great attention and much reading to be able to judge correctly what was the character of Mary. Different writers have different opinions with regard to her. Some have written on this subject a theme of 12 to 15 pages and I fear mine will be as long if I ever finish it. The times of this extraordinary woman afford greater interest as they are especially marked by the struggles of the protestant adherents to free themselves from the popish yoke.

The fanaticism and bigotry of the Calvinists of that period coupled with the atrocities of the Catholics threw the world into consternation and utterly destroyed government except that exercised through intrigues and deceit. I say such an epoch affords deep interest and requires much attention and study to be rightly investigated.

Our next theme is the Revolution of France just transpired. I think the writings on this subject will be as scarce as those on Mary of Scotland are profuse. But it is not best to anticipate difficulty. As Horace says "Quod adest memento componere acqui." (Be mindful to manage well what is present)

I had a letter from John Pettingill a short time since. He is teaching school in Virginia, and receives high wages. His words were not spelt better than usual. It seems to me if so dreadful poor a scholar can do so well, that at least I ought not be discouraged.

Perhaps you would like to know a little about the young gentleman who is coming with me. In the first place as to his exterior, he is about the middle height, weighs about a hundred & sixty, with pretty good form and an intelligent countenance. But you may judge of him in other respects when you see him. Make no preparations.

Give my love to my Brothers, to father, Roland A and the rest of the family. Write as soon as possible or I shall not receive it before the close of the term.

From your affectionate Son
O. O. Howard

115 6/15/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0106

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College June 15th 1848

Dear Mother

It is almost a fortnight since I left you as I find by reconing up the time, and as it is almost time for you to be expecting a letter from me, rather than to disappoint you I have seated myself to write, though it be but a recapitulation of my former epistles that I am well &c. I think we can say truly that so far we have not been materially afflicted with hot weather. Winter clothes have as yet been the most comfortable apparel. But I think that so fine and warm a morning as this is indicative of a desirable change, desirable especially to farmers, whose prosperity rests in abundant crops.

Rowland Bailey had rather an uncomfortable day to return home, but it would not have been much better till Saturday. Pleas tell him (Rowland) who laughed at our dirty room, that, to avoid a like mortification of my vanity I made me a mop, and going perseveringly to work washed it up myself. Minerva never would complain of being tired again, should she wash such a floor and I doubt whether she or any other lady could survive such a lay up on the physical powers. Perhaps my excessive labor resulted from want of experience in such matters.

I bought me a vest at 2.25 cts. I bought the cloth an got it made. It is of so firm a material that I think it will last me at least a year. I had some other things to buy, paper, oil &c, so I did not dare to buy me a Straw hat for fear I should not have money enough to prevent my "going on tick". If you would send me the cost of the vest I would be very glad. We have just commenced a new mathematical study, that is new to us, the Application of Algebra to Geometry. They say that it is very difficult, but we have not got along far enough to judge concerning it.

I wrote to Thomas Bridgham [his cousin] a few days ago, to inquire of him whether he would assist me to get a school. I have not received an answer yet. Has Laura Howard [his cousin] been to visit you yet? If not when she comes tell her I will write her, if she will promise to answer me, for I do not wish to labor without being certain of the fruits.

Tell Rowland Bailey that instead of reading so much he must write me a little occasionally, in order that he may not only acquire knowledge, but be enabled to communicate through "the magic pen". If he does not like common place subjects, let him take any pollitical, theological question, or whatever interests him most and we will discuss it in our boyish ways between us. Thus writing may be made not only pleasant and interesting, but through the interest thus excited much good, much real benefit, may accrue. Writing the thoughts and opinions one forms on what he reads serves to fix in the memory the most important facts, and habituates him to think more and deeper, and consequently after a while to form better opinions. If he will only signify to me what does interest him, or what he would like to write about, I will write the first letter challenging his reply, and needing a refutation.

I board at the same place as before. I thought I would get another place this term, but considering my present expenses sufficient, I gave it up, for analyzing my feelings, I found if I changed my place it would be done only from vanity - as I live now well enough for my health and certainly pay enough for it.

Give my love to my brothers and the family. My respects to the school mistress, with the hope that she will like teaching better than I. Write soon and tell me all the news.

From your affectionate Son
O O Howard

116 6/18/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O.O. Howard

OOH-0107

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds June 18th 1848

My dear Son,

the mail brought to hand your communication which was more than welcome. You have scarcely been out of my mind since you left home. I have had long communications with you in thought, my desires for your welfare and my fears. Fears so strong that in the heat of youth in some unguarded moment, you may by some imprudence you may injure yourself that I yearn for Ideas to express my views to you. I think you have integrity and I hope you are careful in your choice of companions.

I wish I had talked more with you when at home and heard your ideas from your own mouth. Do cultivate good feelings towards all, and always carry a cheerful countenance if possible. There is no situation but has its cares there can nothing be attained without ambition but to find a necessary medium of conduct, to vary and apply it to contingencies is desirable and no doubt is the right way to success. But if you fail in your desires for attainments in your class don't lose your self respect. Your mother thinks but a little of the honors of the class; although she would like to have you gratified and I think it would help to give you a new spring in your College course but if you cannot attain them don't hold resentments to hand toward any. You did not look happy when at home. Do put on a happy expression of feature and cultivate them daily. You will laugh at mother's notions, but a great deal depends on outward appearance especially before the professors and tutors.

Tuesday morning [June 20]

How are you this morning. I hope well and happy. I have been looking over what I wrote sabbath evening. Perhaps you will think mother thinks too much of outward appearance. Not so. A true heart is worth everything else. But I am thinking of your general good, in every respect. There are always those who take advantage in every way to aggrandise themselves, and if you are not able to compete with them, let them go. Do not hold bitterness toward them. Nor because one person who professes piety is a hypocrite. Do not suppose all are such. You are young and this four years of College life I desire should give you a good knowledge of a College course. Don't over do your nervous system have proper rest as well as proper exercise. My son you can not think how near my heart your welfare lays. Not wholly on your own account but your younger brothers. Whatever your course of life is will have more or less influence on them. I know you are a thinking being and have probably thought of all these things before. But let mother think with you.

I shall inclose a three dollar bill to you. Do take care of small bills, small bills make large ones. Sometimes young persons think if they are respected by their companions it is no consequence what others think of them. That is a mistaken notion. Let us act worthy of the respect of all.

I attended meeting last sabbath. Saw L. Howard [Laura Howard]. Told her what you said about writing her. She promised certain she would answer your letter as soon as received. She has gone to live with your uncle E. Otis [Ensign Otis]. They have removed to their new house. I saw your aunt Arelia [Aurelia Howard Bridgham]. She looked sober and disappointed. It makes me feel bad to see her look so sad. Minerva left me the day you left home, and I am not sorry. I have a young girl of Henry Jennings for the present. Notwithstanding my many cares. I have read the life of John Ludyard, and was very much interested in it. He was an adventurer and died at the age of thirty-eight and never married, was noble minded and capable of moving in the higher circles of society. Yet I could not desire a son to live such a life as he did. He had a greatful heart and seemed to think the great God was good to him.

Tell Mr Willson I am greatly obliged to him for my little book he sent me and hope I shall proffit by it. You must write me often and how you get along. If I am ever so anxious about you, your letters relieve my mind. Rowland B is very busily employed all the time. He and Rowland A. are now plowing on the hay farm for winter wry. He got a soaking coming from Brunswick, but was not so much fatigued as John Perley. He was all tired out. He stopt all night. I have not heard from him since he left here the next day. Write to R.B.H. and I think he will answer you.

I understand your Uncle John Otis is about to be married to a Miss Catherine Grant. I hope she will be happy. He has not been out to Leeds yet. Sometimes I question within my mind whether Otis will not think Mother's precepts ought not to be accompanied by example, but I do not wish my children to fall into my errors of thinking or acting, but shun the errors and cherish the virtues of their mother. The country is beautiful as I cast my eyes towards the window. I say to myself Oh how beautiful are the works of nature. But I now must draw to a close as the time is near when the mail will take this away once more.

Your's
EG Eliza Gilmore

117 6/27/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0108

Bowdoin College, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College June 27 [1848]

Dear Mother

It may be natural for you, a mother, to have fears and anxieties respecting a son and his conduct. But me thinks you have sufficient confidence in me to relieve you from fear as to my choice of companions or impropriety of conduct. Jewett and Perley are a specimen of my associates. I choose those with whom I agree best in opinion, in feelings and in station. My standard is not always among the rich, the aristocratic, but among those possessing integrity, good feelings & intellectual worth.

As to my outward appearance, if I feel sober, I am usually so. If I feel cheerful it is not long before it is known. But my prejudices and likes I am not always so ready to make evident. If I were I should be obliged to change appearance every moment, for I cannot move without meeting those whom I dislike and some that I dispise.

I never would degrade my self so much as to resent an honorably attained superiority in intelectual or any other pursuits, and certainly college honors obtained by meanness are not worthy the strife. Towards one thus getting them I would have no feelings of resentment but disgust. I would not consider him superior to myself. I feel as though I was preparing for something beyond College. Something of more importance. I may not succeed in after life any better than in College, yet there is enough that I can undertake, and if I fail in one thing I can try another. But I have no need to disparage my situation in College. I am not a poor scholar, nor am I considered so, and with the same preparation and half their labor (since they have been here) I might have been better than most, for I can learn anything in my sphere and any thing which has been yet required, which many of those called the best scholars could not without assistance. I rather think I go to extremes first - think and say I am nobody. Then comst rake about the medium and you will find my station.

I have written three letters lately, one to Thomas Bridgham, one to Laura Howard and another to Olive Hazard. I wished her husband to take a list of Junior Books which I sent to the booksellers in order that he might find out the prices and then inform me. I wanted to know before purchasing here if I could not get a cheaper and better set in Boston. I told her you talked of going to Boston.

Uncle John was here Sabbath eve. He said you were all well. He came here on that Lisbon scrape of William's, which we thought was done with, when William was arrested in the street by an officer. It was on our Ath. Soc. Election day. Mr McKeen immediately found himself for William and he was let loose to appear on Saturday at Bowdoinham. The Warrant was a rioters assault on the house and person of a citizen and they (witnesses) were ready (but falsely I think) to swear that one of them fired a pistol in to the window of a room filled with people. William was the only one taken. I went with him to Bowdoinham and his Lawyer got the trial or examination deferred till next Tuesday. But Uncle came and settled it yesterday by paying a required sum and cost. I think William has learned a lesson.

Give my love to all. From your Son
OO Howard

118 6/29/1848 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B
Howard]

OOH-0109

Bowdoin College, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College June 29 1848

Dear Brother

I should have written you before but as the common saying is "I found no time". But after seeking a long time for a time to write, I began to think there was no particular period set apart for me & I resolved to take some what of that time set apart for other purposes or in short I decided to "take time".

I know not whether you have decided where to attend school this fall or even whether you have resolved to go any where or not. But I hope you will go. It matters not much where you go if you only study. Never the less since study is required, especially for improvement it is best to go to that place where you will have the least hindrances to your object and where you will have the greatest inducements and incitements to exertion. Good teachers are also of much benefit.

Lewiston, I think, furnishes all the necessary qualifications of a good school. It is a pleasant place, has teachers who are the best of scholars themselves and are highly recommended as instructors and possess a higher and better class of people than Wayne. I think the character of the people with whom one boards has much influence on him for either good or bad. But do not go to Lewiston on my recommendation, but inquire for yourself.

You have said some thing about studying latin. If you commence it do not be discouraged because your first, second or third lesson is hard and requires study, but persevere and you will soon accomplish the language so as to be able to read with rapidity and interest. You have acquired your English with so little labor, that I often think if you were obliged to sit for hours together over one lesson, that you would be discouraged and perhaps give it up. But remember that in acquiring an education that which costs the greatest labor is of the greatest value.

Think not the worth of a latin fable is its mere story, but by getting it you acquire both a discipline of mind and a small store of latin knowledge which will assist you to read more substantial matter. For our greatest specimens of intellectual greatness are found in the latin language, Virgil, Cicero, Sallust, Horace, and many others, than whom the world produces none more celebrated or more courted. You may say you can read these works in English. If you read them thus half of their real value is lost. Their conciseness, their loftiness of tone and expression and their exactness of meaning cannot be met with in any translation. The version and the original may be compared to the portrait and the original of a beautiful girl. The portrait may show the features and outlines, but the original can only give the glowing expression of countenance and show the workings of the mind and the feelings of the heart.

Moreover the discipline of mind is not to be disregarded. The study of language accustoms one to close and persevering investigation of subjects. It teaches him how to think, not as commonly with the mind running from one thing to another as every trivial thing introduces itself, but in a steady and methodical manner, so that, place a man in what ever circumstances you please, let him be surrounded with difficulties and dangers. If he only has acquired this discipline of mind, he will never lose his balance, but will survey his situation and calculate results with precision. Again you may say that a man without natural firmness and stability of character will labor in vain for that discipline which will render him so independent. But if you will labor against nature and study language and abstract science for one year steadily, I would not fear with respect to your firmness or energy. Strive to be a man and imitate your brother as far as you see him right and no further, and where he is wrong set him an example.

Your affectionate brother
O.O.

119 7/3/1848

From: O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0110

Bowdoin College, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin Coll July 3d 1848

Dear Mother

I have now written five letters to different persons, not one of all has answered me, but I think you the most excusable of all, as you have other duties & other cares to attend than merely to gratify one son, and I also know that you would write if you could.

It is now almost the fourth of July, and nearly all the students have obtained leave of absence and left College in search of recreation and amusement, but I thought, as I had heretofore spent much money and time on fourth of July days, and found myself no happier or better prepared, in the end, to resume my studies, that I would try the experiment of remaining in College, and spend the time in reading. I took from the Coll Library the other day a large volume of Shakespeare, and a new work Hudsons lectures on Shakespeare. I read first a play and then study the comments made on the same, which I find renders the drama more intelligible and doubly interesting. By the way, I have now quite a passion for reading Shakespeare. Those plays which I read at home, rather prejudiced me against him, but I thought it would not well become a literary personage like myself to be in total ignorance of the works of so popular a writer, and consequently I resolved to read those plays most frequently met with and so often quoted. I first read Othello and there I found the nobler and baser qualities of human nature so well developed, that the drama immediately struck the fancy and gained the admiration of even so prosy an individual as myself.

After this I read Richard III, Hamlet, Mackbeth, King John, and some others, and the more I read the more interested I become. Some passages I do not understand very well at first, but those Lectures throw light on the obscure, and if they did not, considered by themselves alone, they are worth reading, being composed in so elegant language, and the writer enters in to the subject with so much earnestness and feeling. He seems to consider the respective characters as real heros and defends their merits and discovers their demerits with as much care, as if he were defending the Character of a Noble patriot or denouncing an imposter. I also have read the real history of the Richard III, for I always have a desire to separate fact from fiction that I may know what to rely on for truth. I found all the historical allusions in this play to agree precisely with History, but the feelings and motives of the respective characters or course were portrayed in the play and not in History in order to give sweep to the author's imagination without which the play would be no more interesting than "matter of fact" history.

But I suppose this is not interesting to you, but as what I read is my field of thought, I am apt to touch upon it more perhaps than what will be interesting to my correspondent. Many are want to speak the feelings of their hearts and the secret workings of the mind but I have not as yet become sufficiently well skilled in human nature so as portray either myself or others. Yet human nature & human character are my study. I once was easily deceived by others, but by experience I have learned to regard the motives of others as well as those of myself, and I have discovered that "all is not gold that glistens", and many are better than they seem.

Give my love to my brothers, and tell R.B.H. to write me an answer to my letter (if he has been able to read it). Give my respects to my friends at Leeds, and write me yourself as soon as you can.

From your affectionate son.
O.O. Howard

120 7/9/1848

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: Son [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0111

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 9th 1848

My dear Son

The mail brought us a letter from you last evening not less welcome than any before. I shall not attempt any apology for not writing sooner as my time is always occupied and of late more than usual. I went to Hallowell the next day after you saw your Uncle John with your father and R.B.H. and visited all of our relations, went to the Insane Hospital with Miss Colier and returned Friday evening, after calling at Wayne and seeing Arza, wife and little son. I saw at Mother's a cousin I never saw before, Uncle Zekiel S... Daughter a very pretty lady about twenty two years old, a married lady.

I met with Miss Grant several times. The lady with whom your Uncle John is engaged to be married soon, a pleasant unassuming lady. Maria is preparing to go to Philadelphia in September to stay a year. Mrs Rose who lived on our old farm died and was interred whilst I was gone to Hallowell. Her death was not unexpected as she had a long and severe sickness.

July 16th.

I did not think one week ago when I left my writing it would lay here until now. Your grandmother has spent the week with me. I have attended Mr. Lawton's meeting today where was a very full attendance. I saw Laura Howard. Thomas Bridgham attended meeting, but I did not speak with him. His mother said he had come home to help Everet in haying. Laura <H> seems has written to you and left the letter with her Aunt Aurelia who forgot to mail it. Mother said William was at home on the fourth of July.

I have just been viewing from my window the beauties of nature. We have just had a thunder shower, and it is now over and all nature seems gay and cheerful. I feel a delight in viewing the hills and vallies covered with verdure, which seems to say there is something in life beside struggling with care and strife; who can behold the wonderful works of nature, and not feel to rise far above the low groveling feelings, which one is so prone to whisper discontent in our mind. There is a little bird now tuning her notes in the garden which teaches me not to dwell on the past, but to go forward in praise for the present enjoyment. Every thing at home is about as usual. I fear sometimes I am wanting in sympathy for the sufferings of others, but we are poor comforters at best. You have yet to learn my son, the deeper the feelings are towards an object of our affection the more watchful we are towards that object I hope I shall not be wanting in thankfulness for your perseverance in well doing, not only to you but to be grateful to the God whose love surpasses all other love.

You spoke of writing to Mr and Mrs Hazard at East Cambridge. Mrs Hazard [Olive Woodman Hazard] has had a very severe sickness and is nearly reduced to the grave. Your Aunt Ann [Otis] Lee is with her. Mother says Ann wrote she was quite comfortable with the exception of a slight cough which in her low state I fear will prove fatal. I desire very much to hear from her. Oliver O Woodman and wife are in Boston, and are expected in Maine. Your father still thinks we shall visit Massachusetts the last of August but think it a great uncertainty.

I have said nothing of R.B.H.'s visit at H.... I thought he might make it a ground work for a letter himself, but he has never undertaken to write. It is easier to take up a book or newspaper when one is fatigued with labor. I hope he will yet take pleasure in writing to his friends.

I saw Sarah Lee when at H. She received the favor of barrel of fine apples from Mrs Sargent while I was there. Of course I was a partaker of the luxury. Charly wished me to let him write some in my letter to Otis. He loves you exceedingly. He pryes into your letters and trys to read them. I saw Mrs Bridgham. She looks care worn. She said Valentine had come home unable to work any longer. Everet's health is poor

July 21th

Again I seat myself to fill up my letter & have obtained a new pen you will discover. Sabbath evening mother returned here and stoped here untill Wednesday morning. Warren Woodman came here Tuesday eve'g and

stoped over night and took her to Wilton to stay untill next week. He said Mrs Hazard [his sister, Olive Woodman Hazard] was doing well. Yesterday I went to Green and spent the day with Louisa who has a young daughter two days old and this day has passed as usual at home. The children prepared for school in the morning and then dinner, and supper and writing to prepare for the mail tomorrow. Mr Peas called here last Wednesday wide awake electioneering for your uncle John to be the Whig candidate for the next Congress. I think your uncle John is very anxious for the office. I had a letter from Mrs Ames this week, as full of life as ever. I intend to answer it, to go out tomorrow.

Ever yours,
Eliza Gilmore

121 7/14/1848 *From:* Laura Howard

To: Cousin [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0112

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, July 14, 1848

Dear Cousin

I received yours of the 27th and was much pleased to hear from you but beg to be forgiven for not answering it before. My time has been taken up in preparing your Uncle and Aunt [Ensign and Martha Otis] for a journey. They started last Tuesday for New Hampshire, and I have gone down to stay with my Aunt Aurelia [Aurelia Howard Bridgham]. I expect them back a week from Saturday. I like living with them very much. They are both very kind to me and I have enjoyed myself much better than I expected. I feel rather lonesome sometimes but soon get over it. I have got my Piano now, and that is company for me & have had quite a number to hear me play. It arrived safe without any injury, and they all appear to be very much pleased with it. Your Grand Mother has been here on a visit and is down to your Mother's now. She expects to go to Wilton next week. I saw your mother last Sunday. The family were all well. I told her I should write to you this week and she was anxious I should. You need not be afraid to write to me on Joshua account for he has got another girl up on the hill and I have got the mitten. That is the way with all my beaus. I cannot keep any of them but a short time.

But enough of my nonsense. Everet [Bridgham] received a letter from Thomas [Bridgham] last week. He is coming down to help him through haying and if he has not answered your letter I will remind him of it for I presume it is more through neglect than anything else.

I feel glad to hear of your rapid progress in your studies. You will see the need of it when you come to be a man. I think an education is far preferable to riches and I would say go on. You can never study too much but be careful and not get too much excited for that will injure your health and above all do not forget to pray and read your bible for that will make you wise both in this world and, that which is to come - life everlasting. Yes dear Cousin I have a desire you should seek the Saviour now in your youthful days and when you grow old you will not repent of it but when troubles and trials come tis then you will have a friend to go to. One that will lead you safe through life's rough sea and bring you to the harbor of eternal peace.

Mrs Rose is dead [Betsey Rose, d. June 27, 1848]. She had a very large funeral. Arvilla is very low. They think she can't live but a short time and so it is one after another of our friends are dying and it ought to admonish us to be also ready for we know not how soon we shall have to give and account. The rest of our friends and relatives are well. Write soon. Your true friend and Cousin.

Laura Howard

122 7/21/1848 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0115

Bowdoin College Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College July 21st 1848

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time to receive a letter from home, but not receiving one I have concluded that you are all so busy that you cannot spare the time to write. So I have seated myself to address you a few words. I suppose you are in the very heat of "haying" now. Frequently I think I would like to be with you, but I suppose that labor constantly followed would soon become as monotonous as study, and contribute no more to pleasure in the end. Yet towards the latter part of the term, especially in warm weather, my lessons appear to drag rather heavily, requiring more than ordinary perseverance & application to get them.

I received a letter from Laura Howard this morning. She writes that you are all well and that Grandmother is with you. If so give her my love, and tell her to remember me to my friends in Hallowell on her return. I learn also from Laura's letter that a Mrs Rose is dead, and I judged from the connection, that it was the Mrs Rose on our place. If this be the fact, please inform me in your next letter. I wrote to Cousin Olive Hazard a short time since, requesting her (or her husband) to send me a list of the prices of my junior books, but I have received no answer from her. But Perley sent by a man from Livermore by whom we ascertained that we might purchase new books in Boston Cheaper than "second hand books" here. I did think as you know of going to Boston myself next vacation, but as I have the opportunity of sending, by the same man we sent by to learn the prices, from whom we think we can get them cheaper than if I went myself. I am doubtful about going at all. Yet if you and father go to Massachusetts I would like to go with you. But I do not care about going alone.

I have not got me a school yet. I have had some talk about one, 16 miles from here in Bowdoinham. They have paid twenty-dollars a month heretofore & if I can get the same I think I shall take it. The only hindrance is another young man has spoken for it and is uncertain whether he shall take it; if he does not I shall have it. I have had a touch of the colic of late. But I cured it by going without eating one or two meals, and taking some "Wild Cherry" bitters.

I heard that you had a severe hail storm at Leeds. Did it do you much damage at the south part of the town? I suppose I shall be obliged to stop here till commencement, as I am Treasurer of my Society and shall have some business with those members who have graduated. Still if you will write me when you intend to go to the "West" if you go at all, I will try to get some one else to take charge of my duties.

Rowland Bailey has not answered my letter yet. You must tell him to write some rainy day when he has nothing to do. I think father can spare him long enough to write to his brother. Excuse such a heterogeneous mass of words with out interest, which I have heaped together this morning. Give my love to my brothers & friends. I wrote to Thomas some time ago and have not received an answer. I wrote to him once before & did not receive an answer, so I think I shall not write to him again till he condescends to write to me. I hear that Maria Otis is going to Philadelphia next vacation and William is to accompany her. I hope it will be for her advantage, but it seems rather an imprudent step to send a young girl like her so far from home, to a large city. Yet it is not my business and therefore I should not meddle with it.

Our studies require nearly all the time to be gotten and so I have not read much of late. I have found no difficulty in mathematics as yet, though quite a number have stumbled & fallen and it is feared will not rise again. Our mathematics are now about as difficult as any we shall have in College. So I must leave my letter. Wishing you and all my <dear> friends the greatest blessings of Earth

From your affectionate son
O O Howard

123 7/23/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

To: Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0113

Leeds, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 23d 1848

Dear Brother

You perhaps may think hard of me for not writing you before but the only excuse I have to offer is that we are haying & that experience has taught you to understand I have no time but Sundays to write and mother thinks as she has got a good pen I had better write you today. We received your letter last night & mother wishes that I should write you about my visit to Hallowell and therefore I will try to give you an account of it.

We went down on Monday in the afternoon & returned on Friday. I had a very pleasant visit. It is so seldom that I go to Hallowell that there was something like novelty in it to me. On Tuesday it rained in the before noon but cleared away soon after and Miss Colier, mother and myself went up to the insane Hospital. When we had arived there we had a splendid view. From there we saw the villages of Hallowell & Augusta, the Kenebec river with its shiping & the state house standing in bold relief, also the Arsinal grounds with there stone bildings were seen. It was a melancholy sight to see the patients deprived as they were of that which places man above the brutes. We returned to Uncle's in time for tea. I saw his lady a number of times. I think she is a very fine, dignified looking person.

The next day I spent in rambling about town and in the evening went a meeting for the ratification of the nomination of "Taylor & Fillamore". The meeting was a large & enthusiastic one. The speaker were Dumont (who was also president of the meeting) Lawrance Barnes and (as Dumont denominated him the future govener of maine) Elijah L Hamlin and many others. The speakers were interrupted by much aplause & when at the close of the meeting three cheers rang out for old <Yash>. It shook the hall to its foundations. The following day I went up to the state house and went into both branches of the Legisture in the house of representatives & heard Mr Cary speak on education. The resolve under consideration being a grant of money for an Acadimy at the town of Munser. I ascended to the cupula where I had the same view that I had at the hospital. I also went into the cabinet where there was a great many minerals of all descriptions. The library I found to be a very large one. I returned to Uncles in time for dinner & spent the rest of the day in his library.

In the morning of the next day we went up to Laura Ann's and in the afternoon returned home by the way of Wayne at which place I saw Arza's baby. Speaking of babies (as Sam Shick would say) makes me think that Louisa has got one about a week old.

We have had very good weather for haying today being the first rainy day for a fortnight.

I saw Thomas Bridgham last sabath but did not speak to him. I also saw Stinchfield. He has a summer term at Wayne. While at Hallowell Uncle spoke to me about my coming there this fall and having Vaughan come here. We think some of accepting his offer as it will save the expense of board. The high school of that place is of high repute. For some reasons I had rather go to Kents Hill or Lewiston than those but I think the expense balances them and therefore I pretty much made up my mind to to to Hallowell.

The health of your friends here is very good except myself who have a very bad cold. Mother sent you a letter by yesterdays mail that I suppose will reach you before this. In a former letter you spoke of my corresponding with you on some particular subject. For my neglect of this I have to urge the same excuse that I did in the first place, that is we are haying. As I supose that mother wrote you all the news it will be of no use for me to write it over again. I find your letters very interesting and am always glad when I hear Charles or Rodelphus crying out "A letter from Otis". Excuse this poor writing and poor spelling and these poor ideas that I have jumbled together so as to cover nearly three pages. Write soon.

Your Brother
R. B. Howard

P.S. Didn't I put my name on in good shape. RBH

124 7/26/1848 *From:* O O Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B Howard]

OOH-0114

Bowdoin College Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College July 26th 1848

Dear Brother

You can hardly tell with what pleasure I found under my breakfast plate two letters directed OOHoward, one in the well known though seldom seen hand writing of my brother, and the other from cousin T. Bridgham. Perhaps you would like to know the secret of the Breakfast plate - being so fruitful. It is easily explained. My Chum or some other went to the Post Office and got my letters & bringing them up placed them under my plate to surprise me.

I think your excuse weighty though by no means sufficient; for mother tells me you find time to read much, why not write. But I will excuse you if you will only retrieve the past this fall while you are engaged as I in the laborious though pleasing study of "Letters". When you can write home you succeed in any study: the why & wherefore of your liking or disliking it, the particulars of your school &c. All of which will be interesting to your Brother especially if you attend Hallowell High School, which place I must say is fraught with many things interesting & agreeable. Though often "recollection brings to view" pains as well as pleasure. You will not be obliged to encounter the same inconveniences which I did, for you have not exactly the same personages to deal with.

Again you will find many firm friends in my old acquaintances. But be careful of your associations in Hallowell. I do not wish you to be suspicious, but I fear that Silas Lee is not "what he should" be: so you had better not go with him nights to much. I know nothing against Silas excepting his apparent endeavors to appear like & be a Gary fellow or "Rowdy".

The High School is taught by a fine fellow & an excellent instructor, being a graduate of this College. William Marshall who fitted partly under him (a member of the Freshman Class) speaks well of him and says he is as good a teacher as he ever attended.

I have not engaged a school as yet. But Thos B says he will do all in his power to assist me to get a good one & a high priced one.

I have been reading, of late, the fall & Decline of the Roman empire by Gibbons. I like to read it very much. First because the writer is so elegant and perspicuous in expression, that it requires no effort to follow him & understand him. Next it is interesting from the matter itself. Yet I sometimes become disgusted with the inconsistency of the Roman people, for they murdered every king they had, the good for his virtues & the Bad for his vices. None seems to have been secure against their barbarous cruelty. Marshal glory was their first & greatest object. The gratification of appetite & sensual passion their second. If a King restrained their freedom & folly he must die to gratify their revenge. If a King rivaled them in debauchery, he evidently lost all superiority and became a victim of their contempt.

I think I shall be obliged to stop here till commencement, the first Wednesday in September. For I am the "renowned & far famed treasurer of the Ath Soc" & shall have some business to do with those members, who have graduated who will be here on that day.

I am glad you had so pleasant a journey to H and can appreciate all your pleasure in observing the various scenes & places. But the love of babies "has gone, has departed has left" me, it is so long since I have seen any thing of the kind. Nevertheless as I was walking on the plains the other day I was awakened from a sound & pleasant reverie, by the squalling of an "Irish brat" which you might call a baby. This circumstance called to mind forcibly the time when I loved babies, but not the degenerated class of crying babies.

Give my love to Charles, and tell him he must learn all he can. Be kind to Charley & I will try to be kind to you all. Give my love to Rodolphus and Mother and Roland Alger and Father, with my best wishes for their comfort & happiness.

Receive this as the well meaning appology, though not adequate, for a letter.

Yours affectionately
O O Howard

125 7/30/1848 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0116

Bowdoin College Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College July 30th 1848

Dear Mother

I have delayed the reply to your last epistle, for the purpose of answering Rowland's. I was surprised to hear that Cousin Olive Hazard was so ill. I wrote her a letter not long since containing more requests than I should have made, had I known that she was sick. The death of Mrs Rose also took me by surprise for I never had heard that she was sick. I hope you are all well and prospering. It will not be long before I shall be with you, 5 weeks at most. This week the Seniors are examined and leave College to prepare for Commencement. (It is sabbath noon). This after noon the President delivers a parting address to the class. His address was admired so much last year, that I think there will be a very full attendance. I was very much pleased with Rowland's letter. It was the best and longest epistle he has ever written to me. I hope he will write again. At least you must encourage him to do so.

There is not much of any thing transpiring in College worthy of note. After the election of officers of the general societies the excitement gradually subsided and all those, who had become incensed at each other in the heat of debate and passion, adjusted their differences, and with a shake of the hand became friends again. So all goes on now peacefully and happily excepting a few outbreaks of the youthful politicians, and a few disputes as to the qualification and Characters of Generals Taylor & Pass. Sometimes the Wilmot proviso and the Mexican War are themes of discussion.

I succeeded at last, to make a declamation satisfactory to the Learned and critical mind of Prof. Boudy - considering as considerable gained I thought I would mention it. But I have not succeeded so well in my "themes" or (compositions). I never have had one returned to me, bearing the mark signifying "good". Although I thought I wrote pretty well. And as I cannot get the praise of others in writing, I think I have the right "to think well of and praise myself".

I attended Church this fore noon, and heard Mr Adams preach. The day is very fine, and the plains are not covered with mist and fog as usual. It seems as though we have the sun hidden from our view by fog nearly half of every day or at least every other day. In the afternoon we have a strong sea breeze from the south, which drives in the mists upon the shores toward evening and they last till the heat of the noonday sun has burned them away.

I have been reading, the past week, Gibbons History of the Decline and fall of the Roman Empire in which it appears to be the inevitable fate of prince and King to be a martyr to his virtues or a victim of his vices. I read easier and with more pleasure in the History of times past. The <novel> and exciting is still alluring and it is natural it should be to a mind like mine delighting in excitement. But considering "light-reading" uncongenial with the sound knowledge and, though it contributes to the refining and giving rise to the better feelings of the heart, that it extends the intellectual powers in no degree, and gives a false impression concerning human things. I have resolved not to read much of the like while in College.

Thomas Bridgham writes that he will assist me as much as he can to get a good school. Give my love to my Brothers & the rest of the family. McArthur has been taken away from College by his father. The Resident said he could not get into the Junior class. There is quite a number in College not so steady as they ought to be. I think it is a bad place for William, although I would not like, to have his father hear it from me.

Give my respects to all my friends at Leeds and also at Hallowell if you see any of them. Write soon and tell me your determination respecting your Journey to Massachusetts. There is but little sickness in College. One young man in the Freshman Class fell at the Gymnasium and hurt him severely. But he is now recovering. Remember me to my friends at the center of the town.

From you affectionate Son
O O Howard