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126 8/16/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother  
[Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0117

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Aug 16 1848

Dear Mother

I heard from Jennings today that there were many sick with the fever at Leeds, and that some had died. I hope that our family are all well. If they had not been I suppose you would have written. I was appointed, some time since, to be a speaker for the prize, and shall declaim a week from Monday next. I have been busily engaged in committing my piece of late, besides having to write an examination "Theme". Hence, if you have been anxious, because I have not written for so long a time, this has been the cause. Our reviews of the studies of the year also consume much time from their length.

I have partly agreed to take a school in Bowdoinham next winter at \$18.00 per month and my board. It is said to be a very pleasant school, of about 50 scholars. It is also situated in a good district.

I have changed my boarding place lately, so as to secure a place for next term, as I had tired of boarding at my old club.

Nearly all the graduates of Yarmouth Academy, went to North Yarmouth to the society anniversary today. The people of that town were going to give a large "pic nic accompanied by a band of music". William Otis has gone. They all started in high spirits, expecting a good time, and I am afraid some of them will have too good a time. I thought I would not go, as I was not acquainted with any of the Yarmouth people, had not the money to spare, nor the time to spend, and did not like the company that went very much. I think I will give up going to the "West" with you, if you go, that I may have the money which I should necessarily spend, to pay towards furnishing my room or other expenses. But we will talk that over when we meet.

I think I have accomplished quite a reformation in myself. I have not only left off using tobacco, but overcome the desire for it. I tell you this, that you may not conclude that college is wholly deteriorating in its influences, since, when I came here I had a "bad habit", and within these walls I have left it. Now perhaps you will ask whether the good was accomplished from College influence, or from my own resolution. It was College influence, in some degree, which was the cause of it, for seeing so much smoking and chewing tobacco and perceiving no good resulting therefrom, but much evil both to the system, and to external neatness, taking example therefrom by contraries, I resolved to abjure the use of the "noxious weed" altogether.

A class from N. Yarmouth entered College today or rather were examined. When I saw them going in the same "old Hall" which received me two years ago, it made me recur to the past and think what were my feelings, when I followed Prof Upham to the same place. My mind wavering betwixt hope and fear - <now> my heart beating high with expectation as I looked upon the mild features of Professor Upham presaging a good <choking> now losing all my courage in the uncertain look of Prof <Length> and the severe stern countenance of Prof Packard, I scarcely contain myself, or rather restrain myself, till the ticket of admission relieves my troubled spirit. I have passed through many examination since then, but now with so much interest and so much solicitude, I believe I should not have been more excited, if my life had been at stake on the issue.

Excuse nonsense sometimes, write me soon. I found I had not a pair of pants suitable to make my "debut" on the stage, and secure the sympathies of the ladies in behalf of my declamation, so I purchased a pair, thinking you would concur in my opinion. I have not yet paid for them, and am not obliged to till next term, without you choose that I should. The price is \$4.80. I do not know what the expenses of the exhibition will be, but presume not more than \$2.00 as we have voted not to have music. I suppose I shall have to ask for that this term. Give my love to my brothers and all the family. From your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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127 8/20/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O.O. Howard]

OOH-0119

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 20th 1848

My dear Son,

I have been thinking sometime from day to day of writing to you but one circumstance after another has prevented. I should have been very happy to have had your company in our tour to Massachusetts but I think you are right. Your father has concluded to go next Tuesday or Thursday. Tuesday if we can get ready, and I am anxious to go as soon as possible and then I shall reach home before you do. Your Uncle John has changed his mind about having Vaughan come out to Leeds and R.B.H. will not go to Hallowell. I think he had better go to Readfield. He ought to go tomorrow as the term commenced two weeks since whether he will get away is uncertain. I wish you were here to go with him. I wish he was well settled at school for the fall term. If you can secure a pleasant school at \$18 per month so near Brunswick as Bowdoinham I think you had better do it.

We are all well and our Neighbours are all well. There has been a number of children died in the west part of the town, but I think they are all getting well that have been sick. I wish you would write so that a letter would reach here the second day of Sept and let us know in what manner you would like to come home. I do not anticipate any pleasure in visiting Massachusetts, but I hope I shall be happily disappointed. My housekeeper has come and everything is going forward to show that we shall soon depart on our journey. I hope you will get along to your mind on exhibition day.

Monday Evening [Aug 21] Your father has concluded to go tomorrow. Rowland B.H. did not go away to school as I wished and when he will go is uncertain. You did not say anything definite about money, except the two dollars. I shall enclose three dollars to you in this letter. The pants may as well not be paid for until the time you agreed to pay. If in the course of events I should never meet you more I hope you will remember your dear Brothers. Let your precept be fortified by example. Mrs Frybon came here from Hallowell last week and will return there tomorrow with us. I heard today that doct Lord was sick and could not attend his calls. He has had quite a large practice this season, and been successful. If anything should happen that I should not reach home before the end of the college term, you had better come to Hallowell and come up with us, but you can do as you see fit.

Give my love to Perley and others if you please. Good Night.  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

We expect to come on the Rail Road & in the Huntress to Hallowell either Thursday or Saturday next week.

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128 8/26/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Roland [A Gilmore]

OOH-0118

Bowdoin College Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College August 26 1848

Dear Roland

You may think it odd, my directing a letter to you, but I suppose father and mother are gone, and know not whether Rowland Bailey is at home or not, so that I might be sure that somebody would take my letter and read it and perform my request, I write to the one, whom I am very sure to find at home. I expect to start from this place for Leeds next Thursday morning and shall go by way of Lewiston, where, if it is convenient, I would like to have you meet me. I shall certainly be at Lewiston at noon or a little before. Of late they have begun to run a stage from this place to Lewiston. I might go in the stage as far as South Turner Bridge, but I cannot tell what time I should get there, whether I should be obliged to stay overnight or not in Lewiston or lastly whether I can raise cash enough to carry me "thus far". Again I suppose you will be glad to have a little ride, if you have not had your fill of such pleasure in riding with Miss "—" you know who, not I.

i shall be obliged to speak for the prize on Tuesday next, which I dread very much because I have <a> poor piece. If Rowland Bailey is gone I should think you would be rather lonesome.

I anticipate a good time with you this vacation "going to Meeting" &c, 'perhaps to Green'.

Wilson is going to teach a high School at North Leeds this fall. I do not know whether he will go up with me or not. I did think of stopping till commencement, but I thought it would shorten my vacation too much, the only one I shall have for six months as I shall keep school all winter and return immediately to College If I have my health.

Give my respects to all. Harness your horse next thursday morning and come to Lewiston and I will meet you there and we will have a pleasant ride and a pleasant talk from that place to Leeds. A conversation will serve "to kill" time and moderate the tedium of a wearisome journey.

May you be happy and remember me as your  
Friend and brother  
O O Howard

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129 8/28/1848 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0120

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Aug 28th 1848

Dear Brother

We received yours on Saturday last and are glad to hear that you have finished your mathematics. No doubt they have cost you much toil and trouble but the knowledge that you have conquered will I suppose afford pleasure enough to compensate for all. My health is not very good today. I had a slight touch of the Cholera (morbus) yesterday and have not got over it yet, but am in hopes that I shall without being very sick.

Father was down to the River Friday & Saturday of last week. Arza being summoned to disclose at the Jail door he had to attend to it. I believe they got through it very well. The folks at Hallowell were well. Uncle Henry [Charles Henry Strickland, husband of Martha Jane Otis] has had the house enlarged and repaired and has returned to it. Fred went home last Friday. Grandmother is here but is going to Hallowell soon. I was over at Wayne last Thursday. Heard nothing about your school except that they were trying to get a place for the school cheaper than Mr Frost offers his hall which is a dollar a week.

The Sons of Temperance had a celebration here last Wednesday consisting of a Procession oration and dinner. There was a large number out and every thing went off well. Every body appearing to enjoy themselves

You wished us to inform you at what Depot to meet you. I suppose the Greene depot is the most convenient. I suppose that you will come out in the train that starts at two o'clock at Portland as the first one is so early (at seven I believe). We will meet you then at the Greene depot on a week from next Thursday. I have a little errand I should like to have you do if it would be convenient. I should like to have you get me a Florenc Hat made in the form of the palmleaf ones. I suppose the size will be such as you wear. It will cost about a dollar perhaps more. If you cannot find one of that form get one of the latest fashion. As you will be at home so soon I suppose it will be of no use to write any more news so farewell till I see you.

Your brother Rowland

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130 10/8/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0121

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 8th 1848

Dear Brother

I received your letter yesterday. It is well that my Pantaloons waistbands were made strong for if they had not been the consequences were to be feared. I have been to church today. After service there were two baptised rather a cooler I should say. I wrote home Friday, have not received my answer yet. I also sent you a catalogue at the same time. You have not been mistaken in my chum. He is a first rate fellow and as you conjecture some like Perley for he reads poetry and lisps. So I think they must be kindred minds. The catalogue I sent you was a last years one or rather a last June one they coming out in June. I like Mr Torsey more every day I see him, is a jolly soal laughing himself fat they say. I should not have written till I had received a letter from mother but I supposed you would be impatient knowing as I do your temperament and letter mania.

How are those with whom I am acquainted at Brunswick. Who are you going to send up to teach our school. By the way I hope you will send him. I am glad that you have taken a school so near home and that you will have to visit that place this winter. Chum is continually writing letters. I talk some of hiring him to write mine for he will do it for two cents a piece (Excuse bad spelling).

I like Mr Jewet very much but he hints that at the rate we are going on it will cost him a dollar's a week for our board. Wakefield says that if cannot think of anything else to write I may write that the Devil's dead but I think that is impossible although he was fomaly renounced by two of the human family today.

Prof Taft has been here. He is from Cincinatia. He tells us that he can teach us to read greek (Testament) in 20 lesons of an hour each. Mr Torsy thinks of forming a class here another term. If so I shall join it. Mr Taft was fomaly assistant here but has since been a Professor in Indiana college. He says that his only object is to confound Romanism by having everyone read the greek testement.

How is William Otis geting along this term. How many are there in the present freshman class and how are they used. Thomas Turner sends his best respects to you and says you must write him. I have no joly adventures to relate like your own for that which I write in my journal every day expresses thereby all that is. Atended recitation as usual. But yesterday being a holiday we had more of a variety. I went down to the corner with Thomas F Turner and there saw a man take a glas of liquor as if it had been a common thing with him. They appear to be very bold in seling of it for there are taverns and I stared at the corner that keep it. I know that in your next letter I shall receive a warning but do not be afraid. Your Temperate self is not more temperate than your Brother.

I have just returned from my bible class. There is about a hundred in it, all students. The more I atend it the more I think that I shall become a minister for I begin to like the subject of "Theology" as well as "politicks". By the way the last is in very low ebb here. We had a caliopean meeting Friday evening. The question was "Will the present free soil movement prove beneficial." I could not see how they could be so dead on a subject which if I had been a member of the society I could have talked all night upon. I hear nothing of Politicks and of course say nothing. But I hear the bell ringing for Prayer Meeting and of course I shall atend. That is a natural consequence.

More after I get back. I have just returned from prayer meeting. They are geting up a terrible excitement here in religion. A boy came forward to be prayed for who was 8 years old. The poor fellow was frightened most to death.

Do not write me will you. After reading my letter over, I find nothing but a bunch of nonsense but I suppose it will prove acceptable coming as it does from

Your affectionate Brother  
RB Howard

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131 10/13/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0122

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Oct 13th 1848

Dear Mother

I have delayed writing thus long from the hope before I wrote of receiving a letter from Wilson to whom I gave the refusal of the school. He is teaching a High School at Freeport. But not having received an answer to my letter, I have engaged another young man, a member of my class from New Hampshire. He has just entered the class. He appears to be a fine fellow & is a good scholar. He would like to have engaged a larger school and received more wages, but he did not come here early enough to find one to his choice. Hence he says he will take up with my offer at \$18.00 per month. He is a cheerful but very steady young man and I think will suit father. I have taken him as a young man well calculated to do the duty of a school master. I have not engaged him without any acquaintance for he rooms near me and I frequently see him & converse with. He also boards with my chum. I consider myself fortunate in making for you so good a choice. He is more of a man at the bottom than Wilson and cannot but give satisfaction. Should you wish to know any thing further concerning him make inquires in your next letter.

In about ten minutes after I left Charley I was crowded into a crowded Coach, with three seats for eleven and had quite an uncomfortable ride. In the stage there were two squalling babies & their mothers. One tall man, one little man, one fat man & a lean man, who bore the mark of a Gilbert & who in making himself acquainted with me told that he was Randy's father. There were also a little boy on his little father's knee and a little girl, who was stage sick. The above with myself comprized the my travelling companions as far as Lewiston. In our opinion we were waged as closely as possible, but, on getting about half way to L the stage driver unmercifully presented a young lady of immense magnitude & towering height and demanded if there was yet room. The fat man (by the way a mild, clever polite individual) extricated himself from the vise of bones by which he had been grappled betwixt Mr. Gilbert and the tall man and assisted the lady in. I took his place & found myself for once too large for comfort. The lady took my old seat right in my front. The seats were not more than two feet apart. How we could set thus in close proximity with out adhering is now a mistery to me! I think father's anecdote with regard to the jumbling of legs so as to confound them would well apply in this case. Conversation varied from earth to farms, from farms to potatoes - under which trend men discussed the various causes and inevitable results of the potatoe rot. From potatoes to College & every life. Preaching, religion and politics were treated of and school teaching last of all but not least was considered to some extent.

We arrived at Lewiston in hopes to find a more convenient and comfortable conveyance for the rest of our journey but for my part, I was disappointed. The stage was full & the driver had procured a private carriage for me. So I was compelled to ride in an open wagon in the rain, with two others, and wet we were when we got here. To complete my discomfiture my furniture had been removed from my old room but with renewed courage I went to work with the assistance of a boy and had soon brought my furniture into a safe harbor, into my new room. Every thing was in disorder, but scarcely anything lost. Now I have a very pretty room, neatly but no expensively furnished. I would not have believed that a carpet would have added so much to comfort. My clothes are in better order, having a closet to be kept in, and if are left in the room are not covered with dust and dirt.

I have written two letters to Rowland, one immediately on my return and an other in answer to one he wrote me. He is well & appears contented & happy. He has mad great and rapid improvement in letter-writing, and promises fair to surpass his older brother as a composer. My studies are not very hard. Mathematics not very easy, however. But I think they can be got. Give my love to my brothers and friends. Write soon. Ask father when our schools will commence.

Your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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132 10/15/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0123

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Oct 15th 1848

My dear Son,

Really , how is it with you to day. Are you in good health and enjoying a pleasant autumnal Sabbath, or on the contrary are you an invalid. I have thought considerably about your lame stomach, and in addition to my fears. I heard you took an open waggon in the storm from Lewiston the rest of the way to Brunswick. I looked very strong for a letter last evening and was very much disappointed. I felt gloomy and lonesome. I was more sure than ever that all was not right. I expected you would have a great deal to do at the beginning of this term, but thought you would get time ere this to tell us how it is with you.

I saw Mrs Jennings at church to day and spoke with her. She said Orville wrote when he first got there but did not mention you. Doct Lord was polite enough to come into the pew, where I was, to day and said he was at Readfield Thursday and saw and conversed with R.B.H. and found him in perfectly good health and spirits for which politeness I was greatly obliged to the Doct. Mr. Mane and lady attended church to day. They were united in marriage Thursday eve. They will leave Leeds soon I understand. I thought her a quite a handsome bride. Mrs Rozilla Turner has a young daughter, a few days old. I have called at your Uncle's and John H Otis's, spent perhaps one half hour at both places. I met Hellen on the way to Mr Whites to borrow flower.

Your father is absent on his tour to New Hampshire. Has been gone four days. I think three or four more will bring him home safe, I hope. Roland A and Charles are husking corn. They have dug all of the potatoes, which was not great after all.

The young people are now returning from Prayer meeting. I hear them chatting near by. Mary remains with me. I expect Sarah Turner to live with me this winter. The Sun has hid himself behind the hill and left a beautiful twilight. We have had ten days nearly all sunshine and not rain enough to wet the ground, and I still wish for a few more good days for your father to arrive home in.

Monday P.M. I am once more seated at the table to write to my son after the first part of the day spent in my usual cares of Monday. The question occurred to me in what manner shall I fill up the remaining part of my letter. He already knows that all his mothers inmost feelings are for his best good, and he already knows what her ideas are in that respect, hours full of interest are the three years of your future life, it is not in my power to express the much, but I can fully comprehend all. I do desire very much you should do your best to take care of your health.

You can not have any idea how heavily time would pass with you if you were out of health and unable to do any thing. I have such fears about you and for a moment they were almost insupportable, but I can commit my all to Infinite wisdom. He has favored my son with a healthy body and mind and has kept him from haneous sins, and I hope from many youthful follies for which I owe a great debt of grattitude, and I will still hope on for your best good. There are a great many comforts in this world. I have found many, although I have sustained many a bitter part in life, bitter indeed, but in them all I have seemed to rise higher and higher in view of the rock of ages. I wonder I don't recommend that great support, which I feel, so sensibly, to those within my scope, but there seems to be a complicated nature with us that is always at work. I wish I knew this evening that you are well and happy and all the rest of my absent friends, but I am but one out of thousands who are full of the same desires and under far mor distressing circumstances and why should I expect to be so much more favored than those perhaps much more deserving.

R.B.H. said in his letter he had declaimed again and with better success. I think he likes the school well, and do hope it will be proffitable to him. Perhaps he has written to you or you to him ere this. Betsey has come to Capt Turners and seems more than usually out of health. I have not seen her except at church. Silas Lee has been here and made us a visit. Had Mr Sheldon's horse and waggon and brought Charles Turner home with him. Silas expressed his view on some subjects. He says it is so fashionable for young men to drink ardent spirit that they can not get along without it in fashionable society, or among fashionable young men. He talked as though all the clerks in Boston got drunk when they went out on a spree as he called it. I felt bad to hear such

talk from one that might be so promising and who is almost the only hope of an almost Broken hearted Mother.  
I did not reprove him but my heart ached for him.

From your affectionate Mother, Eliza Gilmore  
O O Howard



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133 10/18/1848 *From:* T Wilson

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0124

Freeport

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Freeport, Oct 18th 1848

Friend Howard

As I have been situated somewhat distant from the post office, I did not receive your letter until some time after you wrote. I was glad to hear from you, and friend Perley. I am teaching at present down on Casco Bay about three miles from the village. I have rather a lonesome time, but occasionally we have <a> one of those delightful <kissing> parties where you may be sure I am very much interested. Sometimes I go and sometimes not.

I suppose you had a pleasant vacation. I had one of the greatest times out at Gray at the Institute <mind soul picture>. I waited upon the ladies of the Institute, second to no one I assure you. You know when I get a going I don't go slow. I have become so tired of the sex I can hardly be sociable. All such things end in satiety if not in disgust.

I suppose you are having a very pleasant term which I am condemned to lose. I am some like Sysaphus in my college course - you know the rest.

You spoke of a school at your father's. Nothing would please me better than to go up there and teach, but without he would put off the school until January I could not teach it as I am engaged ahead until that time. If he would put it off until some time in January I would go up and teach it on the proposed conditions.

Write to me soon and let me know if your father would put off the school, and all the news about college. I may not go down for a number of weeks.

We could have a fine time pedagogy up in Leeds if it would happen so that we could be together occasionally.

Give my best respects to Peleg Esq, and tell him I am on hand to "pound".

Your friend and Classmate,  
T Wilson

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134 10/25/1848 *From:* Oliver O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0125

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Oct 25th 1848

Dear Mother

I was surprized to find that you had not received a letter from me for I wrote one and sent it as much as a fortnight since. My health is perfectly good & has been ever since I returned. My wrench in the stomach "got well" before I left home. I knew it was but a slight hurt. I am now very rugged and strong. I wrote in my letter that I had hired a young man to teach our school at \$18.00 per month. His name is Townsend, from New Hampshire. He joined our class at the beginning of this term. And being a very steady smart fellow and having taught three or four schools, I thought he was well calculated to teach a good school and would suit the District. But perhaps you have got my letter ere this and there is no need of repetition.

I would like to hear when my school commences so as to make arangements about going home. I have written two letters to Roland Bailey and received one from him. I also have written one to Laura Howard and sent you a book in pamphlet form. I wonder at your not having received any thing.

Our junior studies are not so hard as I anticipated. But they are sufficient to employ all my time or nearly all. Still I have read considerable this term - some of Shakespeare's tragedies, two of Irvings Sketch Books and his History of the Conquest of Granada and two large volumes of Scott's writings on the Crusades, and Longfellow's Spanish Student, &c. So you see I have been busy this term, have done more than a "sick man" possibly could do.

I am glad Rowland Bailey is doing so well at Readfield. I think he will make great improvement. If we could only bend his passion for reading into the channel of study, he would certainly make a great student. I wrote to Francis Turner not long since at his request, but have not yet received an answer. Probably it will take him some weeks to read my letter for I wrote it hastily and with a quill. I was not aware before that Silas would communicate his views so freely on the subject of drinking. I thought the last time I saw him, that he could not drink much, and retain his robust frame and healthy look.

I seldom see William Otis this term. He rooms in the south end of south College, hence we seldom meet. He does not come to my room, and I have not had time to go to his. I could not comprehend who you meant by Mr. Mane (I believe you called him) and lady who were lately married. I shall be under the necessity of asking an explanation of the personages, though it could not be a familiar name. But it may be and I have read it wrong. I compared all the persons I knew at Leeds with this name but I could perceive no analogy. I presume it is some one who is familiar to you and you forgot that I had not been informed on the subject.

Write soon when your school will commence and mine also, if you can ascertain. Write what father did at New Hampshire. Ask him if he found any places so high & isolated as Canton Mountain, where Mr. Niles's pasture lies. Tell him that I think I have found him a teacher who will suit him, but I shall not "make any enconinons" on him, or extoll his merits, for they will soon be exhibited, "ipso facto". Give my love to Charles & Rodelphus and Roland. After how long a time is Roland to leave home? Ask him for me. I would like to have you or father write me a "request", directed to the president to attend the Baptist. It may be worded in this manner.. Pres. Woods. Will you please give my son or ward (as you please) permission to attend the Baptist Church during the remainder of his College course" Signed \_\_\_\_

I attended there last Sabbath and like the preacher better than Mr Adams. He has more life and animation. Besides Jewett goes there all the time and would like to have me accompany him.

Write soon for I wish to know how well father likes my "Bargain" for a teacher.

Your affectionate Son  
Oliver O Howard

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135 10/26/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0126

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Oct 26th 1848

Dear Brother

You may think that I have delayed writing a great while but I have a thousand and one excuses to ofer. In the first place I delayed till I had a letter from home but instead of that Charles came after me last Saturday and of course I went home with him. I found our folks all well, the crops in and also a <pump>. Went to meeting Sunday but there was no preaching although it was expected that there would be some. After meeting I went up to Unkles, found your relation all well not excepting your little (I don't know what to call him without tis) baby (excuse). Laura had a letter from you Saturday and mother and I helped her find it out. Father returned from Waterford last Saturday where he had been negotiating for Arza's bee house. The secret of which I suppose Mother has wrote you. He has also been to Dixfield this fall and was gone five days.

T.F. Turner is not very well and I am afraid will not enjoy very good health for some time if he does not leave of studying. He has had to study rather hard and is unwell which he desires me to say are the reasons he has not writen you before.

Our examination was a fortnight ago. We had a very good time especially in the evening. I think we have some here that can rival some of those in the great junior class. All I wish is that you could hear them speak their original pieces. Mr Torsey says that the comite says that our class is the smartest class in the school and that we must not let the comite tell a lie. He told the school last night that tomorrow evening they might do anything they chose that night if they would not tar and feather him. The first he would submit to but the last he would have a hand in. Mr Tarsy leaves here to atend the institute at Augusta a fortnight from Monday. The other teachers will continue their classes as usual but as I recite to him I do not think I shall stay any longer than that.

When does your school comence and how is your health. Mother is greatly worried about you. She says that you strained your stomach by lifting. Has it got well. I have read the first poetry I ever read in my life this term and like some of it very much. I have read Mores & Scots poems of which I like the first best especially the one denominated Lalla Rookh although I know that you do not like poetry very well. But I think if you never read this you would like it. You recommended Shakespere to me but I don't like it. I myself canot tell why except it is I have a dislike to all dialogue. Let it be as well written as it may, I know you take no interest in politicks but you cannot help seeing the success that awaits the honest man. I should think there was about 20 here who are vaters and they all are free soilers but they are misled by false prophets and know not what they do.

I hope the Student you have engaged to teach our school understands the new method of teaching, that is by analysis. If he does there will be such a hubbub in our school for a week that he will not know which end he stands on but after that calms down the scholars will learn more than all they ever knew before. You ought to warn him of the place he is going into. If you do not he will leave it, disgusted, in a week. I never knew how much the schools of Leeds were behind hand till this fall. But I find that they have stood stone-still while others have improved and if we believe those who atended 20 years ago have actualy gone back. If our school has improved I should like to know what it used to be, hard telling a guess.

When I went to Leeds I met Mr Stinchfield on the way who informed me that there never was a student entered direct from Kents Hill and that if I did not go to North Yarmouth I could not enter Bodoin Coledge. I did not like to tell him he lies but ill tell you now beging that you'll not say anything about <it>. He, that is, Gancels Stinchfield is a great teacher. Nobody can prepare for coledge unless they go to school to him and then to North Yarmouth provided always that they go most of the time to him and pay <> regular (original ain't it). He went to Mr Ansel Turners and told him that Kents Hill was not a good place to send <Thomas> The school was for more advanced scholars than he and that one that was not more so than Francis could not learn anything there hardly. I never knew how to apreciate his friendship untill now.

Write to me soon at least before I go away from here. I see that you did <not mention my> catelogue. I suppose that was because I directed it <wrong>. I do not know but, I think through mistake I directed it to Otis O Howard. If your catelogues come write me soon and direct Kents Hill.

Your Afecionate Brother  
R B Howard

Oliver O Howard

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136 10/29/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0127

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Oct 29th 1848

Dear Mother

I received a letter from Brother Rowland, who said that he had been home and found you all in comparatively good health. He also said you were somewhat solicitous concerning me. You must not let things of so small importance trouble you. If I am so foolish as to injure myself by play, the injury must teach me care. I know you expect much from me. You wish me to be a man in action and thought and I even think myself often too boyish and sometimes act in a manner which gives me regret and mortification.

But you must pardon my errors, for I think I shall soon gain more maturity. I shall soon be less light and trifling as I perceive there is considerable responsibility resting on me. I must get a living for myself, even if I do not satisfy the cravings of ambition. My brothers in some degree look to me as an example. Upon my success or failure depends their respect, if not their love. I am older than they, and ought to lead them right. But they have a good director as long as they are under my mother's care. There they will learn good principles and good morals. But this is not all they will need. Though a good firm moral character is the best foundation on which they can rely, the best effectual resistance against temptation and vice, still without a good education, without a thorough knowledge of men, they will have many difficulties to meet, many barriers to surmount. It frequently appears to me more chance that I am what I am, that I am not worse than I am. I see others with as good hearts, with as good mothers, and as good incentives, led away from principle and virtue, subservient entirely to possession.

I never considered drinking liquor in a worse light than I do now. I see it destroys health, & comfort, it ruins the happy effect of mutual intercourse by destroying the confidence we place in others. I think, were it customary to drink as in old times, that the injury would not be so great. Now those who drink separate themselves from others, giving no bounds to these excesses. When if it was customary to drink in society, the virtuous would certainly possess some influence over those prone to yield to appetite & passion. Now those who drink are "as far asunder" from those who do not, as Heaven & earth almost. They have nothing in common. Their tastes are different. Their pleasures are different, and their whole being, as it were, becomes changed.

Rowland writes well, in good spirits and full of politics as usual. I am glad to see him enjoy himself thus and hope to have a brother one of these days a smart & intellectual man. Rowland has better abilities than I, and if they are but turned in the right channel, he will not fail to make an enterprising man. You can place more confidence in him than in me as regards pecuniary interests, for he is more frugal & economical, whilst I am governed too much by impulse. Hence his is the most certain of the two of making a man in a good circumstances as the saying is.

But I think I shall not starve while I have health & vigor, while I have as much mind as I now have, for even the doubly skilled Irishman gains a living and often something more. The world is wide. There is enough that can be done. The writer, the speaker, the novelist, the poet, the trader & the manufacturer, all have a <wide> & fruitful field which may be successfully cultivated. I often look forward to a gloomy & foreboding future, to a time, when oppressed by poverty & care I shall drag along a weary existence. Still I will not be so utterly devoid of common sense as to be frightened at my own thoughts and fear a tiger where there is but a timid lamb. Try shall be my motto and never turn back till driven. I have courage enough for any thing, but my decision is not sufficient.

I was reading the Conquest of Granada by the Christians (written by Irving)) and there I was frequently struck with the difference between Isabella & her husband & associate <> Ferdinand. He was shrewd & politic but was frequently troubled with indecision. And in this state of perplexity he would write to the queen. She would give an immediate and decided answer. And upon her opinion Ferdinand immediately relied. It gives me a poor opinion of a man's intellectual qualities, to see him turning from one side to the other like a cornered bull or rather not knowing which way to turn. On the other hand, if a man does not possess a great intellect, but acts decidedly, I have much respect for him.

I am in good health and waiting with some impatience to hear again from home. Be not anxious about me or my health for, if I am sick, you will soon hear of it. I wish to know soon when my school is to commence. I am intending to study my English somewhat before I commence my school.

From your Affectionate Son  
O O Howard

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139 11/18/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0130

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds November the [18] 48

Dear Son

How are you this afternoon, enjoying your way of life, I hope, a mind free from care, and ready to receive all the benefit of this days labour, in addition to all the past. No evil forebodings for the future, or other evidences of dispeptic <hurled>. You Mother can see nothing that should call forth such gloomy forebodings you carry the reasons with you why you should not indulge in them. You have always succeeded in all your undertakings. You have the good will of a great many good people (your mother has the satisfaction to so think). You are hardly eighteen in years, therefore be content to be instructed and receive instruction as that has been your highest desire. Perhaps you have set your mark too high and if you do not reach it, do not be disheartened and, dispondingly, murmur against Providence because you are not all an ambitious mind could desire at this time of life. I know you failed to take the prize, but I hope that does not discourage you. You was considered equal to the undertaking or you would not have been selected for one of the number. But no more of this.

Do not say that R.B.H. has greater talents than yourself. It is not so. You and your brother are not alike. Your views and feelings are not alike, but I hope enough alike to be affectionate to each other.

Your school commences the first Monday in Dec. and so does ours so that you and our teacher can come out together. You had better come Thursday if you can. You can find out about the manner of coming, and write as soon as you get this. Your father has gone to Hallowel today to put some butter and cheese on board the boat to go to Boston. He has been gone from home the most of the time since you left home. He had a very good time while in his tour to New Hampshire. As soon as he returned home he went into Oxford county with Arza, and went as far as Waterford where the cold water cure is established there. He saw your old friend George Carr holding on to the hope that he has found the right way at last to recover his health. Arza is in high hopes about his bee hive patent, and has a great deal to encourage him in his expectation as he has had handsome offers for his chance. I hope he will yet retrieve his circumstances.

Emily, Martin Addison's sister, is here on a visit for a few days. She regrets she could not have seen you, as her stay is so short. She wishes you would come to Levant and teach so she can become acquainted with you. Levant is her abiding place with her sister Lydia or Mrs Parker the wife David S Parker. He has taken a tavern for three years in that place. Lydia has a young daughter. Emily is more agreeable and intelligent minded than her sister L but no better hearted I presume. We expect Addison here for his sister on Saturday and return on Monday to H... and soon after she will return to Levant.

Miss Pernilia Jennings was the bride of whom I spoke in my letter. We have received all three of your letters and the book you sent. I mailed my letter in the morning, or at least I gave it to your Father to mail and he carried it all over Oxford county before he mailed it in Paris.

I read Laura's letter. It <savoured> of the same feelings of mine. Do shake them off my son. I see no kind of proffit in them. The present time is your time. I see no kind benefit in dreading the future.

How I do run on. I was about to say that I received your letter the evening after I expected mine was mailed. Sarah Turner is living with me, and I see a vast difference between her help and some that I have had in times past. "She says my respects to Otis". You have not mentioned Perley this term. How is his health. Your Mother sends love to him. We shall attend to your wishes about the meeting. Give my love to your friend Jewet. Your Father puts entire confidence in your judgment in teacher. We have not had a school meeting to get a boarding house yet. Your Father asked me if I would like to board but uncertainty of help in the house makes me fear to undertake.

Now my son write me a good cheerful letter. It is the state of your stomach that makes you have such gloomy dread in your mind. Your Mother knows about it by experience. Be careful and not read to <[torn page]> when your studies are pressing. Everything goes on about as usual in Leeds, some births and marriages. We have good health here in Leeds this fall. Charly was disappointed in not going H... with his Father today. He is

driving the team for Rowland A at the day place. Elder Lawton is on tour to the Eastward to go as far as Calais before he returns. Give my love to William Otis when you see him. I hope he will come and see us in the winter vacation. Everything looks bright to me. The weather is bright and we are all in good health. Rodelphus throat is better. He has lived on bread and molasses nearly all the time since you left home. His voice is not quite right yet but I think it will be. It is nearly right and my sheet nearly full.

From Affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore.

O O Howard



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137 11/8/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0128

Bowd College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd College Nov 8th 1848

Dear Mother

I have just received your letter and am happy to find you well and in good spirits, as I should judge from the general tenor of your epistle. You are right. The natural dictates of your heart prompt you to utter the sentiment of the greatest Poet "take care of the present. But let the future take care of itself." I believe the motto, and will strive follow it. But you must admit, that I have not a mind so constituted that it will preserve equal tranquility at all times, and under all circumstances. Young as I am, I am ever ready to grasp at any opportunity or any circumstance which will give me a start in life. I know that my future prosperity depends on my exertions. Hence it is natural that I should have hopes & fears as the prospect seems bright or dark. Still it is foolish to give expression to such feelings.

You are mistaken respecting the effect of a want of digestion on my mind & feelings. I may be petulant or peevish oftentimes though I think I have overcome such childish feelings. But when I reason the clearest I usually have the greatest fears, but no more of this. If you perceive any thing gloomy or ill-boding in any of my letters for the future, do not mention it and I shall be most likely not to fall into another gloomy train of thought. For if you let me know that my thoughts & feelings give you pain, it will make me still more downcast and cause us both to be unhappy unnecessarily.

We have now commenced the most difficult part of our College course in Mathematics. It is hard indeed. The classes preceding us have not belied it when they said that "differential Calculus" was almost incomprehensible. Infinity is its basis and methinks it requires an infinite mind to thoroughly understand its hypothesis. Yet on the hypothesis which is taken I can thus far understand the reasoning and think I shall find no difficulty in accomplishing all that is necessary. Many of our best mathematicians are dropping off and giving up the abstract reasoning as useless. But I never say I can't and I am slow to be convinced that I can't.

Perley did not get a Junior part this fall but I hope & believe he will get one in the spring. For he is oftener than I in low spirits, and perhaps imparts some of his gloom to me. He does not believe that he ever shall do anything. While on the other hand I know I shall & will if I have my health. He has wanted a Part & I think he has studied for one (though I would not like to have him know I said this). So he will be greatly disappointed if he does not have one.

With regard to my return home. I think that you had better send for me. I wish to carry home my old clothes and many other things which cannot conveniently be carried in a stage. But if you think otherwise you must write soon and send me, if you can, money enough to pay my fare. I would like to go as soon as the Wednesday beforehand, so as to have three days to make necessary preparations before I commence my school. I believe three weeks from to day (Wednesday) will be the time. You need not send if it is not convenient.

I would like very much to have seen my cousin Emily and wish her visit had been a little later. I shall probably never teach school at Levant for I intend to take means which will enable me to get higher wages next winter than this.

Politics rage high here in College. The students are divided respectively among the three parties. We had an election yesterday in due form. The Taylor men carried the majority. A great many of the students are of age and think it hard that they cannot vote where it will be of some effect. The students are an excitable set of beings, which I think you would infer if you should hear some of the animated discussions and see with what eagerness they grasp at every report, reciprocally elated and depressed as the news favors or injures their cause.

Dumont harangued the people a few nights since and it would have amused you to have heard the variety of opinion with regard to him. The "Free Soilers" thought themselves injured and treated unfairly. After the meeting we had dissension. Three Free Soilers opposed me alone. We discussed the subject of slavery. Van

Buren's claim the Texas question. Taylor's principles and in <> everything that would claim the attention of politicians occupying a higher & more effective position than ourselves. I began to fear that my lessons would be neglected if I entered too much into politics. So when I heard that a democrat (so called) would make a speech on Monday last, I staid at home to study and prepare myself so as to engage in the cause of my country with better resources of mind and a more effective hand. I presume father with other whigs is certain (almost) that "Old Zack" will be elected. I suppose you will hear the news before this will reach you, so I will not write the reports we have heard by Telegraph. I can imagine with what impatience Rowland Bailey is awaiting the news from different sections of the country.

Give my love to my Brothers. I am glad you have got so good company as Sarah Turner to cheer you up, for I believe she is always in good spirits and on good terms with the world. Give my respects to her and tell her she must convince Roland Alger on the subject we discussed so thoroughly but not decisively one evening with regard to female character.

[See note 1] Perley sends his respects to all our folks. His health is now quite good.

I have been reading lately the history of England, and am really supprized at the advance of civilization since the establishment of Protestantism, but I think there is still room for advancement in civilization. Vice, error, and superstion are not confined alone to the dark ages. I began the history as the English were emerging from the Germans, the Duch and the Welch and have read an abridged account of them down to the reign of Henry the Eighth. I take considerable interest in the reading as I have become acquainted with the characters of the Kings from reading Romances & Shakespeare. The Heroic character of Richard (Coer de Lion) is splendidly portrayed by Walter Scott in his Romance on the Crusades. He was just the man for the times - severe and dreaded by his enemies, but generous to his friends. He savaged his subjects by his iron will alone, but he was chivalrous and the admiration of his times.

I have written two themes this term. One has been returned to me with but one mistake marked and the writing covered four full pages. I thought it was doing quite well for me, blunderhead as I am.

One of our Class - Perry - has been obliged to leave the class on account of sore eyes, and will probably not return. He was decidedly as good if not the best scholar in the class. And I can say he ever is a person of the fewest faults of any one. Yes he is a fine fellow, and had more of <> respect than any other one and I shall be <> sorry to lose him. He felt bad to leave and could hardly refrain from tears when he bid us farewell and shook hands. I heard that Charles Cothren, teaching a high school in Livermore, had broken his leg in three places. I pity him. He has been teaching <all> the fall, but it will consume all his wages to cure him up. He is a stout fellow, weighs about a hundred and eighty.

Give my love to Roland & father and my respects to all my friends. This is somewhat long for me to write, and if you have as much difficulty reading my writing as I heard that cousin Laura had in reading a letter I wrote to her, I hardly know how you will accomplish it. But I should soon be there & will assist you if needs be. Write immediatly on the reception of this, so I shall get your letter. I shall study my English some this term, so as to be well prepared to ratify father's recommendation with regard to me. Perhaps I shall get a certificate from Prof. Packard.

From your affectionate son  
Oliver O. Howard

[Note 1

There was a missing page(s) at this point in the letter, and the remainder given here was found attached to the letter dated Dec 20, 1850. However I believe it has been incorrectly placed for several reasons. It is discussing topics related to Bowdoin rather than West Point. The reference to Perry having to leave Bowdoin because of his eyesight puts the date before Jan 14, 1849. Also the reference to Laura not being able to read his letter places it sometime before the letter from Eliza Gilmore on Nov 12, 1848.]

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138 11/12/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O Howard

OOH-0129

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Novem, 12th 1848

My Dear Son

I had the pleasure of welcoming another epistle from you last evening, the mail mark, and date of the letter reminded me of the accomplishment of another year of time being added to your number. I am now at home alone with the exception of Rodelphus whose hands are as busy as ever. He is back towards me. He is doing some thing with a pin, mischief I suppose, the rest are gone to meeting. Mr Laughton has return'd from a second tour and as I understand, is to leave Leeds in a few days for Calais to take the boat at Portland. He has not been in Leeds but a very little this fall.

Your father brought R.B.H. home from Readfield last evening. He is in good health and appears perfectly satisfied with himself. I have talked with your father about sending for you. He thinks it impracticable and thinks you had better try the stage again. I do not wonder you are tired of the new stage route. He will send to Lewiston to meet you if necessary. You had better ascertain what days the stage on the North part of the Route meet the Lewiston line and write <home>. Some of our folk will meet you at one of those places. Our Teacher will come with you either at Lewistown or at South Turner bridge, of course as our school commences the same day yours does.

Yesterd- was the funeral of Lloyd Gould's wife at the Chapel, the ground is frozen very hard and the traveling bad, but in fact it will be fifteen or twenty day's from this is uncertain.

It is all nonsense about Laura's not finding out your letter. There was a few words that plagued her. Your father and Roland and I were at brother Ensigns the next day after your letter came to hand, Laura not being very much used to your hand writing had not found out every word. She would feel hurt if she knew R mention'd it to you. Don't say anything to her about it. Everything goes on here as usual preparing for winter is the business of the day. I think my nervous sistem has not been so good for a great while as at present probably my Journey to Mass. had a healthy affect on my nerves.

Your father is in high life in regard to the presidential election. I hope if Tailor is elected he will answer to their expectations. Laura said Seth Howard had written home that he has found a bad place. He had heard of a hell upon earth and he thought he had found it. He will get through with it I think as I have heard nothing of late.

Sabbath evening. Since our folks return'd from church a new train of thought has occupied my mind. They brought the probable news of Mary P Hale's death since Sarah's return this evening. She says her (Mary's) father has gone to Lowell and they thought her in a dying state when they sent for him and the stage driver told Orville on his way from Brunswick of the fact. Rowland B. H. spoke with Jennings at meeting who told him he saw you yesterday morning in health. I cannot bear to think we shall never see Mary again. She wanted to do something for herself and her first start was to go to Lowell to earn money to help herself. Not long ago some of her cousins had a letter from her in good spirits and doing well.

Soon as you read this you will make all necessary arrangements what day and where our folks will meet you, whether at Lewiston or South Turner Bridge. Write as soon as you can. Take care of what you leave. Try to leave everything so that any one could get them. Warren Mower goes to Brunswick often. I could get him to take home some baggage for you. Perhaps, at the beginning of next term. Dress yourself warm, the weather is cold and piercing.

Give my love to Perley. He has my best of wishes and I think he will yet do well. I shall probably never see Mr. Lawton and wife again as they leave town tomorrow or next day. The prospect for supporting respectable preaching in town looks rather dark. I understand your Aunt Lee and Sarah are resolved to spend the winter in Cambridge. I don't know as I have anything more to say to you to night. So good night.

From your affectionate Mother, Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard

I have enclosed two dollars. Hurrah for Old Fork.

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140 11/20/1848 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0131

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College Nov 20th 1848

Dear Mother

I received your letter in due season and felt very sad at the news it contained. It seems that always the best & purest spirits are cut off first as the fairest flowers fade soonest. So short is the stay of the good permitted. Methinks in this a wise providence is exemplified. Although earth holds out to the fascinated gaze of the young many a scene of splendor and many a glowing anticipation. Yet if they will but for a moment listen to the voice of experience how different a picture is presented of this lovely life! How quickly will the mind penetrate the fair exterior and read there a destiny not filled with that delight, which the deceptive predictions of the joyous heart foretell. The young seldom look forward but with a heart buoyed up with the strongest expectations. Life to them is a fancy, a vision, a dream of bliss. But how feared the instances, which prove the truth of such anticipation! How far short of the mark to be reached, comes cold reality.

Mary was a good girl, and, if she had lived, would have been a blessing and a comfort to her only parent. Society has lost in her one who would have adorned it by a mind as fresh as the morning. Unlike many others, she ever substituted good sense, for coquetry simplicity & integrity for dissimulation and flattery. All her friends will lament the loss of one so much beloved; but how soon will so good a girl as she be forgotten. A few tears will be shed a few sorrowful words spoken and soon the bare existence of the departed will seem like the dim recollection of some transient dream. Not so the father. The ties of love are not so easily broken. Friends may forget and society may find other objects of attention. He alone will feel the loss. A vacancy is left in his bosom, which no other objects of affection can fill. The poignancy of grief - the first piercing stroke of sorrow will leave its effect, though the wound may be partially healed.

The stage between here and Lewiston has stopped running. <And> of the boat also stops. I hardly know how I shall get home. Perley, unknown to me, wrote to his father to come and get us all. I would not go so. It would be imposing to much of a burden on Mr. Perley. If you could only get word to Mr Perley and let him take his horse & one of father's and the double wagon, we could go up so very well. But make your own arrangements. If you do not come for me (that is if some one is not here) by Tuesday night, I shall start for home Wednesday or Wednesday night some way.

Peleg says he will write to his father, to call when he starts for Brunswick at your house, so that you may do what you please. If he comes alone I shall let Townsend go with Mr Perley and go round by Hallowell or Portland by stage.

John Jewett commences his school tomorrow in Topsham. The government gave the students the remainder of the week from last Thursday to enjoy thanksgiving. Those who were near enough and wished it went home. A great many went home "for good", some to teach school and others from inclination.

My appetite is not very good. It is owing I think to our having our meals so near together... and my not having sufficient exercise.

N.B. Peleg has altered his mind about writing to his father. So you need not trouble yourselves at all about my coming home. Mr Perley will come & take two of us and the other will find some way to go.

Give my love to all the family. Fare well till I see you.

From your affectionate Son  
O.O.Howard

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141 11/24/1848 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0132a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds (24th of November) [1848]

Dear Brother

Mother wishes that I should write you tonight although you may not receive my letter before you come home. Your relations and friends are well and I hope you are the same.

Charles has gone to Hallowell. He did not go till last night although he has had the promise of going for a month. We received your last letter on Tuesday. You spoke of Mary Hale. Her funeral was on Thanksgiving day. There were a large number present. They seemed much affected.

I think I shall study Lattin this winter and if I do I should like to have some kind of a reader and if you have any, I wish you would bring them home with you. It may be I shall come after you. If I do I can tell you about what books I want. Father has concluded to send for you all things considered. Thinking that it was as easy to go to Brunswick as to Livamore and that perhaps after Mr Perly came here his horse would not work with ours.

Stinchfield has gone or is going on to Mr Paines office to study Law. I do not know as it is of any use to write more as you will soon be here and I can tell you everything I know. I shall probably be at Brunswick on Tuesday night with a bad looking horse and still worse looking waggon. I must stop for I can't write or spell right with a bad pen and a trembling hand.

Your affectionate brother  
R B Howard

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142 11/25/1848 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0132b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Written on the back of the preceding letter from Rowland]

Saturday Morning Nov 25 1848

My dear boy

Your father has concluded to send the horse and waggon for you Tuesday, if there should be a bad storm he will come the next day or as soon as the wether is suitable. Your best way is to be contented at your room until some one arrives for you. He will, of course, get there at the same time as Peleg's folks do, and you can make your arrangements just as you like.

Yours affectionately Eliza Gilmore

O O Howar

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143 12/13/1848 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0133

Bowd Coll

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Dec 13th 1848

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 9th inst was this morning received & be assured that I perused it with no little pleasure. I am always gratified with such tokens of remembrance & regard & after making 2 or 3 exceptions of my own nearest relatives, I am more gratified with them from no one than from you.

But the subject into which you seem purposely to have led me adds a new interest to your letter & to my reply. It is one on which you seem to feel deeply & one which no one ought to treat with indifference. It embraces the happiness & misery of Mankind the honor & consideration of an interesting part of the human family includes the origin, instruction & character of every individual & extends even to the remotest influences by which we are activated. A subject of such vastness of such unlimited comprehension, so broad in its beginnings and so limitless in its details, cannot, of course, receive a proper treatment within the few pages of a letter. It is almost foolhardiness to undertake it knowing that no part can be more than cursorily glowered at.

But if you wish for my candid opinion in relation to the <Ladies> I presume that I can give it here, though the reasons for them & the support of my assertions must be left unstated.

And first I would make this general statement that the female sex hold a responsible position & are capable of highly promoting or entirely destroying the happiness of man. This it seems to me was the original connection between the two sexes which no change in nature or times has ever or can ever break off. Their destinies are linked together by inseparable bonds originating in the very formation of living beings & they cannot be separated without the utter extinction of the human race. You may call this a necessary evil, but that does not alter the fact & indeed I should seriously question the proper application of the term "evil" in such a connection for if we now look to the advantages which result to us from the relations which have been established between the sexes, an immeasurable host of real conveniences are suggested at once. I also believe that women exercise a stronger influence for good on society than men. They are the founders I say & the assertion can be proved. They are the authors of all those little comforts without which our existence would be a burden. Without them Life would be <robbed> of the jewells which so compose its "crown of rejoicing". Woman is not from a <> womb of creation which can be omitted without perceptible injury to the calculation of human happiness. Individual exceptions how so bright in opposition to this theory however numerous or important they may be in themselves considered. I do not believe in a surrender of the many attributes of our nature to the control of women's will. Man was made to guide & direct to support & preserve in short to take the lead in all the more important affairs of life, but then on put the things that exert the greatest controlling power over the course of human action. It is the soft, still, persuasive influence which forms around childhood's opening prospects & moulds the character of humanity.

If you now understand my position I have done all I expected to do when I began & will therefore drop the subject for the present, for my <Mechanics> is waiting to receive a little attention

i am getting along finely as yet. Perhaps I shall keep another singing school in Topsham though it is not certain yet. The Topsham women I think nothing about except my scholars. Miss Wilson though is keeping school in the village I believe. I was glad to hear of your prosperity and hope it will continue. The No of students is almost zero. They may number 30 in all. Dull times I fear. Give my respects to your family & Townsend &c. I would visit you if I had time. Let me hear from you again soon

Yours truly  
J.N. Jewett

I shall direct this to South Leeds, for I am uncertain of your proximity to a Post office & you will get it then some time or other sure.

P.S.



I have in my school Algebra, Philosophy, Astronomy. <Watts> on the mind, Book Keeping, Latin & French  
<> common studies. It keeps me busy I assure you.