

Guernsey Jan 14th 1849

Dear Friend & Cousin:

I have not heard a word from you nor seen you this winter and as I have begun to conclude that I shall not without writing to you I have concluded to write you a few lines. I really think Howard! you ought to have come here before this time. But then I might scold you for I don't know as it has been so you could. I should have been over to see you before this time if my mother had not been sick. She had been very sick with fever for three weeks past but she has now got quite smart. I have not heard a word from any Collegian but Jackson. I received a letter from him last night.

I hear that Townsend has left his school. I should like to know what was the cause of his leaving. How do you get along! Well I expect. I am getting along very pleasantly. I tell you what, it don't seem much like what it did last winter. I have about 60 Scholars and average about 50. A great proportion of them are small which

Mr. Oliver O. Howard

East Guernsey

Maine

P.S. P.S. to address
Jan 14 1849

makes it rather laborious, but then one don't mind that if he feels that his labors are appreciated you know. I was pretty sure you would be up here yesterday though I don't know what Saturdays you keep. Perry is here and has been with me about four weeks. He is keeping writing school here. His eyesight ~~was~~ so poor that he was obliged to quit his school after keeping only a fortnight. He says he should be very glad to see you. Write me or come over the first chance you have. I do not keep next Saturday. If you could send a few lines to me down to Father's School I should get it sooner than by any other way. However I want you to come over. Miss Waite is here, looking better than ever. She will remain here 2 or 3 weeks longer. I met her at a party Thursday night — that "gold pencil" suspended by a gold chain dangled at her waist and at the mention of the giver's name a rosy blush mantled her fair cheek. But more of this anon. Do you know where the review is or rather how far they went in German and Latin. I want to know just what they read in Ger. and Latin. Calculus I don't do anything to till I get back. As yet I have not studied but two evenings. I do not feel able to study any

now and I am afraid I shan't be able to make up till I get back. How much longer do you expect to keep? I shall keep 3 or 5 more I don't know which.

This is the third letter I have written to night and I having pretty well exhausted all my stock of interest and information on the two others I am afraid this will be rather dry however a dry one is better than none and I will at any time be thankful for even one as poor as this.

It is getting to be late and I must wind up and with a few words about the girls I will close. You must be sure to come.

If you don't want to see Liz, come and see I don't have any kind of a time with the girls this winter at all. Time was when I have had some quite "seasons," but that time is now past and it seems as though all was past. I guess you can send me a few lines by way of Father and let me know whether you can come ~~next Sat. or not or when~~. He will come home Saturday. I may possibly go to Wagon next Sat. to get me a Coat cut but it will not take me a great while to do that.

Your friend & Aunt

P.S. Perley.

O. Howard
Mar 4th 1849

Mr. Rowland O. Howard

South Leeds, Minn.



Rowdoin College March 3rd '49

Dear Brother,

I hardly know what kind of a letter to write you, wishing, as I do, to write one that will be agreeable. You said that you did not like my "lecturing" which, by the way, I thought would be differently received. I had had a little more experience than you, and consequently thought that a few suggestions to a brother just forming associations, would not be amiss. But as I am considered "officious" in so doing I will forbear for the future.

I found that little Latin book, which we were searching for, here among my books. I thought it down at the time another thought.

I had a conversation with Mr. Townsend last evening respecting this school. He thinks I deceived him with regard to the school and house, giving him the impression that the school was a good one, and the house comfortable & convenient. If I gave him that impression, it was unintentional. I was earnest for him to take the school and therefore might have given the bright side of the picture. In fact, I thought that all the difficulty, which I had, arose from my having once been a member of the school.

I am sorry for Townsend, for he depends mostly on his own resources, for his education, and his winter's earnings were comparatively small. He found a young man, who had become tired of his school and yet wishing to go home he gave Mr Townsend his place & wages, which were only \$13.00 per month with the understanding that he was to board round. Townsend feels sad to think that he has earned so little. But he ought to have had a little more "pluck". If I had begun I would have kept on till, at least, I had been put out doors.

This is the most ^{terrible} difficulty we have, while in College, and I now feel, as though a load would be removed from my breast if I were "made up". The cold, which I had when I left home, settled on my lungs, and I have had a bad time with it. Yesterday I bought some Syris pectorant and it has helped me so much, that I slept all last night without coughing. For three nights I made me a bed before my stove, and slept with my clothes on so that I could get up without taking cold: and that I might not keep Peleg awake by coughing. Last night I went to bed again and had a good night's rest. It makes it rather sad when I have to study so much to be half sick. The "Faculty" have appointed tomorrow (this day is Friday) to examine those who were absent at the last examination. I have read my Journal since my return but have not been able to read any more.

I left my letter unfinished on Saturday evening (the other evening and now resume it on Saturday evening) to finish it. My health is still precarious: my head stuffed as tight as it conveniently can be. I am in hopes my cold will soon take a turn and go off. I have been examined in Latin to day and succeeded admirably. Tell Mother to write in her next letter what she would prescribe as most effective to loosen my cough. I have sufficient advisers but they do not agree enough in their prescriptions, to be relied upon with any degree of certainty. Give my love to all, and some one of you write as soon as you can.

From your affectionate brother,

R Howard

My dear boy,

Leeds, March. 4. 1849


How are you this evening, how is your cough, I wish I could know, and indeed are my feelings since I received and read Pats letter I am writing to you, as tho' you were no worse, but still I fear you are, but if you are not sick with a lung fever and still continue as you have been I should advise you by all means to procure some thornwort about as much as you boiled when at home, after taking out the herb, simmer it, and reduce the quantity one half, and then put an equal measure of good Molasses and a few spoonfuls of gin, that cyrup you prepared before you left home, I have been taking, and found great relief from it, if you cannot obtain the thorn^{wort}, get hoarhound ^{think} I thornwort is much the best and has always benefited you, I wish that you prepared here, ^{could be at} dont put off taking care of yourself and if you can get that cyrup, and follow taking it as long as a vestige of your cough remains I think it will be a great benefit to you in other respects, I have had a severe cold for about a week and nearly all of our family but none of us, so as to be kept awake a nights much after doing in our own way, I am distressedly ^{by} anxious about your health let me know about it as soon as possible, Thorne Mewer, has been talking of going to Bath if the sleeping will do, and to day we had snow falling all of the day if he comes ^{him} tell ~~me~~ just how you are, and let him take home every thing you dont want, if you have any such things, you mentioned, in your letter to me of being much worse but had received much benefit from Mrs Thomson's Medicin, and ^{the} ~~tenure~~ of your letter was ~~such~~ so cheerful that I thought you would soon be better or well I have a great dread of ^{your} having the head ache so much,

Ms. A. 9. 1049

Wayne Med
March 9
5

W. G. & Howard
Barnswick

Rowland H. G. started for Newbedford the fifth day of March
and is probably there now, waiting for ^{the} vessel to be in readiness
for California, he appeared to think more seriously of what
he was leaving before he went he appeared very much interest-
ed in your letter and wanted to take it away with him and I
gave it to him, in taking out the pins you put in your father's
wrapper, Mr Jewett's letter fell out of that part you turned up
and that has gone to California too, Sarah while putting up
R. H. G.'s little articles, knowing that ^{he} was to have your letter
took by accident Jewett's letter and packed it, and after
the chest was sent away, we discovered the mistake and
gave Rowland, yours, I don't think he will even read G. letter
but you know he has never been in the way of even direct-
ing a letter, your letter will be great help to him on that
score I feel bad for him I know he will ^{have} so many unhappy
hours, and wearisome days aboard that ship, I had not
got over the excitement of his going, when your letter to
R. B. H. almost overcame me, R. B. H. was astonished soon as he
began to read your letter, I presume he never thought
in earnest that anything was ~~in~~ wrong in your
good letters few of your age can write such letters
as you do, and Rowland knows it few have ^{such} a brother as
R. B. H. has got in my opinion, if I could know you were
well again I would be happy enough I think, R. B. H. goes to-
morrow to Beverly hill he has just now left packing his trunk
and bound up his sore throat and gone to bed and all
of our family are in bed, but your father and myself
I care but a little about my bed I have slept so little since
for a week past, last night my mind was wholly engrossed

with you, full of fears for the future, I had made up my mind
to make you a present of ten dollars to buy you a great coat
before I had your letter, now I think I shall send it but if
you are sick you had better not have the coat at present
R. B. H. has had him one made since you left home, it cost
him about seven and a half ^{dollars} and a real pretty one it is
he brought it home this evening, I do not care one snap
about Townsend's troubles he might have staid and
finished his school, and I did all I could to make him
happy and ^{he} took his own way, and he must abide the
consequence, Mr Phillet had a noisery uncomfortable
school but he did not leave it until he had accomplished
his time, and I think I would have lived through it
if he had exerted himself a little more, Berley must let
me know how you are as soon as you get this, R. B. H. 
dreamed you were sick with the typhus fever after ~~reading~~
your letter, but I hope it is not so bad, but some how
I am terribly alarmed about you, and I don't hardly
know why, you have had so many colds this winter
I am particularly anxious about you,

your Mother E. Gilmore

* if you are not able yourself.

Bowdoin College March 12. 1849.

Dear Mother

I take my pen, immediately on the reception of your letter, in order to allay your unnecessary anxiety as soon as may be.

I ought not to have excited your fears so much concerning me, for with the exception of a cough my health has been comparatively good. It is true I was a little "out of tune" the evening on which I wrote to Rowland Bailey.

My cough also is almost well. I only cough a little in the morning, perhaps ten or fifteen minutes after getting up, during which time I raise the phlegm accumulated upon my lungs during the night.

My medicine though a little weakening to the system cannot fail of relieving my cough.

I think, that I now have a better appetite, than I have had any time before during the winter.

I shall, however, as you say, be under the necessity of taking care of myself, and continuing my medicine or substituting what you recommend.

More than one third of the students have as bad 'colds' & coughs as I have had. I was a little afraid that I was inclined to be sick, when I wrote to Rowland, but my head-ache left me in the morning after. I think, that I have

C. John Estlin
South Berwick Me



Wm Howard
Mar 12 1849

said sufficient to convince you of my
convalescence. I respect much the interest you
ever take in me. But for your sake & mine do
not seek a fore-taste of trouble, till then, when it
comes, we shall be the better enabled to bear it.
Uncertain as every thing is, it behoves us for our
own happiness' sake, not to be over-solicitous of
the future. I do not think it right to be
improvident. Provide what we deem essential,
and let matters take their course. The weak mind is
apt to fear the thunder, from its sound however
distant it may be, and recoil in terror into
some dark corner. It is true, there are dangers
at any and all times, but a man is not
a man who fears every shadow, a scare.

I thank you for the money you sent me. I have
paid out about a dollar for medicine, and was
consequently reduced in cash to about half a
dime. I have resolved to make my old-coats
suffice for this spring, as I hope the wintry season
is fast receding. You may think it is dangerous
for me to have so much money on hand but
methinks I can now keep it without spending
more than necessary. It makes money valuable to
keep school for it. Nevertheless I know that I
am not so close, prudent, & economical as
I ought to be. Uncle Ensign says that these "virtues"
will increase upon me with years. That is generosity
and prodigality will decline.

I have been obliged to improve the minutes
this term. "Making up" consumes considerable time.
Our lessons themselves are sufficient to keep one
employed all the time. Hence I have all that
I can do and a little more. Yet I have made up
and been examined on all but Mathematics, for
which I shall take my own time whether they rank
me or not. I have promised myself to study
these last two years. I shall not get & do not wish
a "junior-part," but when I graduate I shall be
obliged to have some "part" and I will not perform
a "low one". At the bottom, however, I do not care
"a snap" for college honor. It is not always the
mark of a man, and it certainly is a low object
for a sensible mind, that is to have that in view at
the expense of every thing else. I want a well-dis-
ciplined mind, one stored with knowledge, in order
that I may be capable of filling the station, which
I may see fit to occupy. How do you all do? I
wish you had told Roland Alger to write me before
he left N. Bedford. I would write to him if I
thought my letter would reach him before he
left, but probably he has gone before this. Give my
love to all at home. I frequently let my fancy
picture to myself you all engaged in your varied
employments and I feel happy that I have friends
on whom I can rely for every comfort in any ex-
tremity.

From your affectionate son
An adjourn from Prof. Goodwin. favored my letter under... C. O. Howard

W. Howard
Mar. 26 / 1849

Ed. John E. E. E.
South Leeds, N.H.



M. M.
L. Oliver

Bowdoin College March 28th 1849

Dear Mother

I have been waiting some time for a letter from home, but not receiving one I have resolved at last to write.

I have looked in the papers to find Rowland's name or the company to which he belonged, yet I could not even find the name of the vessel in which he shipped. Write me if you heard from him before he left N. Bedford, as I presume you told him to write home on taking leave of that place. I have had a letter from Rowland Bailey, since I have received one from home and wrote him an answer. He was then well, and said that he found F. B. Swann better than he looked, that is as a "room-mate". I wish to know what has become of Laura Howard. I wrote her a letter, when I first returned to college but have not yet received an answer, perhaps she has left Leeds, for it is not like her to delay answering me so long.

My health is now as good as it ever was. I cured my cough very soon after I wrote.

There are many who have very bad coughs, four or five are so bad that they have gone home.

to recruit. I suppose that you are always glad to hear news and therefore I will inform you of a certain "metamorphosis" which may be little expected by you. I locked up my pipes three weeks ago and have not used tobacco since that time, and, what is better shall not, probably, for the remainder of the term, to say nothing of after time. I happened to be thinking one day that smoking was doing me "good", and also thought that I would put myself to the test. I sometimes, when I have nothing particularly to do (which is not often) wish to smoke, yet I have mostly overcome the desire of it. If at any time I feel any inclination "there to", I immediately resort to reading or studying. It is very easy to keep from forming a bad habit, but exceedingly difficult breaking it up.

I have another study (one that is voluntary) this term, Spanish. It is a pretty & easy language. With this addition to our usual labors, we have quite enough to do and a little more. I find that mathematics, which I have got with comparative ease heretofore, require a little more attention and that a little closer. There are but very few in the class that get our mathematics, some cannot, others will not try. I am now obliged to go to Prof. Cleaveland's

Chemical - lecture, as the "Bell" is ringing.

I have been to Lecture, which begins at 2 o'clock continuing till 3, returned and prepared my Latin Lesson, and as I have a half hour remaining before recitation, I sat myself to finish my letter. We had some very interesting chemical experiments on Electricity this afternoon. In fact Cleaveland makes every lecture interesting. He is furnished with every kind & the best of apparatus. He is a very clear and precise speaker. His lectures are delivered in the fewest words possible, but those words have a definite and strong meaning. Professor Roddy wrote on my last theme (or composition) that it was written in a better style than any preceding themes of mine. He also added (by way of encouragement, probably) "Labor vincit omnia" that is "Labor conquers all things. Not thinking that the sentiment would prove true in my case, I quoted, at the close of my next theme, the above sentiment and added this. "Labor non ingenium generat" = "Labor does not create talent." I do not know how our Latin controversy will end, but it is evident that both sentiments cannot be strictly true. Give my love to Charles & Rodolphus. I suppose they are all the assistance father has at present. Tell me a little about home-affairs, for I am always curious to hear. Give my love to father - my respects to Sarah - Townsend sends his respects to you all. Yours &c. J. P. Howard

Leeds Mar 25 1849

Dear Cousin

I received yours of the 3rd inst and was sorry to hear of your poor health but hope that ere this you are enjoying your usual health you must be more careful how you expose yourself for health is every thing and without it we cannot enjoy life, and that is what we all seek here happiness but alas how few find it, because they do not seek it from the true ~~source~~ source. My dear Cousin I am glad to see you seeking knowledge, and may you attain to all you aspire, but do not forget to seek that true knowledge which comes alone from the Saviour, which ~~alone~~ can make you wise and good here and hereafter, seek first the kingdom of God and all other things shall be added unto you is the Saviours words, and I would say seek the Saviour with thy whole heart, and then you will enjoy that happiness which this world can neither give nor take away I know this by experience, and would not give up my religion for all the pleasure this world can afford you ask how I enjoy myself I would ^{say} very well I know I have not the society of but few of my friends I am one that love my friends and to have them near me is a source of great pleasure but we cannot always enjoy the society of those we love

Leeds March 25th 1849

March 25th 1849

Mr O. W. Howard
New Brunswick
Maine



I should have been glad to have seen you before you left Leeds, I was almost sick the last Sunday that Mr Sargent preached and that was the reason I was not there. We have had no meeting since, but they have engaged Mr Thatcherson for the next season and he is to be here next Sunday. I feel very glad to think we are going to enjoy preaching again and hope he will be the means of doing much good here. Your Father and Mother were up here last week she has been sick but was better and felt very anxious about you having heard that you was quite sick. They have been to the Wood since and your friends there are well and they heard that your Aunt Lee was going to live with her husband again at Philadelphia.

Thomas B is at home now and I enjoy his society very much, he is going out west as soon as the traveling will admit, sends his respects to you. Judson got thrown from his horse last Friday and hurt his nose quite bad but did not get any of his limbs broken. John Shellen and the baby are well and send their love to you. I had no trouble in reading your letter but I expect you will find some in reading mine but you must excuse this as the room I am writing in is quite cold and I shall have to stop on that account. Your Uncle and Aunt send their love awate soon if you think it is worth an answer.
your true friend
Laura Howard

South Leeds
April 3

M. Clair O Howard

Brunswick

Me

April 2 11 8 49

My dear son,

Leeds Apr 2nd 1849.

The time of day that you are preparing for meeting for morning service, a privilege which few of our family enjoy this morning, my privilege for attending public worship is small, I do not speak of it, to complain, I merely mention it as a fact, but have great many comforts notwithstanding that deficiency, I received a letter from N. B. H. by last Tuesdays mail all the one he has written home I should think from the general tenor of his letter that he is rather pleasantly situated, he mentions Francis, being more agreeable than he expected, he thinks he shall find enough to do this term, I thought he did not exert himself a great deal through the winter, you enquired for Laura Howard, I called at your uncles the 19th of March and saw Laura she said she had received a letter from Otis the Saturday previous, I urged her to visit me while the sleighing lasted, but it became dangerous at once the drifts being so deep and soft, I went to Shallowell the next day, took a back route across the ponds found all in tolerable good health, Addison about leaving for California which is, I think a grief to Mother, Addison has been to visit his father and sisters, and your Aunt Strickland went with him, I found her in fine spirits she enjoyed her journey finely, they all expressed their regret that you could not come to Shallowell the past winter, your Uncle John was expected to ^{at} ~~ret~~ home the day I left home, he had been gone to Washington four weeks, I called at his house his wife appeared very sooth and happy, William ^{and} ~~grand~~ wife was very sick at the time, and very little hope was expressed for her she died a few days after, tomorrow will be four weeks

since Roland A. left us, he has not written one word. Col Lothrop folks have had several letters, from Elias, he gives the situation of the com in general makes no mention R. st. J. in particular I presume he is not aware that R. does not write home, the last time he wrote 4th of March was talked of for sailing, but said it was a great deal more work for a vessel to make ready for a voyage than he had ever thought, the company ^{was} doing their own labor, and that is what takes up R.'s time, we think the ship has not left Port yet, your father spoke with Mr Leonard ^{last} night he had no letter from New Bedford for Col Loth but he did not wait at green for the Western mail, J. R. knew how very glad we should be to know how he is getting along I am not sure he would let us know, but Mr Lothrop has written to Elias to make a rule of mentioning him in his letters home, I rather suspect that is all we shall hear from him. We have a pleasant quiet little family, this spring George Jones works here, and Sarah is still with me, you would be astonished to see what a singer Charles is, he sings correctly more than forty tunes, and can read the notes of any tune, his voice and taste in singing has greatly improved, he takes his part alone and sings better than any of us, he and George and Sarah, are singing in the other room and Rodolphus is in there with them, your father is examining his Newspaper in the room with me, The sun shines today, this being the first pleasant day for nine days, the snow has nearly all left us, I look forward, with bright feeling to the time, when I can work in the garden and regulate my plants one more, It cannot ^{be} more than six and a half weeks before we ^{shall} see ^{him} with us again, I am not half grateful

enough, that your health is no more impaired by your cough for I think College is one of the worst places for a cough in the world, I am glad you can live without pipe and tobacco, but I cannot say that it gave me so great a sensation of pleasure as last summer ^{or spring} when you had entirely overcome the habit. Your speaking of your studying, the Spanish language reminds me of Roland's mixing with the Spaniards if he ever arrives in California without knowing one word of their language, he is being ^{now} by this time to reap the reward of his obstinacy to me about going to school, when he could, I never think of that circumstance without giving me a disagreeable feeling for I know my motive was for his good and nothing else, I nearly gave up all hopes that I should have any influence ^{with him} for good, but I hope time will show him, who his heart-felt friend me, and what false Ideas he has fostered which has been a great hindrance to his personal improvement. While thinking of College discipline, and your mental exertions, I still feel a confidence that ~~that~~ you enjoy literary pursuits, and notwithstanding the petty annoyances, that accompany every way of life, my son ^{has} his share of enjoyments as they are apportioned to us mortals, an enlightened mind should be more joyous than one, where there is so many subjects ^{which} are entirely dank to them, but yet I know there is not that difference there ought to be, Sarah says give my respects to Elias, my love to all enquiring friends in College, don't ^{want} for me to write to you but write every opportunity if you knew the amount of pleasure every letter gives me you would not let any time slip when you can write yours, ever, Oliver Gilmore
O. G.

more despondingly than this, but at the bottom, these are my sentiments. Though young, I chose my present employment as the most-congenial to my taste & wishes. Give my love to all the family, and believe me
Your well meaning son
O. Howard,

Ct John Gilmore
Dartmouth College

BRI
MAY 22 1849
AMHICK

Wm Howard
Apr 21 1849

Dartmouth College April 21st '49

Dear Mother

I was hasten to answer your letter. I went to Portland the day before "fast" and did not return till last evening. For this reason I did not receive, and consequently did not answer your letter before. I had a pleasant visit. Other things respecting which I will tell you when we meet. There was a fire, there, Thursday night, which looked splendid. It caught in a place full of buildings, and the firemen with difficulty put it out after turning four or five of them. I believe there was but one dwelling house burned. It would be hard to turn a family out of house & home on so chilly a night. There was also a specimen of female heroism, the next day after the fire. A certain woman, having frequently found her husband at a rum-shop - and the same sadly intoxicated, had become exasperated with rage. So on finding him at the same place & in the same strait, that day, she seized a club and went to the shop, and to the terror of the seller, broke all his canisters & glasses, his windows & bottles, and, escaping the hands of those endeavoring to retain her, in triumph led away her tipsy, silly husband.

I have received two letters from Rowland Bailey this term. He appears well ~~contented~~ contented with his situation and I think he is doing well. I am sorry for William Grant. Such a deprivation must come hard to one so young, and as it is probable more sensitive in the infancy of his love, as it were. Time may efface the outward appearance of grief, but such a loss seems a blow to the young & hoping heart, which is hard, hard! indeed.

I should think George Jones would make father a fine "hand," being as I think he is steady, persevering and faithful.

I thought Charles would make a very good singer, if he could only throw off all diffidence and let his voice come out.

I have not tried to sing any except - to do my own singing, since my return to college, and think I shall postpone ~~my~~ trial, till my return home.

It is not at all strange that Rowland Alger does not write. Perhaps, he repairs somewhat, on account of his going away, and does not wish to let us know it yet. He never wrote a letter. It is hard for a young man, twenty one years of age to begin. He knew he ought - to have gone to school when the opportunity was afforded him, but his pride, foolish as it seems to us, forbade him. He like many others, do not love ^{to} be behind his ^{peers} comp

In regard to my cough - I have none - never was in better health or spirits in my life. Every thing looks bright & pleasant. You seem to distrust my breaking off the habit of smoking, yet I have done it. I have done it - this time from principle. And, in all probability, I shall not use tobacco again. I shall not, without I can satisfy myself with some good reason. I have put myself to the test, and now do not desire it more than one who never used tobacco. There are many things, which I do not name, that influenced me in the effort - which I made, to rid myself of a filthy habit. But depend upon it, you will not see me smoke again, whatever was the cause of my breaking off.

You are right, I enjoy literary pursuits, and now could be contented with scarcely any other. Whether I am best fitted for this course, remains yet to be decided. Time will show, whether I am sowing seed, which will spring up and bear abundant fruit. My hopes are always high, and my disappointments, but very few, and never very sad. Everyone meets and must expect in life petty grievances. I am better situated than thousands, and feel grateful. I have good parents & friends who are ready at all times to assist me. I have every privilege which the intelligent mind could wish, and am contented. Often, I may write ~~it~~

April 15th 1849

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
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Mr. Oliver Howard

Brunswick

Me



396

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
Brunswick Hill Apr 15th 1849

Dear Brother

It is a cold stormy day not much like the weather we have been having which as been warm and pleasant. I have had a letter from home since I wrote you in which I was informed of Col L's sickness and I have hear since that he was ^{no} better. He had not been used to sickness and I fear he will not live, if he does not his affairs will be in a most deplorable condition his children gone away from home he seems to be left alone. Perhaps I informed you that I went to the singing class which is some different from Mr Sangers I had to declaim last Friday for the first time in my life in public I did pretty well. I have joined the Calliopean Society and shall have to declaim before a public meeting of the Society next Friday evening. We have a private debating club that meet once a week to discuss questions which is very interesting. I am glad to hear that you had a pleasant visit to P on fast day. We get along rather slow in camp although it is easy but Mr Walsh says we must drill and drill before we can understand the Linguam Latinnam I have got about through my first book, I think that Clarks Algebra is harder than Smiths any how it needs considerable study to understand it. I do not intend to go home before the middle of May as it is pretty hard work to get across here and our house. I hope that you will get home time enough to come to our exhibition I do not know whether I shall take a

part in it or not but I hope not as I should not stand
any chance of getting either of the prizes It is held at the
close of the term which is the last week of June I have about
given up going to college for I think I ^{can} obtain a good education
upon the Hill as I shall need My greatest dread at present
is the mumps two or three of the students have got them
and I expect my time will come before long I hardly know whether,
it is best to go home or not My chum is about what
you think him to be he has an inordinate vanity and
love of praise nothing seems to please him so much as
to be flattered, but there I have been talking about my Chum
which is wicked, but I think he has never had a true friend
at Newmouth or any other place where he has been at School
I do not think that the Students generally are smart and
good scholars ^{they were} at last term although there many old
ones here, Give my respects to Percy G. Townsend and
ask the latter if he remembers chasing the stage, Write soon
Your affectionate Brother

Mr Oliver F Howard

R B Howard

O. Howard
Apr. 18 1849

Mrs John Gilmore
South Leech
Main



Brunswick Apr 18-49

Dear Mother

I have looked strongly
— for the week past, for a letter from you,
but as it seems that I can not to get one,
I have taken my pen, our "Dignity afternoon",
to address you, and await again an
answer. The present term is fast drawing
to a close, and I look forward with
some degree of pleasure, when I may find
some relaxation from study, for I begin to
be a little tired of close & constant application.
I received a letter from Rowland Bailey, a few
days since, stating that he was well. He told me
some rather painful news respecting Col.
Sotthrop. If he must be taken away, it will
be a sad bereavement to a family in
circumstances like his, his sons away,
and the remaining portion of his family
dependent on him almost for their very
support. William Otis was at home last
day, and the following week and said that
his father had been very sick, and was
but a very little better when he left home.
He was not dangerously sick, however, and has
begun to recover ere this, probably.

This beautiful day reminds me of what you
said respecting your garden. I should

Think, such weather as this would certainly be
genial to the growth of plants, and congenial
to the feelings of the one cultivating them.

Our term-examinations will be four weeks
from to-day (wednesday). So you may write
if you have made any particular arrange-
ments with regard to my returning home.

I think you can come yourself as well as
not, if you only will say so. Let Charles come
with you and drive. Mrs Harmon would be
very happy to have you come and stop the
night with her. You might come wednesday
and we could return thursday.

Don't let any little objection arise to prevent
you, for I think it would be a good thing
for you to take the ride.

Is father as smart and cheerful as usual
without any boys bad or good to regale?

Give him my respects and tell him, that I am
coming home to assist him, one fortnight

if you will let me work. Perhaps, at least,
I can take some rides for him.

I find the Spanish Language quite easy, and
the German grows easier the more I study. The
Latin also, being history, which we read this term, is
quite interesting. In fact all my studies
as I grow older, and increase, as I flatter my-
self, in judgment, become much more
agreeable and contribute much more to intellec-
tual enjoyment.

I would like to have you come and get
me on considerable many accounts. There are
a great many things which I wish to carry home,
and a great many things which always remain
here, these, I ~~cannot~~ cannot tell you about,
near so well as you could yourself see.

I have not resolved whether to take a school
or not, next fall. I have thought, if I could
get a profitable one that I would do it.
But on the other hand, I seem to be subtract-
ing so much from my college discipline and
education the more I stay out, and after I
graduate I can earn money by teaching
much faster. I would, however, if possible
do something besides teach school. But I ~~am~~
be under the necessity of teaching an Academy
for a year or more.

I wish to learn all I can. The college course
will be but a beginning. If I had money,
nothing would hinder me from studying
three or four years ~~to~~ after I leave this place,
before I commenced a profession or the
study of it. I hope one of these days, I shall
be enabled to go to other countries and
perfect myself in the knowledge of ^{your} other
languages. It would well pay the trouble &
expense, and perhaps before I am thirty, I
shall have earned money sufficient for my
purpose, or changed my design. Give my love
to all, & write soon! Give your affectionate son
off.

I hope this pleasant morning finds you in health, and a a conscious
satisfaction that your time, used as though it were precious
metal, that you in future will be responsible in the whole a
mount, I was some surprised to be sure to hear you had, had some
days to spare from your studies, whatever might be the cause
It is useless to say anything about it, but I am anxious ^{that you should} with pleasure
on the four years time spent in College, and think you have
not let any sudden impulse take you away from your permanent
privileges. I thought ^{you} time this spring would necessarily be filled
and crowded, making up what was lost by being out, and this
year being a close year for study, I desire every thing for your
best good, I know that the outside of books, cannot make a man
wise nor learned, nor the undertaking of a great deal never
amount to much ^{unless} carried forward with a steady perseverance
and you need not mention your Portland visit in your letter
to me, as it will change nothing, there is one subject that I
have never mentioned to you, and one I always feel a great
delicacy ~~in~~ and it is a point where I have been afraid you might
shipwreck, not from any evidence of such propensities in
you, but as a well known evil in the world, and if even ^{all} ~~you~~
an abiding place ^{even} in the fancy will often throw a cloud
over the best part of one's life if not, plac them out for life
I ~~suppose~~ ^{suppose} you wonder what Mother is thinking of now, I do sincerely
desire you will ~~not~~ ^{not} but little blank attention to the
Ladies and that little with the greatest caution for every thing
has its deception, I hope when you are situated ^{to} be introduced to
the ladies, it will be to those of refined minds and good
common sense, I feel desirous that the remaining time
you are in College should be devoted to study, and that
for your best possible good.

Your father has returned from the ^{former} residence of Col. Lathrop and says
Warren arrived last eve — of he was a few moments too late
when he arrived in Boston, to take the eastern train for Portland,
in that way he lost just time enough to prevent reaching home
in time for the funeral, I had a letter from P. B. B. by the last
mail he writes well appears to have enough to do, I hope he will do
well, his bills are higher than even yours were when at the academy
Mother ~~has~~ wrote me a letter on her birth day the ^{day} she was
Seventy five years old and expressed her ideas very well
She said in her letter that she could ^{hardly} realize that Brother John would
uld again be restored to take his place in society again,
as for your stout opinion even living with her husband again
I have no idea she ever will, I understand Mr. Davey is out
of health, and will not be about very soon your father called
there the other day, he said he was confined to his bed, I
go there as soon as the traveling is suitable I learned yesterday
for the first time that John Hinckfield is here in Leeds
out of health, he returned from Philadelphia in the winter
and thinks there is no help for him, what a disappointment
he must feel, one year ago he was seeking a place, when to
make himself useful and thereby obtain a competency
for himself, and when he obtained one, how soon he must leave
it for want of health to sustain himself in it, his sister told
me (with tears in her eye) his disease was the kidney complaint
brought on him by lifting heavy patients in a stooping
posture, our family are all in good health at present
from your ever affectionate Mother

C. E. Howard.

Olivia Gilman

Guilford Apr 26
[1849]

Cousin Abigail

I received your kind letter last Nov, and after so long a delay, will try and answer it; I hardly know what apology to offer for my neglect, excepting it is such an exertion, for me to write a letter. Addison is always complaining of me, because I am no more prompt. I received a letter from a young lady nearly two years ago, and have answered ^{it} as yet; and you see you are not the only one that is neglected myself. If I was a natural writer, I should esteem it a privilege to have correspondents, and I am going to try, and cultivate a taste for it; for I am always so happy to receive a letter from any one. I enjoyed my visit very much indeed, at your Mother's, and would have been happy to have met you there; but think I may visit there again in the Fall, if nothing prevents, for I enjoy traveling so highly. I spent the Winter at Levant with Sister Lydia & enjoyed it much and would ~~be~~ ^{like} to stay with her all the time, but it is not convenient. Lydia seems very happy in her new situation; her domestic affairs and baby take up all her time; she calls it, Elsa I was, after her husband's Mother, she is a very pretty and intelligent child, we think. Lydia's Husband is quite an agreeable man, is not a great talker, for further information of him, you can enquire of Aunt Martha Lane, for she has visited them this Winter. Addison has gone to Cala-

Guilford Maine
Apr 23. 1849.

Mr. Oliver. Oct. Howard
Branswick
Maine

Apr 23 1849

-fonia, as you have heard I presume, we felt very bad to have him go but
he was so decided, it was no use to persuade ^{from} the notion of going,
we received a letter from him while in New York. I attended school
at Covington 6 weeks this Spring, I am always very happy while attend-
-ing school. I design to teach the ensuing summer somewhere in
the vicinity of Levant. I don't know how I shall like the
employment, but am in hopes I shall, well, for teachers are not
so plenty as they were a few years ago about there. Are you any
acquainted with Mrs Case of Levant, or Porter of Newburg & they, I believe
are attending the medical lectures, I am somewhat acquainted with
them. Remember me to Cass' William, but, perhaps he does not know
who I am. I don't know as I can think of any more to write that
will interest you, but if I write again, I will try, and do better,
for I have been disturbed considerably, since I have been writing.
If you write me again within a month, you may direct my letter here,
if not until after that time, please direct them to Levant. I don't
know as you will take the trouble to write again I have been so neglectful.
Please excuse all errors, which are many I presume. Give my love to your
mother, I should be very happy to receive a letter from her, if convenient.
Father's and Mother's healths are about the same, as they have been: Father
thinks some of going to Portland this Spring, and Mother to Mountville.
Martha is quite a large girl. We should be very happy to see you
here, or at Levant. I think you had better teach this way
next winter.

from your Cousin

Emma.

Olive Otis Howard.

Quilford Apr 23rd.

W. Howard
Apr. 24 1849

Mrs. John Gilman
North Leeds, Me



Brunswick, Apr 24th. 1849.

Dear Mother

I now address you under peculiar feelings of embarrassment. The following epistle I wish to be confidential. Although I always have cherished a strong affection for you, my only living parent, yet many things have I locked up in my own breast. Many a time have I longed to open my bosom fully to you, who, I knew, would ever sympathize ~~and~~ with & advise me truly. But I foolishly thought it was weak and unmanly. I have been thrown as it were on my own decision & judgment in most every step I have taken. True, you have watched and ever anxiously endeavored to guide me aright. But after all, however much I may have been led heretofore by impulse, now I mean to let reason, honor, and the good feelings within me prevent me from taking a foolish or premature step. You speak of female society and perhaps wished me not to mention it again, but I must. There are some things which you must know sooner or later. For should I do any thing without your approval, I should never cease to regret it. You are mistaken if you think I would trifle with my own heart, on which depends the magnanimity or degradation of man. Nor would I trifle with the affections of women. However frivolous and trifling I may have been two years ago, two years have produced an important change in my

character. You may say I have not the judgment of a man - I have not experience - Be it so; yet I hope I have common sense, and integrity. I have not mingled in society, except the society of your letters and others, except in the society of those I love. What is the cause? What is it that has produced the change in my character; which curses me to enjoy the society of my own thoughts? To tell you the truth mother, there is one, who exercises a strong influence over me. I am not passionate and headstrong, and have not preferred the gay & frivolous. No, far from it - she is good, sincere and intelligent.

You may think this language strange from me, but for her, for future hopes, toil seems sweet. My studies are not neglected, but my classmates may often remark my improvement. I study, I shall study. It would indeed show a foolish and headstrong boy, rather than one persevering and ambitious as I am, to neglect my literary pursuits for any foreign cause.

Yes, my mother, sincerity and intelligence gain my homage, sooner than external beauty. In fact, these inherent qualities make external beauty. Without them beauty would be mere show, an empty nothingness, which could possess no charm to draw the heart.

Although you wish your son to rise, you would not have him sacrifice every good feeling of his nature, and every desire of happiness for wealth & station. No, your own heart would revolt against it. Perhaps you have unknown to me, cherished hopes, and I in my ignorance

disappointed your expectations. But I think I have done right. I have done nothing for which my own heart condemns me. If I am disappointed, though it may blast my tenderest hopes, though it may rend my very soul, yet I must bear it. What did you mean, by my being wrecked? Can it be you think me without principle? Although it may be foolish to give my affections ^{while} so young, yet I could not help it, and have done nothing but what is perfectly honorable. I would make an impression, I would convince you that she is as worthy and more so than I, but it will do no good, you may not believe me, that is, you may think me incapable of judging.

Write me what you think; there is no engagement, excepting the mutual pledges of devotion, sympathy & love. Your opinion shall be respected. Think of it, and consider before you write your decision, for some things would be very painful to me. In this nothing shall hinder my ambition or my advancement. But should your own heart decide against me the blow would be heavy. The struggle will be hard. But it would be worse for another than for me. ---

I feel that in Col. Lottrop I have lost a friend - a friend indeed. I have thought of him much since I heard of his sickness. I knew he was my father's friend. I have respected him and feel deeply his loss. ---

Give my love to all. Repeat to no one what I have said, for others might trifle with feelings they do not understand.

Your affectionate son, V. H.

Albion
May 10 1849

Mrs John Gilman
Dorchester
(Care forward)



(New York)

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Brunswick. May 10. 1849.

Dear Mother

I was very glad to receive your letter, and having waited with much expectation it made it doubly welcome when I did receive it. I am pleased to find that you think of coming for me. I now board in Topsham at a Mr Green's. His wife is a very pretty & fine woman. The house is situated in Topsham, just before you go on to the bridge to Brunswick.

If Charles comes with you, you can stop at the Tavern in Brunswick, and send him to find me, which will not be difficult if he will call me Howard, instead of Otis.

The no. of my room is 26. Main Hall. You come and I will find a place where you will be well cared for. If Wednesday next is not a suitable day, come the next & I will wait. The students will be gone (the most of them) Thursday, so I can better show you the beauties of College - the libraries &c.

Mr Harmon asked me to bring you to see ~~them~~ his family, and I told him we would call. but I did not know, as you would like to stop there over night. I had much rather

you would stop at my boarding place over
night. Not-but- they are pleasant people. I
am always afraid that I shall be of some trouble
So we will make them a visit, and perhaps
stay the night with them.

I feared that my last letter might seem silly
to you, and uncalled for. But I thought that
you might hear reports & stories from others,
and after exaggerated accounts. So I resolved
to write how it was, that you might not
think my motives bad from my secrecy. The
young lady of whom I spoke is an only
child. Her parents watch over ^{her} with as
much care & anxiety as mine do me, and perhaps
more, as a young lady is more exposed.

They know her feelings and her wishes, and
love her with parents fondness. I will tell you
a short incident.... One time when Orville
Jennings came to Brunswick with Peleg, Orville
got pretty badly intoxicated, just before they reached
Lewiston, and drove his ^{horse} through mud & water
as if he ^{would} tear every thing in pieces. At this place
they passed some one who knew Peleg, and
unfortunately thought the one driving was I.

This young man was this young lady's Uncle.
Hence the news was immediately carried that
I was intoxicated. Whether she believed it or not,
her friends thought that they had every proof,
that it was ~~me~~ I. For I had talked some of

evening with Peleg. Her parents thought knew
that she was much interested in me, and not
then, knowing me, thought, they had discovered
my character, or rather my habits in good
season. I was neglected, I knew not the
cause and was too proud to ask. Peleg
however, corrected the mistake, and her
parents knowing I had been wronged, wished
me very much to come & see them. I went.

I know my situation, and am very far
from being crazy, headed & passionate. I know
it will be very long, and perhaps the time
will never be, when I shall be settled in
prosperous & prospering circumstances, yet
not till then will I call a young lady
from a good home, to share my fate.

I am very far from thinking, that the
influence of a good & noble girl, will render
weak & effeminate (and young men of any
strength of mind, or any ambition. If I
am mistaken, or should find myself deceived,
which seems to me not probable, then I must
bear it. bear it as a man should. I think
I have some strength of character, and know
I have strength of purpose. My sentiments & feelings
on these points, and my petty disappointments, and also
my attachments might have passed unheeded, and
you have thought your son too young to have such,
but I thought it would be better in the end, if I did not
practice the habit of concealing such things from you - JPH