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145 1/14/1849 *From:* P S Perley

*To:* Friend & Chum [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0134

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Livermore Sun Jan 14th 1849

Dear Friend & Chum:

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 won't 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 has 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 of about 50. A great proportion of them are small which 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 for 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 Jurenal. Calculus I shant 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 shant 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 me. 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. He will come home Saturday. I may possibly go to Wayne next Sat. to get me a coat cut but it will not take me a great while to do that.

Your friend & chum  
P.S. Perley

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146 3/3/1849

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B  
Howard]

OOH-0135

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 3 '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 "official" 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 brought it down at the time mother thought.

I had a conversation with Mr. Townsend last evening respecting his 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 winters earnings were comparatively small. He found a young man who had become tired of his school and 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 bad 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 the most difficult term we have, while in college and I now feel, as though a load would be recovered from my breast if I were "made up." The cold, which I had when I left home, settled in my lungs, and I have had a bad time with it. Yesterday I bought some Azr's 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 nights rest. It makes it rather bad 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 Jurenal since my return but have not been able to read any more.

I left my letter unfinished 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,  
O O Howard

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147 3/7/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0136

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 7, 1849

My dear boy,

How are you this evening. How is your cough. I wish I could know. Sad indeed are my feelings since I received and read RB's 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 thoroughwort 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 can not obtain the thoroughwort, get horehound. I think thoroughwort is much the best and has always benefitted you. I wish that you prepared here could be at Brunswick. Don't 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 often <docing> in our own way. I am distressedly anxious about your health. Let me know about it as soon as possible.

Warren Howard has been talking of going to Bath if the sleighing will do, and to day we have had snow falling all of the day. If he comes tell him just how you are, and let him take home everything you don't want. If you have any such things. You mentioned in you letter to me of being much worse but had received much benefit from Mrs Thomson's medicine, and the tenure of your letter was 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.

Rowland A.G. started for New Bedford 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 interested 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 Jewetts letter fell out of that part you turned up and that has gone to California too. Sarah while puting up R.A.G. 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 J's letter but you know he has never been in the way of even directing 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. RBH was astonished soon as he began to read your letter. I presume he never thought in earnest that anything was 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 RBH has got in my opinion. If I could know you were well again I would be happy enough I think.

RBH goes tomorrow to Kents Hill. He has just now left packing his trunk and bound up his soar 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 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. RB 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 Millet had a noisy uncomfortable school but he did not leave it until he had accomplished his time, and I think T would have lived through it if he had exerted himself a little more.

Perley must let me know how you are as soon as you get this, if you are not able yourself. RBH dreamt 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 dont hardly know why you have had so many colds this winter. I am particularly anxious about you.

Your Mother E Gilmore

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148 3/12/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0137

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 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-task of trouble. Then when it comes, we shall be the better enabled to bear it. Uncertain as everything is, it behooves 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 of the expense of everything else. I "want" a well disciplined 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 extremity.

From your affectionate son.  
O.O. Howard

An' adjourn' from Prof. Goodwin favored my letter much.

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149 3/25/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0138

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College March 25th 49

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 Roland'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 <T. G.> Turner 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 were 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 no good and also thought that I would put my self denial 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 "thereto" 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 seat 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 Boody 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 ingenit 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 & Rodelphus. 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.

Your Son, O.O. Howard

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150 3/25/1849 *From:* Laura Howard

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

OOH-0139

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Mar 25, 1849

Dear Cousin,

I received yours of the 3 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. My dear Cousin I am glad to see you seeking knowledge and may you <gain> to all you aspire but do not forget to seek that true knowledge which comes alone from the Saviour which 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 offer.

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.

I should have been glad to have seen you before you left Leeds. I was almost sick the last Sunday that Mr Sergent 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 Hallowell 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 Hellen 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. Write soon if you think it is worth an answer.

Your true Friend.  
Laura Howard

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151 4/7/1849

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0140

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 7th 1849

My dear son

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 a great many comforts notwithstanding that deficiency, I received a letter from R.B.H by last Tuesday's 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's 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 Uncle's 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 Hallowel 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 Hallowell the past winter. Your Uncle John was expected to reach home the day I left for home. He had been gone to Washington four weeks. I called at his house. His Wife appeared very social and happy. William Grant's 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's folks have had several letters from Elias. He gives the situation of the <room> in general, makes no mention R.A.G. in particular. I presume he is not aware that R. does not write home. The last time he wrote 24th 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 are 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 Lothrop but he did not wait at Green for the Western mail. If 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 Mrs 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 Rodelphus is in there with them. Your father examining his Newspaper in the room with me. The sun shines to day, this being the first pleasant day for nine days. The snow has nearly all left us. I look forward with bright feelings to the time when I can work in the garden and regulate my plants once more.

It cannot be more than six and a half weeks before we shall see finally Otis 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 with out 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 beginning by this time to reap the reward of his obstinacy to me about going to school, when he could. I never think of the 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 heartfelt friends are 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 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 dark to them, but yet I know there is not that difference there ought to be.

Sarah says give my respects to Otis. My love to all enquiring friends in College. Don't wait 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  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O.H

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152 4/8/1849

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0141

Bowdoin College

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College April 8th '49 [Easter Sunday]

Dear Mother

I now hasten to answer your letter. I went to Portland the day before "fast" [perhaps Good Friday] and did not return til 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 seemed 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 with his situation and I think he is doing well. I am sorry for William Grant. Such a privation 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 any trial till my return home.

It is not at all strange that Roland Alger does not write. Perhaps he refuses 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 companions.

In regards 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, but I have done it. I have done it this time from principle. And, in all probability, 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. Ever one 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 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 and wishes.

Give my love to all the family and believe me  
your well meaning son  
O O Howard

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153 4/15/1849 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mr. Oliver O Howard

OOH-0142

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents 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 has 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 diferent from Mr Sawyers. 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 Fryday evening. We have a private debating club that meets once a week to discuss questions which is very interesting.

I am glad to hear that you had a pleasent visit to P— on fast day. We get along rather slow in Caesar although it is easy but Mr Walsh says we must drill and drill before we can understand the Lingaram Lattinam. I have got about through my first Book. I think that Clark's Algebra is harder than Smiths any how. It needs considerable study to understand it. I do not intend to go home before the midle of May as it is pretty hard work to get between 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 flatered. But there I have been talking about my chum which is wicked. But I think he has never had a true friend at Monmouth or any other place where he has been at school. I do not think that the students generally as smart and good scholars as they were last term although there many old ones here.

Give my respects to Perley & Townsend and ask the latter if he remembers chasing the stage. Write soon.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

Mr. Oliver O Howard

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154 4/18/1849 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0143

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 am 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 began 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. Lothrop. 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 fast 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 arrangements 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 regulate? Give him my respects and tell him that I am coming home to assist him, one fortnight, ie 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 myself, in judgment, become much more agreeable and contribute much more to intellectual 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 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 subtracting 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 may 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 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 some other languages. It would well pay the trouble & expence, 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. From your affectionate son  
OOH.

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155 4/20/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0144

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 20th 1849

My dear Son,

We have a beautiful morning, the sun is shining brightly over the snowy fields, after yesterday's snow storm, which has entirely covered the whole face of nature as far as the eye can reach. Yesterday was a thick snow storm the whole day, a melancholy day, and a melancholy duty we had to perform. Yesterday we looked for the last time on the long familiar countenance of Col. [Leavitt] Lothrop. He was seized with a violent sickness and finally sunk under it in eighteen days [he died April 17, 1849]. I cannot tell you what an anxiety his sickness has been fraught with, but he could not be saved from the hand of the great destroyer. He had his senses through his extreme suffering and was perfectly aware of his situation. None of his sons were near him. Warren was written to but has not come. I always looked upon Col. L as a friend, and a companionable friend. The only man I ever recollect hearing your departed father ask to be a friend to his family was Col. Lothrop. That request made quite an impression on me. It was in his last sickness after his case was hopeless. The sons of temperance were dressed in order and attended the funeral, and walked in procession to the grave yard. They had an address for the occasion, but the storm was so bad that few went to the grave to hear it. I know of no one, who could be taken, whose loss would be more sensibly felt than Col. L. but the world can do without him, as we have perfect evidence that divine wisdom has so fixed his purpose. Mrs Lothrop [Betsey Lane] never seemed to me in the light she did yesterday. She looked like one standing alone, without a supporting prop.

You have probably heard of your Uncle John's sickness. We heard from him yesterday. He is recovering.

I hope this pleasant morning finds you in health and in a conscious satisfaction that your time is used as though it were precious metal, that you in future will be responsible in the whole amount. I was some surprised to be sure to hear you had, had four 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 look back on the four years of time spent in College, and think you have not let any sudden impulse take you away from your permanent privileges. I thought your 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. 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 and it is a point where I have been afraid you might shipwreck, not from any evidence of such propencity in you, but as a well known evil in the world, and if even allow an abiding place even in the fancy will often throw a cloud over the best part of one's life if not, flat them out for life. I suppose you wonder what mother is thinking of now. I do sincerely desire you will pay but little <shanked> 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. Lothrop and says Warren arrived last eve----g. He was a few moments to 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 R. B. H. 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 wrote me 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 again be restored to take his place in society again. As for you Aunt Ann's ever 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 will go there as soon as the traveling is suitable.

I learned yesterday for the first time that John Stinchfield 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, where 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 when in a Stooping posture.

Our family are all in good health at present.

From your ever affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

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156 4/22/1849 *From:* Emma [Martin]

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0145

Guilford

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Guilford, Apr 22, 1849

Cousin Otis

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 not answered it as yet; and you see you are not the only one that is neglected <>. 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 anyone.

I enjoyed my visit very much indeed, at your mothers, 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 [Parker] & enjoyed it much and would 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 <>, after her husband's mother. She is a very pretty and interesting child we think. Lydia's husband is quite an agreeable man, is not a great talker. For farther information of him, you can inquire of Aunt Martha Jane, for she has visited them this Winter. Addison [her brother Addison Martin] has gone to Calafornia, 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 of from the notion of going. We received a letter from him while in New York.

I attended school at Corinth 6 weeks this Spring. I am always very happy while attending 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 here.

Are you any acquainted with Mr Care of Levant or Porter of Newburg? They, I believe, are attending the medical lectures. I am somewhat acquainted with them.

Remember me to Cousin 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. Fathers and Mothers healths are about the same as they have been. Father thinks some of going to Portland this Spring, and Mother to Montville. Martha is quite a large girl. We should be very happy to see you here, and at Levant. I think you had better teach this way next winter.

From your Cousin  
Emma [Martin, a daughter of Lydia Otis Martin]

Guilford Apr 22/49

Oliver Otis Howard

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157 4/25/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0146

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brunswick, Apr 25th 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 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 spoke 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 woman. 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 causes me to enjoy the society of my own thoughts? To tell you the truth, mother, there is one, who possesses a strong influence over me. I am not passionate and head-strong 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 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 drop 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 Lothrop 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.

From your affectionate son, O.O.H.



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158 5/10/1849 *From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0147

Brunswick

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 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 one 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 often 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 sadly 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 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 I. For I had talked some of coming with Peleg. Her parents 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. Perley, 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 <a> young man 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.

OOH