
160 6/8/1849

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: O O Howard

OOH-0148

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, June 8th 1849

My dear son

I have just closed a letter to Rowland B. an answer to one directed to you, in this place. He has accepted an invitation to take a part in the exhibition and desirous to have you send those pieces up as soon as possible that he may have more of a choice. He says his health is about the same as when he was at home, but he writes in very good spirits.

I hope you are safely arrived in Brunswick and all things arranged for the term. I think a great deal about you, my son, and should have been glad to have talked with you in confidence, had an opportunity offered and could have talked as I could have desired. But as I cannot read another's heart and especially the heart of those I never saw, but one thing is certain if I knew your heart was free, and you were pursuing your studies independently of every other object but true well founded knowledge (a basis that does not often fail to make one honored and happy) I should have less anxiety. I feel very desirous for you to be prudent in every respect. Do not undertake more than you can accomplish well. I think to excel in a few things is better than to undertake a great deal and do it badly.

I will tell you my feelings while at Mr Greens, and more particularly after laying my head on my pillow. I retraced every moment after my arrival in Brunswick and it seemed to me that at Mr Green's there is more temptation to spend time and money than there would be in a boarding house in Brunswick or near the College. Do not feel over anxious about being introduced into too much company. You will have time enough yet, and every situation has its responsibilities. Do be extremely careful about your expenses my son. Always be as much guarded in your temper as possible. Every one has the advantage of a man in a passion. I have sometimes been affraid from what I gathered from your general observations, that you did not regard the rules of College and officers of College with that respect which is necessary for the well being of the Institution, for every station requires a certain degree of respect. When we take it into consideration that there are a hundred or more students collected from different parts of the country with all kinds of dispositions and habits, you cannot wonder at the necessity of strict discipline in the laws of College. Neither can you wonder that the inhabitation of the town holding them as a general thing at a distance. It is not likely that any particular student of regular habits, introduced by a friend to a particular friend's family would be treated with disrespect by that family because he was a College student. Every thing is opposite their pursuits, and there are always some students who delight in petty insults put on somebody and they must all bear it on an equal, and much more could be said, but I hope you do not hold any bitterness towards the people of Brunswick for what would be a thing of course. I think you do not when you take a candid view of the subject.

But I have wandered a great way off from my subject that I commenced on the other page. But if it is as you said in a letter that the one absorbing thought or object gives a brighter hope in future and makes labour lighter and makes exertion a pleasure, and insites to greater ambition could a mother wish to have such an object removed. No, certainly not. Give my love to your best friends. Cultivate good feelings toward all, a calm and candid habit of thinking you will enjoy such a state of feeling as you go on through life.

Evening. I was called away from my letter by hearing your Father's voice. He has returned safely from Boston and brought Frederic with him. He told me you got very wet for which I was very sorry for I am afraid you will suffer inconvenience in some way or other in consequence of your ride in the rain. I hope you had a pleasant time down the river and from Bath up to Brunswick. Write to me how your health is, soon as you get this. Aunt M.J [Martha Jane Strickland] wrote a letter by your father, said you did not call on her. I suspect you had not time.

Yours.
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

P.S. I see you left your slippers but see no remedy. Yours. EG. Tuesday morn

159 6/6/1849

From: O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0149

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick June 6, 1849

Dear Mother

I have now got a little settled and as it is Wednesday, when we have dignity (no recitation), I have taken my pen to fulfil my promise & write to you.

We had rather a wet time (as usual) for the first part of our journey. I got wet through and was obliged, at Hallowell, to change my underclothes. We had in compensation a good time to go down the river and even from Bath to this place.

I did not take any cold, having availed myself of Dr Prescott's advice. I found that I had not mentioned a few of my little College bills at home. So when I got here, I procured a copy of Cleavland's lectures and have copied a little more than a third of them. There are about 160 pages in all, and a man would have to work pretty hard to copy 20 pages a day. I have returned to my old place to board in Topsham. It is uncertain how long I shall stay, at least till warm weather. There are more students that board there, than there were last term, about a dozen. Perley returned Monday. He says he did not have a very good time last vacation and was glad to get back.

I wrote my notices and sent them be printed to day. The printer says he shall charge 1.50 for them. I never knew the students so tardy in returning as they are this term. There were only nine here till Monday. They however have most all got here now.

My Treasury business with other things has kept me "moving" as father says. But I have now squared up nearly everything.

I shall send home some of my notices, as soon as I get them printed, which father may throw out by "the way side" in his wanderings. Nothing was touched in my room. Everything in place and the same as I left them, excepting a few repairs were made.

Give my love to grandmother and tell her I have not seen that Mrs Green. She is in Hallowell. I made rather a short stay in Hallowell and did not even call on Henry's [Strickland] family. Give my love to all the family. Tell Sarah probably we shall have that ride, so long talked about.

I would write more but must commence copying Lectures.

I suppose father has got home before this. What kind of a time did he have to go up, after he left me? My respects to all friends.

From your affectionate son
Oliver O. Howard

161 7/1/1849

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0150a

Leeds

Brunswick, Me

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 1th 1849

My dear Son,

it is so long since I first thought of writing that I do not know where to begin, but I will tell you one thing. I was looking last evening for a letter from my Son and was disappointed. I did not think you would wait for me to write. As you know I always write if I can, I did not get your letter until the night before exhibition (at Readfield it was a weak old when I got it).

I went the first day and stopped through the night at Mr Parkers and attended the second day. On the whole it was rather interesting to me. The address from Mr <P?> was good. We had extremely hot weather, but I love it well. We arrived at ten o'clock in eve— at the door of our home. Mother is with me and Frederick S. has been here ever since your father returned from Boston, and little Emma Mower boards with me to attend school and I have no help since Sarah left. So you see my time is employed. Henry Wingate and wife and little daughter came here yesterday and went from here to meeting with a part of our family to stop at Ensigns until tomorrow, you may judge whether your Mother has much time to write to her son not a day has passed but I have hoped I should begin a letter if no more.

I found R.B.H. rather slim, having had the mumps and just recovering. He had them hard, when he first came home he was feeble but gains fast now. I thought of you that extreme hot weather. How you would get along with the daily demands on your exertions but hope you will write and let me know how you are and what you are doing these days.

Charley has just now come hurring in to tell me about the bees. They are swarming and R.B.H. is fitting up to hive them. George is helping them. I am extremely dull to day, but must introduce myself to you anyhow to prompt you to write me. It is so long since I wrote you I have forgotten what I wrote but my letter was dictated by the most sincere affection, that I am most sure of.

The blank book and lectures were at John Coffins before you left the neighborhood. But I concluded you would need them next year and I could not send them to you. Four weeks of the term has expired out of this term, and as I have an impression this term is a close one for students in your class. I watch the time very closely and hope for the best. The papers are filled with records of death by epedemick but no mention is made of any in Brunswick. After the cars commenced running between Portland and Bath, Brunswick will be more exposed but we hope they will be a favored exception.

We had a sudden death here. Mrs Rose, the wife of Nelson Rose. I heard two weeks ago this morning, that she was sick and went immediately to church on arriving there heard she died at five in the morning. It was very sudden to me. Her death was caused by profuse bleeding from the lungs.

Tuesday morn,

Your affectionate Mother
E. Gilmore

[Continued on next letter by R B Howard]

[Envelope]
South Leeds, Me
July 3

Mr. Oliver O Howard
Brunswick Me

162 7/2/1849

From: Rowland B Howard

To: Mr Oliver O Howard

OOH-0150b

Leeds

Brunswick, Me

Source: Bowdoin

[Continuation of letter by Eliza Gilmore]

Leeds Monday July 2d 1849

Dear Brother

Mother wishes that I should write some in her letter as she can hardly get time to finish it. I should have written before but mumps must be my excuse. I rec your last with the handbills at Kents Hill, one of the latter I put up at North Wayne, the other at Fayette. I think we ought to have more here if you have any.

You wrote that you would like to have me go to Wayne this fall. I shall not get so long a term and things perhaps will not be so regular as at the Hill and I shall have to study "more considerably. But for the sake of being with you and for some other reasons that you urged, I have concluded to go to Wayne this fall.

Our exhibition came off well. Full as well as I expected. The prize for declaiming was awarded to Mr Winter, and that for composition to Miss Mitchel both of Carthage. I suppose they will be married this fall and go West, he as a lawyer and she as teacher. Both are exclent scholars. My declamation came out rather 'small' as I had had the mumps and was so weak I could hardly stand. The second day of Exhibition we had the Governer and some of his counsel and members of the Legislature there. They apeared to be pleased with the exercises.

When I first got home I was as mother says rather slim but have been gaining since. Hoed one day and worked on the hay for two and have hived bees some. The last is rather smarting work I tell you, full equal to hoeing for blistering the hand. The past week has been rather cool and crops of all kinds have not grown much. We are also troubled for the want of rain.

You see how my writing looks. One reason for it is that I cant write very well ever, but much less when I first go to work after going to school. I supose I must leave room for mother. Write me soon.

Your afectionate Brother
R B Howard

[Envelope]
South Leeds, Me
July 3

Mr. Oliver O Howard
Brunswick Me

164 7/21/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Oliver O Howard

OOH-0152

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July the 21 1849

My dear Son,

It is now a week since I received your letter. I thought when I received yours, I should write to send by the next mail but some how the time shift a way and my letter was not accomplished. This is a charming day. We had a fine rain yesterday which has laid the dust and left us with a beautiful and clear air. We were almost suffering for want of rain. I thought of you those three extreme hot days the week before last. How do you do? Are you not fatigued all the time in such warm days. You said you should write soon, but no letter has come as yet.

I think the prospect for scholars at Wayne is good as far as I can judge. Mr Sampson I think has taken a great interest in your school. Your insinuations about being popular in College I do not understand, of course, but perhaps you are more popular with your own conscience, than those, or any one who should say thus. Your notices have been widely circulated I think. I have spoken with a number about your teaching at Wayne, all of which think well of it. I shall do all in my power to make it profitable to you. I intend going to Wayne soon to visit Mrs Hight.

I have a good girl and a prospect of her some time. I saw Mrs Jennings at church last Sabbath. She said Orville thought of leaving for <Genesee>, a bad season of the year for him to become climated and then the cholera prevailing as it does hangs heavily on Mrs Jennings. Henry Strickland and wife came here Friday eve— on their way to Wilton but the prospect of rain prevented Martha from going any further. She remained here untill he returns this evening and returns tomorrow to Hallowel. Your Grandmother says Laura Howard is courted, you cannot guess by whom. R.B.H.s health is not very good. I think he will remain at home untill you come.

Tuesday, ten a.m. morn

Dear son, what shall I say that will interest you most from home. We are all tolerable well at least none of us under the Dr's care. We all complain some. The weather is fine this week. S and wife and child went home yesterday, left compliments for you to visit them at H this fall. You did not say how you spent the Fourth of July, happily some where I hope.

I don't know as any Leeds news would interest you, and indeed I know but little that is going on about Town. We have a Mr Tillton who preaches for us at present. A very pleasant, agreeable minister. I believe it is nearly determined for him to remain with us for some length of time. George Lothrop has been very sick for ten days, but will probably recover. John D Millet is very sick, and has been for some time but hopes are entertained of his recovery. Your Uncle John has not been out here this summer. I have looked for him.

Martha says Maria Otis is much improved. She often calls at the H... house and sometimes takes tea with her and seems very happy with her, but never invites her to her fathers and when she (Martha) calls she seems delighted to see her, but don't ask her to lay aside her bonnet, neither does her Mother. But she thinks Maria feels awkward on account of it. I don't understand why it is so. Martha says she enjoys herself well at the H... house. The ladies who board there are fine intelligent ladies and she has their society when she pleases.

Your father is getting on with his haying this week better than last week. The crops are not promising to the farmers. I suppose ere this you have got through with your atheneum election and supper and animosities are beginning to cool off. How is Mr Perley this summer, in good health and prospering I hope. Mr Townsend, is he happy. Mr Jewett is going on in his way I suppose. William went home on the Fourth I understand.

I sometimes thought there some falling off in your feelings towards your Mother, but I hope not. Perhaps you thought I did not enquire so much concerning the miniature you shew me as you expected, but that which is most deeply interests me I've not brung fourth the most words, at that time Sarah was coming in, and I thought I would not excite any curiosity in her, and I had no opportunity of saying anything to you about it, but I thought the miniature fine looking and never have indulged an unhappy thought on the subject. My greatest ambition

for you is to see you happy in being respectable, and I could not wish you too many years alone striving with the vicissitudes of life.

But there you know very nearly what your Mothers views are in all respects. I hope you will be prudent in all things, of your health especially. R.B. is no better to day than he has been but I think will be healthier in a few years. Except the love of a mother who desires well to her son.

Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

163 7/21/1849 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0151

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick July 21st 1849

Dear Mother

I was a little in hopes of receiving a letter from you before I wrote again, but as I have not, I will write you a few lines to night, although it is late. I finished my Chemical lectures last week. I found it hard work to do so much writing in addition to what I was obliged to do. I did not, however, neglect my lessons, and now take a "good stand" in my class. By perseverance I have nearly overcome the deficiency arising from a poor preparation. Yes, Mother, though I feel that I have just begun my education, still my college course has not been in vain. It costs a great deal & I feel it, for I am not reckless or prodigal, and when I see that you do not approve of what I do it makes me feel it more. I am still buoyed up with the hope of compensating every friend who may have assisted me.

You cannot blame me for wishing to dress pretty well, when you take into consideration my circumstances. The offices I have been in bring me in contact with all the students and appearances go further than we are willing to allow in fixing the character of a gentleman. I know that at the bottom respect founded on appearances is shallow, but people may say what they will, to be unpopular in College blunts all the better feelings of the young man, and he becomes morose, and misanthropic. I know this reasoning is unnecessary for it becomes me to keep within my means of support. I have tried this present term to buy only what was necessary. I bought gingham pants at 15 cts per yd. And a linnen-coat and a few other things, which I shall send you in the bills.

I shall not be here next term as you know. Shall I then pay my bills before I leave, or send the money by Perley or let them remain till next spring? I will send all my bills, that is the amount, & father may do as he pleases. I turned a part of the writing of Lectures towards the purchase of senior books, as you know I shall be obliged to get them this term. And having scarcely any money, I have managed in every way possible to get them cheap.

I am rather weary, yet my health is very good. Sometimes I feel as if I could not study so hard as we shall be obliged to from now till examination, but I remember that I shall not be obliged to "tick but once in a second", and thus taking courage, get my lessons from day to day. It will not do for a student, because he feels tired or a little unwell to give up. For the close student is not likely to be perfectly healthy & strong at all times.

I wrote a letter last week of seven pages to Roland Alger, which is now on the way to California. it will probably arrive in San Francisco before him. I would have waited before I got home before writing, but I thought something might prevent, and I knew if Roland received a letter from me, that he would answer it. I wrote him with considerable earnestness & good humor, and touched frequently upon those subjects which would be most pleasing to him, trying to avoid entirely any rhetorical display, or as John Trask used to say, "high flower language". I think he will answer me immediately on his reception of my letter, that is if he does receive it at all.

Give my love to Rowland Bailey, & thank him for me, for being willing to deny himself a good school for my sake. But tell him Prof. Goodwin had been sick & that I on that account, have studied Latin all summer. I can now translate the hardest Latin with very little study. So if he is willing to exert himself, he will not lose very much by my instruction. Give my love to Charlie, Rodelhi & father. I will make out a bill of the money necessary to pay my bills & also what I shall need from this to the close of the term. He must do as he thinks best about sending the former. Give my love to Grandma, if she is with you.

Affectionately yrs
O.O. Howard

165 7/27/1849 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0153

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick July [27?] 1849

Dear Mother,

I was very happy to receive your last letter, blended as it was with the deep feeling that you ever betray for my interest - the affection that springs from the heart, which unintentionally perhaps pervades every line of your letters. But I could detect in the very tone of your writing a slight reproach, which never fails to touch a chord in my own bosom, and awaken my thoughts to an examination of myself. It is, perhaps, too strong a habit of my self-excusing spirit, to strive to vindicate all I say & all I do, for it becomes the truly noble mind to confess freely a fault, and it behooves me especially, who so often err, sometimes to acknowledge that I am wrong. If there has been, however, any show of neglect on my part, it has surely been unintentional. You know me well enough to perceive the flexibility (if I may say it) of my feelings. However strong my reason, my impulsive feelings give a peculiar shade to my actions & my letters.

This would please some, but a mother looks beneath the mere external surface & examines the motives & actuating principles of the heart. At least, I know my mother does. You often see with the discrimination peculiar to real affection, something felt, which is not expressed, something half concealed which betrays passions & longings but ill-subdued. Were I otherwise, I should not be what I am. I should not be the same son. Your own character would not find in me so strong a likeness. To say that, I am like you, may not be very just, or appear very flattering to you. When you perceive my many foibles, and the apparent imprudence of my conduct, but you must recollect, that circumstances mould the mind to a great extent, and are powerfully effective in determining the character.

Remember also, that another's experience is not an equivalent to ones own, nor does good council, however disinterestedly & affectionately administered, serve as an efficient preventive to youthful folly & error. Experience must be purchased with age, and can never be transmitted. I have learned to listen to the advise of experience, but with all my firm resolves & good intentions, I still act out myself. If, then, I willfully take a step in the wrong road, let the punishment be on my own head.

I am ambitious, strongly ambitious, and probably injurious to my own internal peace. This spirit of ambition, I will not gratify by any dishonorable acts. It would be beneath me, and I would spurn the desire from my heart, to marry a rich lady, for the evident object of giving me influence & prominence in society. This is strong language, but I would rather grope my way quietly & unknown, than to gratify my loftiest aspirations by such sordid means, by so mean a part. This purpose be assured, will not make me rush into the opposite extreme. Nay, a true man will seek a congenial heart, and a character assimilated to his own in tastes & intelligence. These are my views, and if incorrect, my own judgement is unfit to lead me through this chequered existence, and my whole code of moral reasoning is demolished.

I did not interpret your silence, on the subject of which you spoke, as indicative of a want of interest, nor have I felt any differently towards you since. I would not say any differently for with my years, I can better understand the sacrifice that you are making for my sake, and the trouble & expense my want of prudence has caused you. The expence, if I live, I can repay, but your watchful care, and kind direction, can never find any other recompense than in gratitude. There have been many concurring influences, which have guarded me against the seemingly inevitable contamination of College life. For which I am thankful.

Remember me to all the family, separately & together. I, the same odd being, will be with you soon. If in my power, they shall have a good school this fall at Wayne. If otherwise, age & experience will soon come to my aid & guide me better. I sat up with a sick classmate (Atherton) last night, that perhaps may account for the peculiarity of this letter. It makes one perhaps, a little more sensitive.

Write soon in reply to the money letter and this. Believe me - your affectionate Son

O.O. Howard
(My health is fine)

166 7/29/1849 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O Otis Howard

OOH-0154

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 29th, 1849

My dear Son,

I received your kind letter last evening and was glad your health is as good as it is. I had fears that your health would fail this term, and am truly grateful that you are as well as you are.

I am sorry you dwelt so much on your mothers cautions, you know she has your best interest at heart in all things. Your mother thinks she has little or no reason to complain of the general course of her son. My greatest fear is he will do too much, and bring on himself poor health, and destruction to his energies and be discouraged. I hope you will look at the cheerful side of everything and manage as best you can.

As for any compensation for anything your mother can do for you, she is already compensated. As long as I feel satisfied I have a good son, I am well paid. I have never been sorry for what I have done for you. My desire has been to do more, and have felt as though my hands were tied because I was not situated to do more, but always hoping for the best. I never expected you would earn much money while in College. My sincere desire is and ever has been that you should have every advantage for knowledge that the four years of College life afforded. I have objections to your teaching this fall (but you think it best) on account of the sacrifice of College privileges, and a fear of its being hard for you to hold your standing in your class and teach, but as others have done it and my son thinks he can, and his Mother hopes on from year to year, thinking all is well and trying to be grateful for such great favors.

I am far from blaming you for wishing to be well dressed. There is no one that admires to see care in dress better than I do. All outward show [and] nothing else is disgusting but a good degree of personal care is commendable in all persons.

You said something in your last letter before this about being unpopular in College. Your mother does not understand it. She has no such idea. She is afraid you expect more than you deserve. I am much obliged to you for writing to Rowland A. I should be glad to hear from him. Grandmother is here. She often speaks of Addison. I do not think your father will send more money than you want to use this term, as he was not expecting to get it so soon. He can send it by Perley at the beginning of the term. I wrote so short a time since I don't think of any news at present. Your Uncle John has not visited Leeds this Summer, but I intend seeing him before he leaves for Washington.

The Cholera it seems continues. Mr Alpheus Lane has received the news of the death of his oldest son by Cholera in Norfolk, Virginia. How many have gone to give their last accounts this year but Mother said Nelson Leadbetter attended Meeting in town to day and Rowland said Oakes Jennings was Published to Miss Studson of Nobleborough. I believe I said all that was necessary about the school at Wayne in my last letter. I have not been at Wayne the past week as I designed. R.B.H. I think is in better health than when I wrote. Gancels Stinchfield was here last Friday. He thinks favorably of your going to Wayne. He had a sick turn at Hollowel and came out to <recuperate>. His brother John is in better health, is with Doct Millet at Lewiston. Charlie is sitting by me and says give my love to Otis.

Tuesday ½ past 11 O'clock.

I thought when I left writing Sabbath evening your father would send what money you required this term, in this letter but he is gone to the Meadow, and I must prepare my letter for the mail. Rowland says he must write you what books he would like to have you bring home with you but he could not leave his work to write by this mail. Johnathan Molton is laying very sick with a fever at his father. Your Grandmother is with now. She has been here about one half of the time since she came to Leeds.

Write as soon as you receive my letter. We are all in good health.

From Your affectionate Mother. Eliza Gilmore

O Otis Howard

P.S. Your father has returned, says, as you did not say as a week or so would make any difference he would send the money in R.B.H.s letter as he is in a hurry, the prospect is a shower.

Eliza Gilmore

167 8/5/1849 *From:* O O Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

OOH-0155

Bowd. Coll

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll Aug 5 '49

Dear Brother

I received mother's letter in good time and am now in expectation of receiving one from you. You spoke of books or rather Mother did. There is an agent in Topsham (a young man who graduated a year ago) Mr Hawkins. He is authorized to sell books at half price, in order to introduce the general and substantial system recommended by the board of Education. He says, that he will furnish me with \$20.00 worth of Books at \$8.00. This, if I had the money, would enable me to make an excellent profit, besides furnishing my school at a much cheaper rate than the scholars would be able to procure books elsewhere. Consider this & consult with father. I do not intend to go heedlessly at work so as childishly to be thwarted. But I shall secure myself by the proviso of returning to the agent all books, which cannot be disposed of otherwise. Write me every book that you wish to procure for your own use. And if father is willing, instead of the \$10.00 which I need to send me the \$25.00 and charge the same to me. I can double the money, make my school systematic easier & more profitable, or if I fail in this there will be no loss.

My love to all.

I am in haste. My health is good, though I have considerable to do. Stinchfield furnished his school with books procured at the common wholesale price. If father cannot furnish me the money I wish to know & act accordingly.

Answer as quick as possible.

Yr' .. Brot

O O Howard

168 8/12/1849 *From:* [Rowland B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0156a

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Aug 12th 1849

Dear Brother

It is a rainy sabbath and mother says that I had better write to you. The rain which has been so long delayed has descended smartly for two days and the earth which has been so long parched with the dry weather has received a thorough wetting. I told father yesterday if the rain did not stop we should glut the market with Buckwheat this fall.

I received yours on Tuesday. You wrote to father concerning books for your school. He has not instructed me how to answer you. Stinchfield you said furnished his school with books. He only furnished parsing books when I was there.

I shall want you to bring up some books for me. Most of which I suppose you will use yourself this fall. I want you to bring your Virgil, and Latin Lexicon. We have got to be great singers here and having sang everything through that we have got, I want you to bring home your two singing books.

Shall you try to teach a writing school this fall. If so, perhaps you can get your stationary better at Brunswick than at Wayne. Joseph Carey was over here night before last. He said that there was a prospect of a large school as he had heard a large number say that they were going .

The term commenced at Kents Hill last Wednesday. I did have some idea of going a month before your school commenced, but have given it up. Fred is here at present but will return home soon. Grandmother is at Unkle Ensigns.

Father has concluded to send the money for the books and I suppose it will be enclosed in this letter. He was down to Hallowell the first of last week found our friends there all well. We hear they have the Cholera at Portland. Has there any cases at Brunswick or in the neighborhood. When does your prize declamation come off. I wish you would send me an order of exercises in your next, if they have come out. You know that "Dead Christ" we have had so much talk about. You would oblige me much if you would obtain it and bring it up when you come as I shall have a good chance to practice declamation this fall. Send me Commencement exercises also if you have any such thing. It is now six o'clock and it rains as hard as though it never rained before, at least as though it had not for two days rained continually.

[Rowland]

170 8/22/1849 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0157

Bowd College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd College Aug 22d '49

Dear Mother

I will tell you now, while I am commencing to write, that I am exceedingly tired, for I began yesterday afternoon at $\frac{1}{2}$ past three o'clock to do the last sum in the Mathematical paper. I worked steadily upon it, till 11 o'clock at night, without getting it, and my bones ached, somewhat, I can tell you. When I retired, my mind was weary & I was much vexed to think that I should be obliged, after getting all the rest, to leave that unsolved. This morning, together with a brighter head, and a determined will brought it out. Yes I have now conquered the notoriously hard College Mathematics, and I feel free. I will not sneer or laugh at those, who have not done as much, for no one could do it without a great deal of effort. I feel somewhat proud, however, to have been the only one in the Class to have solved a problem and one which all the rest had given up.

I received Rowland's letter and the money.

Write me at what Depot you will meet me on Thursday following commencement. John Harrison & Davis Frances were here day before yesterday & stopped all night.

I shall speak for the prize on Monday evening, next. My piece is the defence of Paul Clifford. Give my love to all. I shall be with you in One Fortnight. Tell Rowland Bailey I will get all the Books & pieces he asked for. Excuse me for not writing more

I remain your affectionate son
O.O. Howard

171 9/27/1849 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0158

Brunswick

Wayne

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick Sept 27, 1849

Friend Howard

I have been waiting a week or two for a letter from you, but my box is not fortunate enough to catch it until I have at last been led to doubt which of us was to open the correspondence. I am never very <sempilously> exact in such matters, since it makes very little difference with me, whether I write first or last provided I gratify my friends or am gratified myself in time. This seems to be the main point. So I thought lest there might be some unnecessary delay that I would facilitate the matter as much as possible & let the Post Master of Wayne chalk down 3 cts against you.

Well I have returned safe & sound from the Cholera District, and in spite of the ravages of the pestilence & the scarcity of money (2 principal evils in these times) have had a very pleasant visit. Short to be sure it was <quite> long enough after all for I became so lazy in consequence of two weeks rest that I have not yet been able to crawl out of bed until 7 o'clock in the morning. But this season of long nights & short before - breakfasts must soon come to an end. However I intend to take what comfort I can between this & next Monday, regardless of consequences. It is so sweet to sleep on occasionally that I can hardly persuade myself that all those delightful dreams which are <onward> thick, & fast into the 15 minutes before breakfast time are again to be interrupted. It is tedious to think of, but the reality is abominable. However necessity must be yielded to though eyes & ears, & head heart rebel against it.

But about my journey. You know I said that I was going to Bangor to see the women. But the fact is, I was most cruelly disappointed. Since none did I see, except married ladies & a few old maides. Precious little consolation in that, I assure you. I then went up to Hartland, but was not much better since there. I have come back with the settled determination of cultivating the acquaintance of the ladies in Brunswick. And if a fellow ere had a good opportunity for a <> so it is I most assuredly. And if I do not "have my fun", as Weston says, for the next 5 months then it will be because I will not have it. This is the sage conclusion to which I have arrived.

I am now waiting for the arrival of my new desks to enter, at once, the lists, when I of course <collect> to ride out victorious bearing with me the trophies of a successful contest.

Disappointments however beset every man's path & there may be some of those uncouth monsters in ambush for me, but if so no matter, it will all be right a hundred years from now.

But to be sober, for I must spend a little you know, I am going to have all the young ladies in town in my school & the accomplished Miss Knight for my assistant. What do you think of that? It will be one of the chances you read of but seldom enjoy for learning the good qualities of the fair damsels. But it will be a hard <> at first. I shall feel more like laughing than looking sober for the first week or 2. I presume however I shall be able to put on a respectable position of Senior Dignity & <guten national>, which will at least reduce disorder <> and preserve any reputation for reserved society. I intend though to make the business as pleasant as possible to myself & as profitable as is convenient to them. I presume I have your sincerest sympathies in my benevolent work.

But how are you getting along? I understand that you were quite tired out with Wait-ing at Commencement. Well I do not wonder at it, for of all the places to Waite in, without any other employment, which I ere said, Bruns- is the most uncomfortable. I learn also that you <wirtend> to the Commencement, <wirtend> to the Concert & did not do anything else, but Waite at the Ball. How is this? "Rather expensive was it not & if not, why not?" Some one told me that Perley appeared out with a girl on his arm or under his protection about those times. Who was she? I must lecture him for that. I did not think of such a thing in my vacation. Did Jackson supply him? Old Jack - too must have his share of joking; for, by the way it will not do to let any of these things pass unnoticed. I hope however you enjoyed yourself finely at Commencement as I doubt not you did. I was out fishing all day & was tired enough at night whilst you were probably refreshing yourself with sweet refrain & swuth glances.

Very few of the students have yet returned. The Freshman are flocking in pretty thick for Bowd. I understand some 30 entered. Perley has not yet come. I will look out for damages if he is not here tomorrow. My respects to your ladies of course & write soon.

Your Friend & Classmate
J.N. Jewett

172 11/8/1849 *From:* P. S. Perley

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0159

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College Nov. 8th 1849

Dear Chum,

I received your letter in due process of time and was very glad to hear that you were getting along so well and enjoying yourself so well as you described yourself to be. I have no doubt that you have a fine time up there but you ought to be here about these times to see music and get mathy and other things of like sort.

We have had great times here for a few days I can assure you. Last Saturday morning the Sophs. not having had an adjourn from Prof. Boody in Rhetoric that damnable study took a notion to cut and accordingly did so. They were ordered in at twelve o'clock to recite said lesson and all of them took a dead. At this Boody felt his dignity insulted and took occasion to tell them that they could not learn any too much if they studied and did the best they could that they had but one or two decent scholars in the class at which the Sophs. became enraged in turn and on being ordered in again at half past one to try the same lesson over again none of them looked at it but went in and answered every question just as absurdly as possible. Some of the answers were rich - decidedly so. On Monday they had an inquisition and to appease the fury of the enraged Boody five Sophs were immediately sent off Allen, Butterfield, Putnam, Pierce, Theobald, leaving the astonishingly large number of eight here. They not only sent away more than they ought to but such individuals as were least insulting to the Prof. and had least to do with getting up the adjourn. Allen & Butterfield you well know were steady men. It is confidently reported about College that Allen never had a sinful thought in his life.

Well what I was coming at I shall come at soon. There was a Pandowdy at Prof. Boody's house the other night and the next morning a list of the names of all who were there was handed to the Faculty and they were also informed that Jewett, Perley and Butler had gone in for said Pandowdy and in fact were the Ringleaders in it. As you may imagine there is an almighty row here about it. The Faculty are on hand to stop any farther demonstrations against Prof. Boody and the Students are about as much on hand to find out who informed. There was in addition to the Pandowdy a plan on foot for the next day to break up the Public Declamation but the same individual or individuals who informed relative to the one gave information relative to the intended trouble at Declamation. As for Perley, Jewett & Butler, you well know we were not engaged in the Pandowdy but we probably spoke somewhat in favor of the movement and whatever was said was reported word for word to the faculty.

Suspicious rest hard on a certain member of our class whom you were acquainted with before you came here. It is the general opinion that he was the man all round College. A damned villain it was whoever it might be - to go round with them and pretend to be favorable to it and then go and tell the faculty. This is about on a par with his general conduct.

But here I have been running on with this story and have not room enough to say what else I wish to. I forget whether I informed you when I wrote before relative to the exhibition or not. Perley has the Salutatory - Adams, Bell, Buck, Bullfinch, Everett, Hodgman, Ingraham, Jackson, Poindexter, Snell, Thompson, Townsend, English Orations. Ex. comes off Thursday night preceding Thanksgiving. I have engaged a school at Westbrook this winter to commence on the 26th of this month. Three months long, at twenty-five dollars per month and boarded. It is about two & a half miles from Portland. I have had the offer of another one in the same town - twenty dollars per month and boarded - if you had not engaged you might be near. When I went out to engage my school I stopped at Portland. Elizabeth - how many times I have written that name was not at home - probably you know where she was. If you see her give her my best respects and also if you are a mind to, one short friendly kiss for me. Tell her that I sympathize with her on the loss of her Aunt. She was such a woman as you do not meet with every day and one of the best friends I had in Livermore. She is in Heaven - she was a Methodist.

I tell you what Chum I am blue enough this term. Since you are gone there is no one with whom I feel like talking intimately and when you were here you always used to laugh them out of me. As for S. she may go to - for all of me. Cuss the women one and all the whole of them. I do not occupy a place in the affections of any of them so big as a little four pence - half-penny and I am inclined to think they don't in mine. They will use a

fellow well enough so long as he will do just as they wish him to do, but the very moment he wont do so the game is all up. But this is contrary to your experience so I will forbear. I would not instil wrong notions into your head for the world. Butler is smashed with a new woman essentially. Keep it close though.

We have finished Astronomy and have just commenced Spher. Trig. We shall finish first Vol of Upham in a fortnight. Is Gould at your school? Is Sarah at Wayne? Write soon and tell us all you know. The Lord bless you and preserve you and keep you in the right way. My respects to your Brother. My school at Westbrook is a very large one and I suppose will be a hard one. My Post Office direction this winter if I should remain there will be Portland.

Your friend and Chum
P.S. Perley

173 11/13/1849 *From:* J N Jewett

To: O O Howard

OOH-0160

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd Coll Nov 13th 1849

Friend Howard

I received your letter some time since, but have been unable to answer it until now owing of course to a press of business. The fact is when a young man is completely occupied in every day employments and has a lesson to get every evening, there is very little time left for his correspondence. Since my last we have all be progressing after the usual manner. Prof. Olen we find very pleasant and not a little interesting. We have completed Astronomy, except the part of it connected with Spherical Trigonometry to which we are now devoting our mighty Energies. This we find by no means difficult with the Prof's explanations.

In Payly & Upham I have not exercised my intellectual powers, but the class are progressing properly I believe. Recently we have had quite enough of excitement the particulars of which I will relate to you.

The Sophs. undertook to play a little game on Prof. Boody. That is they thought he ought to give them an adjourn & so they cut him. He with his usual indignation at such proceedings arraigned them for trial ordered them into recitation at 12 o'clock at which they all took deads. He then appointed another time for them to recite & they all took most abominable <screws> & perhaps purposely. This was Saturday - on Monday there was a general reckoning, for Prof. B. told them either they or he must leave College. Tuesday morning found 5 of them suspended - Allen, Butterfield, Pierce, Putnam & Theobold. This produced some general indignation & Tuesday night it is said that Prof. Boody was some what disturbed in his repose. I neither knew nor heard anything of it. But on Wednesday Prof. Smyth came in great haste to my school house and accused me of being ring leader of the whole scrape. I asserted my innocence with customary firmness & he left. At dinner Prof. Boody made the same charge upon me, which I stoutly denied & since then I have heard nothing from those sources. The probability is that some of my good friends in College handed in a list of actors, limited to their own notions. The suspicion attaches rather strongly to a particular person whose name I shall not mention of course. This is a summary of the proceeding - Perley, Butler & myself are the Seniors especially implicated in the affair so you can imagine something of the informer. If it ever becomes certain I pity his loss of popularity.

As to myself, I am getting along finely according to all appearances. My school numbers about 80 - 50 of whom are young ladies. It is emphatically the high school. Quite a proportion of the young ladies in town attend and recite to me at least once. This is of course no detriment to its interest. Miss Knight so famous in the history of Brunswick is now my assistant, and I assure you that her reputation is well deserved. She is one of the finest young ladies I ever became acquainted with. No disrespect intended to your Miss W--- of P---. The present term will close in 2 weeks from tomorrow. One week of vacation & I begin on another 11 weeks. Nothing very interesting in anticipation, but some thing must be done you know or the needful "Sin" will fail & then I am in a bad fix.

Perley has engaged a school commencing 2 weeks from next Monday in Westbrook near Portland. He has the salutatory this fall. Exhibition comes off one week from next Thursday evening. All appointed perform except Buck so I imagine it may be rather borous - only 16 parts. But it will be reserved for us to do the business up properly next Spring.

Well affairs generally are about in ordinary shape. 22 freshman are present & many of them are fine looking fellows. Much less of rowdiness this fall than last summer.

But how are you progressing? Please give us some particulars. How do the women get along & what of the woman? Just enlighten us a little. Townsend says, give Howard my respects, which you will consider as communicated. My time, sheet & patience are now quite exhausted & I will stop. Excuse haste & its attendant evils & don't forget to write soon.

I remain as ever Your Friend
J. N. Jewett

174 12/4/1849 *From:* P. S. Perley

To: O O Howard

OOH-0161

Westbrook

Source: Bowdoin

Westbrook Dec 4th Tuesday Eve 1849

Dear Friend,

I walked into Portland tonight to get some books for my school &c and calling at the Office received your letter which came from Brunswick here. I opened it at the Office just to glance at it and see what the news were and I got enough out of one line to last me for some time,. At least I got enough to make me feel like the devil till I got home and finished it and I do not feel any better now. If it were anybody else but you I should be inclined to think they were joking and though I much doubt whether the rumor is well founded I cannot but believe that you have as you say heard that Miss Green has "got a beau". Now I want to know how you heard this and in fact I wish you to tell me all about anything of the kind that you have heard or know for I will own to you that the mention of such a thing has affected me more that I have lately believed anything relative to her could. Sub Rosa though Howard and if you know anything of the kind tell me and if you were merely trying me say so and I will own the corn. As I have said I am owing to you what I would not to anybody else and don't you let anybody not even your nearest friend, know it. The fact is I don't believe she has got a beau. I almost know she hasn't but still I don't know why she shouldn't have one.

And now I want to know why you don't let Miss Waite come home or is it not you that is keeping her? I called to see her to night & spent Thanksgiving day at her fathers and have been there several times within the last fortnight but I don't find her. Her mother told me she would certainly be at home by yesterday but I begin to have my doubts of her coming at all this winter.

I believe I told you I expected to find my school a hard one and I have found it so decidedly. I was perfectly astonished at first for the way they acted was enough to astonish an up country chap who was not used to the way things have been accustomed to do it up here. They behaved tolerably well for ten or fifteen minutes the first day just long enough to get a good look at the master and then my stars what a school, talking out loud and cuffing each other was the order of the day. I looked on and let them work to see what they would do now and then talking to them a little without its doing a particle of good. I let the boys have a recess and then just they made for the door was a rush and nothing else - a College hold-in is nothing to it. I got them in again after a while and let the girls have a recess and the way the smaller ones run was a caution. But this was nothing but what they had been accustomed to for the last year both summer and winter as I found on inquiry. The next day I broke me a good large stick and by a liberal use of it made out to stop the fisting and talking propensities of quite a number of them. I have kept now six days and a half and have got them reduced to a tolerable state of subjection though I expect I shall have to use the ferule pretty freely for a while yet.

I have Astronomy, Philosophy, Algebra in my school. I have not had but a few over 60 yet though I expect more.

And now Chum here's to you health happiness and prosperity. All the blessing which you have invoked on my head may they descend on yours. I wish you could have been at old Bowdoin this fall for I tell you what, we had some tip-top tinus and no mistake Old Buck, Bulfinch, Jewett, Townsend Sewall and myself had some of the times every night or two. We usually had a regular set to fight ending up with a grand smash breaking table chairs lounges or something of the kind. Give my respects to you brother and tell him to follow the motto of "Go it while you're young but go it right".

As to the studies in Upham we got as far as the 407 page. They began to review before I left. In Paley begin with Preliminary considerations on 5 page and get to near the bottom of the 71 page to Sect 1, then skip over to Chap 10 114 page and get in order to Chap IV 267 page, then skip over to Part III 225 page and get in order to Chap III 230 page. They had not finished the <advorn> in Paley when I left though if you get what I have laid down you will have nearly all of it. As to the "modus operandi" of reciting old Upham as you ought to know makes it all as easy as possible though this is not exactly the case with the Pres. You will find though I presume at Bowdoin an abridgement of Paley, which will save you much time and patience, for if Christianity is not a failure those Evidences are I think one thing they are almighty borous and I had much rather take Christianity for granted than to be bored three months with Paley.

As to Christianity's being a failure Pres. Woods never got it off and I see it has been put on to Pres Lord of Dartmouth. Whether he will consent to father it I do not know.

As for swearing I have not done it since I have been here and I am in hopes I shall be able to break it off for the future entirely.

Give my respects to Charles Lane and tell him I should be glad to see him also to any of the Leeds folks who know me and may take the trouble to inquire for me and if you are not going to let Liz come home to her too I am in hopes I shall have a chance though soon to pay them in person.

You may think that I am quite anxious to see your woman but do not be troubled. The main thing I wish to see her for is to hear a little something about Miss Green for I suppose she has seen her this fall as her Mother told me the other day that Miss G was over to Mrs Timberlake's funeral.

I am only a little over two miles from Portland so that I can get in there pretty easy. I wish you would burn this after you read it and last but not least answer it immediately wont you?

God bless you and good night.
Perley

175 12/18/1849 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: O O Howard

OOH-0162

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Dec. 18th 1849

Friend Howard

Your last communication was received in due season, but owing to other pressing engagements, I have been unable to answer it until now. Your animated description of country life has almost destroyed the usual equanimity with which I have viewed our seclusion in Brunswick. In fact, I have a strong predilection for more activity than we have enjoy & look forward with no small pleasure to the time when we shall roam free without the necessity of obtaining a "leave of absence". It is a cramp upon a man's genius. A seniors clog upon the buoyancy of his spirit to be shut up within the walls of any institution however much he may be adding to his store of knowledge. I am not disappointed in college life by no means - but whilst I admit its superior advantages, I cannot shut my eyes to the restrictions it necessarily places upon the free expansion of one's creative powers by cramping the boldness of originality & substituting in its stead, a servile obedience to established rules. And an <?ting> <> for certain standards which must be complied with or the <palm> is lost. The aspirations even of genius must be bent into an established path before its productions are treated with common respect. Natural tastes & inclinations must give way to conventional focus and the freedom of universality must submit to the restraints of individual feeling.

But still we become so accustomed to the scenes that here surround us that it is with some difficulty that we bring ourselves to contemplate the hour of our departure & doubtless we shall here after look back upon the Days spent within the walls of old Bowd with pleasure. I reckon them amongst the happiest of our lives. But be this as it may, I am anxious for the time to come when the last faint toll from the old chapel tower shall summon us from the enjoyment of the Service in God. As you said, however, we must enjoy the 2 remaining terms to the best advantage - remembering that on our proper improvement of them depends in a great measure, the satisfaction they will afford us. They will be hard perhaps but still supportable.

I began this letter more than a week ago but having been busy in moving &c &c, I have not had time to finish it until now. We are now finely settled, that is Adams & I for Adams is rooming with me at Mrs Noll's, she having moved to Brunswick. The term is over & we enjoy ourselves as best we can.

My school numbers between 80 & 90, most of them young ladies as I have probably told you before. All of them write composition which gives me a very pleasant letter job as you may well suppose. However it must be endured for 8 weeks longer after this & then good-bye to school keeping until I get out of College. I am weary of the business, but I have a pleasant school, all things considered especially my Assistant. She is a young lady of the choicest kind, not often met with I assure you - very intelligent & social - but, by no means "blue". I heard from Perley a few days since. He is well & get on finely with 70 or 80 scholars. He informed me of an accident of which you have undoubtedly heard. Now is the time for your consolation & sympathy, which probably flows out without restraint. But we shall soon be together again & then we will talk more at large. I am in haste or I would write more. May prosperity attend you this winter. Let me hear from you again. Yours &c
J. N. Jewett

176 12/22/1849 *From:* Peleg S Perley

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0163

Westbrook

Source: Bowdoin

Westbrook Dec. 22nd Sunday Eve 1849

Dear Howard,

I received your last kind letter and in compliance with your request that when I felt lonesome or I should like that I should write, I am now writing you these lines. I have been in to Portland to day and attended church to day with Lizzie. She and her mother bear up under their affliction bravely. They make but little outward manifestation of grief but you can see that their hearts are heavy. I have spent the last two Sabbaths with them. They always appear glad to see me though you well know I am but poor company and never can speak words of consolation or hope to anyone. I don't know what I should do here if I could not go and see them occasionally - it almost seems like home to me at least it is an excellent substitute for home. Elizabeth is a noble girl but you know it I suppose. God bless her and her mother too and yourself if you will.

As for myself I guess I am up with the women. It don't seem hardly possible but yet I guess it is the case that she has got a beau. So fleets and fades my bright Elysium - so much for woman's love, and constancy yet still I would fain dream with

"That two or one are almost what they seem.

That goodness is no name and happiness no dream."

I will admit that "I did hope for better things" of her. I thought she was not such nor can nor shall I fully believe it until I know. I know Howard what you think about it. You think that I was supremely selfish in my love for her and deserved no remembrance but such was not wholly the case. I will not bore you however any longer lest you should think that it wholly engages my mind.

They think everything of you there at Mrs Waites and I presume you feel quite responsible in having such an one to love and care for. I shall expect to find you already become a man having put aside all your insignia of boyhood. How does it look to you ahead. Do your hopes for the future grow brighter or more dim. I mean your hopes of success in professional life.

As for my own I can not say at any rate I shall know something more for having gone through College and that will satisfy me in a good degree but I must say I do not know what to think of studying a profession I declare. I expect to see some sober times before I get decided upon any career to pursue. I expect to see many blue times before I graduate but one thing they can not be much bluer than I see out here for I hope to be with more congenial spirits.

I have not studied one particle nor do I expect to. I expect you will be down here before it is time to go back to Bowdoin. How are all the Leeds folks? I had a letter from Jewett the other day. He is getting along right. Have you heard from Jennings? Deane and Jackson are both studying Law in Portland.

But to recur to the subject of the woman for I have exhausted my whole fund of everything else and you will pardon the weakness; I wrote to Miss G before I heard or mistrusted such a thing as her having a beau, a very friendly letter telling her that she was by no means forgotten and requesting an immediate answer but have not heard a word from her - nearly a month since I wrote to her. I know not what to think of it. Sometimes I am to think she did not receive my letter but I guess it must be she did. Is there any etiquette about such things. I mean if she had a beau would that probably be any great objection to her writing to me.

Howard I did show Elizabeth a little of that letter though you requested me not to. I was there when I opened and read it and I almost promised to let her mother read it before I looked to see what you said about it. I cannot resist the temptation of letting her see a part of it and I can assure you there was no harm done. It was not exactly right but I hope you will find it in your heart to pardon me especially as I have owned it when I "no need to".

Ever yours
Peleg S. Perley