

I should be glad to be on visiting terms with my family, whether I ever visit them or not, on their, me, I sometimes think there is distrust in every quarter, in speaking of your future prospects in reply to Charles's observation, I hope you will live a just and good life and be prepared to sing Praises to God ^{the} in would to come, there is an aching feeling in my heart towards you ever since you went to West Point, that I cannot define myself, but one thing is certain I have not Patriotism enough yet, to give my son to his country, but one thing I do wish or desire, or hope, God will see fit to admit ^{him} ~~them~~ to usefulness to his creatures, if he spares ^{his} ~~their~~ lives to mature years George Jones is about leaving for California his brother-in-law Cuming has returned to take his wife ^{domestically} ~~epidemic~~ out and takes George with him out with him I hear much about Addison only by the newspapers, now Mr Sargent on Ann, on Sarah, but I must go and Mother I have not seen her since last May Mrs Francis's sudden departure reminds me that Mother's voice may be ~~at~~ hushed in death ere I shall see her again, I hope this will find you at peace, and in good health, from your affectionate

Oliver Otis Howard

Mother Eliza Gilmore

My Dear Son,

Leeds, Jan, 2, 1880

It is now two weeks since you were employed in preparing an epistle, for your Mother's gratification, much may have transpired, either to your advantage or disadvantage, while with me, time has kept on, about that unravied course as usual your letter came to hand Christmas eve, you may have been with your Uncle or not, B. B. wrote home on that day, said he had several invitations out, but refused them all, I am in hopes he is giving his whole attention to his studies, I thought when I commenced writing I would give you a detailed account of my manner of spending my last ~~previous~~ week, Monday morning after my usual round of duties, I left home with your father, he drove to the depot at Exeter, there I left him, and drove to your Aunt Aurelia's and took her into the sleigh, and drove to Esq. Francis's to attend the funeral of old Mrs Francis, who died very suddenly the Friday evening before, she had no sickness, only a choking sensation that seized her 20 minutes before ^{she} was a corpse, it can truly be said she lived to a good old age being 88 years of age, few mothers have left just such a family she had three sons in the house with her who had always been her peculiar care whose ages were 68, 68 and 78 and one daughter 57, David her grandson took his little boy in his arms and followed his grand mother to the grave, after the procession had moved away to the grave, my next course was to call at Warren Howard's to see Melvin, when I first saw him, the change in him struck me very forcibly, but he seemed quite natural he enquired after you

Melvin will never rise from his sick bed again, his manly features are ghastly and will look no different in death, he ^{asked} me if uncle Rowland was as emaciated before he died as he was, I ^{ask him} how he felt with respect to departing this life, he said (in answer) that it is natural for every one to desire life, and appeared quite excited, but I hope Christ will appear for him, and calm the struggle, that now lingers in his breast, for I believe, "Jesus can make a dying bed, feel soft as downy pillows are," while on his breast we lean our heads, and breathe our lives out sweetly there; he is a great sufferer, a racking cough and canker in his mouth and ~~throat~~ throat, and confined to his bed with all other pains and weaknesses which attend such cases as his, he is with kind friends, which is a comfort, a good capable mother, doing everything in her power to relieve his sufferings, but everything around him bore the marks of poverty, thus, much I write you, that you can have some idea of Melvin's prospects, after taking leave of him I brought Mrs B. and Lura Howard home, Mrs B. talked much about Mr Cole's child that died suddenly, the week before she spoke of Thomas and his school and Voluntaries leaving a horse for her &c and on the whole was in better spirits than usual, I saw that day all of my old neighbors that I ~~love~~ loved, Tuesday evening brought a letter from B.B. as I have mentioned before, and the rest of the week (until yesterday) has been occupied in making me two winter dresses, one a very pretty striped alpaca the other a delain, Saturday Butchering finishing up the week Saturday's mail brought some comic pictures from B.B. to Della a token of his remembrance,

This morning brought us a beautiful winter sabbath morning. (fine sleighing the snow crusted over, you can see the glitter of the sun rays as far as the eye could reach) and with it a desire to attend church, we had no appointment at the centre so Charlie and I went to the Chapel I enjoyed the ride well and the meeting, and saw many familiar faces, Theresa Howard a fine girl I did not know her at first, heard from Melvin no particular change in him, Rodolphus Leachbetter and Lucia made us a visit last Wednesday evening, they were at the chapel with Mary, their mother today Delphina is married in Massachusetts Aunt Lucretia will soon be out of girls, at this rate, your father is gone, the most of the time and ^{will} be, the most of the time, your examination probably commences this week, the thoughts of your mother will be occupied with ^{you} frequently, during ~~this~~ ^{your} ~~exile~~ ^{exile} its occasional continuance how much I desire that ^{you} may be upheld in a calm and happy temper whatever may come, ^{say} ~~Mr~~ ^{Mr} Lottin at meeting to day, Charlie has been writing to Lizzie Waite this evening, your father called there not long ago, he called in at Henry's store, at the same time, Henry Strickland gave him a regular scolding for talking (last summer) that he offered him two thousand dollars on time, about the time he failed, said he told of it on purpose to hurt him and that one of his boys told of it in Portland, your father had nothing to do but plead guilty to the charge, but without any design of injuring him, as he knew nothing of Henry's business, he did not call on Martha he was not

in Portland but a short time

Portland Jan. Sat. Eve 11th 1850

Dear Chum,

Your letter came to hand to night and was not due me I am almost ashamed to own. I told your brother to tell you that I was going to answer your letter which he probably mistook. This letter has been lying on my mind harassing me night and day for two months and now I am going to hove it off. Not that I deem it a bore or a burden to write to you but the fact is I have not been well for some time and when I get home from school I am so perfectly wearied out that it seems just as though I couldn't write. I have neglected Perry, Jackson, Townsend, Jennings and others and have them lying over still on the docket so you must give me the credit of giving you the preference after all. I have had over forty letters to answer within the last three months and I can tell you it took no small part of my time at first as I wrote pretty long ones and hoping as I thought at first rather overtasked myself I concluded I would have a short respite which from indolence and indisposition (not such as we used to have at college) resulted in a long one. I will close my introduction by thanking you for yours and proceed. And as you inquired about Miss Knight and her "sister" and especially about her sister I will give you a slight

College reminiscence which occurred after your leave
and which I believe I promised to narrate to you
with which the "Sister" was connected though not one
of the principal actors.

Nunc aures ami regite
Dum ego resinam
Quod accidit in valle
Brunsvici dum eram

for I am going
to give you a real Temperance Tale not "founded on fact"
but the real essence of fact - the very truth pure and
undiluted as the Wine that gave rise to it. The facts
are there. I made an agreement with Jewett before
I left to return a fortnight before Com. so as to
make some calls, attend the Exhibition, Concert &c. with
the ladies. I got back Thursday and was to call there
Sat. Eve. (that was a favorite night with Jewett you will rem-
ember). Meanwhile Old Wilson arrived having come for
the laudable purpose of seeing his old classmate graduate
and being pretty flush invited me to take a ride with
him out to Freeport. I imagine us with a fast team
spudding over the road and I keeping Old Wilson leaning
over and laughing in his old way, all the time by
my method of driving talking and swearing and you
will see at once that we did not care much for
anything nor anybody. In process of time we reached
Freeport and as Wilson kept school there we called
at his old boarding place which by the way was the

tabern and knowing where No 0 was he invited me to take some wine. He went in and took a little Port

It so chanced that Miss Springer's brother was there. He knew me without my knowing him. After I went out he goes to the barkeeper and asks if I took any. Receiving an affirmative answer he out and into his room and put for Bruno's village bell-bent as though the destiny of the "Sister" and the whole family "hung on the decision of the hour". This took place about ten o'clock in the forenoon and that evening Jewett and myself called. Amanda appeared and asked us into the parlor - the "Sister" was not visible and as we seated ourselves Amanda turning to me said that Eliza would have to be excused from seeing me for reasons which she would explain hereafter. Amanda appeared strangely and I thought Eliza must be sick. We sat about a quarter of an hour when Amanda telling Mr. Jewett she should like to talk with me alone a few minutes he took his hat leaving awaiting something I knew not what. She then commenced by asking me what my principles were in regard to Temperance. I saw at once that she had got me where "the hair was brief" and I told her at once just how the case was. I told her that I did not call myself a drunkard - that I was not in the habit of drinking but that I had taken some at Class Supper and several other times not more than half a dozen during the summer. She asked me why? I told her for the devil of it, softening the words some what. I made a clean breast of it told her just as it was and awaited the issue. She after reading me a damned long homily on temperance which I cut short by telling her I had heard the same arguments used before told me she must request me in her mother's name not to call there again.

Not that they wished to cut my acquaintance altogether - no. If in after years I should show that I had reformed then sister would be happy to renew my acquaintance. I told her to tell her sister that I was very sorry that I had been the means of terminating our acquaintance so abruptly. (She had expressed to me not long before on a certain walk "by the light of the moon her sorrow that I must leave just when she had become acquainted with me.) Took my hat and departed for College smearing all the way up the wall and so almighty mad that I couldn't help laughing and not exactly mad either. I posted up to Jewett's room and he wanted to know what in thunder she stopped me for. I told him and he was slightly considerable mad - you must remember I called to invite Eliza to go to Exhibition Mon. night. Jewett thought they ought to have consulted him before kicking me out of doors. He thought it rather reflected on him inasmuch as he introduced me. However they made it all right with him when they saw him. So Jewett waited on their boat to Ex. and concert and I was there alone. So matters went on for about a week till one day about a week before Corn. Jewett came up and slapped me on the shoulder and said Amanda wished me to call up there that evening as she wished to talk with me. I insisted upon knowing what she wanted - Jewett would not tell, but one thing was he said they were expecting Mrs. Waite and Lizzie and they would think strange if I did not come there.

I told him at once that I should not go - that they might tell Mrs Waite & Sir and be damned - that I was not very much ashamed - at any rate if I could not call there to see them I should not call there to see anybody else. "Night come with her pomp of light and shade" and Jewett coming rushing up about calling time and wanted to know if I meant going I told him no and that he would not if he were in like circumstances. He admitted it but declared if I knew what they would do why they did so and what they thought of me I should go. At last just as I always do I gave in and went. I found Amanda writing me a letter. She mother Camille honorable - that they were his mother it had been so. In short I was satisfied as well as I could be (this will satisfy at least that they meant to hook me on) called again, waited on her to Com. - She praised my performance told me I did "beautifully" - called down there the night before Jewett and I was introduced to Mr Geo. Springer the informer ~~entirely~~ (whom I heard declared he would never tell of anyone again under any circumstances) amid the smiles of the whole company - held my countenance till I got seated and looked to Jewett who had on a look showing that he enjoyed it when I could not help rising which brought down the house. Amanda wrote me a very polite invitation to come down there to Thanksgiving with Mr Jewett but I could or didn't. This story if you could read it as it was, would be interesting for it was rich in its ramifications and incidents. Alas, it can only interest you as you know the persons. I am well and aware of your notions on temperance as you probably are of mine and but still I say down such a creed as led to the above. Of course this story must rest with you.

Here I am 5 minutes past ten have been at lecture could not hear the lecturer and come home. Lizzie is at the fair (a fair given by her church) where she tends a table. She has the moment returned and who do you suppose come with her? She goes to Packard's School this winter. She has generally attended Lyceum Wednesday evening with me. G. P. R. James (The English Poet) Horace Greeley of the Tribune. Ware (author of Zephania) Ho Mr Squier, Loomis of Waterville and others have lectured before the Lyceum and none of them have given a first rate lecture. There has not been but one that would begin to compare with Prof. Wood's ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~Lyceum~~ ~~and~~ ~~I~~ ~~believe~~ ~~I~~ ~~actually~~ ~~learned~~ ~~more~~ ~~from~~ ~~hearing~~ ~~Chas. Dibdin Pitt act Richard III than in all the lectures put together~~ Thursday Eve,

Thurs Eve
- Last I heard from Old Lemmings was that he was going
get married if he could - of course many rich. Some Smith has
a situation somewhere in Tennessee at 1000 per year in an
academy. I have not heard that Prat. has got a place yet.
- Ed Adams is homing Blackstone and Gravestones at B.
and Townsend is lecturing at the metropolis on 1400 a year - lucky
and he is anyhow. Old Jewett swears he leaves this state
next fall. Perley is in Portland with an income of 500 - doubt
now whether he is satisfied or not - sometimes thinks he is
doing pretty well and then again is pretty damned sure he
isn't - has a boarding place that is just like home to him
has a pretty age very pretty girl to wait upon and get mad
with him occasionally - likes his landlady half as well as his
mother and her daughter almost as well as his sister - keeps
(his hair cut short and well oiled and also his whiskers - keeps most
of the time pretty "mum" what you always used to call mad - generally
sports a clean dickiey - part of the time thinks he is a damned fool
and it is no use for him to try to work his way to eminence and then
again that he is about as big as anybody after all - who looks
forward to a damned unhappy life and does not expect to meet
the any great success - who will deem himself fortunate if
meet with moderate. As for Miss Q. I can write about
her without my hands trembling. I have been looking to see her
marriage every week and at each week I read the list
- but thank God the worst has not yet come. Do not mistake
me here Howard I have no expectation - no hope she will ever
leave mine. I do hope for her own sake she may never have
a claim. Your proposition in regard to a founnd I will come
along with cheerfully as far as I care. I must stop here
and go to the fair and come home with Lizzie so that
I am. Hicks who went after her last night went home
today Eve. Went to "fair" last eve stayed till eleven o'clock
saw an array of beauty, beauty and pride. Saw a girl
that looked very much like Miss Green - the same eyes
in looks and whole contour of the head only taller and
somewhat prettier, which woke again old feelings that
I had hardly slumbered - come home and never slept a
sound wink. Liz. is kneeling on a stool by my
side now fixing her neck-ribbon to go to night and I
know now how it would do your soul good to see her
she is pretty and no mistake and if ever I feel moved
to where I am looking round with her on my arm
I know Howard the rattle of her silk dress would
sound pleasantly in your ears and I wish you
could be here all night or two this evening so that
your ears might be thus greeted. As for myself Howard
it is no use for me to try to do anything with the woman.
Other young ladies here I would give anything to be acquainted
with but it is impossible for me to be.

And why in the devil it is so with me I don't see
It is not because I am boorish and don't know how to
appear for I believe I appear as well as the general run
nor because I am inferior in talents or education for
I see others whom I know are not my equals in this
respect go where they please and acquainted far and
wide - it is not because I don't want to be for
I mean I do - tis not from bashfulness and I'll be
cursed if I know why it is - but so it is anyhow

My Grand father died a little more than a week
since - was not sick - so as to be about - dropped
away calmly (as the letter informing me of it said) without
a struggle or a groan

I must close so here is to
your success and remember that I am now
as ever your more than friend

Peter J. Proby

and in a fair way to waste a great part of what the poor child has
got & pity her, her father at war with her and no home to go to
and no kind of faculty to make himself agreeable or useful if I can
be any use to her I shall be glad, to be Lydia wrote a good
and capable letter, Lydia did not know of her coming away
until after she came Mrs Martin's conduct has been strange
indeed to his children. Such February, ^{the} my son you will per-
ceive by the appearance of my paper it is a long time since I laid
down my pen, at the time I wrote the other side Charlie was writing
to Rowland, and I covered the sheet and it being late left ^{to do} unfinished
that week was very much filled up Anna and wife and babe being here
until Friday afternoon Sarah ~~Trimmer~~ staid with me a few days
on the whole it was a week of care and toil to me Anna in a
miserable way, but still I have a hope he may yet be better, Sat-
day eve received your very reasonable letter the same mail brought
one from Robt and the Jan. Ladies Book from Lissie White so you
see my comforts did not come single, on the Sabbath I attended
meeting all day after meeting gave way to weariness and did
not write on Tuesday I went to Shallowell and returned on Thursday
not intending to stay but one ^{night} day when I awoke in the morning
it was raining hard which continued nearly all day, I had a
very pleasant visit Mother is nicely & Ann is in good spirits and
Sarah appeared well she I think is serving for housekeeping
she received a letter from Mr Sanfent while I was there Sarah
said she spoke of receiving one from you, Anna spoke of
receiving ^{only} from Silas, I had my teeth cleaned and filled at the
dentist, Thursday, and Friday were the coldest days we have
had this winter the Thermometer ranged at twelve degrees
below zero the first morning the next 17 below & at noon below

which made it rather cold for your Mother who goes out so little
at Winthrop we met with a meeting commenced to ~~for~~ town to
a act on the fugitive slave law it continued two days,
your father intended to have gone into the meeting and
heard some of the discussions but the weather was so cold
we made the best of our way home, I think I have never been
so chilled since that time that you fell into the cellar which is
seventeen years but the weather is now become mild, Rowland
St. Jr has gone to green to make a visit for the first time since he
came home he has grown plerhy and appears contented I think
he would dread leaving home very much, Charles is very thin in
health has a bad cough he is a good deal discouraged but I am in hope
he will be better in a few days, he has had a Cough ever since you
left home and the last sudden changes in the weather has very
much increased his cough, I have been writing to Rowland to
see if he could not manage to have Lissie White come home with
him when his term closes but I don't know how he will think
about it, as to your expectations at West Point, every thing has
about met your expectations, you did not look for pleasure
when you made up your mind to go, but as for as ambition
is concerned you must be satisfied and if you are I am, but when
I think ^{how} far from me you are and how small the prospect
of my ever seeing you much more is, it gives me such a sad
feeling of disappointment, but I hope let your situation be
what it may, you will try and be a useful member of
society, Sarah Lee said she met one of Proff Packard's
sons at a party who talked of you with great regard and
told Sarah your standing at West Point, had heard
from you by the way of Mr Jves who corresponds with
some one at Brunswick. A good night Eliza Gilmore