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South Leeds March 15th 1850

Dear Brother

I received your kind letter while at Mr. Ridleys in Wayne. I finished my school in that place on Saturday last, having kept in all $7\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. I had no trouble except a little fuss they made about a boy whom I shook rather severely. Mr. Graves and Capt. Ridley told me they should have done something about it. had the boy been hurt as bad as they were led to expect. But I supposed that they were only trying to frighten me into paying something to settle it as it is termed. I called at aunt Lucretias on Sunday when coming down. found them all well. Clark has returned to Lowell. In your letter you spoke about my finding not all sunshine I never did find it - nor do I after it. When ^{I was} at Wayne you thought that because I was flattered that it was sunshine I drew those flatteries then and do now as deep shadows (to carry out your figure) I knew the reason why I was taken so much notice of. For a time was because a debating club was a new thing and I was one of the best speakers, not because as you say I possessed talents of a higher Order, but because I have read more perhaps than any

Baron B. of the
March 18

Ms. B

Mr Chas Houder
Bismarck
Me

other person of my age in Wayne History
Natural & Political gave me facts on which
to build. Tales & Romances supplied the gaps
without which I should not have been heard
with patience, and a mirthful memory a slight
imagination, and fluency of words descended
to me from my father finishes the picture,
perhaps you might have been a little deceived
by these appearances and thus formed an erroneous
idea of my talents. Then anything said to me in
high commendation was flattery and looked upon
by me as such. And I tell you there was precious
little Sunshine in Tunnel City, and to convince
you that my prospering in my school was only
an effort of mine, to make it appear so,
I will name a few vexations slight to
be sure, but you know what yours were the
first time you kept school. When I went
into the school far from being strongly
biased in my favor they were as far the
other way, there were but two scholars in
my school who had a hand in turning out
William and the rest were strongly in favor
of him. The second day after I began the school
the large girls took every way to insult as
possible the second week the district was
well enough united against me to keep
all their children to home but two families
Two weeks after one of my scholars rose in

his seat threatened me with his fist and the
last week of my school Capt R. & Mr G. threatened
to take me up for shaking a little bit of a
nephew of theirs. just because, forsooth, I black and
blued his seat of honor and caused it to belch forth
certain unmentionable particles of matter. I
effeminating Sunshine, I might say,
March 16th

It is almost mail time and I must
close my letter if I wish to send it
out by this mail. Our folks, that is
Father Mother & Rodolphus have gone to
Hallawell they went yesterday, I could not
come down to B. with the Doc on account
of the traveling which I suppose is
very poor, a great time now about Uncle
Ezekiel. I shall go to Readfield probably
on Monday, I will answer your letter
in regard to college education at another
time. Direct your next to Kents Hill
please make some suggestions in regard
to the speaking of the Dead Christ.
I wish I had those Greek Books of yours
(Arnolds) could you send them by
express. Is your health good, write to
mother soon

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

Bowdoin College. March 21. 1850.

Dear mother,

I have now a small portion of time at my command & I shall devote it to a few lines penning a few lines to you. I received Bowland's letter Wednesday morning & was glad to hear that his school was done. Taken as a whole I know that he has not had a very pleasant time: and what schoolmaster has? But perhaps it has been of much advantage to him. I suppose Charles is at home by this time. He must excuse me for not having written to him. I am in hopes soon to be able to do so. I have been remarkably healthy this term, but I have felt it my duty to study very hard, at least, all the time. So far my labor of course has been double of what it ever has been in College before, yet I shall soon be relieved, after a few lessons more in Astronomy. Those who were absent last term as well as myself, have recited the Astronomy, evenings, lesson by lesson. I have just finished my examination Theme - the one for the end of my College course: and probably for my Commencement part. The most of my class think I shall get a second or third part at the coming commencement, notwithstanding my absence. I shall do this at least, get as good a one as I can. I shall also be obliged to perform a part in public at the close, or near it of this present term. Seniors are

Cal John Gilmore
South Leeds
Me



Mar 21 1850
W. Howard

required to have these parts of their own composition.
My subject is Columbus the discoverer of America - one
which has interested me very much, & in the composing
of it I have succeeded far above my expectations.

Uncle J. Otis has sent me quite a number of papers
& documents from Washington & also a late map of
North America, containing all the new names in
California & the United States under its new boundary.

Have you heard from Roland of late either directly
or through Elias? Tell Charles that he must write
again even if I don't write, and tell me how he succeeded
in the parsing book, how he liked Mr Maxims school & so.
Give my love to him & also to "Lellie". Tell him that he must
read some every day, that he may make as good a
scholar as Charlie. Give my love to Father. How is he
getting on with his Rail road business? I saw Dr
Hilburne here at Prof Cleavelands lectures, but ^{did} not
to speak to him. He looked as large healthy & smart
as usual, but I saw no indications of internal
fire except in his eye.

It does not seem much like the 21st of March.
I don't know how it is with you, but it is tremendous
cold here, & the wind blows so hard that it literally
"takes people off from their feet."

The prayer bell is ringing & as I wish to mail this
to night, so that it may reach you by Saturday
I will write no more now. As soon as possible I

shall write you a longer & a better letter than
this. I remain your

Affectionate son

Oliver O Howard

I suppose Roland is at Headfield, if not - give
my love to him & tell him I will write him as
soon as convenient. -

Kent Hill March 23^d 1850

Dear Brother

I arrived here on last Tuesday after a very cold ride. I found the room for which I spoke occupied, very opportunatly for me, for I have obtained a better one in the same house. My Chum is a fine fellow he is preparing for the ministry. His name is Hood he belongs to Nova Scotia has been here a number of terms and probaly is the smartest fellow there is here. I have begun the first book of the Aeneid and read about 25 lines a day, but hope to increase to more by degrees. My Chum is reading with me. I have begun Greek I use Kovacs Greek grammar, I said something in my last about Arnolds but they do not use, and therefore I shall not want them. I shall get me a grammar here. I have just begun and am now conjugating the verb ποωδω-ω, rather awkward I tell you, at first. I am also studying Algebra some, I have about concluded to take a preparatory course, if my health will allow. In order to do it I think I shall go somewhere else, although this is an excellent school. It is more intended to be an English school than a classical one. I like Mr Robinson very much but our class is small and our lessons not so regular and interesting as they would be in such a school as that of North Garmouth. I think shall either go there or to Exeter next year, I wish you would

make some inquiries in regard to the latter school
so that I may know in regard to it. I don't like
~~Shore~~ Gorham but why I can hardly tell. I think
this is a as good teacher school as there is in
the State and therefore I think I shall stand
next fall to that more ~~particular~~ particularly
as I wish to teach next Winter and if go
to college I shall not want to study English & Latin
afterwards, When I left home the folks at
Leeds and Hallanell were well, I believe they
are going to support Uncle Ezekiel by voluntary
contributions. March 29th 1850

I had not time to finish my
letter for the other mail so I put it off
till today, My health and spirits are still good we
have increased to 30 lines in Virgil: Our Society
is prosperous I write for the paper, write me
regard to your health and how you get along in
your studies, The school numbers I should think
about 150 students perhaps more, If there is a class
formed, I think I shall study Rhetoric this term
as it will methodise my style of writing and
render it more logical, I have not commenced
the "Dead Christ" yet and I don't know as I
ever can. I labour as hard as anything I ever
knew to understand, I would like to have you
make some suggestions in regard to speaking &
to write to me, I would write more but I have nothing
I study harder than ever before. Yours Brother Rowland

Leeds March 25. 1850

Dear Cousin

It is just one month since I received your letter, I meant to have answered it before but you know procrastination is the thief of time, I was very glad to hear from you and Lizzy and that you passed examination so well. I got along being Editor very well trembled a little at first but soon got over it. The meetings are now closed, for three Thursday's running it has been very unpleasant weather so that the people could not attend, and as the nights are growing short and the travelling bad they have concluded not to meet again till next fall, your piece has not been read as there has been no meeting since it came we had very full meetings while they did last and were very interesting. Thomas has been at home lately but has gone to Formington, now to attend court he and Uncle Ensign have settled that Dower business, your Uncle Ensign is to pay three Dollars a year and the cost up to the time he was notified I expect your Mother will write you the particulars for she understands it better than I do, I saw your Mother and Charles to ~~meet~~ to meeting to day they are well. We have had Mr Barrows with ^{us} for two Sunday's and he is liked very much and they talk of having him settle with us I feel it quite a privilege to go to meeting once more. The Dr got smart in a few days after you left he wished me

March 25th 1850Leeds Mr
March 25th

C. O. Howard

Barneswick

Maine

5.

to give his respects to you he thought of coming
down to Brunswick but has given it up. we have good
sleighing, quite unusual for this time of year I have got
almost sick of seeing snow on the ground and long to
see the green fields again, Little Oli is well and as robust
as ever he calls your name in his way every time I go up
there, he can point out Olin the news paper or book
as well as you can he is a great deal of company for me
I don't know as I could get along without him to play
with for I have nothing else to do. Everett and his wife
have moved to China are going to carry on the old
man farm, and Valentine is going to take his mother's
farm. Orville Jennings has left Tennessee and gone to
Little Rock, about three thousand miles from home he
is studying law, I have been to a wedding and a party
this last week the widow Charlotte Lane is married
to a Mr. Allen of Auburn we had a good time
and I wish you was here to help me eat the wedding
cake I have got a large slice now. I miss your company
very much and do feel quite lonesome sometimes but we
cannot always have things as we want, and therefore we
must be content with our lot and condition in life
and I think I feel thankful in some measure for
the many blessings I enjoy. John and Thellen send
their love to you, your writing was very plain and I did
not have to get any help, but I think you will be read
mine it is written as bad may success and prosperity
attend all you undertake is the sincere wish of your
Cousin
Laura B. Howard

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C. Howard
Mar. 30. 1850.

Col. John Gilmore
South Leeds
Maine



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Brunswick March 30. 1850.

Dear Mother:

This term is nearly half through, and I have received but one letter from you. I have been expecting one all this week but have not been so fortunate as to receive one. I think more of it because it has never been so long before that you have delayed writing. Probably it is owing to some natural cause, but I hope it is not sickness. You must write whenever you can find time & remember that whatever you write is more than welcome. The time since I left home has passed quickly indeed with me, & from this it is natural to suppose, pleasantly:— Yet occasionally I have checked its rapid course by reflection— I have often taken a retrospective view of my life— & oftener have pushed my fanciful imagination into the future & pictured to myself many happy images of coming good. But sometimes both the certainty & uncertainty of the future— bring other feelings than those of joy. The time is near at hand when I must to a great degree throw off dependency and figure in the drama of life for myself— when I must leave home & friends to seek uncertain fortune & grapple often with unpropitious circumstance. Under these reflections I never feel weak & repining, but to him, with whom responsibility is new & experience wanting, misgivings must sometimes occur. But why anticipate? Should I never

succeed in attaining to my highest wishes, my happiness might not be less. I hardly know what or how to write: not at loss for words or ideas, but am seriously inclined to talk about myself:-
I received a letter from Laura the other day & one from Rowland this morning. She says that Thomas & Uncle Consign have come to an agreement. I care not how, I am glad of it. Rowland is very well & in pretty good spirits.

There is now in College some considerable curiosity & interest manifested respecting the issue of Prof Webster's case. It is generally thought that they cannot convict him under the present testimony. We shall soon see.

We receive the daily papers on the same day they are published. Last night I read the plea of the defence.

Yesterday afternoon I called on Mrs. Harmon for the first time this term. Her husband has gone to California, leaving her & her little boy rather lonely. You may tell her friends if you see them that she is well & also Judith, who is with her. Ask father to send me \$10, or, and I am in hopes that amount will be sufficient to defray the expenses of the coming exhibitions as well as other necessary expenditures for the present term. My clothes are now in pretty good order. I have purchased me a vest & paid for it. I shall get no more clothes this spring. Professor Cleveland keeps our Astronomy lessons for last term along yet. I shall feel much relieved when they are done. The Class recited one long lesson a day in Astronomy while I was gone.

none of which did I look at before my return. We (5 of us) recite about four or five lessons at a time & that usually twice a week. It is considerably hard to learn the motions & phases of all the heavenly bodies, but it is interesting. The President & Prof Cleveland are the best instructors there are here, whether practical or theoretical.

The President delivered a splendid Lecture on Ancient Republics the other evening in this place: especially aimed against those infidels, who pretend to prove that Christianity has been a drawback to civilization, & that the world is no better or more moral than under the Ancient Republics of Greece & Rome. His address displayed none of those Purgeist doctrines & dogmas, which have so zealously been imputed to his charge. I have finished my Exhibition part for this spring & also my examination theme for the end of my College course. I have copied & revised my theme already four times & shall be obliged to copy it again. It is long, & hence it requires much labor to copy it. It is not so good as I could wish, but as good as I could expect. How is father's health, & his superabundant business? Write me if you have heard from Roland &c. - I give my love to all the family. It is Sabbath morning & a lovely day it is. In this place it will be settled travelling in a very short time, for the snow is already gone from the road. Laura said that Elder Burrows was with you, & I hope he will suit the much expecting people of Leeds. Farewell now till I write again.
Yr affectionate son
D. Q. Howard