
184 3/15/1850 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0175

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

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 ½ weeks. I had no trouble except a little fuss they made about a boy whom I shook rather soberly. 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 Lowel.

In your letter you spoke about my finding not all sunshine. I never did find it nor do I expect it. When I was at Wayne you thought that because I was flattered that it was sunshine. I viewed those flateries then and do now as deep Shadows (to cary 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 other person of my age in Wayne.

Histories Natural & Political gave me facts on which to build. Tales & Romances supplied the gloss without which I should not have been heard with patience and a middling memory, a slight imagination, and fluency of words decended to me from my father finishes the picture. Perhaps you might have been a little deceived by these apearences 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 their was precious little "Sunshine" in Funnel City, and to convince you that my "prospering" in my school was only an efort 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 Williams 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 Me 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 brat 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. Efeminating Sunshine, wasn't it?

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 & Rodelphus 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 Unkle Ezekel. I shall go to Readfield probably on Monday. I will answer your letter in regard to Colege education at another time. Direct your next to Kents Hill. Please make some sugestions in regard to the Speaking of the Dead Christ. I wish I had those Greek Book of yours (Arnolds). Could you send them by express. Is your health good. Write to mother soon.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

185 3/21/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0176

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College March 21, 1850

Dear Mother,

I have now a small portion of time at my command & I shall devote it to the penning a few lines to you. I received Rowland'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 school master 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 to it of this present term. Seniors are 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 &c.

Give my love to him & also to "Dellie". 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 Hilbunne here at Prof Cleavelands lectures, but did not 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 Rowland is at Readfield if not give my love to him & tell him I will write him as soon as convenient.

186 3/23/1850 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0178 Kents Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill March 23d 1850

Dear Brother

I arived here on last Tuesday after a very cold ride. I found the room for which I spoke ocupied, 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 Aenead 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 Kunes Greek grammar. I said something in my last about Arnold 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 Boulenos rather awkward I tell you at first. I am also studying Algebra some.

I have about concluded to take a preparitory course if my health will allow. In order to do it I think I shall go somewhere else although this is an acelent school, yet it is more intended to be an English school than a clasical 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 Yarmouth. 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 Gorham but why I can hardly tell. I think this is as good teacher school as there is in the State and therefore I think I shall atend next fall to that more particularly as I wish to teach next Winter and if go to colage I shall not want to study english studies afterwards.

When I left home the folks at Leeds and Hallowell were well. I believe they are going to support unkle Ezekel by voluntary contributions.

March 29th 1850

I had not time to finish my letter for the other mail so I put it of till to day. 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 in 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 methodize my style of writing and render it more logical. I have not committed the 'Dead Christ' yet and I don't know as I ever can. It is about as hard as anything I ever saw to understand. I would like to have you make some sugestions in regard to speaking it. Do write soon. I would write more but I have not time. I study harder than ever before.

Your Brother Rowland

187 3/25/1850 *From:* Laura B Howard

To: Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0179

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds March 25, 1850

Dear Cousin

It is just one month since I received your letter & meant to have answered it before but you know procrastination is the thief of time. I was very glad to hear from you and Lizze and that you passed examination so well. I got along being Editress 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 traveling 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 Farmington 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 meeting to day. They are well. We have had Mr Barrows with us for two Sundays and he is liked very much and they talk of having him settle with us. I feel it quite a priviledge to go to meeting once more. The Dr got smart in a few days after you left. He wished me 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 [Oliver Otis, son of John Harrison Otis] is well and as smart as ever. He calls your name in his way every time I go up there. He can point out O in the newspaper 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. Everet and his wife have moved to China, are going to carry on the old man farm, and Valentine is going to take his mothers 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 party this last week. The widow Charlotte Lane is married to a Mr Olden of Auburn. We had a grand 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 Hellen [Otis] send their love to you. Your writing was very plain and I did not have to get any help. But I think you will to read mine. It is written so bad.

May success and prosperity attend all you undertake is the sincere wish of your Cousin.

Laura B Howard

188 3/30/1850 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0180

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

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 & 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 Ensign 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 Websters 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 defense.

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 \$10.00 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 Cleaveland 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 Cleaveland 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 Puseyish 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 A. & 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 Barrows was with you & I hope he will suit the much expecting people of Leeds. Farewell now till I write again.

Yr affectionate son
O. O. Howard