

My dear Ellen.

415

Try and see if you cannot beat your brother in writing. by copying the letters you find below. Tell me if you can read my writing generally, I do not think you can without help: for it takes much practice & much familiarity with my shapeless characters: to understand them. Tell me too, if you would like to see your Cadet brother & how much you would give to do so. Time passes rapidly: & if I live & am well I will very soon be with you. Do you keep Rowland in wood; or is he able to be out with the rest of the family? Goodnight: go to bed & dream of your affectionate brother

Chas

A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M, or N. O. P.
a. b. c. or e. d. e. ff. g. h. i. j. k. l. m. n. o. p. q. r. s. t. u. v. w. x. y. z.
L. R. S. T. or U. V. or W. W. or X. Y. or Z. Sc.
Try: for I know you can beat that. W. R. H. Gilmore..

April 1850?

her uncle, there is no reason why I should, but
know out of the abundance of the heart the
pen telleth.
Saturday morning
yours affectionately Eliza Gilmore,

Leeds
April 6

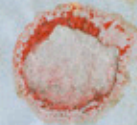
Mrs J C Howard

Barnmouth

Mr

580-4588
8542

April 6-1885



My Dear Son, Leeds. April. 6th 1885.

I do not think ^{I have} ~~excessively~~ exercised, the privilege
(I so much esteem) of writing to those I love, this spring, as usual
but I can hardly tell how my time goes, but think now the
traveling is breaking up I shall have more time ^{to} myself than
I have had through the winter I went to Hallowel the
middle of March, took Rodolphus with me was gone two nights
from home, found our friends there all well and in good
spirits had just received a letter from Addison Martin
date, Sacramento City Jan. - 29. he said his health was good
and ever had been since he left Hallowel had ~~been~~ been
lucky in business, had their goods well stored before the
great rise of water in that city. Said he saw Roland
Gilmore the day before and that ^{his} ~~his~~ health was good, ^{had} ~~had~~
never received any letter from home, thought he should come
home next fall, Charles Turner is now at home making a final
preparation for going to California has bought his ticket
will leave Leeds next Monday, Betsey Colier came here
from Boston last ten days since and is assisting Mrs. Turner
for Charles, she brought a letter from your aunt Lee which
was very full of loving words for all of us, and expressed a great
desire to visit us, and Sarah would visit us if you would
write her when your vacation would be and you be at home
she says if you or any of your family should be coming
to Boston you could find us by enquiring for No 885,
Washington Street their Boarding house, or Lilas place
of business 116. State Street. Warren Woodman, was here

was here on business not long since and spent a short time, or a few hours, he told me where Mrs Lee's house was and that she pays eight dollars per week for herself and Sarah's and Silas, Silas's salary is two hundred and fifty dollars a year, and supports himself out of it. I spoke ^{with} Oliver, Ann. Jennings at Church on the Sabbath and enquired after Orville she said they had just received letters from him and his health was good and ever had been since he left home, our family have all had good health this spring. Henry Gilbert has taken Mary Jones place on the farm and is delighted with it, he has brought ~~and~~ an incubator daughter a pining away apparently, in the consumption. Doc, Lord called here this week with a subscription paper for obtaining money for supporting preaching, he had one hundred and thirty dollars subscribed when here I have little hope of even having much preaching at the center, I should be glad to live where I could attend meeting with my family and I think it would give new spring to my feelings and enjoyments. Charles has little or no ~~enjoyment~~ ^{with} nothing to do & he had gone to Kent's Hill with R.B. he is gathering sap and making sugar for his own eating. Rodolphus is assisting him in bringing it, and Muriel ^{age} to get all the sugar he can to eat and drinks more of the sap than Charles would have him, Charles is expecting a letter from ~~his~~ you, every mail I hope you will write him it would do him good he has written a long letter ^{to} Roland. T. Gilmore and will send it by C. Birmer, your father will enclose in this a ten dollar bill to you he is assisting Mrs Lothrop to day, I should think from the general tenor of your

of your letter you were enjoying yourself well, your time must be all occupied and if it is filled up to advantage in a happy way of spending time, I have not any definite idea of what your calculations are after graduating. I am in hopes some prospect will open for you that will be for your advancement in every respect, I know that I have much reason for a cheerful, ~~grateful~~ ^{grate}ful, sense of present favors but I scarcely look upon ^{the} favors I am constantly looking ~~back~~ at what is wrong and wishing it could be different, I do not make myself miserable, but I am determined not to be satisfied with the way I live, and I think it is inconsistent with a common understanding to be satisfied to live and spend their time as I do you spoke of Maria have you seen her, and how is she tell William he has my good wishes hope his health is good! I have called at Ensigns once since you went home, I called at Mrs Davis once yes twice both times on Uncle S. account to see if anything could be done for him but have gained nothing in his behalf I wish I could for I think if we could support him a few years, out of his ten children some of them would take care of him. Mrs Dury has talked with ^{him} on the subject of being a public charge he says he will go off into the woods and die alone, the idea is revolting to any of us to be a public charge, although it is to be expected after such a life as he has led, but I can not view ^{from} ~~it~~ any other light than a pleasant man as I never saw ^{him} otherwise I suppose Otis will say why need Mother trouble me with her feelings about

Chesterfield County Petersburg, April 5th 1850

Dear friend Howard it has been a long time since we last met, And perhaps it will be unexpected to you to receive this epistle from me in this southern clime But yet feeling a desire to learn some what of your welfare as you climb the rugged hill of Sequence I venture to set my pen to work hoping better success in the way of an answer than I met my last. Last winter ^{a year ago} while teaching in the town of Gardner I wrote you but ^{have} heard nothing from it since whether you never read it or whether you had forgotten your old chum I have never been able to decipher. Nevertheless the General would once more inform you that he is yet alive and kicking out of h—l and out preying ground, & if you are the same he would like to hear and if not please send him your card as a token of remembrance. Well by the date of this you will ^{perceive} that I am in old Virginia and no where else. The lord of pistols busy times boldogs dogs & niggers officiating in the old capacity ~~as~~ of a pedagogue have been teaching three weeks have for each scholar 12.00 for the term of ten months. I have a fool school, I have been traveling all winter visited the cities of N^Y stopped 40 days Philade. sojourned five weeks Wilmington Del sojourned 2 weeks Baltimore stopped one day Washington stopped two weeks visited our old friend Whitney. & all the

interesting scenes of this grate focus of our mighty republic
shook the hand of the Pres & his lady, in the big east room
but the best of all was I had the pleasure of listening to a
the four hours speech from the Henry Clay, also
at different times to the eloquence of Messrs Webster, Calhoun
& Benton, I from there came to Richmond Va the
then down to Petersburg and commenced school I am
pleasantly situated in every respect have a good room &
every thing to my hand from a ~~bootjack~~ bootjack
up to Miffers water. But now in regard to what has
been when you and I were ~~boys~~ boys together & Frank
Sarah Alec Mary Haue &c were ~~go~~ ^{go} ~~hal~~ ^{hal} together. Does
your recollection revert you back to the good old days of
C Preys writing school & old Hual's lectures &c?
if I consider on your past life and be sure you do siner.
morne & lament for the many opportunities you have let
slip of receive in your share of the temporal blessing of this
world, Altho the spirit was willing but the flesh was ~~weak~~
weak (or rather hinder) that, the business was Frank
was allready primed and all she wanted was for you
to perform your duty, but finding that you
would not she, but stop. so will not prolong a
recital that wite wound the feelings of a
friend. Pardon me for thus touching upon so
delicate a point. I saw Frank but a short time before
I started from Me she looked as fresh as a new
stone rose. Give my best love to all of my
acquaintance at Borden especial remembrance to
Spencer Stone Apheton ~~Mc~~ ^{Mc} Eaton Orville &c

Bowd College Apr. 14th 1850.

Dear Mother,

I am sorry to find that you are not happy; for when one is discontented, it is almost impossible to have in store a great amount of happiness. But experience must have taught you, that ^{there} is not anything in outward circumstances, which can make the contented heart. Wealth will not do it; idleness cannot;

I know that it is an unpleasant thing, for one who wishes it, to be deprived of the privilege of attending Church: but there would be a thousand unthought-of evils, that would follow a remove to a village or a city. The child is exposed to ten-times the temptations. I am now thankful that

my first years were spent on a farm, - there I settled & strengthened my constitution - there I formed habits of industry; and by maturing thus early my physical strength, I have laid a foundation, upon which I may complete erect a more respectable mental structure. And I find it to be a matter of general remark, that farmers sons make the most industrious, & persevering men. The country is the best place in the world.

There is really no need of great anxiety; no need of working too hard; I certainly think mother you ought to be contented. A person's life is never slavish, without unless that person thinks it so: If we are contented, thankful, & cheerful, how easy & light is work, as the little boy said,

W. W. Howard
Bowd College
Apr 14 1850

"it is only play"!— Then cheer up, mother, and let the cheerful spirit, free from care, shine into your heart, and dissipate all the fancied bitterness of your lot. — For closely connected with the mother's happiness is the happiness of the children. — Perchance success may crown my future efforts; and, then, your cherished wishes may be fulfilled: for certainly it is the duty of gratitude, as well as affection, for a son to repay the thousand favors, which have been extended unasked, and to recompense the unswerving care & love, which ~~has~~ been his only nurture and support from infancy to youth & manhood.

I wrote to Uncle John (this, the other day, requesting him to recommend me to some situation, where I could find lucrative employment as well as a chance of for

intellectual improvement. I wish to study a year or two before I commence my studying my profession: for a superior education will be the secret of my success, if I do succeed. I probably am as well calculated for a lawyer as ^{for} any thing. I can study what is dry & "boring" to the most, without a great tax upon my patience: & I find that the cheerless pages of metaphysical treatises are far from being irksome. What is learned by the intelligent by labor, is usually of some value. I have planned out two courses to myself: one is apparently expedient: the other is desirable. The one that seems to me to be expedient, is to continue my literary, metaphysical & scientific studies for two or three yrs, and then commence the study of law

and throw my whole energy & acquired knowledge into a professional course. The other, & the one that would suit my taste better than my ability, is to be a literary man. If I had been older when I entered college, & pursued a different course, my chance to become a College instructor ~~would have been~~ ^{might have been} ~~increased~~ ^{increased}. So unluckily, a chance unexpectedly opens itself to me I shall steadily press on in the first course, which I have laid out for myself. If Uncle does not find a better occupation for me, I probably shall teach an Academy the first year, not only that I may make money, but that I may review Virgil & my Greek. I always have an end in view, but the particular mode of attaining it matters not. I do not mean to waver & vacillate in an undecided manner, for I should then ~~surely~~ ^{surely} turn out to be nobody, but with determination, (fixedness of purpose,) and untiring perseverance, difficulties, if not impossibilities may be easily overcome. I am glad you are trying to do something for Uncle E. Throckfield; for, even if a man has always taken a censurable course, it is not a christian spirit to let him suffer the pain of shame ~~without~~ ^{without} after he is ~~unable~~ ^{unable} to assist himself. There is a self-reproach which will follow the vicious man to his grave, & that is punishment enough, without ^{our} endeavoring to increase his sufferings, either by doing or omitting to do, what our hearts tell us we ought. Remember me to all the family — Your affectionate son.

C. C. Howard

Washington April 14. 1851

My dear Oly,

I have just received your letter. It will be difficult to give you more than general advice. I am glad to learn that you are making good improvement of your present opportunity, for the time lost cannot be recalled; and though deficiencies may be supplied, the great object of having a fair standing as a scholar when you graduate is lost. You will be young - perhaps too young to commence a profession when you graduate. Your own vigor and taste must be the guide to direct your determination to a great extent. I had supposed you would be inclined to study law. I am not particularly partial to that profession, tho' I am aware it has often laid the foundation for success in life - as often perhaps as any other profession - The medical profession is much crowded & very laborious. If you can get a good school or academy for the first year after you graduate, it will give you an opportunity of improving your education more than study without instruction. In that year you can make up your mind what to do. This too will give you a chance of getting back some of the money you have expended in

your education, and what you must yet expend
in getting a profession. I suppose you have had
no idea of going into trade. I have no doubt
you could succeed as a merchant, and perhaps
make more money than in a crowded profession.
The great west after all holds out inducements, both
of a pecuniary and intellectual character beyond any
thing in Great Britain. I know not what a year
may bring forth in California; but I should not
advise you to think of going there in its present
state. I think California stands a good chance
of making a fortune, if no accident befalls
him. I am glad to have a letter from you, &
you can take the opportunity of giving me more
fully your own views, & then I can be
better prepared to advise you.

I shall always feel a strong interest in your
welfare. Remember always to have the approval
of your mother & Mr. Wilson in whatever you do.

I have the highest opinion of your judgment.

We are all very well.

Your affectionate Nephew,
John Otis

Mr. Oliver O. Howard
Brunswick

Oliver Howard
Apr 30 1850

Mrs John Gilman

South Leeds

Maine



123

Brunswick Apr. 30. 1850.

Dear Mother,

The term is now almost through. We commenced our reviews to-day in every thing, and heartily glad am I of it, for I begin to grow a little tired. We did not finish our Astronomy (what I was obliged to make up) till last Saturday evening. Those ^{who} were out of college last fall with myself, have been to Prof. Cleavelands house to recite during the whole of this term. I think that I passed as good an examination on every thing, as I could have done, if I had been here the whole term. I have called on Mrs. Harmon, twice or three times: the last time, I found Miss Ivana Gilbert, from Leeds, there. She does not appear in a remarkably good state of health. Uncle John answered the letter, which I wrote him; and says, that it would be better for me to teach school a year after I graduate, before attempting any thing else. And as much as I dislike teaching, I believe I shall be obliged to follow his advice, without some equally lucrative employment opens itself to me: so, I shall be on the watch, to see if I can get a school or Academy, somewhere between Maine & Louisiana. I had an offer to-day, to commence the Litchfield High School, next June, & keep it at least a year: but it commenced too early, and I do

not like the place very much. It is the same, where so many young men went from Leeds (this) last fall.

I had another proposal the other day, but it suited me full as little. I may, like the dainty Crane, have, from necessity, to take up with the "miserable worms", at last, but I will not stay out of College any more, for the highest wages. I have written & committed my part for this Spring's exhibition. It is not very good, but like the Short Soldier, "it will pass muster".

The Exhibition will be on Tuesday evening, one fortnight from this evening. There are usually four or five Junior parts, but this year the College government have sent away three of the performers, and the other will not perform alone. The cause of their being sent away was this: From fast day through the week, in the Junior year, Clafes have been in the habit of "cutting"; that is, of staying and of recitation. This year the government undertook to put a stop to it: So the night after Fast, Prof. Smyth, hearing a noise in one of the Junior rooms, broke through the door, without ceremony, and found 10 Juniors, sat down & took their names and commanded them all to go into Recitation the next morning. This he did in anticipation of offence, before they had done anything. The next morning he did not find a Junior there, and none were seen till the next Monday, except William Otis. On Friday he had seated himself in the

Cars to go to Bath. Just before they started, Prof. Goodwin tapped him on the shoulder, & told him he would accompany him to the President's room. He went & was sentenced to go to Bath, but was again recalled the next week. Nine were sent away for six months, the best scholars & "best fellows" in the class. Thus much for following precedents. Give my love to all the family. I think now of going home by the way of Hallowell, to make them my long promised visit, but even now it will be a short one. My money is more reduced than I thought it would be, but, if the exhibition does not exceed its common cost, I shall try to manage my passage home with what I have. The Juniors being gone I do not know whether we can ask them to pay their proportional part of the expenses or not. I have not heard from Rowland of late, and in fact I have not from any one else. If you write again, you must send it soon enough for me to get it next week.

Your affectionate Son

O. O. Howard.