

keep out of debt. Silas is good hearted, without  
principle or stability, but could not be in a better  
situation than he now is, with the two <sup>husso</sup> ~~other~~ Sargents  
for companions. He attends to his business, regularly  
& cheerfully. His danger lies in his love of forming  
friends, meeting, & taking strangers for <sup>companions</sup> ~~friends~~. Mr Sargent ('Frank') carried me to the  
Theater last evening, the first I ever attended.  
I was disappointed for I had expected more, more  
thrilling & effective acting. The Hall & Salvons were  
rich & splendid. I shall not go again while here.  
I have been "prudent of my money." I bought a  
watch, however, of Mr Chas Henry Waite, which  
he had not carried long - a good one - for  
twelve dollars. Hence my deposit will not be more  
than \$45.00. Alley says that my money is  
better in my pocket. He made no deposit & brought  
away \$150.00 at the end of the course. He cleared over  
a hundred. He told me many things. He says that  
he went through without drinking, but had to  
be careful in the selection of his companions. He  
gave me a list of cadets to whom he would recommend me.  
He has been ordered to Santa Fe & is on his way.  
Says I can take the first stand if I choose, but  
shall have some who will "dispute the ground with  
me". I left a Rowlands shirt at Mrs Waite's at Portland.  
Which he must go & get when he goes to Yarmouth. Lizzie  
wishes to see him & make his acquaintance. Give my  
love to all the family - New York City cannot be  
described. It is so large that I don't try to see it, but sit  
still & write letters. I shall start for N. P. Monday morn-  
ing at 4 o'clock. Good bye till I get there. Affectionately yours  
O Howard

Alley's class was 120. No Commence, 44 to graduate. spent after-noon with  
to go to live with grand mother after Westy leaves for the U.S.

O Howard

130

New York City Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 1850

Dear Mother,

As you will notice by the  
above, I am in the city of New York, I stopped  
in Portland till Monday night, as I intended.  
At 7 on Monday evening Lizzie & myself set out  
in the Steamer John Marshall for Boston. It  
was a glorious night; ~~and~~ <sup>but</sup> we remained on  
deck together only about an hour & a half; for  
Lizzie began to be quite sick. I helped her below  
as soon as possible, but the poor girl had  
rather an uncomfortable time of it, getting  
only about 2 hours sleep. I had a stateroom  
with a young man of my acquaintance & a  
boy, slept soundly after I could persuade  
myself to retire, till day-break, when I arose  
"bright & early", and found that we were just  
coming into Boston Harbor. The air was still  
and the water perfectly smooth. I enjoyed the  
scenery much, but should have enjoyed it  
more, had there been some one by me sufficiently  
acquainted to point out to me the different  
islands, forts, &c giving their names. We were  
soon in the busy, bustling, narrow, crooked  
streets of Boston. A carriage drove us & baggage  
to "Le Grange place". Here we stopped at a very  
quiet boarding (place) house kept by a young  
widow lady (Mrs Ryder). The beauty of the whole



was, that we stopp'd two days & two nights, and all she charged was \$1.60 etc. Tuesday, we wandered about over the city in the forenoon, conducted by Lizzie's cousin, I left them however at 11 o'clock, and went to East Cambridge in search of my relatives & quondam friends. Oliver's family (Mrs. Mount & all) "had gone down East", excepting her, <sup>Oliver's</sup> husband. I found Aunt Ann, quietly boarding in East Cambridge, made her a short "call", and returned to Boston, promising to return with Lizzie at 8 o'clock in the afternoon; which I did. Aunt Ann was as agreeable as common. But I fear me much "the first impressions" which Lizzie made upon her rather too exacting nature, might not have been as favorable as we could wish, for the poor child had scarcely recovered from sea sickness & want of sleep. We returned to Boston at half past 5, and after making a visit to a friend of Lizzie's, we returned to "Le Grange Place", somewhat weary, and not very well pleased with Boston. After a good night's rest we were in a little better spirits, and much more disposed to be pleased with the strange things of the busy city. Wednesday, we went to Mount Auburn, taking in Aunt Ann at East Cambridge on our way. We passed the Colleges, going through Old Cambridge. I think Mount Auburn surpasses any ~~other~~ place I ever visited, in the beauty of its grounds - I will not attempt a description

for probably you have been there yourself. If you have no description is necessary. The splendid monuments, mounds, chapel, walks, trees & flowers, cannot fail to impress <sup>the stranger</sup> with emotions <sup>of pleasure & admiration</sup>, mingled with awe. We saw the tomb, soon to be the receptacle of Webster... We returned & in the afternoon visited the Common, Public Gardens & State House. From the Cupola of the State house we had a view of Boston entire, & its harbor, & also of all the surrounding cities. On Thursday, I left Lizzie with rather a heavy heart. She started in the cars for Portland at 5 o'clock. I for New York by Express train at 6 past 4. We came through without stopping more than ten minutes at a place. I found John Alley on board the <sup>cars</sup> who preceded me from our district at West Point. With a friend & an acquaintance the time passed very pleasantly till we arrived in New York at half past four o'clock. He advises me to keep away from West Point till the 28<sup>th</sup>, as he thinks it will be better for me, than to be there for two or three days to be knocked about, before the studies commence. I found Mr. Sargent & Silas. The former is a perfect gentleman, moral, steady, and intelligent. He is engaged in large & profitable business. "He thinks every thing" of Sarah, but knows just what Silas is; over whom he has much influence. He seems to regard him as a brother, and as such takes care of his interests, which I fear Silas if left to himself would sadly neglect. I think Silas will be able with \$400, or to clear himself, i.e.



Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine



W Howard

131

West Point Aug 28<sup>th</sup> '80

Dear Mother

I am here: came on Monday last; after having staid in N. York over the Sabbath. I had a most beautiful sail up the river - arrived here about 10. Found Warren Lathrop immediately; he is well & in pretty good spirits. Nobody can form any idea of military discipline only those who are or have been subjected to it. But I will not tell you how I like, till my greenness has worn off, so that I may speak unbiased by the severity of my last "Drill". The companies are all in their encampment - but will move to the "Barracks" - is - the place where they room. It is a glorious place here. Ladies & gentlemen here from all parts of the United States. My class about one hundred. Have not passed my examination yet. It is a change indeed from the Senior Class at College to the 4<sup>th</sup> Class here. I shall soon, however, be able to make myself at home. As a scholar I have not much doubt of "carrying the palm": But as a Soldier! the extreme neatness! - not a speck of rust on the gun or on your clothes. I shall soon be able to give you a minute description of every thing but cannot while in the



The Camp, for my time is not at my own disposal. Not a drop of liquor is sold or allowed on the point; but a few & perhaps many get men to send it secretly to them from N. York, which they pay for during their vacation. So it is said. It cannot be drunk here as in College. Should an officer know of a young man's drinking, he is punished personally & severely according to the military fashion.

If I had been here two months I should now begin to enjoy myself, but I expect to be a little homesick until I get into the barracks, where I can have my trunk & some books. For here we are allowed neither while in the Camp. I sleep upon the tent-floor, upon the ground wrapped in my blanket. My health is good, my face long. My love to all my friends - Write to Leggie and tell her that I tent with 3 strangers & she must not think that I have forgotten her if she does not hear from me, till we get into the barracks. Write to me soon.

Yr affectionate son

O. P. Howard

Direct

Cadet O. P. Howard

West Point