

Camp Greif-W.G.
Sept 3rd/50

My dear Otis, Being absent from Camp Saturday afternoon I did not receive your note until Sunday morning. Therefore could not call to see you. Was pleased to hear you were a little settled. & that the Cadets are friendly, you must keep a stiff upper lip, & not allow a homesick feeling to disturb your peace of mind, remember you are now engaged in a military life, consequently have a glorious object in view, which a strict adherence to your motto, (never back out) will certainly cause you to reach. Your motto was also Genl Taylor by which means the battle of Buena Vista was won - May it also achieve for you a like victory. I wrote home the next day after I saw you, told the folks of your arrival, our social interview &c. - will be careful what I say in my letters about you & not give an unfavorable impression. - Shall call & see you the first opportunity & you must do likewise

Sincerely yours
Warren

Camp. 11th. 1864

Room No 14 North Barracks

Cadet. 11th. 1864

W. D. Williams

11th. 1864



My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the matter of the 11th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Yours, very truly,
W. D. Williams

I do not wonder that you feel "Home sick"
for I come very near to it here and a
short distance from home among friends
while you are far away subjected to severe
discipline but Oh how an honorable Com-
mune lies sure though distant before you and
you have one behind you whose you
may think of and dream of as your own
fair girl and thus be happy despite, discip-
line, duty, drill while I am one who
must I have said enough about this hitherto
and am forever being you with the details
of my ill storied passion.

One of these days I will come you with
an account of the way the Br. girls used
me &c. I am bound to know to take it.

Of course you will not mention any such
hints if you should write to I am in
the meantime. I got introduced to Jackson's
girl. She appears first rate.

Oh it is getting late and
I must bid you good bye. Write again.
If Lizzie were here I should make her
send her love but she is out and you
will have to take up with mine P.S. Percy.

Portland, Sept. 7th Sat. Ev. 1850.

Dear Howard,

Here I am this rainy evening in
Mrs. Wait's kitchen with Lizzie in the corner and
her mother beside the table, writing to you an an-
swer to your last. I know how you would enjoy
being where I am and I would willingly resign
it to you for a short time to gratify you but many
a hill and valley lies between us and many a
thing we both may wish can never be.

Lizzie and her mother were down to Commencement
and I did my best, to entertain them though you know
I am never very successful in entertaining the ladies.

I accompanied Lizzie to Com. Ball and remained in
attendance till 12 o'clock when it being her wish I left
her in charge of Mr. Bates and retired. She told me
she liked much and that the Ball was much better
than it was last year. We had a first-rate Commence-
ment at least such is the opinion I hear everywhere
expressed. Paulexter had a grand poem of course.
The oration before the Pen. & Coll. Soc. by Butler of D.
was the richest thing I ever heard. The Poem by Upton (an
old graduate) was poor. Snell did not get an election to
the "Phi Beta Kappa". The two first poets were all
elected. My Father and Mother were both down and

men quite surprised to see me do decently. Old Butler
has made it all right with his woman and is going out
South with Pain & Bell. By the way I will tell you one
of these days of a scrape into which I got with the
women since I saw you. Jewett goes to Yarmouth
together with Robinson of the Law Class. Harding goes
to Limerick where I talked of going. I have had an-
other offer of Limerick since you left but preferred
the chance I have got here - that of Assistant in the
Public High School at \$500 per year. I commence
to morrow. Townsend has got an office in
Washington of some kind at \$1400 a year. Success
to him he needs it as much as any one. It rains
here to day dreadfully, drizzly and my feelings are
about in unison with the weather. Would you not
here then with your cheerful face to drive away some
of the gloom that rests on all things. But then I
must dispel it myself and not wait for you or
any body else and I fancy me you have about
enough of the blues to chase away without attending
to those of your friends. However much you might
like to. I doubt not you have got a good, un-
pleasant place but I feel sure you will do
honor to yourself there. I paid for you on your
bill at McKee's 4.20 or rather did for me, your last
term bill was 30.08. Peterson did not pay that note.
Your Diploma cannot be obtained till next Commencement.
All of our class who were there received their Diplomas
with the exception of Townsend, Bell and Miss. Leav-

Branswick in about a fortnight.
Old Wilson was there at Comm. And also Perry.
29 have already entered the Freshman
class at Bowdoin. And about 40 in all are expected
I hope Bowdoin is coming up really. Mrs. Waite and
Lizzie seem quite cheerful as much as at last
as usual but I suppose I shall not have
the pleasure of boarding with them a great
while for they talk some I think of going
to Lewiston. I hope they will not. I tell you what
Howard I begin to feel as though I had indeed
turned my back on College - as though the world
was all before me and I with hardly a friend
in it. Oh then I will not say that for I
have many an old college friend true ones too I
believe but this will not atone for the loss of one and
I declare I feel sometimes almost tempted to become
a villain merely to justify the opinion of some con-
cerning me. But as you would say this would not
be hardly politic. We have all of us to be talked
about some time or other and unfortunate must
be the man who has no enemies. I guess about
the best way for me to do after all is to change
my habits a little and so live that their pre-
dictions may not be verified.

Mrs Waite and I have been talking about
you and Lizzie &c nearly all day (Sunday) would
you not like to know what we had to say? Eh?
Well I reckon perhaps you would. With best thoughts,

O. Howard

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West Point N.Y. Sept 8th 1850.

Dear Mother,

When I last wrote we were in the Camp, and therefore I wrote a very short & poor letter. To comply with father's request & give a fair & true account of this place, I fear is rather difficult, for I have been very much confined by my duties, & have not been able to gain more than a partial view of things. First I will try to give you a concise account of the Academy & its discipline.

There are here as instructors, ⁱⁿ of this institution, about 20 I should think. Some of them are old professors, & some recent graduates. All the Cadets are under military discipline & military regulations, as you know, hence, all ~~the~~ are here rewarded according to their merits; those that behave the most soldierlike and get the fewest reports, usually get promoted to a "corporalcy" the second year, a ~~sergeant's~~ ^{or} orderly-sergeant's rank the third year, & a Captain's position &c the fourth year. The whole No. of Cadets "called Corps of Cadets" is divided into 4 Companies, called Co. A, B, C, & D. These Companies are formed without regard to classes. Excepting the Officers, who wear Badges ("Chevrons") I cannot tell to which Class an individual belongs: excepting however, also those who appear "green" in tactics & those with whom I am acquainted. Well then. Our whole government is carried on by Cadet officers. The government of Cadet-officer, by Army-officers. But it does not moderate the severity of our discipline, because we are governed, as it were, by ourselves.

but rather increases it, for this reason: the young men who are officers are ambitious of high ~~proportion~~ hereafter, and hence are very precise in the performance of every duty. Our class consists of 98. For recitations it is divided into 4 Sections = 14 individuals in a section = We were first divided alphabetically, but at the end of three weeks the 1st division will contain the best scholars, the second division or "section", the next in rank & so on & down.

The manner of the recitation is such that the best scholar is obliged to study; some who have graduated from colleges have been found deficient here, because they depended too much at first, on former knowledge.

The instructor calls upon a young man to deduce the rule; he cannot give the rule & work from it, but must make up an example, & give a reason for every step until he finds the rule. Much judgment & a great deal of study is required, even for a scholar, to make a perfect recitation; thus you may easily see how it happens that so many are found deficient. For 1/2 at least of our class came here with hardly more than a common school education. As many as thirty at the smallest calculation must leave at the next January examination. West Point is a plain 200 or 300 feet above the river. Around this plain hills of as much as a thousand feet in height, on every side shut us in; The ~~public lands~~ ^{plane} is perhaps as much as 3 or 4 miles square. There is nothing in the world to attract us beyond the limits. Supposing we could have our liberty. Warren's Corps ~~was~~ situated, when I came here

about a mile north of this place. Now they have struck their
tents & gone into "Barracks" (the building in which they winter)
about 1/2 mile or less from this place. Warren is orderly
sergeant of the highest company in the U.S. Army, but
as he enlisted, he cannot rise higher, except by having
an ^{especial} commission given him by Congress. His pay is 30 dollars
per month clear of all expense for clothing & board —
He has the respect of his company, not "over-much" to do
& pretty good pay. I got reported before the Battalion
the other day, for stopping after my Section was dismissed
and talking with him. I did not know that I was
obliged immediately to return to my room. The plea
of ignorance will excuse me for perhaps three weeks
when my demerit will commence. The hours of
recreation are, weekdays, 1/2 hour after every meal, & on
Saturday from 1/2 past 1 o'clock P.M. till 6 o'clock. During
recreation hours we can go where we please on the
public lands, not being allowed to go, then or at any
other time except by special permission into the Hotel or
Store. No money can be expended there, ^{by cadets} very well, excepting
by those who send to New-York City, desirably; Not very often
done, for detection is dangerous. I went to Church this
fore-noon with my company (which is - B. Co.). My
Uniform is not yet done, so I have been obliged to
wear the suit which I brought all the time to drill,
parade, recitation & every thing. I have managed to keep
very neat as yet, but wish I had taken some thin pants for
a change. There is no danger of anything being stolen in this place.

for a guard is kept the whole time, and the Guard itself
is at every moment liable to inspection. At five O'clock
in the morning after the gun is fired. The beating of drums
& the sound of pipes wake us. & ^{individual of each} immediately run out
and fall into ranks, and ~~each~~ ^{individual of each} company answers to
name as it is called by the Orderly Sergeant. Then we
return to our rooms. fold up our bed-clothes in a manner
specified, put our shoes, hats & caps & clothes in just
such a place, and then study till breakfast. At 10 min.
before 7 o'clock the roll is called again, & we are marched
into the "Mess-Hall" for breakfast. Stand around the table
our place, & when the command, "Take seats," is given, we sit
and eat. One half hour is allowed to each meal after we are
seated. In the same manner we form for recitation
for breakfast - only the Battalion is divided into sections
& to every section, a "Squad-marcher". Each Squad-marcher
marches his section to its respective reciting room.
The roll is again called at 1 O'clock for dinner, & we
do not want any being allowed to fall out - after the roll is called
Recitations in the afternoon as in the fore-noon. At
4 O'clock is drill. The whole Battalion drills at that
time on the open plane. But the "septs" or the "10 of us"
who came here in September drill by ourselves, have
over us a Corporal. He puts us in a soldier-like position
cheats on a line & thrown out, toes out, chins drawn
& heads drawn back. The eyes must look straight ahead &
never change, unless by command &c. &c.
I enjoy myself pretty well now that I can read & write &
study. There are three or four graduates of other institutions
here in my class. Perhaps I shall not be first as a scholar
but shall, pretty near it, by & by, when we get where it is
hard. If you get this before Rowland leaves, tell him to go early
enough, if you please, to go to Portland, & get acquainted with
Lizzie, for it will be pleasant for him & her both to be
acquainted while he is there. Write me as soon as you can
for as best I do not like here well enough to do without
letters from you & my brothers. In fact I have not yet got

any very congenial spirits. Very few, with whom I am
free to associate have the taste, the feelings or the education
which I have. I get neither real friendship nor sympathy. The
few with whom I am acquainted most intimately, wonder
why, with my education, & my dislike for the coarse &
profane, why I should come here. But I do not regret
it yet. Here is a field open for a man who has ability, a
chance for the severest mental discipline. To get into the
engineer Corps is what but very few do. Only once in
two or three years do they graduate scholars sufficiently
good to enter this Corps, these same are very often made
instructors in this institution. which position (I do
not wish this repeated) I hope to gain. I may not
realize my wish but there is nothing like trying.
Yesterday I was called upon to deduce a rule in
Algebra, which ^{it} required considerable forethought &
study to prepare. After I got through I was closely
questioned & answered readily & correctly after which
Prof Church asked me if I had not studied Algebra
considerably before. He complimented me somewhat &c.
I rather think, as a scholar, I can maintain a good
position. But, to hope to stand first among a
hundred young men brought together here from
every part of the Union, & the most of the great men's sons
is looking rather high - here's try. You wished to know
something in relation to Cadets who are taken sick.
There is a large Hospital to which those who are sick are

To render them

rather & provided with every thing comfortable, & put them in condition to recover. I have three room-mates in a very large room ^{no} 2 Brown of Oxford Maine Meadwell of N. Hampshire & Lazelle of Mass. -

They study ~~at~~ all the time, nearly, & so give me plenty of time to read & study. Our tables are iron, & Bedsteads also of iron, as you know. The latter are quite narrow and have iron bars instead of bed-cords. A mattress is fitted to it. It makes a hard bed, but after our drill there is not danger of lying awake even on the floor. I have not yet written ^{to} Uncle Ward. I do not care much about seeing any friend here, till I have got a little better acquainted with my duties & have got to be a little more military - I feel rather odd "round in broad cloth" while others are dressed in uniform; especially while in the Battalion, I am rather little too much notice of "for me". Give my love to Charles. Howland & Rodolphus, & to Uncle's little boys, & remember me to father & Phoebe, George & Elias.. I have seen some times when I should have rejoiced to have been in your midst. But every-body must have "the bitter with the sweet". I hope you are all well. I think of you all more than ever before. The influences here are not of the healthiest kind as far as concerns the moral character. ^{The instruction as} Not quite so good in its tendency as ⁱⁿ a College where all the influence which is exerted by the education itself is on the side of morality & religion.

Write soon to me, Your affectionate Son

C. C. Howard

get anybody to go with me, - I can
hardly content myself until the
time of departure arrives, - Mr & Mrs
Benson have been at home about a
week, Mr & Mrs Dick & Mrs Adams, so
I think they will remain at home
for a while at least, -

I rec'd a letter from Sarah last week,
and she is impatient for me to come,
she has been enjoying herself nicely,
the Party at the Hallamill House was
a grand affair, I wish I could have
been there, - Don't you wish you were
going down? -

One word this before
I close, - the very flattering terms in
which you ^{new} pleased to address me, I
feel are altogether undeserved, although
I do not doubt your sincerity, - If I
made a favorable impression upon you
I will in all candor say that I am grati-
fied, but that I treated you differently
on account of your relation to Sarah I can
sure I did not, you saw me as I was, and
if you now have occasion to change
your opinion of me I shall be still more

Am. Sept 10 1850

Dear Sir

I was very glad to receive
your letter on Wednesday last and ought
to have answered it long since, but have been
prevented in one way and another, -
this morning I received your letter, I
was fortunate enough to realize a wish
that I made as I was crossing the
ferry, that I might receive ~~them~~ letters,
and they were all from the ones I
wished them from, of course one was
from Sarah, I felt quite happy, and
saw them all with a great deal of plea-
sure, was happy to learn that you had
passed through with your examination, not
that I had any fears, but that it is a dis-
-agreement an ordeal I wanted to hear that
you was through with it, - I have no doubt
that you felt lonely and perhaps homesick,

no! not humdrum, 'tis too tame; - but
rather heart sick or love sick, -
yes! now I have it, - I've touched the
right chord now, - listen to its vibrations;
to the sweet notes of pleasurable emotion
that spring from a heart, which at
the mention or thought of a dear one
thrills with unspeakable happiness, - would
that it were lasting; but alas! - these
thoughts cannot always make us happy,
there are times when our fancy paints
a picture of another colour, when instead
of the bright sunshine of happiness, the
dark gloom of uncertainty, and restless
anxiety haunts our mind, and makes
us for a while miserable, - but 'tis
passing, 'tis needed to entertain such thoughts
- in distrust of the wisdom of Providence, -
I suppose you have had some blue times,
or rather thoughts since you have been in
West Point, but you will feel at home
by & by, and I hope you ^{will} find a long
and congenial spirit with whom you

you may feel that you can asso-
ciate as a companion, - I suppose
the majority of the young men
there are a mild, unfeeling, and un-
caring set of fellows, under no moral
restraints, and susceptible of none of
the softer and more tender feelings
which are so requisite in a compan-
ion and associate for one so used
to good society as you are, - I hope you
will find one soon such as you may
wish for, -

I anticipate a great deal of pleasure
in my trip "down East", I think of leaving
the last of this or first of next week,
I shall go direct to Keellum, (stopping
perhaps one day in Boston) shall remain
there from two to three weeks, and then
if Sarah will go with me I shall go
to Machias and visit my brother for
a week or so, and expect to have a
grand time, for I mean to go into
the woods for a few days if I can

Barnmouth Sep 16th 1850

Dear Brother

Do you remember when you began a letter, dated at the above place. how did you feel? was it not something like this. The class is ahead of me. but I must enter college next fall or never, and I must go, consequently I will bend every energy to the task and not only be equal to but excel any of my competitors, if those were your feelings. that is the point in our lives, that we were similar, and why should we not be, we had the same object in view with nearly the same means of accomplishing it, it was accomplished in your case, and in mine - time only can tell, I have got now 8 on the north side of the building for a room and am at present and expect to continue alone, I have been here three days and just got fairly settled. I suppose you are acquainted with both of our teachers Messrs Jewett & Robinson. John N Jewett and Geo A Robinson, Mr Jewett says he shall write you in a few days. he is principal of the English and Mr Robinson of classical department. Mr Jewett rooms just opposite me and boards in common. I like Mr Robinson very well what little I have seen of him. He appears to be a thorough practical scholar and excellent teacher.

Cadet Oliver O Howard
West Point
N. Y.

Our school is very small numbering some 95 scholars - but I hope for Mr Dewetts sake that may increase, the principle reason for its being so small is that - Mr Woods the former principal of the English department here has started an opposition school in a hall just adjoining the seminary buildings, which numbers about 70 scholars. The reason for his doing so was because the trustees expelled him from his office here. I suppose it seems to you as though you had been gone an age from home on account of the distance, When I left our folks were well and had Vaughan & John with them, I hear now that William was going to Leeds after Commencement - I saw Uncle Henry wife & all his children and Sarah Lee the morning I came here, they were out visiting at Leeds Wilton &c and I came down with Uncle Ensign so you see you hear from all your relatives through me. Betsey Gilmores youngest child little Laura, I expect is dead as it was not expected to live a day when I left - her disease is dropsy on the brain. I suppose you have heard all about Commencement through your College friends and correspondents, I have an order of exercises before me and see the name of Allitt marked excused. I suppose that Percy has written you - that he has a school in Portland, it is reported to be a fine situation. I want you should write me all about the examination

and your exercises and discipline. Do you room in the old Barracks? Do you like any better than you did at first? I find almost every body I see seem almost to envy you your situation. I was over to Wazne just before I left and took tea with Mrs Sampson - Mr Sampson said he was swearing mad because they ordered him off from the camp meeting ground the night before and hadnt got over it, Mrs S was as kind and talkative as ever and all very much interested in your welfare. I have not been into Portland yet and think I shall not till the last of the term, at which time I suppose Uncle Henry and his family will be there - so I have not seen Miss W. but shall as soon as I can, I shall be very happy to form her acquaintance - ~~and~~ ^{and} have no doubt it will yield me a great deal of pleasure - ~~as~~ ^{as} soon as you have an opportunity I wish you to write me a good long letter. I am reading the Bucolics of Virgil which I find rather hard at first but hope it grow easier by and by.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

Mr Oliver Howard

P.S. I saw Mr Hawkins here on Thursday, he sends his respects to you

R B H

I so far have found our situation rather agreeable than otherwise. Our School numbers only 40 at present. You are probably aware of the opposition & reply by Mrs Woods the former teacher. This now remains our School considerably ^{smaller} & will doubtless continue to keep it smaller than usual. Though I think we shall gain upon him rather than he upon us - 60 scholars will give us good pay & so all is well which I think we shall attain, if nothing unforeseen occurs - Our Clap is now settling abroad or will soon be, throughout the length & breadth of our country. Adams is still in B. I believe - Butler says he is going South. Bell & Poir. will go soon. Peck is in Portland. I in Gorham (not North Gorham) & you in West Point - The others are settling in different parts of the State & of New England - I got our Commencement dinner, one of the many I have paid for, & been to see but don't justify if nothing present. By the way it was said that our Commencement was the best for many years - I really it did so off well. No hesitation in any of the performers except Henshaw - He made a bad piece of work I am afraid (I was out at the time) But I am almost to the end of my sheet, & you have probably heard of all this before. Mrs. W. & Doughty came then & stopped at Mrs. H's so that I saw them a number of times. Saml. Bass. is here with us & is doing well. I come in the old academy & he has just slipped into the same opposite him - Now as I have opened my communication just follow me & give me an account of yourself - so soon as may be. Direct to Gorham & leave it to me as I find time.

J. N. Jewett

Gorham Me. Sept. 17th 1850

Friend Howard

It is now some 6 weeks since I left you at the "United States" in the city of Portland. Within this short space of time our positions here underwent some changes - I am at West Point the former seat of military proficiency & drill preparations, whilst I found a quiet, unassuming unpretending College Student has been advanced (or I should rather say agreed) to the humble office of Principal of the Eng. Department, in "Old North Gorham Academy" - However as our positions are matters for our own selection, I presume, it is for your nearly for us to complain of them, though I sincerely wish that there was no more pedagoguing for me & do - or rather that I was not obliged to engage in the business longer - It is hard, it is trying for a young man who is desirous of doing some in the open field & to be cooped up in the block-house, with no opportunity to display his powers or signalize himself by acts of heroic self-sacrifice. I am not hinting by this that I wish to become a martyr & any cause, or that I apprehend any danger of such an event, if I am free to pursue the course most

against my inclinations, but still I would
like to make a little stir in the world beyond
the brick walls of an academy, when I can meet
the coming face to face & on even grounds. This
skulking round behind old buildings & find a random
shot good & then is not what I have been looking
forward to with any very great interest & if it must
be done (& I acknowledge it must) I am perfectly
willing to leave it to other hands & as other hands
to manage. My respect known to them & as a plan
to enter upon this Academy work & surely I wish
them much success in their efforts & against the
world, though I must admit that they have a hard
task before them. — But how goes the "West
Point System" in its new "habitat" (as Prof. Clark would
say)? I hope it is better in the hour of its birth
than when transplanted & like a exotic plant
left to wither & fade away in the ungenial soil of
old Brodwin! I imagine that the straight jackets
& the strict rules of your young military discipline
will sit badly on your shoulders, though necessary
with the notion of accommodation as well as of instruction.
Doubtless you cast many a wishful look towards
the pleasant scenes & friends of this North Eastern
home of yours — How would you enjoy one of our
frustrated chats in No 26 N.H. with Peleg Jackson
myself &c. &c. such as we used to have. I presume
it would not be altogether unenjoyable even though we

should occasionally refer to your connection with
the "beautiful" Portland "Soldier" Show was, indeed,
"great times" worthy of remembrance & will probably
long dwell in your mind as they will in mine.
But again I am reminded that they are past & gone
Britain & perhaps, we shall see some similar
ones again — You are still a student, climbing "science's
lugged hill"; & fitting yourself for the business of
life, but I feel as though I am plodding on in
a circular path with no opportunity for progress.
Suspect regarding teaching is an light I can but
consider it is a belittling occupation, cramping
the mental power & compelling it to keep pace
with the snail-like progress of a creeping multitude.
However it must be submitted to at least for a time,
& I shall content myself as much as possible,
relieving myself by a visit to Brunswick when I
get home sick & weary — After all I am not so badly
disturbed, am I? Don't you wish you were as well as I —
Robinson & I get along first rate so far
as I am not ambitious of distinction in the department
of instruction. I presume we shall have no difficulty
whatsoever — It is far better for me my intention to
disentangle myself at his expense & I assure you I have
seems to be & is fully conciliating & accommodating always
willing to consult & to be consulted — In short, he is a
"good fellow"; & even when he has any respect for & my
pleasant withal — He has now been here two weeks

My dear son,

Leeds, Sept. 20, 1820.

It is now five weeks since you left home and we have received those letters from you for which I am ^{very} great obliged. I don't know what I should do if you were negligent about writing. I have always felt that you were a good son, there were many subjects ^{about which} I should have liked to have conversed with you, but you know the state of my family at that time I calculated on our way to Portland we should have had an opportunity for converse but I was so delighted with the idea of being with you that the many things I intended to say never occurred to me, until I had recovered from my exciting feelings after parting with you, perhaps it is better as it is, but my heart is ever with you, and my constant prayer is that you may be kept from the heinous sins which so easily beset us, sinful creatures, I was glad to hear such good news from New York City for you must know my interest is very great in Sarah and Silas ^{time} that you passed in New York City must have gone much happier for having acquaintances there. I seem to realize all your feelings since your arrival in West Point and enter into them fully, but I believe I have wholly made up my mind not to look on the dark side of your situation, but always try to cultivate a bright view of the subject, you said in your first letter from West Point, write to Lizzie, &c. but I thought I should for a member of days, but Laura was sick and every day required some of my immediate attention ^{to her} after eighteen days of intense suffering she died, her disease was water on the brain, so you see the family circle has been broken only in the short space of one month

you have probably written and received news from Portland ere this
Your father has received a letter from Berley ^{he is boarding} at Mrs Waites
teaching school in Portland and an order of exercise
of the commencement, William has been here I saw him
but very little, he ~~was~~ ^{is} here, the day of the funeral, he said
Maria enjoyed commencement very much, you have probably
had all the news about commencement from Lizzy as I
understand she was there, I am glad they had a good time
but there is something painful to me in thinking ^{in that} of
of the vacant place you left ~~behind~~ ^{there}, I have just perused
P..... letter he says you cannot have your diploma until next
year he gives no reason, and I know none, all I have had so much
company since you left, I could hardly ^{left} attend to our immedi-
ate family duties, Rowland home Wednesday the 11 at noon, for
Northampton with the same old trunk you carried
there four years ago last March, he has not written
home yet I hope he will not give way to the love of
ease so much as not to ^{write} me at all, I am anxious to hear how
he is situated, I hope he has written to you ere this, your aunt
Lucretia wrote a few lines for you to take with you to your
Uncle Ward. but did not have an opportunity to give it to you
after you ~~was~~ gone, she put it in the mail, and he answered
it, enquiring why you ~~was~~ there and the like, and said
he had a son at west point in a stove, and his eldest
son has pite of a very malignant kind and wrote as
though he was in great trouble about him this I received
from Mother, while visiting in that neighborhood, and
that he your Uncle ^{James} past west point often to a ^{quar}
he owns at Shaloken I have not seen any one from that
way for a long while, if Lucas Howard is at a good place

you will know it in
time

Friday evening, Henry Wingate was here ^{to day} ~~yesterday~~ said Mr Sargent
was expected in Hallorwell last evening he had not heard whether
he had arrived yet, Sarah Lee was here with Mr. Strickland's
family last week she then said she should come to Leeds
with Mr. Sargent, I shall ~~be obliged~~ have an opportunity of
expressing my thanks in person for his politeness to my son
I have just returned ~~from my~~ ^{to my} writing after waiting on our
workmen, four wall layers, beside my husband, George and
Silas, Rodolphus, and John, made my table full seated
I have just heard that May Herrick's youngest daughter, Harriet
died this morning at two O'clock ~~that~~ ^{she} sick only a few days
Marilah Howard, still remains in a very low state Doct Lovel
attended Betsey's little girl a ~~short~~ ^{time} I met with him several
times ~~he~~ said give my respects to Otis when you write,
I received a letter from your Uncle John date Sept, 2 in which
he mentioned you and said he should expect a letter
from you when you get settled, you have probably written
to him before now, I think ~~we~~ ^{can} your Uncle would be
heartily glad to return to his home once more and see
his family together, your Uncle Ensign is just as much
engaged as ever in his railroad he has obtained his loan
from Portland that he was trying to bring about when you
left, your father was there until ten O'clock on Tuesday
evening, assisting in making out the papers, we shall have
a railroad through Leeds I think, Mrs Liothrop came down
and watched with Laura one ^{night} ~~day~~ and came and took care
of her another day, she laid in dying state nearly a week
there being no help to be had, it was a kindness to have
any one come and offer a days help, Warren wrote his mother

in very high terms of you, it made him almost enthusiastic
See one of his old townsman at west Point we have
no news from California whatever from our folks since
The first letter you wrote from west point was mailed
and reached here ~~Saturday~~ Saturday evening and the second
last ~~even~~ was mailed on Monday and arrived on Saturday
evening so you see we have our mail brought here the
and ~~Saturday~~ days, and if our letters arrive at Greene after Tuesday
they must lay there untill ~~Saturday~~ ^{Friday} before we get the
but if you prefer writing them on the sabbath
read just as well when they get ~~there~~ here, so write as
as possible, Martha Jane is going to Portland in October
then I think R.B. will go ~~to~~ there and get acquainted
with him, George is now playing some of the tunes in
chamber that he and R. played ~~and sung~~ when
he was at home, R.B. attended camp meeting two ~~times~~
the first week in Sept. I really am in hopes his health
hold out for him to accomplish his studies, according
his wishes, ~~we have had~~ we have had a very pleasant
Sept, which is very favorable to the corn crop & the
corn you planted at the expense of so much paper
will yield us a favorable crop, we have not had
frost yet here, it is nearly nine o'clock and
father has come into ^{the} room prepared for bed
and I must stop for the night hoping to finish
in the morning, Phebe says give my love to
Phebe shed a good many tears when you left
she said she should never ^{you} see again I think
good hearted, your father says he don't know
he has anything in particular to write this time
although he seems to take a great deal of interest
in his ^{your} letters, your father is not well he
could give my respects to Warrner Lathrop all of his
well within a few days, I never think of you at
without associating ideas of your own father, he was
to New York when he was nineteen the age you are
and lived several years in the same

very good night your Mother & Father

8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Inches

So Leeds Sept 15th 1850
140

Dear Brother; I came home last night, I found a letter from
the Monday after you went away ^{I went} up to my school, for the earliest
Irishman and I left, we did not get there in time to go in the to-
morrow school in the forenoon, Thomas says in the morning after the scholars
in the testament, then the classes read, & then comes the recitation
in Geography, & after that I cipher the rest of the forenoon, I have got
half way through fractions, at noon I go down to the Salders to
eat, it is a very good eating place indeed, Mr Alden is a very
man, in the afternoon, first we read word then we recite
grammar. (Hildes Gramms) & parse in the same. then comes our
thematics & Spelling & we sing in the Common School Song Book
Composition is read on Wednesday afternoon and we
~~declamation~~ ^{declamation} my last subject was Education, and my declamation
the African Chieftain, Uncle Henry came up last ^{Thursday} ~~Wednesday~~
and about Martha J. Fredrick, and his other two little children, and
Frank Lee, he is going to ^{move} Portland in a few weeks, Laura
Petsy's little girl is died, she died this morning about four
week after being sick ^{about} 18 days, the funeral will be Tuesday next
and only went away last Wednesday, week ago last Friday
went up to Campmeeting, week ago yesterday I went to
mission with Thomas, he was going alone, & he told me
should like to have me go with him, they are at
work very smart we counted 30 horses and carts at
in one place & about 100 Irishmen ought before
up to suit meetings and stay all night, Warren and
I have just been here they came from the meeting down
Nancy Mammell Phoebe's sister is she came here last

Monday she is sewing for mother, mother's garden is
covered ^{with} flowers of every kind some blue, yellow, purple white
red and all colors, father has returned from meeting, the
boys are at play in the yard, the scholars are in hopes that
Mr Barrows upon a school. after Thomas finishes
his, Arza has returned from Albany, where he went
to attend the annual fair, they are going into a business
of Mr Puttings ledge, ^{there hope that} they have offered a thousand
dollars to have the K. ^{land} as far as seeds comes this
fall, so that they can have their store carried down
on the cars this winter, our potato crop is a complete
failure, we began to dig our potatoes, more than a week
ago I wish I could ^{write} good letter, I am in hopes that I shall
^{practise} writing, I cannot write like other folks I wish
that I could, all that I can write is to inscribe the objects
in sight. I have that same cough, that I had when
you went away, the folks are all well but Kodolpon
he is very hoarse caused by going in to the water
we want you to write often so that we can tell how you
get along.

Affectionately yours

C. H. Howard

Charles did not do as well writing his letter as I expected,
but I will send it, he almost ^{expected} because he
could not do any better I think he is better in health he
is fleshier than when you left home, your father has
come in to finish up my Yours. Affectionate mother.

Oliver O. Howard.

Eliza Gilmore

better feelings of the heart; and render are insensible
to moral excellence. I joined the Bible Class last Sabbath.
It is composed of about twenty of the most independ-
ent spirits. The Chaplain is professor in Ethics, &
hence all those who join the Bible Class are
said to do it, in order to get the Chaplain's favor
& thus get high rank in the branch which he
teaches. Any one who knows me will never attribute
such motives to me, except in sport. ^{The} Chaplain
appears to be ~~an~~ ^a man of a good, solid education,
but I think fruitless efforts have rendered him
rather cold-hearted. Preaching to the majority
of soldiers is not very encouraging business.
Uncle Ward came to see me, but I was out of my
room & he could not find me. From some cause
he could not stop more than ten minutes, & therefore
went away, leaving word that he would come
again in a few days. I was disappointed. When
I found him gone. I write so many letters, that
I forget, whether I have told you about some things,
which you charged me to tell - If I have omitted anything
you must write me. Give my love to Charlie, & when he
comes home let him to writing me. & also to ~~the~~
"Dellie", Thomas, & John, & William, if he is with you.
Give my love to Father, and ask him if curiosity
will not prompt him to write something in your letters.
Remember me to Phoebe. I heard from Rowland that little
Laura was very sick. I hope Betsy will not lose her little
girl. My respects to all the friends who inquire for me,
and forget not to write me everything - ^{Your affectionate} son Otis

O O Howard

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West Point, N. Y. Sept 22, 1880

Dear Mother,

I thought last evening that you
might be expecting a letter from me; and when Mr
Leonard came without one, I feared you might feel
disappointed. But the reason, that I have not written
sooner, is not because I have not the inclination.
It is not here as it was in College: for when there I
could sit up an hour later to write home, but here
if I do not write during the day, I do not write at all.
I have found time, however, during the past weeks
to write three letters of four pages each, one to Rowland,
one to Mr Jewett, & one to Pleg. I have now got my
Uniform on & begin to feel quite important. The coat is
grey; the binding round the neck is stiff & hooks up close
round the throat, over which the ~~collar~~ ^{collar} turns -
it's large round the chest & tapers toward the waist - There
are three rows of buttons in front, 4, or 5 in a row (the buttons
are quite large, perfectly round, and gilded). There are
also 12 of the same kind of buttons upon the skirts, & three
~~upon each arm~~, about half way between the two seams
upon the upper part of the arm. The buttons across the
chest are connected by black cord (or braid?) And there
are two sprigs, ^{of the same} branching out from each button upon the
arm. Such is the coat. This must be buttoned at all
times, while the wearer is out of his room. The winter
pants, ^{a pair of} (which I am now wearing,) are grey like the coat

and have [a stripe⁺] of an inch or more in width, extending from top to button upon the outside of the leg. ^(a stripe of black broad cloth)
Such is the Uniform in which I am now dressed. It does not look so finely as the same coat with white pants, which all the Cadets, except those who came when I did in September, now wear. The who came in September, I believe I told you are called "Sept's". We are drilled by a couple of Corporals, each Corporal taking five of us in a squad. The C-L has got us straightened, & drilled into the different motions movements. He is now drilling us with muskets. The musket weighs about fifteen lbs - and it gives some pretty stout men a lame back & chest, to be drilled an hour & a half at a stretch. This is easier for me, however, than marching, for I am stout and the musket feels light; whilst in marching, I am obliged to break up a life-long habit; for I have been accustomed to touch my heels first, whereas I am now obliged to point my toes & touch the ball of the foot first. This may not seem to you very hard, but imagine that a thousand other unnatural & new things must be observed at the same time, and you can easily see how quite a smart boy may appear awkward: and worst of all the Corporal makes no allowance for the backache, or the neckache. I have got so now that I feel ^{after drill} as well ^{as before} & even better after drill than before. Nothing can be pardoned by any Cadet except by first getting an order from the Superintendent. This makes it inconvenient, but it prevents the foolish expenditures. It would have been much better for me, had I known it, to have got ^{before coming} some two

or three pairs of drilling pants. There is nothing about them in any way different from citizen's drilling pants, and I could have got them much cheaper.

Warren is liked very much by his company, & is really the highest non-commissioned officer in the service. He has many privileges, but, if I were he, I never would enlist again. The position of a man who enlists, is not, at best, a very enviable one. His prospects for advancement are very slight.

Warren is a noble looking Soldier, and it is a pity that he could not have had the advantage of an education at this place and taken his rank among the commissioned officers. I can do as I please, when I have sufficient reasons for it; I can resign, now, & after I graduate, any time I please. Such is not the position of an enlisted man.

The training here, both physical & mental, is just what I need. The only disadvantage to be feared is in a moral point of view. Every thing around ~~you~~ me is military; I have to be military in my walk, my talk, my manners &c. My tastes will be likely to change. What is right & what is wrong, however, will remain unchanged; I have some principles.

From which, it will rather more than the influence of military men & military discipline to make me severe. There is a kind of licentious spirit that seems to pervade the most of young men here, and the voice of ridicule is often raised against those who are not ^{thus}; and profanity too is very common. These vices I regret the existence of, for they tend to deaden the

Pitts Hill 23 Sept 1850

My Dear Nephew

1442

Your letter to me dated at West Point, was duly read, for which you will please accept my warmest thanks,

so much was I pleased to hear from you and so anxious to see you, that I took the first train after the receipt of your letter (viz) 3 Ock. freight train, crossed over from Garrison dock, arrived at the Point the moment, a funeral procession was forming to bury Miss Baskinbridge, I saw several of the Cadets that I knew, they directed me to the Bonnet, there I enquired for you, one young Gentleman from Washington as he informed me, went to your room but could not find you, my time being limited I was compelled to take a carriage & go to Congress where I was to meet two Gentlemen & return in the 1/2 past 4 train, thus failed the first attempt to visit you I am aware of the strict discipline of the Station

and cannot expect you to visit
myself and family immediately. But
the moment you can obtain a furlow
~~We~~ shall expect you. I will not therefore
at this time enter into details in relation
to them: permit me to assure you
that I was very happy to hear from
you & through you our friends at
the Eastward. I on a letter from
Sister Lucia a few days since intended
to have been sent by you, on the receipt
of her letter I was still in hopes you would
stop on your way to the Point - you
must however avail yourself of the
Earliest opportunity of visiting your
Uncle & Cousins. I will call on
you myself in a few days.
Write then. Believe me your
Affectionate Uncle

W. B. Howard