
212 10/2/1850 *From:* Silas J Lee

To: Cozen Otis [Howard

OOH-0204

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Oct 2nd 1850

Cozen Otis

I received your letter a week ago and should have answered it before had I not got hurt from which I was laid up until this morning. I now enclose <> the stamps as you requested and hope will reach you safe.

Uncle John arrived here last evening with wife <Ch?> <ani> <sirit>. I have not seen them yet but shall this evening altho I am almost sick with a bad cold beside the lame arm. Jenny Lind is still in Boston singing to crowded houses. She will be here in the course of a week or two again.

This morning I received a letter from Montreal from a person who I never saw with a note enclosed <for> Miss Jenny Lind which I shall deliver as soon as she returns then I'll be in town sure.

Frank will go down sometime this week. He is well and sends love to you. Epes has got very well underway and has every prospect of doing well and I hope he will.

I received a letter from <> Brown the other day. He wishes to be remembered to you and sends his best wishes. Mother will go down east to stop this winter with Sarah. They will stay at Hallowell. They are both quite well or were when I last heard which was a week since. Wass is well and also sends his love. He is at <[faint line]>. Epes and myself are still at the Pearl St. House but shall move as soon as we can get a good place at a reasonable price. We think of going to the United States Hotel. Direct your letters to the care of Mr David T Lanman in future for I may move any day.

Please excuse haste and believe me your
Friend and aff. Coz
Silas J. Lee

213 10/5/1850 *From:* Rowland B Howard

To: Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0205

Yarmouth

Source: Bowdoin

Yarmouth Oct 5th [1850]

Dear Brother

Sunday you know is always the day to write letters for the student and the laboring man. So after attending the morning service I seat myself to answer your kind letter. Mr Jewett received a letter from you the same day that I did. I should think that your duties were tiresome and perhaps quite difficult, but I don't know as they are much more than to be shut up in school houses as Mssrs Jewett and Perley are. Mother seems to reflect considerably upon your being at West Pt and thinks you do not enjoy yourself there. These are the words she uses in a letter to me. "I think his daily routine of duties comes hard on him. Today after funeral I rode over to Ensign's and read Laura's letter, putting hers and ours together makes me think he is working against nature. He is entering on a course he never can like." The funeral she speaks of is that of Miss Margaret Herrick. I hope Otis that you will labor to remove such impressions as the above and that without letting her know that I wrote you this. For even if they are correct (which I do not believe) it is of no possible benefit for her to cherish such thoughts. You know how it is with her if she thinks you are happy - she will be happy - and if you are miserable she will be miserable.

She wrote me (Wednesday) of the death of my acquaintances in Leeds Marilla Howard [21 Sep 1850, age 17], Margaret Herrick, L. W. Gilmore [Laura Gilmore, 15 Sep 1850, age 5], old Mrs Bates and a child of Mr Careys, an unusual no of deaths in Leeds for so short a time. I suppose when you return in 2 years you will many of your old friends departed.

I like Mr Robinson more and more as a teacher, and I am very sorry for his and Mr Jewetts sake, that they do not have more scholars, 40 for two of them is something like 20 for you last fall.

We have had two excellent sermons today from Rev Mr Alden. I wish you had been here to hear them. I found your name last Sabbath marked on the seat I sat in but looked in vain for it on the Cupola. Mr Jewett got the news of Mr Thompsons death the day before yesterday. Is he not the first of your class that has died? Mr Hawkins passed through here on his way to Brunswick the other day. He wished me to give you his respects. Mr Kendall pass through here also a few days ago and stopped all night. Mr Jewett was in Portland 2 weeks ago and found Mrs and Miss Waite well. Perley was boarding with them which I should think would be very pleasant to them and himself. I am getting along pretty well in my studies. I have finished the Bucolics and most of the first Georgias. I find the Georgias rather hard to understand but Mr Robinson enlarges so much upon their beauties that we are compelled to believe them beautiful. We have a chapter in the Greek Testament every Monday morning to recite, besides our regular lessons in the Greek Reader. I don't know as I have any news except that Doc Carey is coming here to live in a few days. When Mother wrote all the folks were well at Leeds. I enclose a little slip from the Portland Transcript - making some remarks on the last Commencement. I have not been after the 'Shirt' yet, but received word the other day that I could have one - from a source that would doubtless be more pleasant to me than you. I shall go into Portland in a week or two. I remain, as ever, your affectionate brother.

Rowland B Howard

Cadet Oliver O Howard

214 10/5/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0206

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Octr 5th 1850

My dear Son,

We were very happy in the reception of your letter. I think I am some thankful, that your health is good and you feel capable of performing your daily routine of duties. There is always something to be regreted in all situations in life. I am glad you still continue one of the Bible Class, for I think the language of the Bible well calculated to keep before our eyes the vanities of life, and if you could say to your Mother that you were "a meek and <loving> follower of Jesus" and felt an assurance that your heart had been made new by the grace of God, I think I should be rejoiced for death is every where present, "and to die in the Lord is <of aim>" but even in long life to be in the service of the Lord is a great service indeed.

Doct Lord left Leeds yesterday for his new destiny. Tell him (when he comes to see you) that Mother felt when passing his boarding house as she would where the remains of a friend had been carried away to the grave. I called last evening to see your Aunt Aurelia. She appeared quite weak but walks about house and conversed though with weakened voice. I believe I mentioned in my last letter she had bled at the lungs.

We had a letter from R.B.H. last eve..g full of life and hope. I hope he will not loose sight of the great object of knowledge, to make us better members of society. Think of him often Otis and his best good. I have seen Warren a number of times. He will take a small package to you. He thinks highly of you. I would write more but Charley must go and carry my package to Warren.

After I go to Hallowel I intend sending you more letter stamps. I shall send you a pair of Wool Mittens to wear on quite cold nights. Give my love Mr Browne and Langdon. In haste
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

215 10/10/1850 *From:* Oliver O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0207

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct 10th 1850

Dear Mother,

I have been thinking that I might have given you a wrong impression with regard to my situation here, while I was a little sore from sharp drilling, and a little angry from having my pride so often touched. But now it is different. Every one treats me like a gentleman. I stand in the first section in every thing and with the good will of my new classmates, enjoy myself as much as I ever have in any situation. I have to study hard, but this has, now, become a pleasure. You cannot imagine how different the character of every thing seems from what it did for the first few days. But like a foolish boy that I was in my momentary vexation. I forgot that I was making you unhappy by enumerating my petty grievances, and enlarging upon them.

Enough to say then that I am now contented, and am laying the foundation for a thorough & practical education. Those things which floated like shadows through my mind became by degrees tangible & real. If then I have conveyed the idea that I was acting against my will & my nature, or that the situation did not suit my taste and was very disagreeable, be assured that I have given a wrong impression. What I have written has been too much the momentary feeling of one, who had been accustomed to flattery & attention, and was at once deprived of them. Now reflection returns. It shows any & every situation in life full of what is irksome & laborious. Here every rule, regulation & exercise has been formed by the wisest men of our country for good reasons, for the best advantage of those young men who are to take no small part in the affairs of their country. My prospects begin to brighten up. Four years spent in hard study can do me no injury and on the contrary, it must be greatly for my advantage.

I am pained to hear of so many deaths in Leeds since my departure. It must be hard for Betsey to part with her little girl, but we have to believe it for the best. Death has taken her away in her innocence & youth, before the temptations & frivolities of society have tainted her heart and gained its homage. She has escaped much unhappiness of which all who live, & act & think must have their share. Give Betsey my best wishes.

Uncle Ward has not been a second time to see me. He wrote me a letter, saying that he should come as soon as possible. I have had two letters from Rowland. He is getting along very well I should judge from the tenor of his letters. I do not get much time to read here - not so much as I had thought. I study upon the manner in which I shall recite, the language I shall use in demonstration. This is necessary. It will not do, here, for a person to mean right alone. He must always convey what he means, ie. for any one who intends to stand high.

I have not made a poor recitation yet, but I think I made the best I have made at all to day. I shall pull steadily, and, methinks, that, those who keep square with me will have to study. When we have proceeded a little further, the studies will be more familiar to me, while they are growing harder for others. I usually visit Warren Lothrop Saturday afternoons. He has been here to see me a number of times. He, is not allowed to come into our Barracks during study hours, which last about all the time. No person is permitted to enter the Barracks except during the hours of recreation.

Peleg has got a pretty good situation, but I think it doubtful, whether he has a much easier time than I. Our shoes are blacked for us, our fires built & tended, and in the main there is no essential distinction between classes. The United States could not invent a system better fitted for the mental & physical training of young men.

Give my respects to all who may inquire for me. Give my love to Charlie, Dellie, Vaughan & John. I have not written Uncle yet, but shall soon. Remember me to father & Phebe. Has Grandmother come to Leeds yet? We are now having fine weather here. Some of those 'biting' mornings remind me of what I am to expect. This must be a much colder place than any in Maine - so open to the North wind. Write me all you can. Tell Charlie I shall write him as soon as I can.

Yr affectionate son,
Oliver O. Howard

216 10/14/1850 *From:* P. H. Townsend

To: Friend [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0209

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

Washington Oct. 14. 1850

Friend Howard

You know how we laid plans together a few months ago when I thought of going to Washington, of going together and of writing each other when we should have become fairly established at our respective places of abode. I was disappointed as you well know in my expectations but now have a much better situation than that would have been. You have probably heard of my appointment, a clerk in the Comptrollers Office Treasury Department.

I have often thought of you, and wondered how you were progressing, yet could hear nothing either directly from you nor of you through anyone else. Perhaps however I might have heard from your friends in Leeds or Portl'd. You must write me now you are informed of my whereabouts and tell me all about your situation and what advancement you are making.

I find myself situated in an office which is by no means a Sinecure. I have to keep busily at it for six hours every day of the week. And it is somewhat tiresome & trying to the eyes which I do not like very much. I should prefer to have my mind taxed more and my eyes less. My labor is principally copying accounts - bills in favor & against US principally connected with the army department, pay of soldiers & officers, pensions &c. All these have to be recorded by double entry in books, showing at a glance how the several accts stand. I have also the copying of all the letters of the Comptroller. All which business is not laborious at all but when I stick to it closely I find it tiresome to the eyes.

I, of course, have some leisure out of office hours and if I should follow the course of vast many in Washington I should spend all my salary in riotous living. Here it is considered no disgrace for fellows to get tight on a space if they have a good time with a company. Nor is it at all disreputable for them to keep the company of bad women or even nigger wenches. Washington is indeed a miserable hole, when you speak of it as a place to live in. Give me a pure country village, where the majority at least are for good morals, where dissipation and riot bring disgrace on the participators. I would not live here if it were not for the twelve hundred a year which I get. And if I thought I could not lay up \$80.00 per month I would not stay a moment. My board costs me 16 dolls pr month and if I became a sot or a dissipator in any way I shall curse the day in which I first set foot in the city.

The only way for me is to get into a small circle of the first society in town, which I shall do if possible. But it is a hard chance for clerks to do so. Hence the result, they rush to destruction, taking the surest road to Hell, making friends of wine and bad women.

I board at present in a German establishment for the purpose of having to speak the German. I am going thru Ollendorff's system and reading and writing and speaking a little every day. I have fine opportunities for hearing the pure German spoken.

The Congressional Library which I have access to is full of the choicest books, and any one has liberty to sit and read in the library of the Smithsonian Institute.

I see the necessity of a man's keeping himself perfectly crammed with business in order to keep upright and to have some fixed aim and some definite end to be attained. I mean to read Law enough to make myself perf acquainted with the fundamental principles and perhaps in a future day I may make it my profession.

I suppose you are diving deep among mathematical pearls and are driving a strong business at French &c. Well! Success to you, old friend! I hope you will find it to have been a wise choice, your going to West Point instead of going immediately into the Law. I have heard as yet nothing from any of our class, shall expect to hear in a short time. You doubtless hear often from them.

Washington presents many attractions, with its disadvantages. Congress, and the general atmosphere of a

political metropolis, are of no small account towards introducing a young man to the machinery of our Government. I had the opportunity as I was here the 26 Sept of hearing and seeing many of the celebrated men of Congress. Clay, Benton, Cass, Hale &c. I have been to Mt Vernon also and visited the residence and the tomb of Washington and it is a great satisfaction although there is not much to be seen as the whole of the mansion is not open to visitors.

I should like to see you here, but I suppose it is quite uncertain if I ever see you here as you are not often away from your post.

Write me soon wont you and give me an idea of things as they exist at West Point. In haste

Yours very truly
P. H. Townsend

Please Direct to
Treasury Dept
Washington DC

217 10/17/1850 *From:* Ward B. Howard

To: O O Howard Esq

OOH-0208

Peekskill

Source: Bowdoin

Peekskill 17 Oct 1850

O O Howard Esq

My dear Nephew,

I returned home in the 10 oclk train the Evening I left you. My family are well with the exception of your Cousin Augustus who is no better. His complaint as I mentioned to you is epilepsy and so complicated that as yet it has baffled the skill of our most eminent Physicians. Previous to his entering the Bank as clk, he enjoyed remarkable good health. We attribute his decline to that circumstance, and I have no doubt had he remained in an active business that he would at this moment enjoyed good health. But the ways of Providence are mysterious and we are in duty bound patiently to submit. He expresses great anxiety to see you and I can assure you it would be gratifying to all my family to receive a visit from you.

I am unacquainted with the rules & regulations of the Military Academy at West Point but presume from the character of the Institution they are necessarily strict, and I have no desire that a relative of mine more especially one I so much esteem as yourself should in any degree solicit privileges incompatible with such regulations for I am aware of the necessity of close application and the strictest observance of all such rules and regulations, to entitle you to the <merit> and approbation of the Professors. But if consistent and you can obtain leave of absence, a short visit from you would be highly gratifying to your afflicted Cousin and affectionate Uncle,

Ward B. Howard

218 10/22/1850 *From:* P. S. Perley

To: Chum [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0210

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Oct. 22nd 1850

Dear Chum

For thus I consider I have still the right to call you and though another may claim you for a chum now I shall regard myself as Chum "par excellence" and claim a place in your regard above all other chums whoever they may be or wherever found. And though Otis in our four years cruise together you found me often morose, unaccommodating and disagreeable, which fault ought to be laid partly to myself and partly to the woman yet after all I doubt some if you find another who in all respects still suit you much better than I did. Those old college days for though we are but just out they look already distant to me, it does really seem as though we ought to have enjoyed ourselves there and so in fact we did though neither of us enjoyed ourselves as well as we might. They are over though now with all their ambitions, their rivalries, their animosities, their heart-burnings, their jealousies, their loves, their friendships, their aspirations, their longings, their joys and sorrows. They are among the things that were - We have left them behind us and here's farewell to them and "now for the strife of the battle of life with a firm hand and true".

I am sorry Howard that you do not have a more agreeable time than those you seem to - it must be laborious and hard on many accounts but you have one consolation amid it all which is enough to sweeten anything almost and that is it will do you good.

I feel confident that you will take a high stand as a scholar and if you have to work hard for it it is no more than everyone has to do to arrive at any eminence. You have had some blue times there I dare say but you must take "nil desperandum" for your motto (in fact I believe it ever has been) and hope for the best. By the way I read Dane's "Logic and Utility of Mathematics" not long since and liked it very much.

Bill and Poindexter passed through here about a fortnight since on their way home and Butler and Smith in company with them. So you see our class is getting scattered as well as those who have gone before them. Ingraham is out south somewhere. Butler nor Smith had engaged places but were going to depend on the hospitality of their southern friends till they could obtain situations. Butler took me out one side and showed me a new miniature of his lady and said it was all right. All right! I guess she will find some things one of these days that won't be all right after she is married. There was quite a contrast between the looks of Poin and Bell and Smith and Butler the former looking joyful and the latter rather dolorous. I was with them about an hour. Jewett and Rob have about 40 scholars. Old Jackson down to East Pittston has a school of over 70. Pretty well that for old Jack in a new <alas>! Jewett has been in here once since I have been here. We went up to the U.S. and had a smoke and I tell you what it seemed like old college times again. He corresponds with Miss Knight to kill old nat. Cothren was here and stopped with me almost a fortnight. He wished me to tell you that he was going to write to you as soon as he gets settled. He is engaged to teach South Berwick five months.

Rowland was here last Saturday and stayed over Sunday. I think some of going out to Yarmouth next Saturday. There are 48 in the Freshman Class at Bowdoin. Good. As for myself Howard. I have a first rate place here on some accounts. I don't get great pay but have an easy berth - have Wed. and Sat. afternoons to myself and there is a grand chair here to loaf. I enjoy myself much. I find Liz a darned good girl tho we quarrel some occasionally. I tell you what Chum, you are fortunate to have now the heart of such a girl, fortunate to have such an incite to noble endeavor as to know that she loves you. Fortunate I said you were and so you are but not so fortunate as I not in but "out of" the love of them I tell you what I have seen both sides you been there and stayed all night and I tell you the fellow that loves may be fortunate the fellow that don't is a darned sight more

<> will answer very well for Tom Moore. <Say> "O there's nothing half so sweet in life as love's young dream" but still I could inform him and you too that it is not half a touch to love's old dream. So much for experience. But alas this sentiment you cannot appreciate. To you is denied the pleasure of looking back <> you an old affection and realizing the <> that love like all things becomes hallowed by time and hallowed by remembrance. Byron could say "tis sweet to know there is an eye will mark our coming and grow brighter when we come" but he should not forget that it is sweet to know that the eye that looked coldly and proudly on our coming not

tearless watches our departure. To be requested "to call again" sounds prettily from fair lips at eventide <> you stand by the door and after it a fellow trips home sort of happy thinking <> hugs, kisses and caresses and of still more <?ious> ones in time to come of which we are but the <?est> but "not to <be still> again" though it sounds a little <harshly> at first a fellow will trudge home afterwards with a wiser and really happier heart though his head may be a little lower and his hands a little deeper in his breeches' pocket. His heart may be less light but it is not more sad. His brow may be more shaded, his mood a little changed, for the world, everything has suddenly and strangely attuned to him but he grieves not nor does he wish it otherwise. He would not have the earth and all within it robed again in its fairy hues of Enchantment. He would not it should again greet his vision as of old though it were not so fair proportions or so beauteous hues to the naked sight as when viewed through the magic mirror (and strangely magic it is too) of love and youth. He would not again on this dull earth enthrone his ideal for he knows it can not here be realized. He would not again if he might see an angel in a fair haired blue eyed maiden, whose eyes declare her such but most wofully belie her - nor wishes to believe again as of erst that a heart beats beneath every round, full, snowy bosom.

Like the true student he would not give up his knowledge though ignorance were bliss. He feels as one who has just woked from a pleasant dream, he would not have had it last forever. He realizes that there is something higher in this world than hugs & kisses and though a girl's lips & not of mere gloriously sweet I've sipped their "honied wealth" more than once and now she may yield to another and be d-d to them.

But here I have been running on about the women till I guess you are about tired of it but I tell you what Chum! When I get on the subject of these women I hardly know how to leave it forgetting that you and others are not so much interested in this subject as I am. But as I always found you a willing listener to my foolish talk and really sympathizing with me I hope this epistle will find you as in the good old College days disposed to be lenient and we will not bore you in this wise next time. But Chum I want you to bear in mind the truths I have here endeavored to set before you and especially I want you always to remember the first <couplet> of that song which we sang among others in our last journey to Leeds which runs thus "There was an old nigger and his name was Ned. And he lived long ago, long ago." I repeat this to myself many times each day when things do not go to my mind and as I think of Ned's deprivations misfortunes and <some> trials "I take heart again".

You know that

"Lives of great men all remind us
We may make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
An old bell toll out our chime"

And I think Ned affords an excellent example of the cheerful quiet resignation of a great soul.

I have delayed answering you for some time but it has not been because I do not think of you now nor because I did not think your letter of any importance. On the contrary Chum I shall always remember you and if we shall ever cease to correspond with each other it shall not be through my fault. You and Jewett and Perry have become endeared to me as no others have or can be and of this noble trio you are not the least. We have come out now into the selfish, business world and I doubt if any of us form such attachments again as we did in college or be capable of it. You cannot complain of the length of mine Chum if you do of my delay. So Chum here's good night to you and a blessing rest on you. Liz sits here and looks so sweet and good. I know you would like to kiss her and in truth I should like to do it for you but I suppose you would feel no better satisfied.

P.S. Perley

219 10/25/1850 *From:* Otis [Howard]

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0211

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct 25th 1850.

Dear Mother,

Again I commence the pleasant task of writing you a few lines, knowing that it will give you as much pleasure to hear from me as it does give me to receive letters from you. It is a rainy day & Friday afternoon. I rejoice at the prospect of a rainy afternoon, for then we can have no drill or "dress parade", and I can spend my time in studying or writing.

Our little "squad drill" has ceased, and we (September youths) have been put in the Battalion. I have made some gross mistakes since I have been put in to the Battalion, but I seldom make the same mistake twice. I am learning fast.

We are now in what I call the hardest part of the mathematical course - at least I have never found any thing so hard to understand and explain, ie - the proof of the Binomial Theorem in Algebra. I am obliged to apply myself constantly, much more than I would have believed it necessary before I came here; but as we are paid for it we can afford to work, and especially as every effort contributes to out mental wealth.

Uncle Ward was here about a fortnight ago, and I was enabled to make his acquaintance. I found him a man much different from what I had expected. Very intelligent, giving signs of rather a superior education, and very gentlemanly. You can't think how much he now, in his older years, resembles Grandfather Howard. Well! To return. He had many questions to ask about all his former acquaintances in Maine &c &c. He told me that his son Augustus was out of health, and wished to see me. Therefore I asked him on his return to write me to this effect, that my cousin was very low & desired me to come & see him. This he did. And by means of his letter, together with some trouble & solicitation, I made out to get permission to be absent from Saturday noon, till evening.

Hence, last Saturday, I crossed the river to Stonny Point, and went down to Peekskill in the Cars, & soon found Uncle & his little family. His oldest daughter is with him & both his sons, Augustus & Lucius (who is about 16). Augustus is a fine looking young man. He is a little taller than I, with my forehead, my hair & my eyes. He talked, walked and ate chesnuts with me all the afternoon, seemingly in good spirits, but five or six times during the afternoon he had those spasms. One caught him while he was walking; I caught him or he would have fallen to the ground. It passed away in a moment or two. It seems horrid to think of a young man, otherwise in good health of mind & body, so entirely deprived of the pleasures which others enjoy, and of the prospects which make it easy to endure a little pain & suffering. He cannot go into society; he is not allowed to read, but must sit still & brood over his lot with little to hope for & little to cheer him. He had a good situation in the Bank at Peekskill, where he was making high wages, when he was suddenly deprived of his health by an attack of this disorder.

My cousins took much pains to render my visit pleasant. They said, I was the first male cousin, that they had seen of the name of Howard. Uncle showed me the place where father traded, while at Peekskill, told me that he had seen the time when he himself had owned nearly the whole village of Peekskill, but said that he was now poor. But I find that he owns a large & profitable stone quarry, opposite Newburg & has much other property. I see also by the papers, that there is some prospect of the democrats setting him up as a Candidate for Congress.

So much for my relatives in New York! Oh! I met with a lady at Uncle's in the evening before I left, who claimed to be my father's cousin. I believe her name is "Knox", but am not certain. She resembles Aunt Lucrecia, but she is not so tall.

I returned Saturday evening to my confinement, much refreshed by the short respite. I received a letter yesterday from Thomas Bridgham, from Abbingdon. Another a few days ago from Mr Townsend at Washington. He has 1200.00 per annum, what I should call doing splendidly. He writes an excellent letter, and for a man of so little energy seems to be favored by Fortune.

Give my love to all, and tell Charlie to write me something in every letter of yours. If I had time to spare I should write to him personally, but I am obliged to write you all together. His time is in his own hands, but mine is not.

Your affectionate Son - Otis

I believe Warren is in New York City. He was well when I last saw him.

220 10/27/1850 *From:* Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0212

Yarmouth

Source: Bowdoin

Yarmouth, Sunday Oct 27th 1850

Dear Brother

I have just been writing a long letter to Mother describing my visit to Portland and as you probably are a little interested in said visit, perhaps something in regard to it might not be entirely uninteresting to you. After a fine ride in the cars, which perhaps may partly be accounted for by my having very agreeable companion (a young lady who attends school here and lives in Portland) and after looking round a while I found Mrs Waites and was welcomed at the door by your own Lizzie. I found them both in excellent health and spirits. I think they will be contented to remain in Portland as long as Perley does.

On the Sabbath I attended meeting all day and in the evening with Miss W. In the evening we heard Mr Kellogg of Harpswell preach. I like him very well but not as well as I expected.

Perley was out here yesterday afternoon and said Mrs and Miss W were well. It was a week ago that I was in. Mrs Waite says she intends to be her daughters guardian herself. I should think it would be too much care for her to do so much business as she will be compelled to but I suppose she has relatives who will render her all the assistance she may require. Perley said he wrote you the first of last week. When going into Portland I saw Mr Fuller and wife and a number of other Wayne people. He said that all our acquaintances there were well that they had a prosperous school of about 35 scholars, an interesting Lyceum &c. Doctor Carey and family have moved here and live with Mrs Stackbridge. I saw the Dr on Fryday. He said his family were well. Before he left Wayne he gave a supper in the hall to his friends about 200 of whom attended, I believe. William and Joseph are coming here to keep store, a life which I should think in Yarmouth would be lingering death.

I am getting along pretty well here. We shall finish the Georgics and Eclogues of Virgil this term. We are now in the third Georgic. The class have read Cicero and I shall have it to make up this winter. Mr Jewett has gone to Brunswick today nominally for McArthur who is rustivating here, but some of the boys ill mannerly suggested that he would call on Miss Knights while there, which slander of course you do not believe. Mr Robinson was at Brunswick to the inauguration of Prof Stowe. He represents it as having been a grand affair. Speeches by the President D.D.'s and Professors.

I have not heard from home since I wrote you although I have written twice. They have a class of over 50 at Brunswick which I believe the Sophs have thoroughly initiated. We begin already to dread the discipline we shall have to go through with 50 Sophmores to take care of us.

Have you seen and become acquainted with Uncle Ward yet? If so how do you like him. Why don't you write. Are your duties so pressing that you do not find time. I believe this is the first time I have ever written two letters to you. One and to punish you (if it is any punishment) I subscribe myself to this short letter.

Your affectionate brother, Rowland

221 10/28/1850 *From:* Laura B Howard

To: Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0213

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Oct 28 1850

Dear Cousin

yours of the 9th was duly received and very glad was I to hear from one I esteem so highly. Yes dear Cousin I feel interested in your welfare and look forward to the day when you will be a bright ornament to society. I know you must feel lonesome away from all of your friends, and among strangers, but there is one privilege left us of conversing with the silent language of the pen and I hope we shall improve every opportunity, but you know how negligent your cousin is. Therefore I will beg to be excused, this time and in future will be more faithful.

Many changes have taken place since you left Leeds. Some have died and some are married. The death of Harriet Herrick was very sudden. The day she was to be married was the day she was buried. Franklin [Benjamin Franklin Lane] takes her death very hard and can hardly be reconciled. Marilla Howard, she is gone. Pamela Woodman was buried a fortnight ago. There has been quite a number of old folks died since you left. Gustivus and Ann Jenning are married. I saw the bride last Sunday.

I expect to be very lonesome this winter have not got Otis or Thomas to call and see me. The Doctor he is going away this winter to attend the lectures at New York and Philadelphia, and all the young folks have gone to Mass. Thomas is teaching in South Abington, now. He had a very pleasant school in our district this fall. Mr Barrows teaches our school this winter.

Your Uncle Ensign was at Hallowell last week. Mr Strickland has gone to Portland. They have broked up keeping house and his wife boards at the Hallowell house, there family moved in to take care of your grand mother and she thinks she is a going to have things more to her mind now. Sarah and her beau have been to Calais on a visit. They did not visit Leeds. Your Uncle John is at home now. He expects to return this winter. William was out and made a short visit. I often think of you dear Cousin and the happy hours we spent together last winter, & little thought then that we should be so far from each other. But so it is friends cannot be always near us. It is ordered by and all wise Providence and showes us that we must not set our affections on any thing earthly but still we that are young look forward with bright anticipation to the future and think there is better days and it is right that we should, but our chief end and aim should be to glorify our Father in heaven and in so doing we shall find true happiness. I feel very thankful for your good advice for I am apt to feel jealous some times but I will try in future not to be so.

It must have come hard for you to submit to all their requirements and I often think of you and wonder how you must look in uniform. Your folks are all well. Everet [Bridgham] has moved back to Leeds and lives with Aunt Aurilla [his mother]. Keep up good courage and think of the reward and it wont be long before you will be free again.

Give my love to Uncle Ward and family when you see him. It is growing dark and I must close. Write as often as you can for I take great satisfaction in reading your letters.

Yours in Love
Laura B Howard

222 10/28/1850 *From:* Thomas W
Bridgham
South Abington

To: Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0214

Source: Bowdoin

South Abington Oct 28. 1850

Dear Cousin

I am in So. Abington & propose to commence a school here next Monday to continue ten or twelve weeks, wages \$28 per month & boarded. I was happy to receive your very kind letter in which you were so good as to inform me of the strict discipline to which you were subjected; strict indeed it is, but yet, I see nothing in it which is not conducive to health, it certainly must be very repulsive to one's feelings, especially if he is in any measure inclined to be lazy or a great lover of luxury.

I suppose the future presents to your mind many bright and pleasing prospects or rather your ambition & enterprise excites fond hopes of future success & emolument but I trust you will remember that uncertainty is written on every thing earthly; I would by no means say any thing to discourage or daunt you in an enterprise in which you are conscientious that you are rightly engaged, but feeling interested for your welfare in every point of view. You will allow me to recommend the contemplation of such truths as are calculated in their very nature to benefit all men in all circumstances.

It certainly must have been very tedious for you to have sustained the positions you were obliged to do, especially one in which you were required not to move a muscle, I believe I should die being broken as they say of the horses but no doubt all these things are necessary in order to be a good officer.

I saw your mother at church last sabbath & showed her the letter I rc'd from you by which she was very glad to hear from you, although she had rc'd one not long before. Your friends in Leeds were then all well. You may have learned before this that Harriett Herrick was buried in just a fortnight from the sabbath she and Franklin Lane were published, & Marilla Howard died very soon after, about a week I think. Miss Pamelia Woodman died too before I left home. It has been very sick in Leeds since you left but the sick I am happy to say is now subsiding. Laura was in good health & tolerable spirits although she complains very bitterly of the young folks leaving the place. The doctor was well and thinks of going to Philadelphia to spend the winter if it isn't too sickly. He says he wants to see what is going on out of Leeds & wishes to have a respite from his labors.

Well, Otis, I suppose you have put your hand to the plough & never intend to look back. I wish you good success, but hope you will remember me to all your friends & write me as often as you can & it is perhaps unnecessary for me to enjoin it upon you to write to your mother as often as you possibly can. I expect you have seen Uncle Ward by this time & presume he was right glad to see you! This is all of importance that I have to communicate now. Remember & write. Affectionately yours
Tho. W Bridgham

223 10/29/1850 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0215

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Oct 29. 1850

My dear Son,

It is now two weeks since we received your last. I have set a part a number of times to write you, but something would change my purpose. I wish to know exactly your situation at all times, as far as in my power I do not wish to think all is well when it is not. I expected it would be a new life entirely for you. I did not expect either, ease, or luxury, but still such extreme fatigue, you know I could but feel for you, and you would be sorry to have a Mother that could not. I am glad your prospects Brighten and you are satisfied with your situation, and I will be try to be content. All I have heard of Perley is that he is teaching school in Portland and boarding in Mrs Waites family. I was in hopes Lizzie would have written to me, so that I could have been acquainted with here, for I still think I shall go to West Point next June and if she wishes to go with me, it will be pleasant for me.

Rowland's last letter was written the fourth of this month the last I have heard from him. I hope he is spending his time and money to his advantage. I read your letter to Thomas, and the one to Laura. Probably they have written you all the news. We have had quite a number deaths in Leeds this fall but not of late. It is now quite healthy. The last time I saw your Aunt Lucretia was at Marilah Howard's funeral. I have seen Mrs Bridgham a number of times. The last time she had Everet's little girl with her at meeting. Everet and family have returned to live with her again.

The weather has been very fine through this Month. The garden is full of fall flowers, but we have it much colder since the Sabbath, but I put the air tight stove in yesterday.

I went out just now to help Phebe about dinner and what a picture five boys churning at once. All had both hands on the dash, all laughing and carrying the dash up at once and down again. That will give you a good idea of our case. I seldom leave them, and for the most part keep them good natured. Your Uncle John has not been out to see the boys yet. I understand he is very much drove with his business.

Capt Turner's have received a package of letters from Charles. They were mailed 31th Aug. He was one hundred and twenty days on the Ocean between Panama and San Francisco. He kept a diary and that he sent home. I read it. He had good health, and that was all you could say. They had a hard voyage. He was very much encouraged. He had been the but one day but thought he saw chances to make money. We have heard some thing from the Kennebec Mining Company. We have heard they would have a handsome dividend this fall and would dissolve the company the first of Oct and that Elias Lothrop had been sick all summer. This news Doct Lord repeated to your father a few days since. Doct Hubbard told him of it. He had talked with one who had returned from California to Augusta. We are in hopes to hear more and better news soon. Mrs Lothrop has been quite sick but is now quite recovered. The Doct said he should not tell her what he had heard about Elias. She was so feeble.

Give my love to Warren Lothrop. I almost feel as though he was one of my family he so often interchanges looks with my son. From what I learn Henry Strickling [Strickland] has not got his family established in Portland yet. You never have told us whether you have any newspapers there and if any what ones. I should to know what your food is and it is regulated.

Mother came home with Rowland when he carried Maria down, and staid nearly three weeks. She went from here one or two days before Rowland went to North Yarmouth. Her health was better than I expected to see her.

I went to Wayne to the Baptist association one day. Found it very interesting. Had excellent preaching and singing. Your mother was much gratified that you should join the Bible class, for how can you spend your time to better advantage than in studying the word of God.

You spoke in one of your letters that you were sorry you had not taken some white drilling pants. If you think it is best I can purchase some white drilling and have them made. They would not cost more than Sixty cents per

pair here. You could easily write me what difference you would wish have between the cadet pants and those you wore here.

Tuesday Evening. This evening's mail brought us a letter from R.B.H. I began to be quite lonely it was so long since we heard you or him. His last letter was written the 4th of Oct. He is thinking quite strange that you do not write as you are always so prompt. Perhaps you have written ere this. He has been to Portland and gives a description of his visit. I think he is much gratified with his visit. He said Lizzie came to the door and welcomed him and he spent the Sabbath with her and Perley and her mother. Your father just Brought me the Portland paper to show me that Lizzie received a premium of one dollar for the best bead bag.

News has just arrived that Arza Gilmore has arrived at Warren Mower's from New York where he has been attending the fair in such a state of health that he wants his father to come for him in the carriage and bring pillows to bolster him up. I saw him have one of his worst agonizing spells in Wayne when I went over to the association but still he would not be persuaded from his plan of attending the fair in the City of New York. Now he has arrived in Green much worse than when he left.

I believe I told you Mrs Wingate had a son Capt Turner - had another letter from Charles by this evenings mail written eight days later than the other. Nothing very special in it. He had seen Capt Bodfish who was in the city for supplies and gave him an idea of the state of the Company. They had made a handsome summers work. Charles said nothing of Elias sickness but still I think there is no doubt of it.

Gideon Lane came in the Cars from New York with one of the company who stated nearly the same as we heard before and said Francis Lothrop he thought before he left was coming with him but concluded to wait for Elias. I could send you a news paper occasionally if I thought it would be acceptable. Rowland gave quite vivid description of his ride into Portland and the view of the bay all along with the shipping there in. I hope you will have your health and I very much desire you will hold it precious. Rowland met with lots of his old acquaintances in the Cars from Wayne and heard from the rest. Mr Nicerson who taught the school at Wayne has taken the school in the district in Leeds. Mr and Mrs Sampson came to the funeral of old Mrs Bates. I spoke with them at the rode. I understand that Martha Ann Martin is at Hallowel and the Hallowel folks are planning for me to take her for which I have no inclination. Charles Turner did not mention Addison Martin. He carried a letter out for him from me, and I understand he dated his last letter from Sacramento City.

Good night my son from your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore