

Dear Brother

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Take me when I'm well
and in good spirits and it don't
make a great deal of difference what
kind of a pen I have. But at present
being somewhat cross and nervous, I
won't write a letter with such an one
as I have here. So you must wait
for a day or two, and reflect that your
brother is very particular on the subject
of his penmanship. I am at present
convalescent, but not well. My legs are
a little unsteady and my lungs quite
irritable. I have written to you twice
since I have rec'd any from you. I left
Brunswick & Portland both too quick
for the mail. I shall write you in
a few days, if I don't miss it, and
remain as ever
Your affectionate

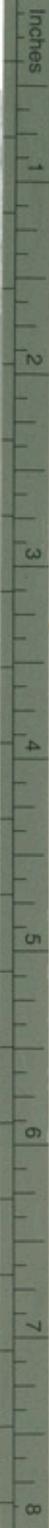
Rowland
H

Cadet W. Howard

Dec. 1850?

South Scarsdale
N.Y.

Ernest O. C. Howard
West Point
N.Y.



Speeds Dec 1st 1850

Dear Brother,

I arrived home on Wednesday last. after the usual disasters of being left by the track at Marmouth and consequently missing the train, and the carriage at Green (what wretched ink) and riding home after dark in the rain for a dollar, but I got home safe and sound bag and baggage. Our examination passed off well. Do you know Old father Cummings, Well he was so deaf he did not hear a word of the Latin, and it was so late that Mr Robinson hurried us over the creek after the manner of Lehabod Crane when going to a spree. The poor man asked our pardons less than a hundred times, that he could not bring out the vast knowledge accumulated in a single term by his wonderful scholars. We told him we were very sorry, but at the same time could hardly avoid an inward chuckle that we got off so well. My class is very small consisting of but 6 all told, but these we have strenuously tried to convince people, made up in quality what they lacked in quantity. Why? if you will believe it, I think they would compare favorably with any 6 Subs that ever graduated at Marmouth, either intellectually or morally. (Now hear the bombast) I wish you would take us up on the Eclogues of Virgil, I think we should sail as beautifully from (wait till next page for quotations, write down here to save marring it ahem!).

By the way (for we have to enlighten ^{is that spelled right?} illiterate soldiers) is the last line of the 8th Catalogue, which is the last one (ahem!) (but to resume the figure) as a mud turtle among Junco limosa, I don't know that ^{there} has been any drinking or playing cards in the Seminary this term, and you know that it is wonderful for Warrmouth, I am going to read Cicero & the Aeneid at the same time next term and am in hopes to make great proficiency in both. The rest of my class have read Cicero, so it will be review for them and advance for me. Between you and I it is ^{not} should you feel more contented if you could have a certain pair of eyes (black I believe they are) to gaze upon now and then, and if you could hear once in a while those silvery tones, whose loving cadences send such a thrill through your frame - and would it not give you ~~extra~~ delight to clasp that sylph like form, and drink from the overflowing fountain of your first affections - but I'm verging on the poetical, but if you did not write something like this in your last letter to L. - then I'm mistaken - But courage, brother, one year is a long time but there's many a longer, I am glad to hear that you are raising your head among your classmates as *Quantum lentas solent inter Vibiana cupressi* and hope and trust that you will be No. 1, Mother and I are coming with in, 10 cts so I will stop here, Your Brother
Rowland

I am sorry to hear that you find yourself excitable for it gives
one unhappy feelings, and is an evidence of body and mind over-
done I hope you dont find yourself so very often, if so do try
to find a remedy, there is one ~~the~~ way that it can be done
draw near to God and ask his guidance how much I desire
you might have a praying heart we are so much better
fitted to meet the disappointments in life that must more
or less await us there is a pleasure in well doing the evil
heart cannot ever feel, I am sorry to hear you complain of
your manner of recitation I am afraid you have in some
be over anxious about anything, keep steady and do not
mean a competition with you, being so agreeable is, calculated
to make you happier than if he were of a vaunting
disposition; by the way, I must say something about Port
land your father all at once was going to P. and
I wrote a few lines to Lizzy in haste & appropriate as I
was capable; he presented it to her, and Mrs Waite was
so polite to him he spent all his leisure time there and
stayed with Penley, and came home well pleased with
his visit. Lizzy does not write yet I suppose she cannot write
easier to New York. Maria become acquainted Miss Waite,
at commencement, and by the way I must tell you Maria
came to Hallowel to see her father and attend Louisa
Grant's wedding she is Mrs Gilmore now although
she bears the same name, I do not, raise my
venity, perhaps you will see her marriage in the
news paper as the Honorable Mrs Gilmore is a member
of Congress from Pennsylvania about 33 years old
and Miss Grant and Mrs Gilmore will pass two winters
in Washington your Uncle John has been out to see the
boys he talked about you he said he had expected
you to have written ere this to him but had not received
any letter, Maria wrote me a letter after the wedding and ~~sunday~~
party, she was delighted with the party there was two hunched
at the party which took place one hour after the ceremony
was performed Maria did not attend at the marriage
ceremony, Maria came into Portland and stayed
all night with Mrs Waite
I must stop for want of room; so good night
O. Howard

Leeds, Dec. 11. 1850.

My, Dear Son,

Last evenings mail brought to hand
a letter from West Point, and with it, our usual happy feelings
you are a good boy to write, I should answer every letter if I
could, but my family is large, and very little time to myself
except when I am fatigued beyond the power of writing,
Phebe is gone and in her place I have a niece Martha Ann
Martin, 14 years old who came to Hallowel with the
expectation of living with her grandmother, and being dis-
appointed there, she came out here, I pity her, for she knows
nothing about work of any kind, and makes a great deal of
work for somebody to do, I think she will, or else dislike me
very much. I do not recollect the date of my last letter ^{to}
you but, I know it is a long while since I have written, I have
been to Hallowel, went soon after I mailed your
last letter, went ~~sat~~ Monday P.M. and returned wednesday
day, P.M. found Mother quietly settled, with Mrs Tolpy
your Uncle John, H. Strickland and families board-
ing at the Hallowel House, your Aunt Aaron had not
arrived from Boston, a letter from Sarah, was brought
in just as I ^{was coming} ~~was coming~~ I read it, she had arrived in Cambridge
the day before after a hard voyage from Eastport, by
water it being rough the way ~~ick~~ all the way, and said her
head was dizzy when she wrote, Ann has since come
to H. and is with Mother Sarah had not come when
I last heard Mrs Langrant did not come by the way of
Leeds, I cannot give any reason unless it being late before he
came he had not time to spare as he went all the way in the

I thought your visit to Beekskill would be a short respite from
toil, you ask me to ^{tell} you what I knew of your relatives in the
State of New York, your grand mother Howard had one brother
Rowland Baileys a Physician, who went to that State and
settled married his wife there I do not recollect the name of
the town not far from Beekskill I recollect the name of
two of his sons Joseph, and Benjamin, the latter was at the
time of the death of your father a Physician, and Apothecary
in the City of New York, the former I do not remember what his
business was, two of the daughters Patience and Sarah are
names that I recollect Patience — as your father called her
was married to a lawyer in the City and left a widow
in affluent circumstances as much as 12 years ago the
Mrs ~~know~~ you saw is the same, Sarah about the same time
married and went out West to Texas I think, the younger part
of the family I do not remember enough about them to say any
of them it is so long since I have thought anything on the subject
and never saw them, Patience Bailey a younger sister of your
grandmother married a gentleman by the name Phillips
they lived in Poughkeepsie New York and wife are dead
they left three daughters they were well educated
your Uncle P. failed in business, as much as 35 years ago
or more, after that he gained a livelihood I think in the
Book binding business his daughters had a house built for
the double purpose of a teaching and living in it and there
your ^{father} found them, at that time he passed through New York
when you ~~was~~ ^{were} three two years and half, old carrying on
branches of female accomplishments, taking journey ladies
and wholly educating them, the youngest of them is as
much as fifty year old

I have now in the house a great deal of Pamela's writings in
~~the house at this time~~, I have never had any convenient oppor-
tunity of showing them to you, a long correspondence between
your father and her for mutual improvement and amusement
aunt Philips has not been dead more than four or five
years this is an out line of what I know about your father's
~~parents~~ ^{parents} in the State of New York, Francis Lathrop arrived
a little more than two weeks since, I received your letter from him
and was quite as happy in reading it as ever Francis has been
with his mother and talked some of you, of west Point,
and of Poland, and California, but my family is so large
I have but little opportunity to converse with Company,
I hope some day to have more time at my own disposal, Francis's
wife and two little daughters are at Durham he has been there
a part of the time, give my regards to Warren when you
see him, Joshua Lathrop's funeral was attended about ten
days since at the meeting house, I am sorry to learn
that one of your room mates possesses just such a disposition
for I think it will require quite tact, to manage him rightly
for it cannot be your duty to help any one, in your present
situation enduring privations for your own advance-
ment and I hope you will think as do about that, none
but a mean selfish person would ask it of you, and indeed
in the end is no real help to him, I am glad you have been
invited out for I think it must be a great pleasure to you
to change your stone floors and Iron bedstead furniture
for a family circle, every one thinks you are doing well
and I hope so too, I desire to submit to our laws on the
United States laws, I hope you will ^{still} maintain your integrity
and keep cool.

West-Point, Dec 1st 1850

Dear Mother,

Another Sabbath had opened upon us: and a delightful day it is, here in New York. The air is cool and bracing, but not too cold. We have not yet had any snow, nor any thing that would give the idea that winter was so near. Tomorrow is the day, upon which many a poor school-master will commence his labors. I can't help thinking, how pleasant it would be to look in upon one of my old schools to-morrow, as tho' and view the many happy faces, upon which will appear that mingled expression of joy, expectation & respect, which almost makes you love ^{the weavers,} ~~them~~ & smiles your own self-esteem. No one writes to me. What can be the cause? Howland always has been quick to reply to my letters; but for some reason or other I have not had a word from him for many weeks. Even Peleg, who is always ready to write has not answered my letter. I go to the Post office every day I am almost afraid to ask for a letter for fear I shall be disappointed: and when I do ask I am sure to be. No matter what may happen, good or bad, he will write, if you can; for Suspecta is ^{the} worst of torments. I am prospering very well, taking about the third stand in my class; this rank I hope to maintain if I am not able to rise higher. I had no demerit recorded when I looked the other day; I expected, however that I should have at least one or two marks. I suppose you receive an Account every month. I was mistaken when I told you that you would also receive the marks which ~~tell~~ show my rank

Colo John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine



in my class in studies. Only one month more must pass before the January examination, when those who are to stay will receive their "Warrants of Cadets". I sometimes envy those who are to go (to be found "as we say"): for they can go home. But you know: I promised myself to get a good start in some profitable business, before I saw Maine again, if I should be found deficient in my studies, at the January examination. I did not believe that there would be any danger then: now I am certain that 65 out of 90 will have to go if I do; unless sickness should come upon me. Even then, they would never find a man from the 1st section. Warren came to see me last evening & stayed a few moments. He is in good health & spirits. Uncle Hard wrote me a letter the other day, requesting me to visit him next Christmas (which is a holiday, with us,) if I could get permission. He is going to write to Capt Brimton, Superintendent of the Post. I ask his permission to let me visit him. I presume the Stern Old Gentleman will not refuse. When you write, you must say as much as you know about Aunt Luerelia's family, Aunt Luerelia's & Uncle Sherman's, &c., so that I may have something of interest to tell my Uncle & cousins on Christmas.

I have been thinking that I am accustomed to tell you my plans, without asking your opinion in the least. What do you think of my being here any way? How are you pleased with my condition & prospects in every point of view. An appointment to a Cadetship at West Point is something that

that is sighed after, & sought for in every way & by every means, from one extremity of the country to the other. A young man, thinks; "surely honor, happiness & knowledge are in store for me if I can once become a Cadet. The road is open & straight; the journey sure & easy." The poor fellow is very soon undeceived, as soon as he is fairly enclosed among this honored corps. As our Chaplain says: there is more prose than poetry in the beginning & throughout the whole course of a Soldier's life. There is no doubt at all, though, if I wish it, of my getting assigned to West Point as Teacher should I graduate high. But we will not anticipate: suffice it to say that I have the advantage of the severest mental discipline, and this will fully compensate for all the little & foolish perplexities & troubles to which I am necessarily subjected. How foolish ever to complain! for there is no place in the wide world, where ~~any~~ man cannot, if he chooses, be contented & comparatively cheerful, if he has the right spirit within him. On the contrary Ambitions restlessness will make any man unhappy. Happiness is not inherent in the place, but in the man. Give my love to Father: How is his health, his spirits, & his Treasury Department? Give my love to Charlie, Ellie, & in short, to all. I shall try to write to Laura Howard this afternoon. Make Rowland write to me as soon as he comes home. Tell me who is to teach in our District, or let Charles, if I remember to write as often as ~~to~~ you can to

Your affectionate Son

Olier C. Howard.



Col John Gilman

South Leeds

Maine

W. Howard

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West-Point N. H. Dec 8th 1850.

Dear Mother

It gave me much pleasure to receive your double letter; especially after waiting so long, after going to the Post Office day after day & meeting with that same ominous shake of the head from the young man who deals out the letters. I began to feel much anxiety, to expect bad news. I thought some of the family might be sick, & that you purposely kept it from me: and I was glad, indeed, to be disappointed in my surmises. I shall have to tell you frankly, that I shall not stand at the head of my class; but you need not fear, that I shall not do my best. I have not done so well as I should have done, had I retained at all times a little more self-possession. My want of coolness was not owing to want of health or to over anxiety; but in part to an excitable nature, & more to my being out of my sphere of action. No person can come here without feeling comparatively foolish and awkward for a while. A person who can stand not, must have talent, taste, ingenuity, coolness & a strong constitution. Could I have known, as many in the first section did know, two years ago, that I were coming here, my mathematical education would have been different. But it is of no use to look back; but to take things as they are & make the best of them, is the right way to get along in this world. I shall not fill my letters up hereafter with my temporary disappointments, with my little ups & downs. You know, that the man, who forms

the habit of complaining is always full of ailments. It is not that I do not have confidence in my mother, but that an affectionate parent always magnifies every little complaint of her son, especially if it is written. To avoid giving an erroneous impression I always write when I feel in a snood. When I am irritable, it is sure to appear in the tone of my letters. Neither you, nor Rowland said anything about Charlie, or Rodolphus in your last letter. It seems a long, long time before I shall see either of my brothers again: and I cannot realize that I never shall be with them again any length of time. When this prospect ever presents itself to my mind I immediately bar myself against it. I do not allow myself to reflect upon my the relation in which I stand to any of the friends that I have left, except with the pen in my hand. Were I to do so, I should be homesick nearly all the time. I can tell you that it requires considerable resolution, to voluntarily to deny oneself all the privileges & little kindnesses that are had at the hands of affection, for mere chimeras, for, ^{the} mere shadows, around which ambition throws a life-like appearance. After Uncle gave me the offer of an appointment to this delightful place; I sat down to think. I felt certain that, by industry and frugality, I might gain a livelihood, or perchance by some good fortune become wealthy & live in comparative ease & affluence. But my ideas had become altogether too lofty to be satisfied with moderate things; so coming to the quick conclusion to be "something or nothing", to sacrifice ease to ambition I decided to accept the appointment. It remains yet to be determined whether I took the wisest course. As I said, it however advantageous

it may be in the end, it seems at least hard to be kept so entirely separated from my home & my brothers. Hence I wish you to write as often as you can, and keep me informed of every thing; of Charles, his progress & his intentions for the future, as he grows older & begins to think for himself. I expect to find him at the end of two years much changed, and, as is natural, much improved. But above all things I hope he will strengthen his constitution. This educating the intellect at the expense of health & comfort is wretched policy. And Fannie too, I shall expect to find a bright, active intelligent boy, when I see him again. Tell him that he must strive to learn all he can, for the more knowledge he now gets, the more will he rejoice by & by. Tell Charlie, to describe his school to me; tell me who teaches it, what he is studying, and what proficiency he is making &c. &c. — The burning of the Sussex Hospital presents a sad & gloomy picture. Though it may be a providential blessing to many an afflicted creature & a relief from suffering, yet nothing seems more horrid than the death that many of those poor wretches met. I have not seen a full account of it yet: — I perceive, every time I get a glance at the papers, that these fugitive slave-law has kindled much excitement at the North. Abolitionism, in whatever form it appears, is decried not & heavy by the New York papers. What is Father's opinion on this all-engrossing subject. No political excitement ever gets within this secluded prison. If you can I should like to have you send me a paper, now & then,

Leeds Dec 9th 1850

Dear Brother

This is about the coldest mornings we have had this winter. Thermometer but 11 above zero, I suppose in New York it is as bland as an Indian Summer, which season by the way, has been uncommonly long, the last autumn. Mother is washing Charles doing chores and the rest of the boys sliding down hill, we have had but about 3 inches of snow as yet but it ^{has} rained upon it and frozen so that it is excellent sleighing. I went to meeting yesterday, but found very few there on account of the stormy weather. Mr Barrows is as dull and prosy as usual, and had I known that the chicken I was anticipating for dinner was an old hen, and tougher than tripe, I should have yielded to inclination and gone to sleep. As it was, I kept my eye on the ministers mouths and if you remember its form and contortions, you will have no doubt I was sufficiently interested to keep awake. I saw Laura Uncle Edwign John &c which means Martha Martin who is boarding there. Father has got rid of her by hiring her board at Johns. I think that Mr Martin has developed new, and to those concerned, interesting phases in his character by the course he has pursued towards his children. He stands convicted ^{in the minds of his relatives} of being a sniver, or an avaricious thief, but I am in hopes that the denouement will be more favorable to his character.

South Leeds no

Dec 10

Wm Oliver O Howard

Wm O Howard

New York

as it is he seems to have exercised the greatest injustice towards his children, by trying to appropriate their property. The ^(what a looking of that is) Insane Hospital was burned to the ground on Tuesday night, or rather on Wednesday morning.

Suppose the account of the fire has reached you through the papers. It is certainly the greatest loss of property that the state ever experienced, the cost of the building alone was \$250,000. But this is not the worst of it, about 23 miserable wretches perished in the flames. It was a horrid night, the patients refused to leave burning pile, and the only way they were saved was by their keepers, rushing in and dragging them out, those that came out, had spouts were naked howling about the streets or rolling in the cold snow, there are about 40 missing, quite a number are now confined in jail, I believe there was but one sane man ^{that} perished, a keeper, by the name of Jones, he entered the burning building, once to search, for he was never seen afterwards. So much for the Insane Hospital I am glad that you are going to spend Christmas with Uncle Wards family, a hope you will have a good time, I saw Seth Howard meeting yesterday, his folks are well except Mary who has been sick so long she is very low, I saw Aunt Esterlia the other day she was well and was blessed with another granddaughter. I have not seen Aunt Lucretia ^{or her family} since I have been at home, but presume if they were not prospering I should have heard of it. Mother will write again as soon as she can. As I return to Barnum on

Wednesday, you will direct your next letter there. I have had quite a pleasant vacation, although, like some of yours, rather dull. It has been so poor traveling that I have not been away from home much, I believe the Androscoggin Railroad Company prospers very well (except on paper). The track is to be laid by next September, the iron is already shipped from England I am at present writing in the railroad office (on parlor) on the railroad desk (on table) by the side of the treasurer (on father) within a short distance of the treasury (his pocket) And yet strange as it may seem I am not overcome by this august presence, but you know I am naturally bold, Give my respects to Uncle Ward folks, tell them, I am rather a smart boy was 16 in October tremendous lazy, going to collage next fall if I can get (rather doubtful) and that I sympathize with my grieving brother. Write me at Barnum to

Cadet O O Howard
West Point
New York

Your Brother
Re B Howard
South Leeds
Maine

Leeds Decr 10th 1850

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Dear Nephew Laura is too much engaged with her needle to write to you this evening. I very cheerfully accepted the proposal from her seconded by your Aunt to write. ~~with~~ ~~the~~ letter ~~for~~ ~~my~~ ~~own~~ ~~sake~~ ~~is~~ ~~dispatched~~ unless on important business or for sage advice to change the purpose or gather some friends against danger from some habit passion or predisposition - you will perceive that this is not of that character.

I can conceive of the ~~difference~~ ^{contrast} between your mode of enjoyments and ours, of your duties & privations & ours, you are I trust training yourself for more extended influence & usefulness to attain ~~that~~ you must be in advance of those with whom you are associated in business, ^{both} moral, intellectual & often in physical attainments you may find many who excel in one but few who are above mediocrity in all.

The first so to speak is a domestic or at home exercise, yet if deep & as we say well founded it will be discovered ~~in~~ all the developments of intellect and all men of whatever grade pay it a secret homage. ~~Superior~~ Intellectual attainments are applauded & physically admired but when united with superior moral attainments the individual is respected & praised without an if or a but, on any disjunctive word or phrase the coming age will make it their idol as intellect is in the present & physical was in ~~the~~ past. God has given us a standard of morality every age ~~for~~ ~~itself~~ determines the standard of mental & physical attainments but to develop them we must be familiar with the mediums & acquire a habit of use.

In reading your letter I was led to enquire have
you a reading room? do you get the common
news of the day? do you get papers from Maine?
If you have sympathized with us in the loss of the
Insane Hospital the loss of so many lives & the
miserable conditions of many others who cannot
be made comfortable this winter
Altho 10 days of winter has past it was but yesterday
it put on its dress. & that rather peculiar a
mixture of snow hail & rain to day all horses &
slight are in motion & their movements are
unusually rapid. our ponds & rivers look like
summer & the ground scarcely frozen. As yet we
have not yet been transferred to the cellar
Governor Hubbard seem to anticipate the season
by appointing Thanksgiving the 19th ^{next} connecting it
closely with Christmas & New Year J. H. & Helen are
planning to spend next week at Chino if good
skiing remains. J. H. has been absent mostly for
two or more months on the R. Road survey. The
last month between Jay & Farmington they are
now making estimates, we expect to get out
a report in a few weeks I will send you one
which will give all the information about
our ^{R. Road} affairs It has required some effort to keep
our people up to this work but it was necessary for
them good Elder Parsons possibly in the school
house where you led them last winter. Dr Lord
left ~~Amherst~~ since to spend the winter at
Philadelphia Thomas B. is already two of our often
callers & I fear Laury will be a little longer
altho we have R. Road company in abundance
our circle is much larger than last winter
Burlingame Farmington &c are looking into
our affairs, we some from Boston & N. York.
Colonel B. is at home will return to ~~W. York~~
in a few days Vaughan goes with him

I was at Hallowell a few days before your uncle
John left for Washington. I suppose your uncle Henry
and family are now in Portland Mother & Ann
were pleasantly situated & even this I suppose Sarah
Lee is with them. Your father's business is rapidly
increasing he may be compelled to employ a
clerk next season. Should I get this ^{business} off
of my hands in good shape & my health &
by you be continued to me I now think I shall
select West Point, Duck Hill, & other places in that
vicinity. The scenery in & about the high lands
once interested me much. Many men & families
I have seen since remembered with great satisfaction
I hope & trust they will become interesting to you & as they
were to me places for retirement meditation & relaxation
on change from the closer & more crowded & even
tedious duties. We are spending the time some what
as we did last winter. Laury laughs quite as
heartily altho she has recently mourned you
grieved for the death of her uncle at Philadelphia
Helen sings quite as much & little Oliver has
greatly improved & is now as inquisitive
& listens with as much interest as any child
I ever saw he gets more than an hour each day
of his grandfathers time & talk. ~~Since last evening~~
have twice had to give him an account of you
we shall suppose you with your uncle board
Christmas eve. We all enjoy excellent health
& relish a good dinner of Beef steak L. white
chickens or Johnny Turkeys.

No sickness or accidents among our friends or
acquaintances that I now recollect

It was Saturday at your home & they are
Roland Alger home soon
Mrs Lathrop & family will sleep
at meeting Sunday

Your Aunt Lucretia & Family well Clark
left last week for Miss Everett's B; wife
has favored him with a little addition to his
family Colonel B. has called two or
three times since he returned is getting quite
tall a little stooping & without getting on a little
reserve & sort of melancholy-pensive look
& a little of the bilious. Charley is as plump
as ever & grows finely all now seems fair
and pleasant but sudden squalls & cold
storms in our social & temporal affairs
are as common as in the atmosphere
but he that has the grace of faith will have that of
resignation & be greatly protected from the effects
Yours with Ensign O's

Dec 21 1810

O. O. Howard, Collet

West Point

Mr. G. W. H.

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Washington Dec. 12. 1850

My dear Stephen,

I was glad to hear from you by your letter, and to know that you are getting along in your new position with credit to yourself. You possess advantages in having had a serious liberal education, and habits of mental discipline however imperfect that I presume few in your class have. This advantage I trust you will use to the best advantage. It is only in high advancement and high standing that an education at West Point is so very desirable. A necessity only gives you an appointment in one of the regular Regiments, that to merit for the regular promotion by the senior of your or by the accidental death of those preceding him, & every new class will make the advance more slow than

It will take a long life time to get promoted
to the second or third place in a Regiment.
I heard from you by Mr. Lawton, who was
at West Point to me his son. He said
the Adjutant, Mr. Williams, who is from
Annapolis, & the son of Judge Williams, a
friend of mine, informed him that you
stood high in the class. As one from Maine
he will be disposed to be friendly to you &
will feel proud in your obtaining a high
standing in the class. The return of conduct
I found you were amongst mine who
had no black mark against your name.
This is well, very well. The return of the
standing of the class will not be made
till the first of January, & then I shall hope
to see your name amongst the five first
in the class.

I received a line from Rowland Bailey
that morning & Vaughan is going with
him to St. James with the school. I will
show I think of it and you some with you.
It will give me pleasure to hear from you.
Believe me, Dear Sir,
Very sincerely your friend
West Point. } John Otes

Plymouth Dec. 13. 1850

Friend Howard

I must own up to some
 dilatoriness in answering your last letter
 which I received some 3 or 4 weeks ago -
 But in the narrow time I have been
 very busy, I assure you. It was near the
 close of my fall term which you know
 is always a busy season with the teachers.
 Especially when they have an examination
 as we did, from which we wished to derive
 some credit to ourselves - Then after that
~~was~~ our vacation came on of course &
 what a vacation is for letter writing you
 are well aware - A fellow fell just as
 though he "didn't care whether school kept or
 not", at least so I felt and acted - for I
 was lazy enough - I went down to Pittston
 to see "old Jack" & you are aware before
 his school which was something, for I had
 to write a part of it after I left Cambridge
 this & reading a little in Shakespeare was
 the amount of my labor for two weeks in
 the day term - And I set up "o'right" &



Post
 D. D. Howard,

Military Academy
 West Point
 N. Y.

TOP

studied & talked & read & plumed, to know
& but find it to be all worth while that
even I should make it a matter of boasting
I was always diffident upon such points

My vacation is now over, & I am
beginning to settle down into the routine of
things again. The young region in which
I have been living is consisting of all sorts
live only in the remembrance of the past.
Though the things that prospered it, I hope, will
still continue to grow this tenanted globe
for long years to come - In fact, Howard,
I have had a first rate time during my
vacation & this makes the confinement of
the school room & the common's rather tedious.
But such are the chances & changes of
fortune - To-day, we are reclining on beds of
roses, smelling the fragrance, distilled from
the fresh flowers of fancy; to-morrow, thrust
out upon the wide & cheerless world, obliged
& buffet the opposition of winds & waves with
scarcely a friend & encouragement or support us -
But enough of generalizing. The "tenanted globe"
of the world I know how to appreciate or if I
did not I should soon learn. Soon run &
look out for them - I'll give my view of the
unimpaired discord, though not, I hope, to remove
it, when the proper opportunity is presented

Jackson has been getting along very well
this fall & winter. He had a school of about
20 scholars, & continues at East Pittston during
the winter & probably during the year. Adams
is in Brunswick, working at his trade. He is
attempting to read Lord but has not done much
at it yet. Emmet has away & I did not see
him - Perley you have perhaps heard from since
I know. His school closes next Monday, I think,
Thanksgiving day to Thursday, Dec. 19. I shall probably
see him then - Townsend wrote me a few weeks
since. He was about as usual - "free & easy" as
the world will go well with him. Which side is
And now I have told you of all the clippings of
heard from - How are you flourishing? Really
I would like to give you a call & think I may
next fall see my way out west, if nothing special
prevents. How I would enjoy a call from you
& time to talk over old times. But it cannot be
at present. Your brother R. B. & cousin B. V. & this
are here this term. They are well & doing well. R. is
a smart scholar. I open you. He has but just
commenced yet. How it pleases only 26 scholars
this winter he has kept & expect to increase to 40 or 50.
And now wish you prosperity & happiness
during the winter Comproize & a pleasant service
through your cause. Set me hear from you as soon
as convenient
Truly & sincerely
J. N. Jewett

to Mr. and Mrs. Ship, were going. we do not go to the depot to carry their chest

when he saw Corza walking on before him he hailed him in
one of his old phrases, "hold on there" Corza knew his



My dear son,

Leeds Dec. 17. 1850.

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Yours of the 8th came to hand Sat. eve-
(as always is the case) was read with great pleasure I shall not attempt
to answer it, but try to give you some Idea what has passed with us
in one week, last Wednesday Mr. B. H. left home for his school
at Yarmouth taking Vaughn, with him your father went ^{to Green} with him
your Mother who had managed to leave every work undone to
fit up B. and V.'s little affairs, set herself to regulating her
house in washing, baking &c. (her only help being Nancy, Eliza
Phebe's sister, who is feeble she washes dishes, sets the table mends
clothes and makes some &c) in that way got nicely cheerd up
by Saturday morn. one fact I have left out in this eventful
week we received a letter from Addison Martin telling us how
at Gilmore was on the ^{way} home, and we saw ^{by} Tuesday evening's paper
that the steamer had arrived in New York city, Saturday about
eleven, in the morning who should come in but Rowland
A. Gilmore looking just as he always did lived at home and
came into the house, you can not think what impulsive
feelings it gave me, Corza was in New York when Rowland
came in, he came in the Georgia Saturday morn-
g Corza left ^{by} Wayne Wednesday quite comfortable but the journey was too much
for him he returned in a worse state than when he came
home before, Corza has not stopt within but very little
since this fall, only to rest on the way, from Green to Wayne
he was in a bad state all the time he was in the city he was not able
to go to the boat, when it came in and those who came ^{to} the house
where he was knew nothing of Rowland, and he was in the
city until Monday morn-
g before he saw Corza
and then by accident, Rowland with one of his companions in

we sent for Lavinia who was at her fathers Saturday evening she
came with a little babe six weeks old a son she has never
brought him here before, Arza suffered beyond account while
here, yesterday his father and Rowland convey'd him and
his wife and child to ^{W.S.} Wayne again, Rowland Et. is very
free to converse on what, he has pass'd through and seen
his hair breadth escapes he regrets very much he did not go
to west Point, but says Arza did not tell him you was at W. P.
until after he left the city, say Arza did not know anything
accept Abusmatism and hees he waited in the city two days
for Arza in which time he could have visited you with less
expence than staying there, Hobson's letter I shall enclose to
you, the part he wrote of it, which he wrote me, Mantha his sister
is boarding at John Otis's attends that school elder Barrows teaches
in that district I wish to be kind to her but she tries my patience
beyond account, she is a great heedless girl, I wish she was better off
than with me, I hope ~~she~~ I shall feel different towards her from what
I did when she went away, to see such a great lump of business
before me, and knowing it to be my duty to make an effort to
benefit her almost brags'd me she will not exert herself any
but keep telling her wants, I am wholly incapable of doing
justice to her, I have no news to write in particular, Chanley and
Dellie, and John attends school, we have a good school Benson
Caswell teaches, I hope ^{you} get along well I shall write again soon
when I hear R. relate his sufferings I think of you, I hope you
will not suffer with the cold wear all the drawers and under
shirts you can get have your shoes large and wear two pair
of stockings O! how much your good is at ^{my} heart, but you must
act from your own judgment, in haste
your mother
Cira Gilmore

W. Howard

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West Point N. Y. Dec 20. 1850.

Dear Mother, I have just this moment received your letter; and am happy to find that Roland has really arrived, alive, safe & sound. The name of Gilmore was among the names of those who came in the Steamer, I saw by the papers. I presumed, that it was he, as the name of Capt. Bodfish (Spelman) was in the same list. I regret very much that Arza should have been so forgetful; I presume that the pleasure of seeing his brother, coupled with his painful emotions rather perplexed him, at the time. Nothing indeed, could have given me more joy than to have had Roland come to see me & spend a few hours with me. I wished at least to scold him for not answering those long letters, & wrote him while he was gone. I am glad he has got home. I would shake him quite to pieces if I could get hold of him. I am sorry that you did not write any thing of Elias Lathrop: for Warren is very anxious on his account, since Francis left him in such a low state of health. My health is good excepting a horrid toothache. I cannot well make up my mind to lose another of my double teeth: but I presume I shall be obliged to sacrifice either my tooth or my comfort. I applied to Capt. Rownton the other day for leave of absence for Christmas. He made no objections, & therefore I presume he will let me go. Uncle Ward wrote him a note requesting that I might visit himself & his sick son. I anticipate much pleasure & recreation on Christmas. For one day's freedom is to be

regarded as of some amount in this place. I am now doing very well in my studies; and obliged to study a little harder as we approach the coming January examination. This season like every other will soon be over. Uncle John this wrote me a letter, ^{that I had} the other day. He said that every thing depended upon my standing high; that I had no demerit recorded against me; that the Adjutant here, Brevet Capt. Williams of Augusta (Judge Williams son) said that I was doing well. I had seen this Capt Williams, but was not aware that he was from Maine, or that he knew any thing of me. I expect to stand amongst the first five in my class. If I find that I cannot; then, certainly, West Point will not keep me many weeks years.

Uncle Ensign too has written me a good long epistle, for which I feel really grateful to him. Mr Jewett informed me in his letter that Vaughan & Boland were at Harmanth. I want to hear how Boland & Alger liked the far famed land of California. How cheerful home must seem to him. Ask him how soon he will be willing to leave it again to go in search of gold? Not very soon methinks. We had our first snow storm yesterday. This makes it look very much like winter. But all the beauty of the winter is lost to one who cannot take a ^{single} sleigh ride. I have heard one ^{or set (string is better)} pair of bells, and seen one sleigh. This was enough to revive ^{in my memory} many old remembrance times of "rides, tipovers, & break-downs", enough of which it was always my good fortune to enjoy. Perhaps Laura can tell better than I of our mutual accidents, - of the "fatalities" that seemed to attend every ride we took in company.

"Warren Lthrop said that he saw Cerje in N. York when he was

there last. I hope really Arja is not going to lose his health entirely. He is perhaps over anxious about his business; I should suppose that he had been engaged long enough with Gil-Lane, to be able by this time to put the best face upon every thing. I go regularly every Saturday afternoon I make Warren a call. His Barracks are about a half mile from mine. Where he lives is off limits, but as there is scarcely ever an officer there, I can go Saturday afternoons with perfect impunity. You perhaps know that we cannot visit Officers, or Soldiers, quarters or any public or private house on the Point without special permission from the Superintendent. Among the Cadets it is thought almost degrading to speak to an enlisted man, much more to be intimate with him. This is the foolish pride of rank. This universal spirit has some influence upon me, as ridicule always cuts me with a keen edge: but I always laugh at rank. I visit Warren & he comes to see me. Some fools stare & whisper; but "it's all right." They say his Captain likes him much. You can't imagine how much I sometimes long to be at home. Generally, however, as soon as I feel, I am growing homesick I plunge more deeply into my studies, or commence writing letters. Two years will very soon pass away & again, if I am alive & well, the home which is now so familiar to my conceptions, will again find me its inmate. Next June will come soonest, when I shall expect to see you here. I have written this letter much after the fashion of a child, who has just gone from home for the first time. But as my thoughts have come crowding & disconnected; so is my letter. You

need not fear for my comfort; for Uncle Sam is a
very fair provider. He thinks of giving me a great
coat as soon as I am fairly out of debt. I believe
I am out of debt already. My uniform, bedding &
furniture involved me somewhat at first.

You can't think how prudent we all are for the sake
of having plenty of money in the pocket on furlow.
Some Cadets save over 100. or dollars & spend it all
on furlow. All I wish is enough to go home with
get back with. The next letter I write I shall give
you a history of my Christmas adventures. They
have queer times here on that day. I suppose
Rowland Bailey did not see Rowland when on his way
home (?). Tell the latter he must either write me, or
tell you some of his long stories which you can
transfer to me. I study till 1/2 past 9 in the evening
and get up at five in the morning & review my
again before "Reveille"; which is now at 6. Breakfast
is at seven. Give my love to all, and write as hard
soon as you can. I see that Addison knew of an
appointment. When I can get time I shall write
him a letter. I should judge from the tone of Addison's
letter that he intends to make California his permanent
home. I don't think, mother, more than you, that
it is your duty to take & befriend all your lazy
relatives. If Martha Ann was a bright, smart, good
she would be a companion for you & as well
a great help to you. But as she does not appear to
have the proper disposition, she would be but a burd

is a person of the fewest faults of any
kind. Yet he is a fine fellow, and had more of
respect than any other one and I shall ha
try to love him. He felt bad to leave and could
hardly refrain from tears when he bid us farewell and
took his leave. I heard that Charles Pittman, teaching a
high school in Livermore, had broken his leg
in three places. I pity him. He has been teaching
all the fall: but it will consume all his wages
and leave him up. He is a stout fellow, weighs
about a hundred and eighty. Give my love to
mother & father and my respects to all my
friends. This is somewhat long for me to
write, and if you have as much difficulty
reading ~~my~~ writing as I heard that Cousin
Anna had in reading a letter I wrote to her,
I hardly know how you will accomplish it.
I shall soon be there & will assist you
as needs be. Write immediately on the receipt
of this. So I shall get your letter. I shall
study my English some this term, so as to
be well prepared to satisfy father's recom-
mendation with regard to me. Perhaps I shall get a
certificate from Prof. Packard - from your affectionate son.
O. Howard

Paley sends his respects to all our folks. His health is now quite good. I have been reading lately the history of England, and am really surprized at the advance of civilization since the establishment of Protestantism. But I think there is still room for advancement in civilization. Vice, error, and superstition are not confined alone to the dark ages. I began the history, as the English were merging from the Germans, the Dutch and the Welch and have read an abridged account of them down to the reign of Henry the Eighth. I take considerable interest in the reading - as I have become acquainted with the characters of the Kings from reading Romances & Shakespeares. The heroic character of Richard (Coeur de Lion) is splendidly portrayed by Walter Scott in his Romance on the Crusades. He was just the man for the times - severe and dreaded by his enemies, but generous to his friends. He swayed his subjects by his iron will alone, but he was chivalric and the admiration of his times. I have written two letters this term. one has been returned to me with but one mistake marked and ^{the writing} covered four full pages. I thought it was doing quite well for me, blunderhead as I am!

One of our Class - Perry!! has been obliged to leave the class on account of sore eyes, and will probably not return. He was decidedly as good if not the best scholar in the class. And I can say he was

Friday. P.M. 22. Dec.

(1850)

Friend Howard

You find me among the missing, and are perhaps surprised. The cause of my leaving you will know is not from any thing in particular which has "turned up," but because I am thinking that I should not enjoy myself with such a school. I might perhaps keep the school out - perhaps satisfactorily to most all parties, yet it would require more anxiety and care on my part than would be profitable. I thought as much at the close of the first week. I start to-morrow for Bournswick, and if I can find a school that I can like I shall engage it. If I do not find any school, I think I shall go to Exeter and take up with the first opportunity to ^{engage} take a private school or high school. I may not see you again, yet I hope I shall see you before many years at any rate. I am thinking strongly of going to Cambridge, but my mind is not fully made up. — I would say more but time presses. Excuse this hasty epistle - and accept my best wishes for your success in teaching and for your future prosperity.

Your friend

P. H. Townsend

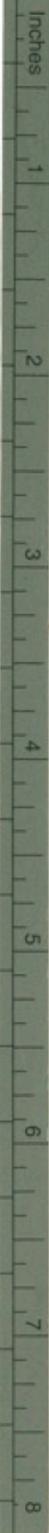
1870

Friday PM 22 Dec

Miss Harriet

Dec 22, 1852

Mr. Wm. Howard



that the Rail Road was out of order, and concluded not to go. -
I shall remain at home all day, and do nothing particular more
than on other days, although it is quite a holiday,
shall be glad to hear from you when you can find time to write
and am
Very truly
Your friend

Oliver A Howard Esq
Cadet
West Point

J. T. Sargent
39 South St

New York Dec 23 1830

Dear Otis

Are you still in the land of the living or have
you long since taken your departure for another and brighter
world when you are so happy that you have forgotten all that
you were known of us poor mortals, or is your time so much em-
ployed that you cannot devote a few minutes to any. one? - if this last be so, then I forgive you this long silence, for
there is a pleasure in such correspondence that seldom attaches
itself to any other, - but seriously my dear fellow why have you
not written to me; did you not receive my letter within a
few days after I received your kind one; or was it not worth
replying to; I recollect now that it was written in great
haste, and when my thoughts were confused, for I was then very
much engaged; but I cannot attribute it to anything of this kind,
and am quite at a loss, but think I shall know soon,
Months have passed since you were here, yet I have but few changes
to note, or few complaints to make, a kind Providence has watched
over me and mine, and blessed us with comparative health, and we
have no cause to complain. - Epus & Elias are about the same as when
you left them, pretty steady for boys of their ages, but I am afraid
they will not spend their time as profitably as they might, they will
be wiser if they live to grow older, they are still boarding at the
Pearl Street Annex, -

In October I made my visit East, and of course enjoyed it ex-
-ceedingly, I found Sarah in Scotland, remained there three or four days

and then we started again for Batou on our way to Maelias
where we went to visit my brothers. we remained in Batou two
or three days, heard that some singer of "Sunny Side", and then
took the boat for Eastport. Sarah was quite sick but soon got over
it after she landed. we went to Maelias and then remained for
two weeks. had a happy time and enjoyed it much. we came from
there back to Batou, or rather to Portland and took the car from there
to Batou. Sarah was very sick returning, which is the reason we
did not keep on in the Boat. If we had had time it would
have given us much pleasure to wait upon Miss Waite,
but as my furlough was fully up I was obliged to keep on,
and only remained with Sarah two hours in Batou. I was
very sorry to leave her, but could not avoid it. - there is no use
for me to attempt to tell you what a delightful time I
had of it, but you can easily imagine, for you have been just
as happy in doubt, as I was. - My stay at Wallcut, though short
was very pleasant, and I much regretted that I could not go
out and see your mother, and the rest of Sarah's friends in
that vicinity. - I stopped with Mr. Stuckland, and was very
kindly treated by them all. Mrs. L. is a charming woman. -
your Grandmother seemed as smart as when I was there
three years ago. I saw Henry Wingate & his wife, she had an infant
of a few weeks. - Spent one evening with Mary Richardson, she seems
about the same as when I first knew her, she's very pleasant. -
I don't know that I can tell you anything more of Wallcut that
will interest you, Henry Stuckland has moved to Portland and continues
his business there, they board for the present at the U.S. Hotel. -
When do you expect to see your friends from Portland? - I am sure
you must want to, and I wish for your sake that it might be

very soon, but presume not before next Summer. It's hard to
separate ourselves so long from those we love, but there is a
great deal of pleasure in receiving a nice long letter every
little while, and nearly as much in writing. I enjoy both. -
How (to change the subject) do you get along with your studies, is it
so dull with dulling this matter with white cotton gins on & about
you have much of that to do now? - I wish you a Merry Christmas,
and if I were not engaged to go a little beyond your place to An-
-burg I would come and see you, do the cars stop on their way down?
I shall return Thursday in the morning train and should be glad
to see you and William Mott at the cars. - How cold it has been here
today, and how the wind did blow yesterday & last night, - why! it
was almost dangerous for a man to venture out when the wind
could get a few snips at him, - we have had no snow here yet.
- Ergo, no sleighing, but what if we had? when is the pleasure in
sleigh riding when there is nobody near that you can talk
to as a companion? I always found a pleasant female companion
a large contributor to a pleasant ride, this reminds me of the many
grand times I have had in this way. - I could say "Come again to-
day", but when will it come? here I am peep up within the walls
of a great city, the same rain quets my eyes from day to day, the
same busy hum, and deafening roar of business quets my ear, but the
pure sweet air of heaven gets contaminated ere it reaches us, I would
much rather live in the country on many accounts than in the city,
but I am very well situated here, and hardly think I shall leave for
any consideration at present. - Wednesday Morning 25th. - I did not leave
this morning as I intended to go Anburg as I understood last night

My dear son, I did not think this letter would reach you
last here over two mails when I laid down my pen last Sabbath
but it has been an uncommon busy week with us and very cold,
the thermometer has ranged very low this morning, ten below
Zero after a severe blow and the roads blocked so much, we did
attempt going to church. I suppose your class examinations has com-
menced ere this, you have your mother's interest in this as
in ^{all} other situations but she cannot be any benefit to
you, you must stand for yourself. Divine Wisdom has so fixed
his laws that every creature must give an account singly to
him, and in all things it is well for us to stand for ourselves
but still we are very dependent on each other for com-
forts, Rodolphus seems to come forward in stature and
intellect but is uncommonly coarse in every respect he
gets whipt at school a great deal, sometimes I feel
almost overcome to think how much he is thrashed in
school he has never mentioned it to me but Charles is
almost out of patience at seeing him a mark for a ma-
licious temper, I shall be glad when the school is done
as I do not wish to make any noise about it on many accounts
my first and greatest reason is, the fear of injuring Rodol-
phus how much we have to encounter, and how much wisdom
we need to help us along. I seem to be carried along
on the wheels of time for some reason or other, your
uncle John when he was here said William had taken
a school in New Portland, but I have not any thing
more about him since your uncle Ensign has been
gone to Torrington the last week to try to get up an
interest there in his mail road, your father spent the day
at Mrs Lottner's yesterday they are all well, your affectionate

P. D.
Hornwell

Dear Brother Otis

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L. Seeds Dec 29 1850

I will try to answer to your request for me to write you,
but I do not boast that it will be done very elegantly. I long wished for me
to tell you concerning my school, we have good school, it is taught by one of the
most popular men we have in the town, he is one of the select men and our represen-
tative to the legislature his name is Benson Caswell. My studies are Geography, Grammar
& Arithmetic. I study ^{two} arithmetics, Greenleaf and Colburn, I suppose you are acquan-
ted with the latter as it is your old one that I am studying why I studied ^{two} ~~it~~ would give me
a better idea of fractions. I see by your letter that you are glad as well as all of the rest
of us, ^{that Roland has got home} he is the same old fellow that he was when he went away, only a little more
gentlemanly, he don't seem to be afraid of any body now, but he is Roland after all.
We had a very severe storm here, last Monday & Tuesday that filled the roads all up
and the wind blew the snow up in great drifts before the doors, we just got them
shouldered away when another great northeaster came upon us, for when we arose
this morning the wind was blowing from the northeast and it was driving very fast,
the sun has come out though now it is now two o'clock and mother is a getting
dinner, you know we always have a late dinner Sunday, Nancy Mannwell lives
here, she is a helping mother get it, father and Roland are talking of California
and things of California. I can't tell what Johnny and Tellie are doing
and saying, for they are doing and saying everything, they both go to school and I
guess they will learn, Rodolphus' studies are ~~Geo~~ Geography and Smith's
Arithmetic, he has just come in to the room wishes me to send his love to
you we are all in good health here at home. I have just been to dinner
we had something that I guess you don't have very often for dinner, it was some
fowl. I have asked Roland if he should write to you he said he did not know
I think likely that he will, mother will write some to you to send with this.

Oliver Gilmore

I wish you a good bye from your affectionate brother
Charles

My Dear Son, he received your very kind and reasonable letter last
week, and one from R.S. at the same time the first we have had
since he went to Yarmouth he expressed some concern because
you had not written of late, to him, thought you might be punish-
ing him for some of his saucy jokes, but you probably have written
and this Rowland is rather careless about his person in every respect
for which, I am not only sorry, but disappointed, but I am in hopes he
will yet do different, he has a Chum this term, who is not agreeable to
him he says he is not getting on in his studies as ^{well as} last term on account
of his chum but the weather has been extremely cold all the time
since he went back and studying in a room alone had become
a habit with him, of which he will get ^{the} better of it, your last
letter seemed more cheerful than they they done, and hope
your situation is not calculated to make you unhappy when
hear B. et. al. relate what he has past through and what he has
seen others suffer I think your lot is comparatively easy,
altho' my heart has ached for you when I have thought of your
discipline, I am sure it is a place I should never chosen for you
but ^{you} accepted it and I hope it is for your future benefit, you
are in a place where I do not trust my thoughts to look into
the future, only in the thought of beholding you whenever
I can, I hope you will always retain your integrity, and culti-
vate a stock of useful virtues, I desire very much you should
enjoy yourself as you go along, if you can do it in well doing
don't think too much of perplexing circumstances that are un-
avoidable, I now return to my writing after leaving at twilight
I have been listening to R. relating some of his narrow escapes
it is astonishing how much men will venture for gold, Rowland
has brought home nothing more than a fair compensa-

with all adventures, Rowland brought from California a letter for Warren
Scathrop from Elias, and gave it to Mr Leonard at the road the same
time he gave him mine that contained Addison's had he been at
the office when you wrote? Elias health was improving when Rowland
left him. Rowland thinks E. will return soon R. feels bad when he says
anything about E's being still in California it is an awful undertak-
ing to come from California to New York City, a great many
have died on the way, and many have died immediately
on arrival, Rowland intends stopping ^{at} home through the winter
I have heard that sister M. J. Strickland is in Portland and that
is all she was making preparation to appear very smart in P.
when I saw her, sister Ethel is at Mother's and Sarah with her
the winter has been very close so far I hope Jan. will be more mild
Christmas with you is past, just before Christmas we had a tremendous
storm which prevented us from attending a donation at Mr B's
our Ministers the roads were so blocked they could not be made
ready in time for us to go, the donation is still on hand I thought
of New Year's but a storm today prevented an appointment,
we shall have rather stiller times in Leeds than common this winter
the Miers's and Sherril are gone and doct Leonard Mr Jane Bates
was here one day full of her saucy unceasing talk as ever
she says we have seven ^{up} widowers in town that is enough
to keep all the old maids on the watch, I saw your Aunt
Lucretia at meeting the last Sabbath and talked with her
she sent her love to you and said tell Otis to persevere all
will prove right by and by she said Laura had a ~~great~~
son, several weeks old, Rowland says he did not receive but
one letter from you, and that one Mr Curry carried
out in December. your father mailed a Kennebec Journal
date 26. of December