

Garnett Jan 1st 1851

Dear Brother

I wish you a very happy new year
 We have got an adjourn today, though I don't know
 what for. So I say again Happy new Year
 This is one of the mornings, such as you
 remember. Thermometer 10 below zero and
 no grumbling, but for all that it is as pleasant
 as you very often experience. The air is clear and
 breezy, making our feet as though, if they did
 have to fly would to keep warm yet they were able
 to. I set up last night to see the old year out
 and the new one in, and some of the boys
 gave a first rate treat, to which we all did
 ample justice. Then some of the students made
 so much noise this morning as to get Mr James
 out of bed before his usual time (8 o'clock) and
 caused him to address them in no very conciliatory
 manner merely remarking that such a noise
 as that was better fitted for the cedar swamp
 than North Garnett. I have not heard
 from home since I have been here except through
 you. From you I first learned that Roland
 had got home. I see by the paper that the
 dividend to the working members of the Soc was
 \$1800, a small sum truly for such a rich, but he
 has obtained I suppose in some degree what he

told me he was mostly going for, to see the
country, yes! I think he has seen California to
his heart's content, else he would not have come home
satisfied with enough of its golden treasures to
comfortably start him in business, there, and double
in a short time, But perhaps it is better as it
is, as I see by the papers that the cholera is raging
fearfully there, besides the death dealing diseases of
the climate, I was in Portland on Thanksgiving
~~evening~~, but went in the evening train and came
out at 4 o'clock in the morning therefore had not
time to call at Mrs Waiters, We had a Thanksgiving
dinner a Christmas supper and New Year's holiday
so I think we have done quite well this winter, We
are at present reading Cicero, have read the first
2 orations, I find several convenient points in
the book I bought of you, In Greek, my little elaps
which is not so far advanced as the first one,
in reading Mythology in the Greek Reader, I find
Greek is a great deal easier to me than at first
though still rather a bore, but I shall come round
by and by, Perley has been at home spending
his vacation, and yesterday on his way to Portland
he stopped here, he appears in good health and
spirits, says he has been blocked up at home
all through vacation by the deep snow, Miss Jewett
& Robinson are going into Portland with her
this afternoon to hear Bro Wood's speak before
the Lyceum, I should like to go in myself but want

The change makes me stay at home
I seriously fear the state of Maine will
fail, she is unused to such losses as the Insane
Hospital & the State Prison, and if the State House
should go I think, as the saying is, she would be
dead broke, Vaughan is with me and enjoys him-
self very well and I think is learning some, His father
seems quite anxious about his learning, he has written
me twice concerning him, Perley & Jewett say give
him my respects, and the former says answer my
last letter and the latter, You will hear from me
soon, Vaughan had a letter from Harriet the other
day, she is well and was going to Bath to spend
Christmas, says Mrs William is keeping school
I did not understand where, Doyen has been
from Silas Lee if you do, how is he, Mr Doyen, Jacob,
&c, I saw an article in Britain Magazine on
entitled, A Morning visit at West Point, - and
the lady makes it out a delightful ^{piece} filler with
delightful people, you had better get it and
see what you think of it, Write me all about
Christmas, I should like first rate to come out
next summer if I was prepared for college and
had money enough &c, Do you have time to read
any, if you do, and have not read, The Catechism,
read it, I have read it three times and find the
last the best, Uncle Henry is in Portland got a
great store, I saw it, but not him,
Your Brother Rowland

Dear Jan 4th 1852

Dear Brother Mrs I wanted to
show you how well I could
write. My wife school did not keep
yesterday. Pascoe and I went a
skating. now I am going to make
some letters S. H. G. M. M. A. M.
V. A. H. A. H. H. G. G. G. G.
S. H. G. G. G. G. G. G. G.
S. H. G. G. G. G. G. G. G.

Jerome R. H. Gilmore.

C. C. Howard

Paid 30th

C. Howard

West Point

Pa

place. I had marked out the course that I should pursue with much precision. All my plans are disarranged; and in all probability the chance which placed me here has changed the whole course of my life. Would you like to see me an officer in ^{the} United States Army? You do not think I shall continue in the Army long after I graduate; neither do I. But to confess the truth, the habits, the companions & the influence of a military institution, over a young man, whose character is just forming, can only be fully understood by him, who has been subjected to them. Who can tell whether four years in this place may not almost wholly change my nature? But why reason so? You might judge that I was discontented & wished to leave. It is not so. This is my way. I would not leave if I could now: for this reason, that every thing in the world appears so uncertain. I always ^{want} something solid to stand upon. Should I leave, or resign, I should not know which way to turn. Therefore I will hold my tongue, or rather teach my pen to say proper things & not complain. What a glorious motto for a young man is this: Prep steadily onward: take care of the present & fear not for the future. I can imagine, yes more, I can see Charlie & Dellie, standing near & listening to the above. But one thinks it must be rather dry to the little fellows. Tell Charlie that I have been studying Grammar, & that the other day I was asked the definition of Orthography & I stupidly gave the definition of Etymology. Ask him if he could not have done better? Give them both my love; and little Johnny too; I must not forget him with his laughing face. They must all be good boys & carry all the letters to the Post Office for me, that can be found. My love to Roland & father. Don't forget that you have rewritten but very little about Roland & his travels as yet. Believe me ever your affectionate son
Oliver C. Howard.

Warren was well when I last saw him. I presume he will write some time. Excuse me to Laura. Howard got my delay; let her that I will make up for it soon - My respects to all my friends & relations. O.C.H.

Oliver Howard
West Point N.Y. Jan 5th 1851.

176

Dear Mother

I did think that I should not write again till the result of the examination was known to me, but as our examinations are necessarily very long, lasting perhaps three weeks, I feared that you might have some degree of anxiety on account of my delay: therefore I write. My health is very good indeed, and my spirits are in a flourish. The Examination commenced on Thursday last. The Board of Examiners consists of all the Officers & Professors on the Point. The Officers in Uniform & the Professors, with their long & serious faces were convened at nine o'clock in one of the largest rooms of the Academic building. My section was the first called. As we entered the room it seemed more like a solemn tribunal about to administer justice to a set of trembling victims, than like a friendly examination of a set of young men, all radiant with hope & emulation. I had seen such solemn visages before, and was neither afraid, nor abashed. Many of my notes were however, ~~then~~ when called up, some would turn red, some pale; & very few would say just exactly what they meant. I gave my demonstration in a voice clear & distinct; and not one word was spoken during the whole of it: I hesitated afterwards when questioned once or twice, but answered nothing wrong. Mr Abbot will stand at the head of the Class this January: I called O.C. Howard, if he is, fortunate in his English Examination, as in his Mathematical will stand No. 2 in General Standing. Mr Lee & myself are just about alike in Mathematics, but in other studies I am much ahead

of him, therefore in general standing I shall stand
above him. This is as much as I expected after I found
that many of my classmates were my equals in point of a
previous education. And if I can graduate among "the five"
who are called the "stars" the five distinguished for scholar-
ship, it is as much as I can expect or my friends can
expect. But a trace to rank. I have paid a visit to Uncle
Ward since I wrote and had a very pleasant time; only
it gives me pain to see my cousin, who once had prospects
as bright as my own, so terribly afflicted. Night & day there
convulsions continue; and still he can find no remedy. It
wears upon his father. I don't think ^{he} will ever be well.
I was gone one day (& a little over). I wrote to Auntland
Bailey Friday last. From him I have not heard, excepting
through Mr Jewett, since his return to Vermont. Mr
Jewett merely said that he & little Vaughan were there & well.
Now how do you all do at home? Four months & over have
now passed away since I left that home, whose charms &
comforts I have better learned to value by being
deprived of them, for more is my mind & my heart
turned towards them than if I lived in luxury. It
is good for a young man of reflection to leave home
for a place like this. He can never half comprehend the true
worth merit of affection, until he goes where no hand
is ready to supply his every want; where no heart full of
sympathy, can anticipate, and assuage the slightest
pains. We are all fools; but experience, strange to say, will
often cure us of folly. A blessing is a curse to him, who
knows, who feels it not: but a curse is a blessing if it opens

our eyes to truth, and makes us able to appreciate what is
truly valuable. Ask Keland, if he did not sometimes feel
a little desolate, a little heart sick, when ^{he} had toiled all the day
for gold, and retired to his quarters, to find no pleasant
room, with a cheery fire glowing upon the hearth; no
warm supper, upon a neat & inviting table; no friendships,
no sympathy, in anything, which is comfortable. He must
have said to himself sometimes: "How foolish I was to be
unhappy, to be discontented with myself & my lot, when I was
surrounded by everything that a man could desire". Why the
very atmosphere of home must be friendship & sympathy
to him now. Now I wish myself could fly to you as easily as
my fancy; but my voice will not be heard in the family circle
for a very long time. Yet I shall never be forgotten, nor shall I
ever forget, or undervalue the value of my home. Nature has bound
me by a strong cord, & though, it may be elastic, it is invisible
and will never be severed. Lizzie wrote that she was just going
to Livermore. Have you seen her? If she has made you a visit
you must write me. Have you no thoughts, no plans for the future, or
determinations for the present that will be of interest to me, to acquaint
me with. I know your time is employed. I know that your pen can't
be so active as mine, for I am young & full of thoughts such as
they are. They flow without regularity & I am sorry to say, often with
very little sense. But there is no other way, you will be obliged to write to
me a great deal, for you remember my restless nature, & from it you can
easily see that I cannot be with you much again, although I may.
For concerning the future we can only conjecture, aided perhaps
by the present & past. Everybody, almost, says I am well situated?
Yes, I am well situated, but not well settled. Before coming to this

Barnum Paul 8th 1851

Dear Brother

The devil is in the mails, I know, for I assure you, that, neither laziness, sickness or serious engagements could hinder me from answering your letters. (Your last letter was written on the third and came to hand this morning.

As soon as I see the one before the last I answer it, and you should have got it by this time; I wish that you would just speak to the Post Master General, through your friend the Sec of War in order that after this, the mails may do their duty if they do not, I shall just clap mine (letters of course) aboard the Telegraph which runs through this place, and I advise you to do the same and then I guess that Uncle Sam, will be willing not only to reduce the postage, but quicken the mails, ahem! Old Robinson has made the following miserable arrangements for a fellows comfort, viz, The recitation of the first class will be heard in the forenoon alone

Now it must immediately occur to you from the above, that as a natural consequence, if we study at all, we must study in the afternoon, and that, Wednesday & Saturday afternoons the same annual. Now this your pervious is depriving us of our cherished dignity (what, a fine college term already)

Jan 11th 1851

I wrote the foregoing just after I rec^d of
Your letter, but was prevented from even can^{id}
from sending it, I rec a letter from mother ^{Jan}
same day I did yours. The folks at home ar^{mus}
all well. Roland is rather lonesome and hound^{do}
and takes a great deal of interest in Calaf^{ps}
affairs. I should not wonder if he returned ^{ice}
or went some where else, I don't think ^o
is the person to be contented in Leeds after
having been to California, unless indeed ^o
finds an Oman to suite him, and then ¹⁻⁶
he will settle down. Mother writes me that ^o
goes rather slow with her, the slaying is ^o
so bad she is not able to get out. I hope ^o
write her after. I know that I have ^o
my duty in that respect, sometimes I think ^o
very doubtful whether I get in to college ^o
fall, if I was a little ahead or behind what ^o
now am then would be little doubt, for if I ^o
behind I should study hard and if ahead ^o
get in without studying hard, but as it is, it ^o
a doubtful case, I am exceedingly unprop^o
here this term, for the reason that I am in ^o
office, I am pres. of the Philogian Soc^o
can Supt. of the Read Room, in one of the offic^o
I have to quarrel about order in the other ^o
the papers. The dec of the ~~So~~ has got on ^o

me and resigned, and the consequence
of these is a treat anywhere, I can not imitate
a thousand the little neglects that show
person that his company is not wanted,
must own that I am not a good fellow for
do not drink, and have sworn off playing
cards. But all I have to say is, catch me in
the ice again in Yarmouth, that's all.

(Gambler)

Jan 13th 1851

I guess, by this time you think it
me a great many days to write a letter,
but something calls me off every now and
then, and so the letter drops along, I have
it come in from my Greek recitation, in
which I, for once, sailed well. We are reading
Etymological Notices, Greek grows easier every day,
and is so easy I fear I do not study it
enough. You know how it is, if a fellow feels
that he has got a great deal to do, he will do it,
if not much. That little is half done, at
that is the way with me. I hear Mr Jewett
at the door, he has just come in to dinner,
he him first rate, although Robinson is
professor of religion, yet I think Jewett is
best man, I suppose you think the same
when you give the dinner bell. As here I go to eat
beans as inseparable to a Monday's dinner
well than I can't think of a comparison) good
after I to their virtues

After dinner

I don't want you to answer me in title you
see this (at all) then you must. I am glad
your standing in your class is so high
for next to my own and almost the same. your
sweep is nearest to my heart. This ends this
miserable letter

Your affectionate Brother

R B Howard

Wadsworth Howard A B

P.S. Vaughan is well and enjoying himself, re-
studying much though at present.

R B Howard

they often touch him on a tender point, - You know his
weakness, with to him and give him some good advice, -
I congratulate you most cordially on your success in your studies,
I hope you may continue as - (as we rate our ships,) through your
whole studies, and have no doubt you will, - You hear of
absence on Christmas was indeed a short one, but as it
was so hard to get, I presume you enjoyed it, was not aware
that you had an uncle anywhere near you, it must
make it pleasant for you, and yet he might almost as well
be a thousand miles off if you cannot visit him, -

You must be looking anxiously for summer, or rather waiting
anxiously, when you hope to see those you love, - well, 'tis not
far distant, and ere we are hardly aware of it it will be
upon us, - how rapidly does time fly, and as we grow older,
the faster it seems to fly, how important then that we should
try and make a good use of it, and strive to grow better as
we grow older, - I sometimes feel a desire to be good, - of course
there are but few who do not have this desire when they think of the
matter at all, but I mean that I am led to reflect often upon
what is the true road to happiness, and I feel sure that it does
not consist alone in this world's goods, -

I shall be right glad to call upon you some of these odd
days, and if not soon, and I think I shall come
in the gloaming 4th - perhaps "Lizzie" will be there about that
time, - I should like to see her, much, let me know when
they come to the City and I will call and see them,
with great pleasure, - how I am at the bottom of my
heart without hardly knowing it, I dare not read this over
for fear I should not send it, you must take it for the most
as it is worth, I have written in a great hurry and hardly know
what I have said, - Respects to Mr. & Miss
Wm. & Miss

Wm. & Miss
P. O. Farquhar
39 South St

New York Jan'y 17th 1831

Dear Otis

Having a few leisure moments after the
toils of the day, I thought I would just wish you a
happy New Year, commence an answer to yours of the
27th Dec, and trust to luck for an opportunity to fin-
ish it, - I was glad to hear from you, and that you were
"still in the land of the living", - good living I hope - and from
your report of being "ragged & robust" I fancy you are in
no great danger of starving,

How could you for a moment suppose I could make so
long a visit as three or four months in Maine? - I had
hard work to get a furlough of three weeks, and an
extension of one more when they were up, but I enjoyed
them very much I assure you, - In one of Sarah's letters
a few weeks ago she said, "Otis promised Frank & I that he
would write to us, but I have not heard from him yet", - don't
you fulfill such promises to the ladies? Look out for your
reputation, but that I suppose you think is well established
in Portland on that score, and you don't fear much from other
sources, well you certainly are under greater obligations there
than elsewhere, and I don't think, if I were you that I would
argue that one for any other, but if you can find a leisure

moment or two. I know Sarah would be very glad to hear from you, - she is in Hallowell, -

What did you do here Thurs day? - in Maine and other Eastern States it passes off nearly as quietly as any other, except perhaps the young men get up a Highing party or something of the kind, - but here different here, - it is really a quiet day and must all seem to enjoy it, - then you have an opportunity of renewing old and cultivating new acquaintances, - you have a right to go into almost anybody's house that you please, but there seems to be but very little pleasure and less heart in making calls upon those that you care nothing for, - Being disappointed in not leaving town on that day I could not avoid calling upon my friends, although I felt but little like it I can assure you, - about 12 o'clock I made my first call (some start as early as nine) which was upon a young lady with whom I had not but once and that once at a concert, but feeling a desire to see her once more I mustered courage and went in, - she hardly knew me, but soon recollected who I was, I sat a while and had a very pleasant call, - during the day I made nearly forty calls, got through about nine, and was very tired indeed, I enjoyed the day very much more than I anticipated, and was not at all sorry that I had undertaken what I called a task, in the evening, - my last call was upon a young married couple (the lady I had now seen) and as it was late and a little hungry I told them I thought

I should get no better dinner than their table afforded and as I intended that my last call I should invite myself to a supper, so my friend, and just sat down with her and we found sumptuously, Quail Turkey, Oysters in different styles, Chicken, Ham, Sugar &c &c - after leaving them I had to walk about 4 miles to get home, which settled the dinner so that I was not troubled much at night with indigestion, - Elias I believe made a number of calls in your town, he is a great hand to make acquaintances, and many of them I ought are unprofitable, he is a great hand to spend his money among the young men, thinking though (but very erroneously) that he gains their esteem, and makes them think that he has plenty of money, - foolishly say that he is, he does not know that true friendship, can not be bought with dollars & cents, or that a more you and meekly manner will win the esteem even of those who are of the same cast, - understand me, I don't mean to say that he is one of this class, but he has some foolish ideas that would soon lead him into it, - I would prefer that you say nothing of what I have said to you, - I shall have a talk with him soon, and hope to be able to convince him of something that he has yet to learn, I think him very much like his father, - how can there be such a difference, as there is between him & Sarah? - he has always listened to me with respect and attention and I hope I shall be able to make him think for a short time, - he cares but little for what Epes or Dr Brown (his friend from Boston) says to him, although I think

Dear Mother, West Point, N.Y. Jan¹⁷ 18th 1837.

To tell you the truth I have got out of papers; and after getting out, it is three or four days before I can get any, as every thing is obtained by orders; these orders must be put into a certain box, from which they are taken to the Superintendent, signed by him & returned with the Check or Account books. Very often, too, he does not see fit to sign them, then the only alternative is to wait his movements, & after a time put in another order. Therefore have I, after Rowland Bailey's fashion, taken two half sheets, which I happened to find in my pocket. Yours & Charlie's double letter I received in good time. Charlie improves in his hand writing and in his manner of expressing himself. Tell him, there is no doubt if that he will become as good a writer & I hope, a better writer than his older brother, by the time he has seen as many years & written as many thousand pages.

You must never permit yourself the least uneasiness about on account of the severity of the discipline under which I am placed. Every thing here has long since ceased to be irksome to me. After a man thoroughly knows what his duty is & forms the habit of performing it promptly, however hard it may be at first, it will grow less & less burdensome, till he will almost wonder how it ever seemed so difficult. Such is my case. At first I met with crosses & vexations at every turn, so much so that I was often sick at heart; but those times have passed. I am now treated as a man & a gentleman by all, and probably shall be thus treated as long as I behave like a man & a gentleman. I received a letter from Rowland to day. He seems in good spirits as usual. For some cause or other, he has not got my letters so regularly, as I have written them. I have written him many letters, & I always fill my sheet. I don't think he has any reason to complain or think of ^{my} punishing him. I like to find his letters lively, & jokes, though I do not deal in

them over much, please me, rather than awaken any feelings of resentment
As Rowland is taking the same course, that I have already pursued
through, I shall watch him with interest. I am glad to find that pleasure
he has an independent spirit, and is not too easily influenced by the
companions of those into whose society he must necessarily be thrown
But I fear sometimes that he may carry his independence too far
and by this means mar his own enjoyment; thus also rendering society
& study less beneficial to him. I know, however, enough of human
nature, not to be too prodigal of my advice to a brother. Officious
& long sermons are any thing but agreeable, to the most-patient
affectionate listeners. ^{With} a brother example has more weight than
advice. Warren received Rowland's letter, or rather his brother's, brought
by Rowland. He did not know that Rowland brought it: He said it
was marked, "Way" without any other post mark. He said he
not-tell, to save his life, where it came from, I have had them
marked the same & explained the mystery. Uncle John writes
me at long intervals, and sends me papers almost every other
day. He sent me one the other day containing a sermon, delivered
by Mr Fish of Bath, particularly applicable to the slave law. It
very good, especially enjoining obedience to law. Uncle also sent
a letter of introduction written by Mr Sawtelle to Mr Capt. Williams,
I believe I have spoken of Captain Williams, Judge Daniel Williams
son. He passed through the war in Mexico, unscathed, and is now
an Adjutant at West Point. I have not presented my letter yet.
I think I shall this afternoon (Saturday).
Lizzie writes me that she did not stop at Livermore but a few days
and the roads were so blocked up that she could not go any where.
She is attending school; says, when it is done she shall make
you a visit, at Leeds. I wrote Uncle Henry Strickland a letter, saying

since, complying with Aunt Martha Janis's request: but he
has not answered it yet. The weather has been quite warmer
the pleasant for over a week. The snow is almost all gone. In fact
we have had but very little snow at all. The winter, here, hardly
equals ours in Maine.

Our examination is over; and twenty three of my classmates have
been found deficient, & sent home. Some of them felt very badly indeed.
A few declared they would not go home. Others, however, had got
sick of the place, and, notwithstanding the disgrace of being found
I were glad to get away. Among them were some with a good
education, who depended too much upon former acquirements.
I did not study quite enough. Mr. Abbot stands at the
head of the class in general standing, O. Howard second, Mr. Rogers
of Wisconsin, third, Mr. Lee, of Virginia (Col. Lee's son) fourth, & Mr.
Beckler (of Louisiana, I believe) fifth. These are "the five" of our class for
the present. Mr. Headwell one of my room-mates, stands seventh.
Mr. Browne, 26th. Mr. Browne studies night & day. I never saw
greater share of perseverance centered in any one man. He is
bound to do well in the end. Lagelle stands forty fifth; He has
improved very much, treats me well, & therefore I get along with
him now first rate. Now we have got to study steadily for five
months. I know I would enjoy a vacation of a few weeks, but
as I cannot have it, I must make the best of the matter, and take
things as easy as possible. [Saturday evening]. For several weeks
last our Band of Music have given a concert every Saturday night.
I have just returned to my room after attending one of these concerts.
It is glorious music, it thrill one often with indescribable feelings,
it serves to allay all bitterness & sadness, and awakens a kind of
joyousness, a light heartedness, which has a favorable reaction upon

The weary mind. Have you ever noticed that the mind can be tired? Almost every one has at some time exhausted his physical strength, and this has produced a corresponding exhaustion in the mind. But this is not what I mean. The mind when it is weary in my sense of the term, becomes even more restless, when you are awake it is not clear, it is misty; when you are asleep, it continues to labor over angles, triangles, & theorems, without coming to any conclusion, it labors like the hero of mythology, who kept rolling a large rock up a steep hill & as soon as ^{he} ~~it~~ got ^{it} to the brow, & thought his work almost done, back it would roll, and again he must roll & toil. My mind sometimes takes to itself such fits. Well, when in such a state, then the music of the band has a strange & pleasant effect. Why I can sleep after a concert as quietly almost, as when a child my mother would hold me in her lap, or put me in the 'trundle bed' & tuck me in. I made Captain Williams a call this afternoon, but he was not at his room, therefore I shall not introduce myself to him till next Saturday afternoon. I saw Warren, to day. He is in good health, but scalding sadly, because his friends at home do not write him. Give my love to all. Tell Roland, to say himself just as much as he can, now, that he has got back whole, he must, every where, find open ears among the curious people of Leeds, and can probably tell them some hard stories, without in the least stretching the truth. Patten has just beaten, & hence we have a half hour to make our beds, & stow ourselves away before the three last "taps", which say "tis" "time", rest: Good night,

Your affectionate son

Oliver G. Howard.

West Point N.Y. Jan 12th 1851

O. G. Howard
Jan 13 1851
West Point N.Y.

Miss Henry - S. Esq

180

Portland Jan 23 1851

Cadet Rowan

I read your letter some time since
& Mother & I were much gratified at the contents of it.
we were gratified that you were so well pleased with your
situation & that you were trying so hard to keep yourself up &
ahead, in your class. It is a trying situation for you,
to have to form all new habits & in fact to rework
yourself all over new, as it were. But it is an effort
that you will be well repaid for in future years. It
is trying now, but will be gratifying by & by. It is a course
that gives character & tone to a man, when he is thrown
upon the world & nothing to depend upon but his own resources.

We have hardly yet got settled in our new quarters. We
are boarding at the N. State House as yet, shall probably get
to housekeeping in course of a month or two. Business opens
pretty well so far, hope we shall be able to make a
line of it, & make something of it. I shall make the
requisite effort & hope to succeed. We see Mrs. White &
Daughter quite often. think them very pleasant. They
feel that you are fixed for a long time, but that it is
for the best

Your taste is pretty good, so we all give you credit for it.
If you both can keep your plights for the requisite time you
will be worthy of each other. Your Father has not been down
since we have been here. Esquire was down, & just saw
him once. He staid a little while & did not call on Mother.
He says Will. C. is at his house, having met with some
trouble in his school, & left it. He lacks for perseverance.
I feel that his Father must help him along in the world,
a bad idea for any young man to take into his head,
as every one ought to have a feeling of dependence upon
his own resources, & then if all else fail him, he is not
cut like a log upon the waters to be hither & thither at
their pleasure, but he takes his place in Society an
independent man. Will has got some severe lessons
yet to learn if he lives. Mr. Parley calls on us often.
He is pleasant & I think will make a smart man. He
has some corners in his character & opinions, that will
get knocked off by contact with the world at large.
as is the case with most of us. Mother sends her
love to you & says she wishes to see you become all that
the most ardent wishes of your friends could desire. Adeline
my sister is at Falmouth, she made us a visit last week. She
likes my well. Maria is also there. She came in & made
us a visit likewise & Naught who is at Falmouth.

Jan 25. I have delayed writing the rest of this until today, last evening
Miss ~~Wait~~ Waite called at our room. Said she had
just recd a letter for you & you would well see

We should be glad to hear from you at your
leisure, as we are always glad to hear of the well
doing of our friends. So when you nothing better to do
than you can write to us. by the way we had a letter from
Adelina a day or two ago. he is doing well, very
healthy & contented. California he likes very much.
I think Adelina will make his fortune out there.
I am sorry his sisters have not been more fortunate
both in this own home (this Father's home) & their
husbands. As I learn that two of them, Lydia &
Emily are not married well. But you hear all
of this news from your Mother. Mother wishes
me to give you a great deal of love & also that
she has a deep interest in you wellfare & in all
that concerns you. as I have no more time at
present I must close

Respectfully yours
B. H. Thickson

O. Q. Howard

181

Jan 31. 1851. West Point.

Dear mother,

Some considerable time has elapsed since I have taken my pen to perform the agreeable duty of writing to my mother; for I consider it a duty, in as much as my prolonged absence together with my peculiar situation, has tended to increase the natural anxiety, which a mother feels for a beloved son wherever he may be. I feel it my duty, in a measure to allay any such undue solicitude by keeping up with you a constant, familiar, regular correspondence, placing before you myself as I am, and my situation as it is. But from some cause or other, my studies press harder & harder. I can scarcely steal time enough to write three letters a week. In Geometry we have gone two thirds through a book, that we were over three months in completing in College. In French too nearly half of the first section can speak the language, so, our instructor shows no mercy in giving lessons, but taxes our utmost capacity. In Geography, we are obliged to learn every thing to recite "à l'anglais" and to draw the maps from memory on the ^{black} board, containing all the principal features, lakes, rivers, towns &c. This exercise is interesting, but requires time and industry. Still, I shall write as often as I can. I received a letter from Rowland this noon. He says Mr Jewett is sick of a slow fever. Mr Jewett has done a great deal of labor, for the past four years, and I would not wonder, if he had

Col John Gilman

South Leeds

Maine



overburdened even his strong constitution. Rowland thinks, however, that he will soon be able to proceed with his school. There is no snow on the ground here. But it is colder than Greenland. It had been very warm till yesterday morning, when it set in cold. At parade yesterday I thought I should surely freeze, but as good fortune would have it I had bespoken a great-coat, & got it last night. This is the first of my bearing one this winter, but it feels nice & comfortable I can tell you, when we are obliged to face the cold, raw wind coming down the river. The Cadet over-coat has, like all things else belonging to us, a peculiar construction. It is made of grey cloth, much longer than common over-coats, having two rows of bright buttons, stamped "Cadet U.S.M.A."; and a large cape, which we turn up round the face, when it is excessively cold. Those mittens you gave me, were the best article of clothing I had; especially when I went on guard, but I have lost them somewhere; and since we have no pockets, they surely are not "in my pockets", this time. I have worn my uniform dress coat four months steadily, till my elbows begin to creep out. I put in an order for another, three times over, but they were not granted, so I went to see Capt Brewerton & showed him my white elbows. The next day he gave me an order for a coat & over-coat. I have now mended my elbows & put my new coat in my trunk.

I received a letter from Uncle Henry yesterday from Portland. He says, he is doing very well - but Rowland writes that his wife is homesick, because she has not a house of her own. When Warren was here to see me, he was scolding about

the neglect of his correspondents in Leeds. He seems pretty well content with his situation, desiring, of course, like the rest of us, somewhat a little ^{that} a little different, a little higher. I hope he will get promoted, if he is to stay in the Army; for, so long as he has no commission, he is liable, for any little thing, to be degraded into the ranks. So long as he has his present Captain there is not the least danger of this, for the Capt. thinks very highly of him. Warren is called one of the finest looking men on the Point. He does indeed look better than he did a few years ago, with his "bended neck & rounded shoulders." - Tell me all you can learn of his relatives, for I like to have something to tell him when I see him.

Mr. Henry says Lizzie calls to see them often. He tells me that he approves of my taste, and with some "ifs & ands" dismisses the subject. He writes me a very consolatory, encouraging letter, but with all quite distant.

Lizzie says that she means to make you a visit as soon as her school is done, to make amends for not going to see you when at Livermore. She is now attending a High School. The Instructor is brother to my old friend & instructor, Professor Packard. I hear that William C. has left his school. If you see him ask him to write to me: for I should not know where to direct to him.

Give my love to all the family and believe me

Your affectionate son
C. C. Howard.