Peekskill 1st Feby 57

My dear Nephew

Your letter a few days after you left us came duly to hand. I was very sorry to learn that your short visit to myself and family should be attended with so much vexation & trouble to you, infact I am not informed to what extent. But sincerely hope that your expenses ~~were suffici~~ was sufficient to exonerate you from blame. Please write me the result, also any news you may have rec^d from the Eastward. Augustus health remains about the same, all the rest of our family are well. I hope that you will be able to visit us in the Spring without hinderance or unpleasant consequences. Your cousins wish to be remembered to you & join with me in our best wishes for your health & prosperity

Your affectionate uncle

W. B. Howard

left his school and is now at Leeds, enjoying himself very much, in going to parties &c &c. he seems to be quite astonished to find so many pretty girls in Leeds. But I suppose he will return to Brunswick as his term commences a week from next Friday.

Our vacation commences a week from Thursday; I expect to spend mine in Bath; I am looking forward to the day I leave here for even so short a time as a fortnight, with much pleasure.

I hear from Rowland sometimes and I am now going him a letter and I think I ought to answer his tonight. I do not think it is perfectly right, to spend so much of Sunday in writing letters but I think it is more excusable here, than it would be at home as then I have plenty of time to write all my letters; but here I do not have hardly any time to write excepting Sunday. I have written two letters today besides going to church all day and prayers twice. So you may suppose that I must have written this in quite a hurry and this must be my apology for sending a letter which.

"One must be a friend indeed
To pardon or to bear it."

I have now come to the end of my sheet

Gorham Sem. Feb 2nd /61

My dear Cousin;

I received your letter a little more than a week since; I had almost given up all hopes of receiving a letter from you so that it was quite unexpected and I like above all things pleasant surprises so that the pleasure of receiving from you was heightened by its unexpectedness. I will therefore readily forgive you for not before fulfilling your promise ~~to write~~ suppose you have a great many letters to write to Maine, I will not say home, as I fear they are apt not to proceed quite as far as Lewis.

This brings to my mind the subject of some questions in your letter. You ask me how I like Lizzie (I shall use this familiar term in writing you) for as I know her I can sincerely say I like her very much and I should think as Traddles says in David Copperfield, "she was one of the dearest girls in the world". But you must remember I have only seen her three; I saw her in Brunswick and dined with her in Portland and I cannot therefore feel as though I knew her very well; but I hope to become more acquainted with

if not to my wife's sister, so I speak with the freedom of a sister. Yours

P.S. Excuse this poor writing & short letter but I have not time to write at least twice as much as I wish to write to you. I must close with my best wishes for your welfare & happiness

Sarah

her so I shall go into B— quite often now; but another fam has moved there.

I am very glad you are getting on so well at West Point and that you feel better contented than you did when you first went there; Lizzie told me when I saw her at Brandreth Park she did not think you were very happy then and I had hardly heard from you since until I saw her in November; she then told me that you like staying there better than you did at first.

You ask me how I enjoyed Commencement? I was delighted with it; I stood at Bro. Packards, and enjoyed my visit there very much. The exercises were most of them very interesting. I say most of them there was one exception and that was a poem delivered by Mr Weston before one of the societies. It was a miserable thing; but I did not know but I might have felt more interested in it if I had not attended the ball the night before. Since I came back here I read the poem of Mr. Weston but I found that it did not improve at all upon a second hearing. I did not go to the ball with Gleason Will said he did not wish me to. I saw him though at the church on commencement day and spoke with him. He asked me if I was going to the ball and I told him yes; I was going with my brother, and I then asked him if he was going, and he said no! Afterwards Pointdexter came to me and wished my to go with him very much and as I thought and Will would like to carry some of his acquaintances; I accepted and went; I had a very pleasant time. Perhaps you will think I did wrong I am sorry if I did; but I am not very repentant I fear. I made the acquaintance of several quite pleasant young gentlemen of your class.

I am very glad you like Mr. Sargent as "Sarah's Frank" as you call him, I believe he is quite a general favorite. I have never seen the gentleman, I am sorry to say, for I should like to very much. I am very glad Sarah is going to marry so good a young man I fear such persons are rather rare in these degenerate times. I should not say this if I did not consider you one of those same personages.

I have not received a letter from Sarah as yet although she promised faithfully, that she would write me. But oh dear! these engaged persons have so many letters to write to their "beloved" that they never can think of any one else!

I wrote to Will last week and delivered your message; but I very much doubt if it will bring you a letter as the young man is not a remarkably good correspondent. He writes me he has

Wallingford, Feb. 27, 1851.

My Dear Friend.

Your favor of the 16 ult. was most gratefully rec'd, and though I have nothing to say in addition to what I have already said, I will comply with your request and write you again thus early. But it were a vain and fruitless undertaking for me to undertake to interest you with my musty nonsense, if those of your heart not a nook nor corner is left unoccupied by that dear angel of your young hearts affection, that one upon whom it is ecstatic bliss to meditate, for whom ~~your~~ your love is measured by the distance of hill and valley that intervenes between you, + two. Yes, I say, it were worse than madness for me, who have grown into a crusty old bachelor, to undertake this Herculean task, I am unable fully to appreciate your case, having never been situated in like circumstances, I have never in my perigrinations through this world of sin and sorrow, seen many of those dear creatures with whom I have had a desire to unite my destiny, that there are such ones, and, that I shall yet meet with

such an one is a matter fully settled in my mind. To tell you frankly, I have never yet seen but one person that I thought I should like well enough to marry, and that being years ago, I dared not think of it, and now that youthful ardor is somewhat abated, and I doubt not but years will roll away, ere I shall see another, I look upon the world with far different eyes than I did, even at your age; and when my disposition shall become sound, by dealing with ungovernable boys, to a greater extent than it already is, I am afraid I shall see little beauty in the youthful charms which once captivated the heart and led it captive at its will. I would not have you infer from this, that I am one of those unfortunate individuals, who have met with reverses; for such is not the fact. I have ever succeeded to my hearts content among the ladies, and still enjoy a fair share of their confidence. My situation here as a pedagogue enables me to go into the best society the place affords, which is pretty good. M. G. Beach standing at the head. I have been in town but 9 weeks but I reckon I am "round" some. I go out almost every night – spent the evening night before last at Mr. Beach's where I danced for the first time in my life – the way my lady tricked me through the Spanish dances was a sin, to say the least. The music on the occasion, was furnished by two N. York singers & piano players, together with his music teacher from Boston. My school room is very incommodious & my school a miserable one – were it not for these two mighty considerations, I should enjoy myself. Perley has written no since I rec'd yours, did not say any thing about home classmates, nor how long he intended to teach in Portland. As for news there's no such article in the market, only that I hear by Perley that old Jennings is going to get married in the Spring – I would if I were in his place, so goes the world, but I am to be an old bachelor some time yet –

Truly your friend

Chas. L. Moore

Leeds Feb. 9. 1851

Dear Cousin

Your very kind letter was duly received and I expect you are looking for an answer from your neglectful cousin, but think not dear cousin that it is because I have forgotten my friend I still cherish with the fondest recollections the many hours I have spent in your society the rides we have had together and it brings sadness over my mind when I think that we are so long to be seperated and perhaps never meet again Oh how often I imagine to myself how you look and how I wish I could see you and have one good sociable time as we used to the winter evenings that you boarded at Johns when they went down to the white house but I expect you will be entirely changed when you return but to me you will ever be the same dear Cousin that you ever have been, and there is nothing gives me more pleasure than to hear of your promotion and hope I shall yet live to see you one of the first men in the country but all this will not give you true happiness unless you have a true and genuine religion as the basis on which to build, then every thing is yours, both in this life and that which is to come, I feel glad to hear that you stand so high in your class and that you passed examination so well though I want to see you very much still I would rather wait than have you leave as they had to return home, I think I can discover by your writing you are a little homesick I know you are subjected to hard life but it will not be long before you will have the reward and I trust that will compensate you for all your trials, so keep up

Leeds Mass
Feb 11

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Thomas O. Howard
Cadet
West Point
N. Y.

good courage. I feel grateful that I am still remembered among all your friends, for I know your time is limited, and there are so many claims your attention, that to be one of that number I consider a great priveledge and hope I shall ever prove worthy of your friendship. You have asked me a number of question I will endeavour to answer them I am well and happy and every reason to bless God that he has provided such kind friends as your Uncle and Aunt are They speak of you very often and Aunt says she never knew you till you boarded at John's and she realy loves you John & Hellen are as anxious to hear from you as I am and your letter has to go the rounds and after I have read it I do not see it again for a fortnight. Lucia. L and Elmira The are always enquiring after you so you see you are loved by all your friends in Leeds. My Sleighrides are few having no cousin but Thomas at home. I have not seen Kate since the first of the winter I was up and staid three days with her while her Father and Mother went to Brunswick. Our Lyceum commenced about four weeks ago and is very well attended I fear I shall be Editress and I shall have no Cousin to write my Editorial for me, if you can find time write me a piece and send it in your letter for the paper. William Otis has been spending three or four weeks with us he is very good in our Lyceum I like to hear him converse he has so much general information is one that has read much I went to a party at Widow Lothrop with him it was very large and we did not get home till two o clock his term commences next Thursday so he will leave here this week and then I shall be destitute of a beaus but the Doctor is coming home in a fort night and perhaps he will take pity on me if he dont I shall have to submit. I did not mean to be and old maid but I find I have got to be and therefore I will make the best of it. The Doctor has called several times to see my folks in Phil I feel anxious to see him that I may learn all about them. I have been called to part with one of my best friends in the loss of my Dear Uncle Brewster and I feel to mourn for him deeply I considered him as near as my Father and he was and I feel his loss as much but so it is one after another are my dearest friends are taken away and I am left in this cold and unfeeling world alone, as it were, but the Lords ways are not as our ways and I pray that I may be reconciled to all his providences. Little Oli has grown to be a fine boy he could read all his letters long before he was two years old and can tell several stories all alone he is a great comfort to us all. We have had a very cold winter so far it will come a snow storm and then a blow. it is snowing now and their is no one going to meeting to days I thought I would improve the time in writing to my dear cousin. I feel glad to hear that you have been to see Uncle Ford I feel to sympathize with them in their afflictions, if you see any of them give them my best respects, I remember Elizabeth very well. I pity your Mother she has to work very hard having no help but a girl to sew a little, they have a greatdeal of company there as well as we, Everet has got another Daughter. Henry Millet has got a daughter Valentine Bridgham is going to be married in the Spring to Mehittable Joslin so you see the young as well as older are getting married Aunt Martha says give my love to Otis and a great deal of it to John has just come down and wants you to write to him that Oli has not forgot you nor they how much you thought of him, write as soon as you receive this I remain your true friend Laura C. Howard

Leeds Feb 15th 1851

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Dear brother,

I take my pen to write what news I do that I think will be most interesting to you. It is quite a pleasant day to day, our folks are all in as good health as common & they are all about home, father, mother, & I intended to go a visiting this morning, but Mrs Perrin & Lathrop, & Mrs Alphenzo Lane came in just as we were about to start. Mrs Lane is Gideon Lane's brother, & in an old acquaintance of mother's, & said that we were in good health. I have been quite unwell for about a week. I caught cold a week ago last wednesday, & the amonds of my ears came down so that I could not swallow well & I had the earaches in my mouth so that it made me quite sick but I am a great deal better now. In two weeks from today Rowland B is coming home, Roland Algie is here about home, he is in good health and spirits, only it is rather dull here at home, they have a lyceum up to the centre. Mr Barrows and wife were just in here, he said (Mr Barrows) their question tonight was, whether the fugitive slave law was constitutional or not, few folks have mentioned it, but Mary F. Lathrop and Orintha Fish were in the night before they were here last friday they said they did not have so good a one that night. Lebid Gould, being there, and Franklin Hughes

Green Depot Feb 15th
Lebid Gould
Cadet of U S Steamer
West Point
N Y

brother. Mary J said that Lloid would get up and speak and that Frank would answer him it made some sport for the youngeranies, but it was not so agreeable to older and more sorest people, I guess by what William said that they have a pretty good lyceum, for William has been up to Johns untill last thursday when he came down here and brought Martha Martin, he remained here untill last tuesday when he went back to Johns, I expect he went back to Brunswick today at least that was what he thought he should do when he went away from here, It was when william was here that the girls (Mary & Cindy) came down here. in the afternoon they with Martha and William went out and slid down our long hill each of them had two slides with William, I said that I thought that they had a pretty gaodlyeum, but they did not have any Otis Howards nor Roland Howards there, and so I cant think that they have so good a one as they had last year, as we had over to Wayne, I guess you would like to go to one Otis, anyhow I should like to have you here to say one up this coming. we have sold our great horse I dont know but you knew, and father uses the Lons year old colt for his business, but I tell you he cant make him lazy, (as he did the great horse) just about as much as he wants to do it to hold him, but I drive him, but I dont pretend to try to hold him

most of the time I let him go as fast as he wishes to my little colt grows. he has got to be nearly as large as the other one. I can take up his feet anything he is so clever, I expect to go to Yarmouth in the spring if I have any health, this winter I got about half way through fractions in Greenleifs, as to addition of numbers of a different denomination I did the first sum & the second one I tried thre or four times, I guess. and then gave it to the master and he and I tried it and tried it and some of the other schoolars tried it but at last we gave it up that we couldnt do it, the master says that the answer was not right but it is, because the key says so and the teacher, in Squire Turners District did it, I dont but I will give you the sum it was to add together 3/8 of a yard, 1/8 of an ell English and 3/4 of a quarter Ans 3 yds 3 nails 1 $\frac{13}{16}$ inches, William tried it but didnt do it, I suppose you wish that I could see some of your sums, but maybe I shall see the time when I can do some of your sums but may be's do it in the winter It is nearly night or approaching to that, and besides that I have written nearly all I know, but I had ough to boast a little on the length of this letter, I have not taken much pains with any hand writing as I comonly do

I have witten as much as will be agreeable to you I presume. So good bye brother Otis we all wish to hear from you from your affec brother

P.S. I dont know but mother will write next day if not I can write you

Charles Howard

I am now doing well in mathematics & well in French, but not so well in drawing maps. We are obliged to prepare ourselves & go to the recitation room & draw our maps from memory. Altogether too much precision is required for me to meet. I draw my maps very well, but I draw so slow that I scarcely ever complete them in the time required. So Lieut Gilbert our Instructor, "cuts" me a few tenths for not being more expeditious. Mr Abbot has not done so well as I in Geometry, and he has to study night & day on his French, for he has not studied it before. He is the only man in our section, who is not already comparatively familiar with the French language. I have ceased the foolish practice of continually borrowing trouble. I am bound to do my best & let my stand come where it may. Others have as much interest in graduating high as myself, and if by dint of hard study & ~~superior~~ superior ability they make out to rise me they are welcome to do so. Give my love to all, and write me yourself as often as you can. I began this letter yesterday & wrote a few lines. It is now Saturday afternoon, & as it is rainy I have spent the time in finishing this. My pen is might poor & I have written fast; so what you cannot readily make out you may pass over as unimportant. Uncle sends me papers every week from Washington. The most of them are Maine papers. I don't know what I shall do when Uncle returns home. Again my love to all. Good-bye.

Your affectionate Son

O. O. Howard.

O. O. Howard

West Point N.Y. Feb. 14. 1851

Dear Mother.

The weeks are speeding on, but the faster the better. I shall be glad indeed when next June comes along, for I shall hold you to your promise to come & see me, and after that I shall probably be waiting ~~for~~ impatiently for another year to pass. I am sorry to hear you speak so discouragingly of Charlie's health. He must break up his cough if possible, & especially take care not to increase it. He will be quite a large boy before I see him again if I stay here two years without returning home, as I probably shall. This time seems long to look ahead, but six months have already gone, & that too very swiftly. Mr Morton has truly acted the part of an unworthy, an unnatural father. Little would I have thought it; When I used to see him so prim, so humble at our house a few years ago. But we see through him what avarice will make of a man. He will, however, gain little by defrauding his children of their little property, and, methinks, he will experience more real inquietude than they.

You asked me about your double letters. I never have received any for which I have had to pay double postage. Those sheets enclosed in a wrapper will pass for a single letter. You asked me also about Uncles children, Lucius & Elizabeth. I have not said much of them, because they were such queer ones, that I could not say much of them, excepting that that they think every thing

of their Cadet Cousin ~~and~~ treat him very kindly. Lucius is hardly sixteen, very small, very plain, & very pale. He is now in a Store at Peekskill, which uncle says is a very good situation. He does'nt seem much like Rowland Bailey, i.e. his looks ~~does~~ not bespeak a very talented or promising lad. My cousin Elizabeth is very talkative, and as far from being pretty as the rest of the Howards, and a little "Old-maidish" withall: that is, she is a little ~~fussy~~ fussy, but she is very clever. Her redeeming qualities are, that she is very attentive to her father & kind to her brother. She belongs to the Episcopal Church of Peekskill. Uncle lives in a neat little cottage in the upper part of the village about three quarters of a mile from the river. The road from the river runs directly East. He pointed out to me what part of the village he had owned; but of which fortune & a tricky lawyer has deprived him. He showed me the store in which my father used to trade & the place, where he taught school. When I went to Peekskill, a young man of the second class (that is in the third year of the Course) by the name of Rundell accompanied me. He belongs in Peekskill & is the son of a widow lady. He said that his mother asked him if I was not the son of Mr Rowland Howard & told him if I were, to tell me to ask my father if he did not remember Emma Constant; for this was his mother's maiden name. Perhaps Uncle Ensign or Aunt Lucrecia will remember her. Mr Rundell got his appointment to this place principally through the influence of Uncle Ward. He is a very smart, active, young man, but a little too wild to maintain a very high stand here.

You spoke of Lizzie's going home with Rowland. She would, if she were not attending school. She said that she was going to make you a visit when her school was done. I would be glad to have her visit you, because I think she would enjoy it as well as yourself. It would serve to divert her mind and turn her attention from the loneliness of her situation into which the sudden death of her father and my subsequent departure have thrown her. She never has appeared so sprightly & wide awake since her father's death, as before. But she is young, & however severe the blow it cannot leave that lasting impress upon her heart, which has thinned the cheek & subdued the spirit of her sensitive mother. Since I began this letter I have received one from Laura H.... She writes, now, in a very natural & easy tone, but she thinks a little too highly of her absent cousin. But it is agreeable & flattering to him to have his cousins & friends err upon the the favorable side. Yet you must tell her that vanity is the unhappy result of too much praise. I fear that Everett is filling up his household at the expence of his coffers, but then, that is his own "look out!" Warren was well when I last saw him. His Corps have studying to do, on a small scale however compared with ours. I have got one mark of demerit this month for forgetting to carry into the library on monday a book which I took out the saturday previous: but if I do not get another this month that will come off. I have been wonderfully fortunate in thus escaping demerit. Now & then I have unwittingly laid myself liable to be reported, but the Cadet Officers have spared me, when they have not others. I hope good fortune will continue to attend me in this respect till June: for demerit reduces a man's standing in the same proportion ~~the~~ as merit raises it.

Yarmouth Me. Feb. 18th 1857

Friend Howard –

I have read an entire play of Shakespeare & prepared an chemical lecture this Evening, & now take my pen to address you – Really I had almost thought you my debtor for a letter – otherwise this had not been so long deferred, for I never write twice without an answer you know – That's a doctrine to which I strictly adhere with all my correspondents, until I have satisfactory reasons for making an exception – I delayed the answer to your last longer than I intended & therefore, perhaps, imagined I had replied to it – Especially will this reason hold good when I inform you that for 3 or 4 weeks (last of Jan & the first part of Feb) I was quite unwell, kept out of school one week – Thus I almost forgot myself & everybody else for the time. But, however, I am gradually returning to myself & to others – & hope to bear I was & still somewhat improved – This business of teaching does not agree with me – It is too much confinement – I can get no time for exercise or anything else save to scribble a few lines to my friends as that in such a hurry that it seems to me quite a punishment for them to peruse my scrawls

But to speak of other & more agreeable topics – I think I remember a remark in your last something like this that "you should almost as soon think of forgetting "Siggie's bright Eyes" as the good old times of our College life" – Well that's a pretty thing am I supposed you will say – But, my friend, nothing is more treacherous than the memory – especially when it harbors the recollection of beauty's dimpled cheek & lustrous orbs – Really you did not recognize this fact when you penned the line I have quoted – I believe I shall remember the vicissitudes of my College Days, whether I remember that "the women" have any Eyes or not – And is it, then a thing impossible, that you should forget the faces of your younger years? "Frailty, thy name is woman" Shakespeare says, you know – & who shall be able to tell how their fickle fancy may run from bud to blossom – letting no one only just long enough to convince me that they have really the faculty to love bitterly and sweetly, & cling in to fickleness? Ah! ha! Now you think as you used to, sentiments I have seen you say; but nevertheless I only speak the truth – What say you? – I shall leave this place for Brunswick on Wednesday morning next if nothing splits – I have not been there since Thanksgiving Day – about 10 weeks since – I expect to meet & see her – quite as much as I wish to be seen – Hence I imagine that I can spend a week there quite pleasantly – & mean to attend R. S. Clark's lectures whilst I am in town. Really I saw A. W. Lewis day not since – Jackson still in E. Rittston – Everett in B. Dadmans Rest not heard from them lately. R. B. H. is well, goes home soon he expects a full school next term. Don't think I am purposely my forgetfulness –

Truly Yr. Friend S. N. Sewall

But "there's a good time coming" I hope for I really have not found it yet – I presume I shall not blunder upon it whilst I remain in this region; though I do not complain since I am here voluntarily – Can we form new resolutions? What says Upham? Why "The rest", I suppose" –

We have just about as much confusion here as we can well enjoy ourselves in – I spare you – Woods you know has a school in opposition to the academy & has also some friends & supporters amongst the Trustees – who try to make all the excitement they can – They called a Trustee meeting a few weeks ago & tried to get Woods back again but met with a total defeat – & I have only to say of Geo Woods A.M. that he is the meanest man I ever knew – In fact he has no manliness about him – He at least cannot control his wife (or his wife I really know which – Reports say both) I understand that he has a delightful help-meet who not unfrequently combs his head with a "three legged stool" as the saying is – Happy man! long may he live to enjoy the felicity of such a treasure!, for he deserves it amply – But I must stop here to look over a Lecture, some part of which I purpose to give my scholars to-morrow afternoon – I close this letter a little night before last & thought to have finished it last Evening certainly but unfortunately I had an invitation to go out & then it has remained untouched on my table

Our Term closes next Tuesday & I am heartily rejoiced that the end is so near. It has been to me a long & wearisome winter; least another I do not wish to spend at any rate – We have numbered 42 scholars, which is the average for Winter Term for 7 or 8 years past – Considering the Time & the numbers we have made a decided advance on last Fall Term – But it is uphill business – Woods allows his scholars to do just what they please without correction – The example thus set is to a greater or less degree infectious & causes us some trouble at least – But in spite of this difficulty we have got along quite comfortably thus far – There is some prospect, I understand, that Woods will leave Town – If this should be the case – it will be a great relief to us in the management of our school, as well as some advantage to our pockets perhaps – But the man himself is so absolutely mean & disliked, that I can put but little confidence in such rumors – I shall believe that he can be a man in any proper sense of the word when I see him actually leaving; & hardly before –

You know something about Tenneyson, or what it was a few years ago – I will only say of it, that I think it can scarcely have changed much since your personal acquaintance with it – I hardly think I shall be persuaded to settle here permanently –

Holly Springs

February 22. 1854

Friend Howard;

I have contemplated for some time writing to your worship. Since my arrival South my ideas are somewhat enlarged, and partaking of the chivalric spirit, I am a little inclined to learn of your doings at "West Point." I would be pleased, could you trouble yourself to give me what information you thought would be necessary for the establishment of a military school. I have charge in part of one of the finest institutions in the S. West. I think some of attaching a military department to it. If you have a Catalogue or any order of Exercises, or code of Laws, or any thing of the kind published, an addition write

what you think will be interesting.

I have met with fine success since my arrival South. I have an income of about $1200 a year and a fine prospect ahead. It is much different teaching here than at the North. More difficulty to get along with Southern chaps. Tom Smith is but 4 5 miles from here. He is doing well has a large school & making money. Butler is at Dresden teaching. Bell is at Dresden studying law. Ben has been elected Professor in a Masonic Institution in Clarksville Tenn. with a salary of $600 per year. Bell is in Arkansas practicing law & doing well. So you learn that we Southerners all are doing finely. I have never learned of Merrick & can say nothing of him. I did hear that 8 rebels just for California as soon as they reached the South. This is all.

I hear from the North occasionally, but have obtained no late news. The last was that Burbank of our class was married & Chas Charles thought some of it.

I should be very much gratified would you oblige me with the information that I need in this business and all matters connected with yourself interest.

Your friend as formerly,
J. Hook