

By request of Otis he being hurt

W. L. Lott

West Point W. 4 Nov 27/51

Dear Madam

You must not be startled at receiving this letter, although it is written by the request of your son W. L. - who having lately met with a slight accident is in the hospital & denied the liberty of writing himself.

Last Thursday, while in the gymnasium with several of his room mates exercising, he fell from a ladder & hurt his head, the wound is not considered dangerous.

I saw him this afternoon & he appeared quite lively & cheerful, he said you

must not be frightened
at his first accident after
entering a military life,
as it was but trifling in
comparison to what military
men sometimes meet with.
You said he should probably be
allowed the privilege of writing
himself in a few days, & he
would then give you a full
account of his first wound
received in the service of
his country.

Yours truly
W. L. Sothrop

Mrs. Gilman

O. O. Howard West Point N. Y. March 9 '51

Dear Mother

192

A little accident has prevented me from writing home as soon as I intended, when I closed my last letter; but as I asked Warren L. to write I explain the circumstances. I presume you have not been very anxious. My injury was more serious than I wished you to think it, till I began to get well, and caused me more pain and disquietude than I at first anticipated. I fell while exercising at the Gymnasium, a week ago last Thursday, between four & five O'clock. I suppose my head must have struck against a sharp stone. The blow laid open a gash in my scalp of considerable length, but did not injure my skull. I went immediately to the Hospital. The Surgeon has there, cut off my hair & shaved the greater part of my head & dressed my head. All of which operations are easier told than suffered. That evening I was very comfortable & slept very well that night. The next forenoon I very foolishly looked at some books & wrote a letter to Sarah Lee. For soon my head began to ache, with pains in all directions. My face & the well side of my head began to swell: The Erysipelas had got fairly seated before the Dr. was aware of it. Well, my head had to be opened in half a dozen places & poulticed continually. I will not name all the operations, but suffice it to say ~~there~~ were enough of them. Thank my stars, they ~~are~~ over! Dr. Cuyler, the Surgeon, was very kind indeed to me. He was with me two or three nights, till after ~~the~~ One O'clock. I have had the very best of care. Prof. Sprole, the Chaplain, has been to see me often, and his family have sent me every thing that is good to eat. The Commandant's wife, Mrs. Elden sent me some very nice jelly. Dr. Cuyler's wife sends me now & then a cup of coffee & Buckwheat cakes. On the whole I have fared first rate, and am now getting well very fast. I shall be able to go to the Section Room sometime

This week. It is now Sunday. They are going to make me a little
silk skull cap to wear till I get some hair. This accident has
put me back a little in my studies, but I will manage soon
to be square with my Section. It is almost remarkable, but
my mind has been perfectly clear & collected from the first
to the last. I never have been even faint. The Dr would
try me almost every time he came in by asking the time of
day or some other question. Mr Sawtelle came in to see me
the other day I said that Uncle accompanied him from
Washington to New York I wanted to come & see me; but he
had an appointment in Boston and was obliged to go. Mr
Sawtelle said he should write him that I was better. Uncle
Ward too had heard, by way of Mr Knudell, that I was hurt
and came to see me yesterday. He was surprised to find me
so well. He says Augustus is no better. & no medical aid
can avail him. He has little or no hope for him. Poor boy! It
is hard; but he must ^{bear} ~~bear~~ it.

I notice by a paper that Lizzie sent me that Mrs White has
advertised her property for sale.

Let us see. Uncle's time is now fairly out at Washington, isn't
it? I hope he will now get his family collected together
again. I rather think his domestic affairs have not been
improved very much by his short-term of public
life. Is Rowland's vacation over? It will be, probably
by the time this reaches you. If he has gone you must
write me if Charlie went with him. Give my love to
all. Write me as soon as you can. Be not over-anxious
for I shall be perfectly well in a few days. I presume
Uncle John has written you, since he heard that I was
hurt. I hope this will find you all well.

Yours affectionate son

D. B. Howard.

Leeds Mar 9 1851

Dear Cousin Otis

Although you
have been absent a considerable time
while I have had no communication
from you (direct) nor having written
you not that I do not often think
of you, and the many pleasant times
we have spent together both when
we were young and since we have
come to maturer years, I believe there
are few who feel more interest for
the welfare and happiness of their
friends and especially relations than
I do. Still I do not always express that
regard as others perhaps, and you
may think from my neglect of
writing for so long a time that I
do not wish to hold a correspondence
with ^{one} whom I regard as a special friend
but on the contrary it would ^{have} afforded
me great pleasure to have heard from
you often but excuse ^{me} from the knowl-
edge I have gathered from your letters
if your want of time and opportunity
to address so many friends as you have left

Last night I learned from father
(who was at your father's) that they
had intelligence of a misfortune
which had befallen you. I hope you
are not badly hurt. I understand
you call it your first military
exploit but I hope they will not
always be as unfortunate as that.
I trust you have good care and
kind nursing and will have
a speedy recovery and during your
convalescence ^(which I hope will be soon)
you will probably have more opportunity
to write your friends and shall
expect them to hear from you. I hope
you bear your confinement with resignation
and fortitude altho I know it must
be unpleasant in the extreme to be
sick among strangers far from friends
who if they could be with you would
be a great consolation. But there have
many who have so suffered even among
inhospitable strangers and scarce anything
to conduce to their happiness or comfort
and I know your natural abilities to
withstand misfortunes are such that
you will not murmur or repine and
as all things happen for the best so I hope
this misfortune may turn out to you

My little family are all well we have
had Mr Otis with us most of the winter
he having left a school which he
commenced and found to much for
his physical strength. We have
quite as interesting discussions this
winter as we did last and the Ladies
(as you will recollect the paper was called)
has been well conducted in the Ladies
department and considering the advo-
tages our young Ladies have had I think
they will compare with any production
of the kind, especially Lucy & Almira
Howard are good writers and I think
show great abilities for writing which
we little looked for. I have hardly seen
R Baile although he has been ^{at home} for
a few days past he looks well and
you will may be proud of such a brother.
Thomas Bridgman has made
"pitch" at Livermore corner the Hon
Hon Revd Mackburn has practiced and
it is thought to be a good location —
Melvin Howard is sick with a fever
not dangerous I believe the rest of your
friends I believe are well I ~~think~~
Helen & Olie send their respects and
hope your speedy recovery —
Your affectionate cousin J. H. Otis

Barnmouth March 9th 1851

Dear Mother's Roland & I arrived safely here the day that we left home. After we left father at the depot, we turned the horse & drove to Warren's & remained there till after eleven o'clock when Louisa got us some dinner, & we again went to the depot, took the cars at twelve o'clock, we left our umbrella at the depot, & Roland had to ~~take~~ to the baggage, to make them understand that it was to Barnmouth not North Barnmouth that we wanted it to go, & I was so heedless that I did not think of it, riding in the cars was quite a treat to me, when we arrived here at the depot there was hicks to take us down here to the commons, we found our room all ready for our occupation, for Roland bought some paper before he went home last time, & had it papered ^{in the} ~~in the~~ room, ours is the best room in the commons, the greatest trouble here is wood, we have borrowed ours so far, of Mrs. Flory. I believe there is twenty or more scholars that board here in the commons, I have got to have a mud cap to wear every day, I don't like to wear my best one all the time, I ^{have} just been to meeting to the ~~Academy~~ ^{Congregational} house, the snow was so deep (for we had a snow storm yesterday in the afternoon & last night) that Scotland thought we had better go to the ^{Congregational} ~~Academy~~ house that being the ^{nearer than the} ~~nearest~~ ^{place} ~~house~~ I have not been much lame sick yet, I suppose that Roland will finish this letter, I told him that you wished me to write one week & he the next my cough is not very bad the Academy is very near so I do not have to walk far write soon mother, give my love to Delia good bye
from your affec son, Charles.

March 9th 1851

L.H.S. to R.B. & M.

Dear Mother
We came down safely and found things here better than I expected. They had my room painted as well as papered in vacation and now it looks as well as any of them I have bought me a table cloth Lamps Brushes Oil &c. I together with the rest of the boarders here bought a class which I presume you would say is the worst looking thing you ever saw. Charles is anxious to have one of the same kind: they come to us at the wholesale price of \$3.55. Shall I buy him one? Charles's health is good and he seems to enjoy himself so far very well. He studies Arithmetic Grammar and Latin. He would have studied Philosophy if there had been a class this Spring. I am anxious that he should advance in his Arithmetic more than any thing else, I think with the above studies that he will study hard enough for his health and profit. We have over 60 in the school and shall probably reach 75 on Monday. I like the new members of my class very well. They appear to be honest Scholardike and Temperate. I should have gone over to Dr Carey's last evening if it had been fair weather and shall go at the first convenient opportunity. Marcia came home from Exeter on Friday. I saw her and her father at the cars. Bartlett Cross came down on Friday and boards here. He appears very well. I should think that

the Depot Master at Greene felt about as much at home as a minister in a Run Shop. He would have it that my baggage was going to N. Y. so bothering with him I lost my umbrella. Perhaps you can secure it by sending to the Depot. Jewett looks rather poorly although he says he is well. He does not room here this term. But he says we have got to sign some articles to behave ourselves as we ought and the probability is that we shall be kept stricter than ever before. I owe Otis a letter and I suppose I shall get now from him until I pay him which I shall do forthwith. Write me if Percy comes to our house or Mrs. & Miss White in his vacation, which I suppose occurs at this time. It is so short time, that I have heard no news since I left home. Write us as soon as you can. Don't forget the papers. I will write more and better next time. Love to all

From affectionate Son
R. B. Howard

W. S. Write soon mother especially if you hear from Otis
as I hope you will good bye from Charles, H. H.

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

March 16 1851

H. H. Howard
6th St.

195

Barnmouth March 16th 1851

Dear Mother

After attending Church all day I had
myself to write to you. I was greatly grieved at the
intelligence of the accident that has happened
to Otis. I have written to Warren Lathrop as you
desired. have you rec any additional news from
him if you have I am very anxious to hear. I
feel like yourself very anxious for Otis not only on
account of his health, but also that his sickness
if protracted will injure his rank materially. but
that is a minor consideration. I did not enclose
a letter to him as you desired but wrote to Warren
all. that I supposed he wished to know with a request
to tell Otis if his health would not permit him
to read the letter. I am enjoying myself a great deal
better than last term. I have got rid of my troublesome
roommate, and removing the cause in most cases
removes the trouble. I believe his character is now
pretty well understood by the students. so that now
his attacks and means are duly appreciated. so well
so that it is not worth my while to pay any attention to
him any way, except to avoid his room and company
as much as possible. Charles health is good. I should
say as good as it has been for a year or two past. he
appears to enjoy himself well, but he can tell you about
that, as he is going to finish this. He has found his

voice again which he complained so much of losing
and wishes to attend singing school. he also wishes to
attend writing school. both of which will be additional
expense. but if you think best I will have him go.
His writing school tuition will become due before the
end of the term. I have not called at Dr. Carey's yet
but shall, one of these days. I see the family often. they are
well. Today while I was gone to church a coal snaped
out into the floor around the fire place and caught
and when I returned, the room was as full of smoke
as you please, and there was a hole in the floor about
a foot across, a half an hour more, would have sent
my private property and N. Dartmouth Seminary
but an inch is as good as a mile, except the expense
of fixing the floor which will probably be about a dollar.
My eyes and nose still testify that there has been a very
disagreeable smoke in these precincts. Tell Father I
have not been to see Mr. W. R. Johnson yet. I hear that
he is away teaching school. I will make him a call when
he returns. There are about 30 boarding in this building
now and when we sit down at the table we make
quite a long row. As Charles is going to leave
the other page I will stop here. Give my love
to all

Your affectionate son

R. B. Howard

Dear Mother

Dartmouth March 16th 1851

It is sabbath evening Rowland and I have been to meeting
today. I joined the sabbath school as you requested. I feel very bad about
Otis and am very anxious to hear from him. I can't help thinking of
his being torn away from his friends, and away from his mother &
brothers. I think what should I do if were in his place. I was
some frightened when we received your letter because it came so
soon after we arrived here. I thought there must be some particu-
lar cause for it. and there was. I have not been home sick
yet, although I ^{felt} as though I should like to be at home when
we read the sad news from Otis. I like our teacher Mrs. Jones
well, my health is very good in general although I have
a bad cold, not a very bad one, I do not cough much but
I am stuffed up some, since I left my pen I have been to sup-
per, we had fish hash ~~for~~ and pie for supper we have pie
two times in a week, after supper Rowland and I took a
walk down to the wharf, there are two vessels building down
to the wharf one is ~~is~~ pretty large but the other is a small one,
I would like to go to the writing & singing school but I will
do as you think best. are Pugh & family at our house now
is Mary there too. if she is give her my respects, give my love
to Selie, how does Roland get along, has he got all the wood up that
he calculated to, does Father have so much running to do (as
he says) as common, Dartmouth is not a very pleasant place
to live at least it don't seem so to me, has Phoebe been over to
see you yet, has Jim got the measles yet, I study Astronomy
and Mr. Jewet has two globes ^{with which} ~~that~~ he explains it to us. I think
Selie would like to study from a globe, it is painted like
a map having the towns on it. From Your Affectionate son

Charles B. Howard

C. O. Howard

196

West Point N.Y. Nov 21st 57

Dear Mother

I was thinking this evening that it was high time for me to write you, and as my lesson is not very long ~~this evening~~ I will rob it of a part of this evening. We think I ought to have had a letter from you ere this. I am now very well & in pretty good spirits. The only thing that troubles me is my funny looking head with here & there a patch of hair & that little about half an inch in length. Nobody sees it however, for I have a curious little embroidered cap, loaned me for the occasion, which never leaves my head, except when it is washed & dressed. Lizzie wrote me when at Lewiston that she was going to make you a visit the next day. I could not get it out of my head that she took the same route that I did once, i.e. she went to the famous Leeds depot, and had a rickety wagon & a bony horse to transfer her to the Quaker Ridge. My ride is now distinctly remembered & it seemed seems that it would be a beautiful & romantic treat for a young lady, especially if it was a cold & dreary day. But perhaps you have snow so my idea of a rickety wagon is out of place. —

You know the proverb or saying: "there is no great evil without a little good". Well! my misfortunes have procured for me considerable grace; for I am excused from all duty - from marching, going on guard, getting up at "Reveille" (morning roll-call), from Drills,

parades &c. I go to recitations from choice.
I seem to have a clearer head since my
sickness. I think that the medicine that I was
obliged to take purged my system. Let us see. ~~When~~
a person uses "ego" in every line people call him
egotistical. This, however, seems to be a fault
of letter-writers. They may be solicitous for the health
comfort & happiness of their friends, but it is very
natural & much easier to tell great & small things
of themselves. They ~~are~~ resemble in this respect very
many ladies of your acquaintance & mine, who
love - that is, take a painful pleasure in describing
their numerous pains, old & new complaints &c. &c.

My Lizzie has been to see you. Tell me how long she
staid, how she seemed to enjoy her visit, & if she
told you that her Mother was going to move away
from Portland. She did not know that I had
committed the folly of bumping my head, when
she wrote me, but I presume she heard of it at
Leeds. I filled up a letter to John Ohio with a
literal picture of the whole scene of my disasters.

Mr Lutzelle has moved out of our room, & as none
of us had any love for the poor boy, the vacancy,
which his absence causes is very acceptable. I now
have a table, a lamp & various other conveniences, all
at my own disposal. Nature unfortunately gifted
him with an unfortunate disposition, otherwise he is
good enough. Ule has now completed his term of Congressional
labor, and probably this is the first & last time she will

have the pleasure or burden of serving his country
in the Halls of Congress. It seems that the pleasure
of seeing his family once more collected around
him, must exceed all the pleasures of being an Honorable
man in the House. But we are queer beings; we seek
happiness by trying to satisfy our ambitious hearts,
whilst common Sense is telling us that we are
taking just the wrong road. Our 1st Section in Mathemat-
ics are now just commencing a new book. ~~in~~ ~~the~~ We
have completed Algebra, Geometry, Plane & Spherical
Trigonometry. Of all of which I had before, as father says,
a smattering; but this book (called descriptive Geometry)
is something entirely new to me. But still I like it. It
belongs to the imagination entirely. One must conceive
of figures, & lines crossing each other in space. There
is need of close thought, care & patience. Did Charlie go to
Marion with Bowland? How does he do? & how is
your own health? I think every day how you all
must change ~~before~~, before I enter my home again. ...
Give my love to father, Roland, Charlie, Delle,
John & if with you, &c. &c. It is now Saturday.
I began this letter yesterday. A most beautiful day
it is. Last Monday we had a very little snow, but
it is fast disappearing. I am going to make a call,
just as I am with my funny appearance, on Mrs Sproule
this afternoon; for she sent me cakes, Chicken Soup, & ice-
creams, while I was convalescent; and I have not as yet been
able to acknowledge the favor. ... Good bye for a few days.

Your affectionate Son
O. C. Howard.

Friday Eve. March 21st 1851

My Dear Chum

You are indebted for this Epistle not to me entirely for after being engaged with my school all day and up to 9 o'clock at night I should not have commenced a letter to anybody had I not been importuned and coaxed into it. You know the women can do anything they are a mind to with me and always could but after all I shall obtrude my claims upon your gratitude for even being the instrument if not the prime mover. Lissie heard from you yesterday and seems to be very anxious to hear from you again. We first heard you were hurt a week ago to day. I heard of it first up to Leeds to Mrs. Lathrops and then went down to your house and let it out before Lissie whom they were keeping it a secret from. It was out however and nothing strange either for such is always my luck.

But she felt no worse I think than she would to have heard it from you in your letter and probably not so much so as she would to have read that you were in the hospital &c for.



Cadet Oliver C. Howard

West Point
New York

in the last case she might have thought you were hurt more than you would admit to her. I need not tell you Harbord that I am sorry you fell and sympathize with you in your suffering and in your detention from your studies and this that and the other thing for I do not deem that you need be told this from me and us for we have known each other too long to require professions and we have both of us lived about long enough to know that they don't amount to anything when made. Lizzie says you must be careful for if you had broken your head you would at the same time have broken her heart. I don't mean she "says" so but she looks as if she would like to say something about like that. She is sitting on a stool almost under me knitting away as for dear life just as though stockings were all that was needed in this world and her mind was on them instead of away—

Well she is pretty, "sweet-pretty" as she sometimes says of this thing or that and I feel almost as proud of her as though she were my own dear woman instead of yours. I have just had a vacation of a week and a half which I spent very pleasantly or more truly very lazily at home. I pass my time sort of lazily, carelessly, dreamily except when in school

where none of these moods will answer. I let the world wag about as it will content to float with the current where it bears me on. I am not half so happy as I have been and what is more I am not half so unhappy as I have been heretofore. I feel a sort of recklessness, indifference to everything the evil tendency of which I see and endeavor to avoid but cannot wholly escape. I saw your brothers Rowland and Charles at Yarmouth where I stopped with John N. Tuesday night. They have their 76 scholars there and are getting along well I believe. Woods I believe they said has 90. Harding is not liked at Limerick at all I hear.

Frye is at home "battling" it as bad as ever.

Thomas Wilson our old friend is in the city here studying law. He called here while we were gone. Pondexter is Proff.

Ancient languages in a College out south. Hodgman is on the express from Bangor to Portland a regular John Cleland.

There is a great deal I should like to tell you and write you about but I have not time to night as it is now quite late. You must write as soon as you can conveniently and next time I will try and discourse with you a little more lengthily. So good night and may heaven bless you and prosper you—yours ever
P.S. Perley

find a young lady, allow me to congratulate
you upon so favorable a report from one whose
opinion you so far wish me, although I now
doubt that she would think her anything
other than a very small girl, - I think Sarah
a very good judge of human nature, although
she may have decided herself once, but I suppose
it would be hard convincing her now, that she
had, even in that case, she says - if course this
is news to you - that "Lizzie" has gone to visit
your mother for a short time, - don't you wish
that you could spend a few weeks at home
just now? - Sarah had received your letter,
I tried to persuade her in one of my letters
not long ago, to come to New York with your
mother and "Lizzie" if they come this summer, but
I don't think I can prevail, although I have
told her that she need not expect to see me
down there this summer, I think it would
be a grand thing for me, but I will not say
anything of the kind for in this matter I appear
of a persons acting as they think right and proper,
so you heard that I was to be married before long,
pray, who told you? - Madam rumor gets up so
many reports that it would keep one busy in
denying them if they took any notice of it so I will
not attempt to question the report, but when you
hear me say so you may then think it bears
some semblance of truth, but even then I would
not advise you to be too sure of it, - I seem to have
drawn pretty near the end of this sheet, but think
I will not stop there for I can find a little
more to say, although I can hardly think what I
have written will be sufficiently interesting, after
the unmerited flattery you were pleased to bestow

198

I am very glad you concluded to write, it
was an unexpected pleasure, and a
well merited reward to me, and as you
cannot write without its salutary effects.
I am truly sorry that you "have been laid
on the shelf" and from such a cause too,
I think it must have been a very severe
blow for your poor head, and that you
have had a Providential escape from more
and more serious consequences. - I can well
imagine how it happened, for I have had
nearly escaped from the same accident, -
you must have had a hard time of it,
for the erysipelas of the face is an awful
disease, and when it attacks the neck
and face is rather dangerous; and then
too, to be so far away from your home, and
then who are so dear to you, and who you
write most to than near you when sick,
and in trouble, to cheer and comfort you during
the long and tedious monotony of a sick room,
and then when convalescent would you
not willingly have lingered at home or in
the sick room, and you have had one,
dear to you, who would sit by you all day, who
would take pleasure in ministering to your every
want, watching your training room, and with the
tender affection of women's delicate love, make
you forget your sickness, and sigh for a return
of those happy fluttering hours. - I sometimes think
that I would be willing to be sick, if I could
be tended and cared for by her I love. - but
perhaps it is wrong to think so, but the

thought is nevertheless a pleasant one, that
if I were I should have one so dear to watch
over me, - what a strange thing a man
would be without a heart; he could not
love, and could not care to be loved, but
thanks to an all-wise Providence that has
made us what we are, -

You ask how I am thriving, well! I don't
know that I can complain much, I have
had good health all winter, which is a
great blessing, and for the most part
if the time have been as happy as could
be expected away from those I love, for I
am not one that can forget that to be
happy is to be with those we love. - there are
as you will know many allurement in a
city like this, and a young man need
not seek in vain for pleasure, but some
fun or other I can take but little pleas-
ure in going to parties, making calls
or anything of the kind now. I had much
rather stay at home than go out of an
evening, although I have some very pleas-
ant acquaintances in Brooklyn, and if
I were not interested in some one down East
I am sure I should not spend one evening
at home when I do twenty now. - I received
a letter from Sarah this morning, she had
just returned to Baltimore from Portland when
she had enjoyed a visit of a fortnight, saw
your Lady love, was very much pleased with her,
thought her very handsome, agreeable, amiable &c &c
and you a fortunate young man in selecting so

Dear Mother

PV

As I have a little more time and a plenty of paper I thought I would write something more. Dr. Leath is delivering a course of lectures here on Physiology at 12 1/2 a lecture. I told Charles he might attend the course if he wished. The Dr is a fine lecturer and understands his subjects. The lecture tonight on Temperance Charles & myself shall attend. He treats of the subject physically and not otherwise.

It is now ten o'clock. I have been to lecture tonight and enjoyed it first rate. Charles has gone to bed and I must close this and go into my
— Luck

Be ever affectionate Son
R B Howard

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

R. B. Howard
March 23d 1851

193
Barnouth March 23^d 1851

Dear Mother

This forenoon I attended the Baptist meeting and stopt to the Bible class with Charles. This afternoon we have heard Merfielden at the 1st Parish. I think I shall hold to this arrangement for the remainder of this term or for at least as much of it as the roads continue as wet and muddy as at present. In the morning when it is frozen it is quite comfortable getting up to the Baptist Church (about a mile) but in the afternoon it becomes muddy and uncomfortable, and the Congregational Church is not more than two rods from the Academy. The minister at the Baptist is much the smarter man and the best preacher. Today and yesterday I believe were the two pleasantest days of the season and with the bright, warm sun and now and then a chirping bird, it would seem almost like spring were it not for the horrid walking and its necessary accompaniments. Mr. Peleg stopt with Mr. Jewett over night when going into Portland, he said that Miss White would have stopted if it had not been so very stormy. I rec through Mr. P. a large plum cake for which I do not know who should rec the credit. You or Miss W., anyhow, I am latently obliged to the kind unknown. I rec your letter which

you sent by father together with the bundle. I am
glad to hear that Otis is no worse. I think I shall
write him today. Have you rec'd a letter from him yet?
Charles has thought a great deal about Otis and
feels very bad about him. It frightened him to think
of one's having their head operated upon so many
times. I went to the cars once or twice hoping to see
father when he went through but did not happen to
hit upon the right time. I am weary to hear of Maria's
illness if you hear anything further from her I wish
you to write me. I hear very good news from William
viz. that he ranks among the first in his class in
his Union studies and seems to have taken a new
start in scholarship. This is probably because his
present studies are better adapted to his mind and
habits of application than any heretofore. Mrs Carey
is quite low. She had an attack of neuralgia two or
three weeks since, ~~and~~ ^{her} nerves and consequently
her mind are in a sad state. In aggravation the difficulty
Mrs Stockbridge, her mother, had a paralytic shock
the night before last and is expected to survive
but a few days. Her mother's state of course had
a powerful effect on the already diseased mind of
Mrs Carey, and I hear ^{it} said that the Dr thinks that
unless there is some amendment very soon that she
will not ~~recover~~ ^{recover}. Charles will finish this.
Dr D. shall write me now and then. Give my love to all
the friends and write all the news. Rev. J. W.
Burdland

or Mother

Yarmouth March 28th 1851

As Roland has already stated we went in to the sabbath
school this noon. It makes me feel very bad to think of Otis's
situation. I hope it will not ~~lessen~~ ^{lessen} his rank.
We have a pretty full school, there is about eighty scholars in it
Mr Wood (the opposition school) has about the same, there is about
thirty board here in the commons. Our room is very finely
situated, being so that we can look out and see the cars
when they pass, I am turned around so that west seems
like east. ^{When Jim here} Roland & I went up into the ^{last night} Capitol, & we could see
the Bay, it was the first time that I ever ^{had seen} salt
water. Yarmouth is not so handsome a village
as I expected, it covers over a large lot of ground
& the houses set rather irregular. Who waters my
little colt now? Has Delia's knee got well yet? I hope
it has. Will Roland & Aggie stay to our house this sum-
mer? Is Nancy at our house yet? I suppose Uncle John's boys
have gone, if not tell I joking to card my calling. Tell Delia
I should like to sleep with her in our little bedroom
tonight. Is it good sleighing in Leeds yet? Is Annie Gilbert any
better yet? The Ladies ~~have~~ ^{will meet} had a fair here Thursday eve
for the benefit of the Sons of Temperance, it consisted
of candy & dolls little cotton rabbits little Bedsteads
and all such things as ^{those} ~~that~~, and they had a great many
cakes and there was a ^{gold} ring in ^{one} of them & the one that bought
+ that one could have the gold ring, so it was a kind of lottery
& the money that they see they were to give to the Sons.
Mr Cutler is to deliver a lecture on Temperance this evening
Write soon especially if you hear from Otis I am your Affec son
Charles H. Howard

I already begin to feel quite attached to the people at West Point, feeling so sensibly their kind attention, to you, I feel as though I would like to thank them in person. Warren's letter was very well and carefully written, I am greatly obliged to him for his interest in my son, your father has gone to Mrs Lathrop's to day, to assist them in their business Francis is trying to fix their business so he can settle down there his family has never returned to Leeds yet how much trouble one death has caused, the that holds the reins and guides them son the children of men, knows why these things are so, we will hope. It is all to his glory. Mr. Lord, has called here once since his return from Philadelphia his practice is, as much as he can well attend, two of his patients are pronounced beyond cure Mr. L.W. and Allen Brady Gilbert his Brother in law both brought down with the measles, Sarah Turner has been with Mr. W. through a great part of sickness, which must have been a comfort to him, to have one of such feelings as Sarah to help to smooth the dying, pillow Louisa is here on a visit, and has her own younger girl with her, I saw your Aunt Lucretia at meeting last Sabbath, her health is as good as common, the Sabbath before I saw Aunt Lucretia she is truly afflicted day by day, I hope Valentine's situation will be happier than any of them he is published to the notable Joslyn if not married which will make a steady home for him if he and Mr. Gaslyn agree he has been living there all winter Uncle Frank is published to Sunny Gould, Lucy Stanham is (large) published her intended is Bon Leadbetter of your and a lot of others that you would take little interest in your Uncle's still man's family are about as usual I see Young Still - a handsome face occasionally (so greatly to my annoyance) your father is town treasurer, and is first select man of the town this treasury office brings men a plenty, so much for Leeds news, you must let me know all about your health as you go along this spring it is now past eleven and must stop. Melvin Howard is prostrated with a fever, but hope is entertained for his life. I intend sending a paper on two to day. Eliza Gilmore.

P.S. you can let us know whether you receive the papers we send, C.G.

200

My dear Son,

Leeds, March 24. 1851.

After a long silence I ^{last} devoted this afternoon, to writing to you, any one might think I had matter enough to fill a great many sheets, but my distress is too great for utterance I have now by me your letter to John C. in answer to one ^{he wrote soon after my decease the news of} seven after your fall, I received Warren's letter Saturday after it was written, on the Sabbath, (which is the case with all of your letters, as ^{we} do not have the mail but twice a week and all letters that arrive in green ~~are~~ after Tuesday must lay there until Saturday, as we have the mail brought ~~only~~ on those days) I wrote immediately to B. H. to write to Warren to ascertain your situation, and mailed it at the time John did his, and Rowland wrote me he did, we were thus particularly cautious for fear of giving too much excitement, knowing your trouble was on the head I saw John's letter the morning it was mailed and my first thought was to not have it sent, but on further considering I concluded those who had the care of you would withhold it, if necessary, that day in the afternoon when I returned home (my heart as full as it could be on your account) who should I find here but Lizzy, White, with the girls I felt as though I was sorry she had come as much as I had desired to receive a visit from her, for I did not wish to pain her young heart with the sad news that you were in the hospital, but I decided not to mention the circumstance to her, and prepared all the family to that effect, and in my struggle to make her happy I found it had good effect on me, she staid until Friday, P.M. Mr. Berley came here and carried her to Livenmore, Mrs. Berley

was coming with him but company prevented, Berley called at Mrs Lathrop's on his way, and there he learned that something had befallen you, and enquired about it soon as he came in, and then I showed Lizzy's Warren's letter and the one Mr Sawtelle wrote your Uncle John this, which gave us a very just idea of your situation, and was quite complimentary to your character but that is the estimation you were held, on that point &c. Your father was at home soon after your Uncle John arrived and he gave him the letter, Mr Sawtelle wrote the day before you wrote yours, ^{to me, he also} and reached Sarah Lee's so you see, I knew all that I could, and not much either for the idea of your having ^{the} Inexplicable never crossed my mind you cannot enter into ^{the} depth of feeling there is in a mother's heart for her son I sincerely think there had been ^{an unshaken} sympathy of feeling with you all the while after your accident before I heard anything of it, I do not feel that you were out of danger when you wrote to John, I feel that a small matter would ^{that} throw you into a nervous fever the loss of blood and dangerous illness the ~~loss~~ loss has reduced you more than any sickness you have ever had. but I shall hope for the best you know if I were with you I could watch over you and get you strong again, but that cannot be, I enjoyed Lizzy's visit very much I was prepared to love her and was not disappointed, and I hope she had a pleasant visit at least she did not seem unhappy, I think she is looking forward to June with a great deal of pleasure, and I have sometimes shrunk from leaving my family for the time, but of late it seems the one absorbing idea with me, I called to see Mrs Capt Turner

and Susan Turner with Liza, and should have called at Mrs Lathrop's had it not begun to snow, and we returned home thinking we should ride in the morning, about the time we should have gone Aunt Martha and Laura Howard, came, and we spent the day quite happily, I presume Lizzy will tell you all about her visit she looks in good health now, Tuesday morning you will see by my date that I did not close my letter last night just as night, your father carried me up to Mr Salmon Things, to see Steven Thing who was considered in a dying state, I presume he is living, or we should have heard of his death, he has had the measles and took cold, when recovering, and brought on a disease of the lungs, Charles went to Yarmouth with R.B. which makes it lonely as well as inconvenient for me, I miss his attentions and, care very much they left home ^{last} before Warren's letter arrived, so you see your mother has had quite a trial of her feelings for it is such a comfort to me to look at Charles' calm peaceful face, I know I have great reason for gratitude for the present hopeful state of my family, Charles will return to me in two months, and I hope he will be contented to stay with me, Roland is still at home and is chopping the wood up, and doing the chores, whether he has decided on any particular course to pursue is more than I know, Liza and George ^{Lathrop} have gone to New York to establish an apothecary house in Brooklyn his health is better but still poor, they left here one week ago, I expect they have had a discouraging time, owing to the severe storm of last week, we see by the papers that great damage is done on the railroads, they are moving bees and hives to Brooklyn, I hope we shall hear favorable news from them, Liza is not able to do anything the labour depends wholly on God.

Barmouth March 27th 1851

Dear Brother

Hoping that your health is so far
 recovered as to be able to read and write, I again
 after what is, comparatively long silence between us
 take my pen to open again our correspondence. You
 cannot think how anxious Charles & I have been for
 you since your fall. We have heard but little about
 it except that the accident was very serious.
 And now if your health will permit, we must
 claim to be remembered among the first of your
 correspondents. Write all about your history for 4
 or 5 weeks, your fall, your treatment - the effect
 your illness will have upon your rank and all of
 those other things which concern you, and in whose
^{affairs} I feel greater interest than in any one except myself.
 Mother has probably informed you that - Mrs Miss
 Waitt paid her a visit during Percy's vacation. When
 they passed through here on their way to Portland, I
 saw Mr Percy but not the Ladies. Mr Jewett
 stopped with Percy the night before last and says the
 folks are all well. Was there a fracture in the skull by
 your fall? Was you obliged to have your head opened?
 Will it not be some time before you can study? So, could
 you not get a far enough in the mean time and come to Maine?
 Traveling would do you some good and bring your friends
 in. Three weeks of our term have passed and there

are never more to come. Charles's health is good and
his studies well. He is studying Astronomy in addition
to the common branches. Our Class Number 13 at present
and it will probably see great additions next term. I
like the appearance of most of the members well. There
are not more than in a town that drink at all. The most
of them are about my size. Rather small you will say, but
not so small either. for I weigh 153. so as far as size
is concerned I am, as father would say, quite a Boy.
Our School numbers about 80 so that Messrs Robinson
& Jewett have about as much as they can do. This school
is inferior in every respect to the one at Readfield
except in its College class. There is not half the talent
displayed by its members in the exercises of Declamation
Discussion and Composition, that there was at Harts
Hill. But still it is good school enough for me, but
I think Charles in future better go to Readfield.
Mother has probably written you of the whereabouts of
Uncle John's family. I hear from none of them except
William. His Classmates say that he is talking at present
as high rank as any in the class and that he sails
freely on all the Senior studies, good news truly, but I suppose
it cannot recall three years of worse than idleness which
he has spent in College. Our Class begin the Iliad
next week and are in hopes to finish it this term. Most
of us having read the five first Books. There are about
20 boarding in Common this term, rather a noisy set
too. When dinner is announced there is as great a rush
as if it was a cry of fire. Mrs. Carey is quite sick. The

has had an attack of Neuralgia and unless there is some
change very soon she will die but a short time I take the
N.Y. Tribune and if you would like to have that or any
other paper, write, and I will send them I will now bid
you good by and leave the rest of the sheet to Charles,
who says he would like to write a little.

Your affectionate Brother
R B Howard

Dear Brother

I am sorry to hear such bad news from you, I hope
you will soon get well. It made me feel as though I wished
I was at home, when I heard that you had been hurt so badly
and I know that ~~that~~ it must make mother feel very badly.
I would like to have you write to us as soon as you ^{are able} ~~can~~ and
tell us (William & I) how you get along. I hope it will not make any
change in your rank, though I suppose it must. I returned
& I came to Sarmouth just three weeks from today.
I had rather live to home than in Sarmouth. Mr. Cutler
had delivered a course of lectures here, the last one was last
night, I must now go to dinner the bell has rung. It is now
about half past one and the bell has tolled for school.
I study in my room I recite in Arithmetic at least
for two I have got into ^{in Arithmetic} Decimal Fractions, now folks were
well when we last heard from home. I wish you
would write often to us, I think it is very bad to be kept
so far from home, my studies are Astronomy Arithmetic
& Grammar. I have not written as well as common
because my hand trembles. Good bye Brother, adieu, I remain
Your Affectionate Brother, Charles H. Howard

Dear Mother

Yarmouth March 30th 1851

I will take my pen again this sabbath evening to write you a few lines with something. I have been to meeting this afternoon, but did not go this time, I was not very well, I think I got cold last night I went with ^{Rowland} and some other fellows to take a walk and was pretty sweaty when I got back, and took off my great coat. I think I got cold by setting when it was rather cold, in the back part of the scene, my head ached some in the night, but I guess it will soon get well "but a truce" to this. (as Otis writes), we have had a letter from Otis, maybe that you have had one too, he says that is all well now, he described to us how he got hurt how his head was operated ~~off~~ upon, &c. said that he had made up all that he lost in study. the snow is most all gone here. it will soon be dry here in the yards, it is very muddy walking in the roads, they use waggons here mostly, Is it good sleighing in Leeds ~~slip~~ ^{build}. Mr Woods is about to have an Academy nearly opposite to this side of his house. I think if he has on it that it will spoil both schools. I have reason to think that you have about as much to do as common as that you are sick for we have not had an answer to our last letter, I hope neither. I should like to be to home pretty well today, the bell is ringing for supper. It is a very pleasant evening the ^{sun} is setting, I want you to write often mother, for that is the only way that I hear from my home, please give my love to John father and all, I would like to be there myself tonight and hear you and father sing as you do sundy nights I remain your affectionate son Charles

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Barnmouth March 31st, 51

Dear Mother

Charles was very careful to restrict himself to a page. I told him to write father as I did not know as I should have time to finish the letter today. But I have the half hour to spare, so I employ it, eating my dinner set present for there's the bill. Having satisfied my appetite which by the way is enormous, especially on bean day, (for you must know that we reckon days here on a new method, viz, Meat Day, Sunday, Pudding day &c) as I said before, having satisfied my appetite by an undue quantity of Beans. I will inform you that this is a most beautiful day, when the sun is out. The Gard is drying off fast and soon will be in shape to play in. Charles has told you that we rec'd a letter from Otis. There was nothing in it which would be new to you. Charles has recovered from the head ache he complained of yesterday and today is as smart as you please.

How good this warm sun feels shining in at my window! We have not needed a fire for 2 or 3 days and I am in hopes we shall not need one much more this season, especially as I have some wood that it will cost me the price of to get cut up. I think my room will be very pleasant in the summer. That is, coolness is a pleasing attribute. You must come down and see it either the last of this term or the first of next, and after stopping part of the day we can go into Portland and make a visit. I think we shall not have a singing school, there

so few that wish to attend. Charles has been grumbling some about his coats but I believe he has concluded to to wear his new one. The other coat is small and worn very much. As near as I can find out, Charles is a little homesick, especially when any thing ails him. Yesterday he was very childish, I have had my great coat repaired, cost about, 30 cts. it makes it much better. Mrs. Barry has gone to Bath, they are in hopes that her health will be benefited by change of scene. She is in a very dejected state. Her mother is in a precarious condition. One side of her being entirely paralysed. I have no more time, so I must stop. Give my love to all

Love Son

R B Fernald

Mrs. Eliza Gilman

March 31 1851

J. H. B. Howard