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261 3/7/1851

*From:* W.L. Lothrop

*To:* Mrs Gilmore

OOH-0251

West Point, N.Y.

Leeds, Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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By request of Otis he being hurt  
W.L. Lothrop

West Point N.Y. March 7, [18]51

Dear Madam

You must not be startled at receiving this letter, although it is written by the request of your son Otis – who having lately met with a slight accident is in the hospital and 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. He 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. Lothrop [Warren Lane Lothrop, b July 5, 1823. A sixth cousin of Otis.]

Mrs Gilmore

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262 3/9/1851

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0252

West Point, N.Y.

Leeds, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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O.O. Howard, West Point, N.Y. March 9, [18]51

Dear Mother

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. [Lothrop] to write and 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 was there, cut off my hair and 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 and 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 Errysipilus [1] 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 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 everything that is good to eat. The Commandant's wife, Mrs. Alden, 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 ware [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 times of day or some other question.

Mr. Sawtell came in to see me the other day & said that Uncle [2] accompanied him from Washington to New York & wanted to come & see me; but he had an appointment in Boston and was obliged to go. Mr. Sawtell said he should write him that I was better. Uncle Ward [3] too had heard, by way of Mr. Rundell, 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 it.

I notice by a paper that Lizzie sent me that Mrs. Waite 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 that Uncle John has written you, since he heard that I was hurt.

I hope this will find you all well.

Your affectionate son  
O.O. Howard

[Notes:

1. Erysipelas is a superficial bacterial skin infection that characteristically extends into the cutaneous

lymphatics. This disease has been traced back to the Middle Ages where it was referred to as "St Anthony's Fire," named after an Egyptian healer who was known for successfully treating the infection.

2. John Otis, the brother of his mother, Eliza Otis Gilmore was a U.S. Congressman from Maine, 1849-1851, had endorsed Oliver Otis for admission to West Point.

3. Ward Bailey Howard, the brother of Rowland Bailey Howard, had three children Elizabeth, Augustus and Lucius.]

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263 3/9/1851

*From:* J. H. Otis

*To:* Cousin Otis [Howard]

OOH-0253

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, Mar 9, 1851

Dear Cousin Otis

Altho you have been absent a considerable time still I have had no communication from you (direct) nor have I 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 you from the knowledge I have gathered from your letters of 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 fathers) 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 miliary 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 then 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 any there to conduce to their happiness or comfort and I know your natural abilities to withstand misfortunes are such that you will not <> 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 Wm 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 Garland (as you will recollect the paper was called) has been well conducted in the Ladies department and considering the advantages 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 are little looked for.

I have hardly seen R Baily although he has been at home for a few days past. He looks well and you well may be proud of such a brother. Thomas Bridgham has made "pitch" at Livermore Corner the <space> Hon Reuel Washburn 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. Helen & Olie send their respects and hope your speed recovery.

Your Affectionate Cousin

J.H. Otis [John Harrison Otis, son of Ensign Otis and Martha Davis]

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264 3/9/1851

*From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0254a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 9th 1851

Dear Mother;

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. Rowland had walked to the baggage to make them understand that it was to Yarmouth not North Yarmouth 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 hacks to take us down here to the commons. We found our room all ready for occupation, for Roland bought some paper before he went home last term & had it papered in the vacation.

Ours is the best room in the commons. The greatest trouble here is wood. We have borrowed ours so far of Mrs King. I believe there is twenty one scholars that board here in the commons.

I have got to have a new 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 Congregational house. The snow was so deep (for we had a snow storm yesterday in the afternoon & last night) that Rowland thought we had better go to the Congregational house that being nearer than the Baptist house. I have not been much homesick yet.

I suppose that Rowland 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 Delie. Good bye.

From your Affec son,  
Charles [Howard]

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265 3/9/1851

*From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0254b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the preceeding letter from Charles]

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 Cap 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 \$.55. Shall I buy him one?

Charlie's health is good and he seems to enjoy himself so far very well. He studies Arithmetic Grammar and Astronomy. 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, scholarlike and Temperate. I should have gone over to Dr Careys 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 Frost 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 Rum Shop. He would have it that my baggage was going to N Yarmouth because the ticket was 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 none from him until I pay him which I shall do forthwith.

Write me if Perley comes to our house or Mrs & Miss Waite 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

Your affectionate Son  
R B Howard

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266 3/16/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0255a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 16th 1851

Dear Mother

After attending Church all day I seat 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 Lothrop 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 meanness are duly apreciated, 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.

Charlie's health is good. I should say as good as it has been for a year or two past. He apears 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 expence. 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 esentially fired my private property and N Yarmouth Seminary but 'an inch is as good as a mile', except the expence 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 WP Johnson. 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 have the other page, I will stop here. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son  
R B Howard

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267 3/16/1851      *From:* Charles H Howard      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0255b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of previous letter from Rowland]

Yarmouth March 16th 1851

Dear Mother

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 hurt 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 arived here. I thought there must be some particular 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 recd the sad news from Otis.

I like our teacher (Mr Jewet) 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 stufed up some.

Since I left my pen I have been to supper. We had fish hash and pie for supper. We have pie three 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 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 Vaughn & Jonnie at our house now? Is Nancy there too. If she is give her my respects. Give my love to Dellie, 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. Yarmouth is not a very pleasant place to live. At least it don't seem so to me. Has Phebe been over to see you yet. Has Jimmy got the measles yet. I study Astronomy and Mr Jewet has two globes with which he explains it to us. I think Dellie would like to study from a globe. It is painted like a map having the towns on it.

From Your Affectionate son  
Charles H Howard

P.S. Write soon mother especially if you hear from Otis, as I hope you will. Good bye. From Charles H. H.

[Envelope]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore



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268 3/21/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0256

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar 21st 51

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 I will rob it of a part of this evening. Me thinks 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 couldn't get it out of my head that she took the same route that I did once, ie. 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 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. If 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 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.

If 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 Otis with a literal picture of the whole scene of my disasters.

Mr Lazelle 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.

Uncle has now completed his term of Congressional labor, and probably this is the first & last time he 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 Mathematics are now just commencing a new book. We have completed Algebra, Geometry, plane & spherical Trigonometry. As 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 Yarmouth with Rowland? How does he do? & how is your own health? I think every day how you all must change before I enter my home again.

Give my love to father, Roland, Charlie, Dellie, Johny 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 Sprule 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. O. Howard

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269 3/21/1851 *From:* P. S. Perley

*To:* Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0257

Portland Me

West Point  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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. Lizzie 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. Lothrop's and then went down to your house and let it out before Lizzie 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 in the last case she might have thought you were hurt more than you would admit to her. I need not tell you Howard 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 off. 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 were I stopped with John N Tuesday night. They have there 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 "batting" it as bad as ever. Thomas Wilson our old friend is in the city here studying law. He called here while we were gone. Poindexter is Proff. of Ancient languages in a College out south. Hodgman is on the express from Bangor to Portland a regular John Cleaveland.

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 as Ever  
P.S. Perley

[Envelope]  
[Postmark] Portland Me, Mar 22, 10  
Cadet Oliver O Howard  
West Point  
New York

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270 3/21/1851 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0258

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York March 21 1851

Dear Otis

You was not at all mistaken thinking that your last letter of the 18th (rec yesterday) was the second one you had written me since you had heard from me. When a person gets into a bad fix, there's nothing like owning up. I confess I was not a little mortified when I received your letter yesterday morning for I had not forgotten that I was indebted to you and fully intended to pay up, but without adding insult to injury by making a long apology I must be allowed to say that I was very busy for some weeks after yours of 24th Jany was recd and what little time I have had since that has been employed in sundry ways, but very little in writing excepting to Sarah who you know I could not if I would and would not if I could. In fact, I ythought as I was crossing the ferry the morning before yours was recd that I would certainly write to you that day. But when night came, I found that I had some writing to do that could not be neglected.

I am very glad you concluded to write. It was an unexpected pleasure and a well wanted reproof to me, and as you perceive not without its salutary effect. 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 worse and more serious consequences. I can well imagine how it happened, for I have had narrow escapes from the same accident. You must have had a hard time of it, for the erysipelas of itself 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 those who are so dear to you & who you would wish to have 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 lounged at home or in the sick room, could you have had one, dear to you, who would sit by you all day, who would take pleasure in ministering to your every want, bathe your <> <>, and with the tender affection of <womans> delicate love, make you forget your sickness, and sigh for a return of these happy fleeting hours - I sometimes think that I would be wishing 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 being a man would be without a heart; he could not love, and would not care to be loved, but thanks to an allwise 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 of 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 well know many allurements 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 pleasure 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 pleasant 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 where I do twenty now.

I received a letter from Sarah this morning. She had just returned to Hallowell from Portland where 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 <courting> so fine a young lady. allow me to congratulate you upon so favorable a report from one whose opinion goes so far with me, although I never doubted that she would think her anything other than a very sweet girl. I think Sarah a very good judge of human Nature, although she may have deceived herself once, but I suppose it would be hard convincing her now, that she had, even in that case, she says of 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 <> anything of the kind for in these matters I approve 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 <> 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 close 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 listen upon my letters; I have not felt much like writing this afternoon and from that I have allowed my feelings to creep into this sheet. I often wish that I could write a good letter, and yet I think a letter from a friend, written in a style that makes you think he is talking to you is far more acceptable than one that leads you to think of anything but the one that wrote it.

Tuesday 25th.

I intended to have finished this the day I commenced it but was prevented in some way or other. I would have closed it Sunday, but had a letter of Sarah's to answer, and such letters you know must be attended to in preference to any other. I was anxious to finish this as soon as possible, for I think when a person is sick they enjoy a letter so much. It seems to do one good, but I hope you are not sick now for to be sick so far away from home is any thing but pleasant. To be sure it is gratifying to have strangers show you kindness but there is no hand like a mothers to smooth down your pillow and administer the thousand little offices of a sick room.

Sarah wrote that they were feeling some anxiety about you, I hope, you will soon be able to dispel their fears. I told Sarah she must write you soon and give a good long letter, for I thought it would do you good. She has been enjoying herself finely in Portland, and has now gone home to settle down for a while. She found her mother sick, but was getting better when she wrote.

I have not seen either Miss Gilman or Miss Julia Morse since they have been home. Perhaps I may take a <> to call upon them bye & bye; if I do I will discuss your mishap to Miss Gilman. My acquaintance with both of them is very slight.

Silas & Epes have moved from the Pearl St House to the Battery Hotel, a good change I think for them. It is a better house and they will be better contented there.

I have no time to write more today, and if I mistake not, you will find this letter dull enough, but you will excuse it for I had so often been interrupted that when I commenced again I have said just what came into my mind first, and dare say I have repeated the same thing twice. Let me hear from you as soon as convenient & believe me

Very truly Yours  
F. T. Sargent

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271 3/23/1851 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0259a Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 23d 1851

Dear Mother

This forenoon I attended the Baptist meeting and stopt to the Bible class with Charles. This afternoon we have heard Mr Alden 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 smartest man and the best preacher.

Today and yesterday I believe were the two pleasentest 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 Perley stoped with Mr Jewett over night when going into Portland. He said that Miss Waite would have stoped 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. Any how, I am lastingly 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 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'nt happen to hit upon the right time.

I am sorry to hear of Maria's illness. If you hear anything farther 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 senior 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 aplication than any heretofore.

Mrs Carey is quite low. She had an atack of neuraligy two or three weeks since. Her nerves and consequently her mind are in a sad state. To agravate the dificulty Mrs Stockbrige, her mother had a paralytic shock the night before last and is expected to survive but a few days. Her Mothers 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.

Charles will finish this so I shall write no more now. Give my love to all the friends and write all the news.

Your Son  
Rowland

[Following letter from Charles was here]

PS

Dear Mother

As I have a litte more time and a plenty of paper, I thought I would write something more. Dr. Cutler is delivering a course of lectures here on Physiology at .12 ½ 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 Greek.

Your affectionate Son  
R B Howard

[Envelope]  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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272 3/23/1851 *From:* Charles H Howard *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0259b Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 23d, 1851

Dear Mother

As Rowland has already stated we went into the sabbath school this noon. It makes me feel very bad to think of Otis's situation. I hope it will not lessen his rank.

We have a pretty full school. There is about eighty schollars in it. Mr Wood (the opposition schooll) 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 I am here.

Rowland & I went up into the cupola last night & we could see the Bay. It was the first time that I ever had seen salt water. Yarmouth is not so handsome a vilage as I expected. It covers across a large lot of ground & the houses set rather irregular.

Who waters my little colt now? Has Delie's knee got well yet? I hope it has. Will Roland Alger stay to our house this summer? Is Nancy at our house yet? I suppose uncle John's boys have gone, if not tell John to card my salty. Tell Dellie I should like to sleep with him in our little Bedroom tonight. Is it good sleighing in Leeds until now? Is Annie Gilbert any better yet?

The Ladies had a fair here Thursday eve for the benefit of the Sons of Temperance. It consisted of candy & Dolls, little cotten Rabbits, little Bedsteds and all such things as those, 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 monney that they rec 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.

From your Afec son  
Charles H Howard



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273 3/24/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* My dear Son [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0260

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 24 1851

My dear Son,

After a long Silence I intend devoting 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 Otis, in answer to one he wrote you after we received the news of 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 after tuesday must lay there until saturday, as we have the mail brought only on those days. I wrote immediately to R.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 mail'd 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 return home (my heart as full as it could be on your account) who should I find here but Lizzy Waite, 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 a good affect on me. She stopt until Friday P.M. Mr Perley came here and carried her to Livermore, Mrs Perley was coming with him but company prevented.

Perley called at Mrs Lothrop's on his way and there he learn'd that something had befallen you and enquired about it soon as he came in, and then I show'd Lizzy Warren's letter and the one Mr Sawtell wrote your Uncle John Otis, which gave us a very just idea of your situation and was quite complementary to your character, that is the estimation you were held, on West Point &c. Your father was at H...I soon after your Uncle John arived and he gave him the letter, Mr Sawtell wrote the day before you wrote yours to me and he also read Sarah Lee's so you see I knew all that I could, and not much neither for the idea of your having the Eryapulous never crossed my mind.

You cannot enter into the depth of feeling there is in a mothers heart for her son. I sincerely think there had been an undefined 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 throw you into a nervous fever. The loss of blood and that dangerous <chieus>, the E...lous [erysipelas?], 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 Sarah Turner with Lizzy, and should have called at Mrs Lothrop's had it not began 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 morn

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 Wings, to see Steven Wing 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.H. which makes it lonely as well as inconvenient for me, I miss his

attentions and care very much. They left home Thursday 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 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. Arza and George Lothrop have gone to New York to establish an apiary or bee house in Brooklyne. 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 hunney to Brooklyne. I hope we shall hear favorable news from them. Arza is not able to do anything the labour depends wholly on G. L.

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 Lothrop'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. He that holds the rains and guides them for the children of men, knows why these things are so, we will hope. It is all to His Glory.

Doct 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 Mr Randis Gilbert, his Brother in- law both Brought down with the measles. Sarah Turner has been with Mr. W through a great part of his 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 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 Aurelia. She is truly afflicted day by day. I hope Valentine situation will be happier than any of them. He is published to Mehetable Joslyn if not Married which will make a steady home for him if he and Mr Joslyn agree he has been living there all winter. Uncle Frank is published to Fanny Gould. Lucy Dunham is published. Her intended is <Arzon> Leadbetter of your age, and a lot of others that you would take little interest in. Your Uncle Stillman's family are about as usual. I see young Still—'s handsome face occasionally for (greatly to my annoyance) your father is town treasurer, and S is first select man of the town. This treasury office brings men, a plenty of men. So much for Leeds news.

You must lett 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 or two to day.

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. You can let us know whether you receive the papers we sent. E.G.

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274 3/27/1851 *From:* R. B. Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0261a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth, March 27th 51

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 anew 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 in whose welfare, I feel greater interest than in any one except myself.

Mother has probably informed you that Mrs & Miss Waite paid her a visit during Perley's vacation. When they passed through here on their way to Portland I saw Mr Perley but not the Ladies. Mr Jewett stoped with Peleg 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 caped? Will it not be some time before you can study? If so, could you not get a furlough in the mean time and come to Maine? Traveling would do you some good and seeing your friends more.

Three weeks of our Term have passed and there are seven more to come. Charles health is good and he studies well. He is studying Astronomy in addition to the common branches. Our Class number 13 at present and it will probably rec great additions next term. I like the apearance of most of the members well. There are not more than one or two 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 1.53 so as far as size is concerned I am, as father would say, quite a Boy.

Our School numbers about 80 so that Mssrs 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'nt half the tallent displayed by its members in the exercises of Declamation, Discussion and Composition, that there was at Kents 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 Johns family. I hear from nine of them except William. His classmates say that he is taking at present as high rank as any in the class and that he sails finely in 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 begins the Eneid 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 Commons this term, rather a noisy set too. When dinner is anounced there is as great a rush as if it was a cry of fire. Mrs Cary is quite sick. She has had an atack of neuralegy and unless there is some change very soon she will live 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 of the sheet to Charles who says he would like to write a little.

Your affectionate Brother  
R B Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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275 3/27/1851 *From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0261b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Rowland]

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 it must make mother feel very badly. I would like to have you write to us as soon as you are able and tell us (Roland & I) how you get along. I hope it will not make any change in your rank, though I suppose it must.

Rowland & I came to Yarmouth just three weeks from today. I had rather live to house than in Yarmouth. Mr Cutler has 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 o clock the bell has toled for school, but I study in my room. I recite in Arithmetic at  $\frac{1}{2}$  after two. I have got into Decimal Fractions in Arithmetic. Our 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 hurt 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 Otis, I remain  
Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles H. Howard

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276 3/30/1851    *From:* Charles H Howard    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0262a                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth March 30th 1851

Dear Mother

I will take my pen again this sabbath evening to write you a few lines with Rowland. I have been to meting this afternoon, but did not go this AM. I was'nt 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 where it was rather cold, in the back part of the room. 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 opporated 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 yard. It is very muddy walking in the roads. They use waggons here mostly. Is it good sleighing in Leeds still.

Mr Woods is about to build an Academy nearly opposite to this side of his house. I think if he has an Acad that it will spoil both schools.

I have reason to think that you have about as much to do as common or 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 Delie, father and all. I would like to be there myself to night and hear you and father sing as you do sundy nights.

I remain your afec Son  
Charles.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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277 3/30/1851 *From:* R B Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0262b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles]

Yarmouth March 31st, 51

Dear Mother

Charles was very careful to restrict himself to a page. I told him to write farther 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 at present for there's the bell. 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, Beanday, Pudding day &c &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 Yard is drying off fast and soon will be in shape to play in.

Charles has told you that we rec 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 if 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 stoping a 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 wear his new one. The other coat is small and worn very much. As near as I can find out, Charles is a little home sick, especially when anything ails him. Yesterday he was very childish.

I have had my great coat repaired, cost about 20 cts. It makes it much better. Mrs Carey has gone to Bath. They are in hopes that her health will be benefitted by change of scene. She is in a very depressed state. Her mother is in a precarious condition. One side of her being entirely paralyzed.

I have no more time, so I must stop. Give my love to all.

Your Son  
R B Howard