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278 4/2/1851 *From:* B. F. Kendall

*To:* Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0263

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll Apr. 2, 1851

Friend Howard,

Your long awaited epistle came to hand this morning; and right glad was I to hear from you, sitting in high places, supported at public expense.

I wish the public would support me.!!! But I am well pleased to hear of your high stand, and hope yet to hear that you stand No. 1.

I have always supposed that the course of study at the U.S.M.A. was much more calculated to "try men's souls" than the course here. One thing here however, which tends to increase the hatred is the non-intervention of Smyth. You never will be enlightened by any wisdom, he has hoarded in the midday study or dreamed out by the flickerings of his midnight oil.

It is the only objection I have to him, is, that as a teacher he is no better than a wooden one. Every day that I remain here is diminished my respect for old Packard. If he has learned anything during all his life, why does it not stick out?

We are now in the delightful field of calculus where some of the class already prefer to roam in shady paths thinking the sooner to find the maximum of all their joys.

I did not arrive here till some two weeks since, consequently I had some to make up. I confess that it was a little hazy to me at first. But I am doing pretty well in it now, at least I get along alone. I dread the math paper.

In German we are reading Schiller's thirty years war which is almighty dull.

The Senior class are all here but Pike and Hamlin who were suspended about one week since for getting tight, as usual.

Joseph Ware was also suspended at the same time. I forgot him at first.

The present Freshman Class number now fifty. The largest class since <>.

My class has dwindled down to Seventeen.

You spoke of your brother. I will do him all the favors I can, for I once was indebted to you for such.

Howard, I miss you and old Perley. You were far more intimate with me than any in my own class; and when I think of the many good times I had with you, in 26 M. H. I am sorry you are not here now. I shall probably be here a year with your brother and as you know my habits are not over bad, perhaps I could do him some good. You can tell him, that is, if you think best, that he can ask me for a favor or for advice at any time and I will give him the best I can.

I am sorry for Browne, that his prospects are dubious. I feared for him as I knew he disliked mathematics.

As for news from Albany quarter, tell him I cannot give him any, for I have not been in Bethel for a year.

I think I shall go to Bethel next vacation as I can go there now in the cars.

I taught School in Ellsworth six miles from the place I was the winter before. They paid me fifty dollars (I boarded myself) per month. I may teach one more town School, and only one.

I had to use the green-hide on four great ignorant boys during the past winter.

You inquired after I. Hand. He is doing well, only he gets a little tight sometimes, not often I think.

As to Athn operations I can tell but little; only that she is greatly involved in debts, say something less than \$200.00 but little interest has been manifested under Eaton's administration. The Ath. has so far, got more of the Fresh. class than the Penc. but it is not owing to any enthusiasm in favor of the Ath. only in favor of the  $\psi$ 's presidency.

I do not know whether they will elect their candidate or not. As for college popularity I can say I do not care three cents for it.

I cannot bow and scrape to win the favor of any body; and you know that but few can be very popular here among such capricious people as college affords.

They are to finish off the chapel this season, I hear.

Remember me to Brown. Tell him I hope the thoughts of Cynthia will not distract his mind.

Write again when convenient. I shall be glad to hear from you. Tell me next time how you & Abbot get on in the race.

As ever yrs truly  
B. F. Kendall

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279 4/6/1851

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0264

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point, N.Y. Apr 6th 1851

Dear Mother,

I am sorry it happens so that my letters must be a week old before they reach you, but I must write Saturday afternoon or Sunday if I write at all. Once in a while perhaps I may manage to steal a few moments in the middle of the week. If I do I will surely devote them to your letters. My health is now very good indeed. You must not make any unfavorable hypotheses, that is, you must not borrow trouble; depend upon it mother, enough of it will come unasked. You must not fear or expect a relapse in my case for I have fairly recovered.

I have received a letter from Lizzie since her return. She enjoyed her visit very much indeed. She wishes to know when is the best time for you to come. After the June examination the first Class having graduated leave for their several stations. The Class next above us go home on furlow, leaving only two classes. About a hundred new cadets are being drilled in the mean time. These get their uniforms & go into the battalion about the last of July, ie, about the middle of the encampment. This time is really the pleasantest time at West Point. The Corps of Cadets then make the best appearance. But I would rather have you come the last of June or the first of July. In fact it matters not. Come when it is most convenient. If they can know when you will be in New York Mr Sargent or Silas will gladly meet you at the Cars and conduct you to some good place to stop. From the City you can come up river by the cars or by a boat as you please. I preferred the steam boat, for the scenery all the way up the Hudson is rich & interesting in the summer, whose beauty is all lost upon you when you are hurried along at lightning's speed. But if you should choose you could come by cars & stop at Peekskill. My Cousin Elizabeth Howard would think it a rich treat to have you stop so that she could accompany you to West Point. You can make your own arrangements about coming only let me know when. I may be able to meet you at Peekskill, perhaps even in New York. It depends entirely on the state of Capt Brewerton's will and temper at that time. At a favorable time I will ask him if he will grant me such a favor.

Rowland Bailey has written me. Says he & Charlie are getting on finely, thinks Readfield a better school for Charles than Yarmouth. He says that William Otis is doing finely on his senior studies.

It hardly seems possible to me now that I am a graduate from College. like many others I had been under the foolish impression that a College educated man was necessarily well versed in every thing pertaining to scientific & literary knowledge. Here ignorance is most certainly detected. A man cannot palm himself off for more than he is. In many respects I think this the best school in the Union, in others the worst.

The moral education that a person would receive in this place is just none at all. Yet it is said that a considerable number of eminent ministers in the United States are graduates.

I went to see Warren yesterday afternoon and had a long walk with him. He is still in hopes to get a Commission at least when a new force is created next winter. It seems hard that Commission should not be open to meritorious men from the "ranks", as well as to graduates of this Institution. But this seems to be the medium. It has this advantage that it confers a good part of the government of our land upon educated men; but all the Army regulations tend to promote rank & Aristocracy. Warren is a very practical man. He says an army would be no army without this high respect paid to the officer's dress, however contemptible the man who wears it. An Army cannot be democratic.

I saw Mr Harville you remember him perhaps. Charles Harville, who lived at Col Lothrop's one season or more. He has had the small pox, and a strange looking creature he is. He secretly married a day or two before he was seized with this horrid disease. What a fool a man is to leave a pleasant situation, where he can receive attention & respect according to his merit or according to the goodness of his heart; and enlist in the Army.

Give my love to all and write me as soon as you can.

From Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard.

I have received all the papers that father has sent me. He made a mistake and sent me an Advertiser of Mar. 1850 instead of Mar 1851 last time. The Lewiston Journal was very acceptable.

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280 4/6/1851

*From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0265a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth April 6th 1851

Dear Mother

We have a rainy sabbath today, one which is not very agreeable to any one, especaly to one who cannot be at home. Very likely if it rained in Leeds you could not go to church, although I have been all day, Roland and myself . We went up to the Battist in the A.M. but it rained so hard this P.M that we went in to hear Mr Alden preach, it being much nearer.

We had a Lecture here yesterday the subject of which was Physiology, one which very much interested me. I would like to have Delie hear such a lecture. He hanged a skelliton or part of a one. Besides a <manikin> we have one other lecture or course of lectures on the same subject. I don't know but I wrote you.

Our writing school that we was expecting to have came off rather badly. The writing Master apointed a writing school and I went but there was not enough there and so we did not have any. But I am in hopes they will have a singing school, because they did not have a writing school.

I suppose that Delie had a good time the first day of April making April fools. I hope he did. The boys here had quite a time. They got the breakfast bel and rung it before breakfast was ready and so got the boys all down there for nothing.

I suppose that Martha is to our house yet. The roads had got quite dry before the rain, and it was pretty good wagganing. I suppose that you use sleighs in Leeds.

Fast day will be next Thursday. I wish that it did not cost anything to go home if it did not I should like to come home. I suppose that they will have a great time, playing ball.

We have not heard from Otis since the last time that we wrote. I hope that you will write soon & let us know whether you heard from him of late or not.

Give my love to father, Delie and all. Has Roland made up his mind to stay this year to our house or go to some other place to spend the summer. Is our wood all cut up. Please write mother and tell me the whole.

I suppose Rowland will finish this. So Good Bye

From your Afec son Charles

[Continued in the next letter from Rowland]

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281 4/6/1851      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0265b                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Charles]

[Yarmouth April 6th 1851]

Dear Mother

A classmate was in my room this evening complaining of a head, tooth and ear ache and said, why is it Howard that you never have any of these ailments? I thought that such a question would sound strange to you who have always heard me complaining of aches and pains ever since you have heard me speak. However such a question proves that I am either getting the better of them or if I have them, that it is of no use of talking about it here. But I think my general health has improved much within a year past. At least I hope I have overcome the habit of constantly teasing others with my ailments. Such a thing here would be downright foolishness. And such a person would immediately set down as a baby who had left his mothers knee too early. I think Charles health is as good as it has been for some time.

Mrs Careys Mother has died since I wrote and I attended the funeral on Thursday. Mrs Carey is still at Bath.

Mr Johnson is trying to get up a writing school here. If he does tell Father I shall try to get that little note, and I shall try if he does not, I should class him as a man and a paymaster among writing masters generally. That is as a regular "numhead".

It thunders and lightens tonight and I think the storm will clear away before morning.

As Charles has said, we had a course of lectures here yesterday on Phisyology. they were very interesting and instructive. But on the whole I thought the man better satisfied with himself than his hearers were with him, not but that the lectures were first rate. But I think no man could admire the mans tallent as much as he seemed to.

I shall have to have a new pair of shirts next vacation, for I find that if mine go to the washtub whole, they seldom if ever come away so. Mrs Mason has torn and worn the bosoms all to pieces by going through an operation which I should call scrubing in dirt. Write me the news from Halowell, from Arza, Addison Martin, Otis and home. Send me if you can the last Journal or Advertiser. I see the world renowned <> RR Car, puffed in all the papers. That financial item is what takes my eye. Haven't heard from Portland lately. I shall write again next Sunday. Charles is snoring so I must go to bed.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland

P.S. Did you rec that Eclectic <> N Y Tribune I sent

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282 4/6/1851

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0266a

Leeds, Me

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, April 6th, 1851

My dear Son,

I have reread your last letter with a view to answer it in part, I believe in my last letter I said as much as I could recollect of Lizzie's visit but she did not come in the cars, she came with Mr. Hewitt in the stage as far as Mr Martins and his son brought her here with a noble fat horse and a good sleigh with two nice Buffalos. Besides it was very good sleighing, so you see your imagination is liable to take a wrong flight. I suppose you have heard from L-- herself all the particulars of her expedition from Lewiston to Leeds and back again. I am in hopes you are wholly recovered from your sickness ere this. Charlie said in his letter of the 31 Mar that you had written to them, and had made up your studies. Be it so, you are lucky in being unlucky.

Our winter is past and nothing now remains, of all the snow that has fallen the four months past, but now and then a remnant of a drift near the walls and fences. I shall soon be able to walk in the fields and woods, which I so much admire. I shall miss Charlie this spring, as he has so long been my companion in my spring rambles. But it will not be more than six or seven weeks at most ere he will be here. I felt really down hearted at his going to Yarmouth this spring but I hope it will not be lost time to him. I have needed him a good deal but the longer I am without him I have become accustomed to calling on others to do what he did.

I am about making your half dozen shirts for you. I think I can get them right except the collars. You can give me the exact shape of the Cadet Collar if it is a strait one send me the exact length and width of them and whether they should be stitched near the edge that turns over or not. And I would like to know whether you have any choice in the fashion of the wristbands. These trifles may be important in the set of your shirts.

I believe wrote a great deal of news in my last letter, which makes me rather short at this time. I attended the funeral of Steven Wing, who died the day I mailed your letter. Mr Stevens the Universalist Minister attended the funeral. He prayed earnestly, for one who expected to share his destiny in life. I suppose Sarah Turner since she returned from Augusta the first of the winter there has been an evident partiality existing between them. Sarah was sick at the time of the funeral. I have called to see her. She is now getting well again.

Your father saw Brother John [Otis] at Augusta last week. He said nothing about sending for John. Gave some directions about his treatment. Seemed quite cheerful about William. Said they had given him an Oration in his class this term. I am in hopes he will go to house keeping before long and collect their family. I expect it will be a great trouble to them, but that is their lookout.

It is raining fast which seems to say that vegetation will soon put forth her beauties. I long to see the fields covered with grass.

Don't buy you any stockings until I come to West Point.

Arza [Gilmore] has removed his business all to New York in Brooklin. We have received two letters from him since his arrival, in New York. He moved fifty beehives from here to New York all safe and is now there with George Lothrop to do all the work. He has a partner a man with whom he became acquainted last fall in New York by the name of Platt. Arza has staked all now on the <east coast>. How he will finally come out is in the future to decide. He sent his father a Brooklyn newspaper containing a description of a mammoth beehive. The date of the paper is March the 31, Brooklyn Freeman [2] if you have any curiosity to see the paper and read what is said concerning his establishment. That is the one. His father is going to Boston to try to settle Arza's old debts next week. I find it is a business he very much dreads. Arza health is much improved the latter part of the winter and he writes he is as well as when he left here. He is not able to do anything. All the labor is done by his partner and George Lothrop. He is as peevish as ever. George says he can reason with him tolerably well for the most part.

Our railroad progresses yet. I never wanted it and am always sick of it and never more so than now. Your father's time is all taken up and I very much fear his money will be too. I do not like any of the management at

all. Everything around us looks neglected and miserable and I have no hope of its ever being different. Roland will now probably remain at home this year if not always, in what capacity I know not. Betsey is all the time in hot water about her rights here and quarreling [with] Henry Gilbert about eggs, everybody is wronged. Martha Martin is with me a great helpless mass of flesh. I get all I can out of her which is misery indeed. I am satisfied Emily has thrown herself away on a miserable fellow. I pity her but it is no use. I very much fear that he goes by an assumed name and will finally give her the slip when he has got all she has. If my fears are true it is no matter how soon he goes. Martha has satisfied me of late that he is a great wretch.

I have a high mark set for you in principles and I hope I shall not be disappointed. There is one sure foundation and that is grace of God if you will abide in me, I will abide in you. With this abiding principle we shall not fall. I wish you be particular about writing me a description of your cadet shirt collar, the number of inches is a proper way to tell me. Your father will write some on the sheet and I will stop.

Your [unrecognizable mark] Elisa Gilmore.  
[To] Otis Howard

[Continued on the next letter from John Gilmore]

[Notes:

1. George Lothrop's father, Sullivan Lothrop, was a first cousin of John Gilmore.
2. The Brooklyn Freeman was a paper started by Walt Whitman in 1848 in response to the viciousness of the slave trade that he had witnessed earlier in New Orleans as the editor of the New Orleans Gazette. In 1855 he published his first set of poems "Leaves of Grass". According to web sites the paper was in existence for 2 years only, but it must have been in operation in 1851.



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283 4/7/1851      *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* My dear Boy [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0266b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continuation of the previous letter from Eliza Gilmore]

April 7, 1851

My dear Boy

Your mother has written a letter R B & Charles besides writing this she says she is tired & I will try to fill up the sheet.

I recd a letter from the War department last week respecting your conduct & standing for the month of February in which I find no marks of demerit for the month nor for the whole term & that you stood first in Mathematics and second in English studies. I told your mother that I thought you had better knock your head again for you stood better than you did at the semiannual examination.

I saw your Uncle John last week. He asked why you did not write him.

The grading of our Rail Road is progressing slowly this winter, but will probably be ready in season to lay the track as soon as we shall want it. We expect our first cargo of Rails from Liverpool in all the month of May & the other two in June & July. Our Sleepers are about all ready & shall commence laying the track when the Iron arrives & expect the track will be laid to Livermore Falls by about September next.

Yours affectionately  
J. Gilmore

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284 4/10/1851 *From:* Sarah E Lee

*To:* Dear Cousin [O O  
Howard]

OOH-0267

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell April 10th 1851

My Dear Cousin:

It gave me a great deal of pleasure to receive your kind letter, and I intended to have answered it more promptly, but have been so much engaged that I have not found time. But as today is our State Fast I thought that instead of attending Church I remain at home, and devote the day to writing letters to my friends as I find I am indebted to quite a number of them. Grandmother [Elizabeth Stinchfield Otis] and Mother [Ann Otis Lee] have gone to Church, and I am at home alone. They are both very well and happy. I think Grandmother retains her health, and faculties remarkably for one of her age. She will be 77 next Monday. I believe I have no idea of ever arriving at that age, have you? though if I could be as agreeable as she is I should not object to living as long.

We were very sorry indeed to hear of your illness. I am afraid my dear Cousin, it was more severe than you thought, when you wrote. Most all felt very anxious about you, but I trust you have entirely recovered from it before this. I hope you will be very careful. Your Father staid here the night before last, and we were very happy to hear from him, that you were able to resume your studies as quick and that you had been able to make up your studies so easily, we had feared that you would overtax your strength when you were able to study in order to make up. We are all rejoiced to hear of your standing in your Class, and trust that you will have your health, and that you may realize your highest expectations. It was not William Packard that I saw, but Charles A, a brother I presume. He is an Engineer on the Railroad and seems to be a fine young man.

I suppose you have heard before this that I spent a fortnight with [Aunt] Martha Jane [Strickland], a short time since. I had a delightful visit. I like Portland very much indeed. I think it is one of the prettiest places I ever saw, and the people seem so social and friendly, I would like very much to live there. I saw Miss Waite several times, and was sorry that I could not see more of her, but she was out of town the last week that I was there. I admire her very much indeed, and shall feel very proud to recognize her as a cousin. I think she is quite handsome, and the greatest charm about it is, that she is not at all vain, but is perfectly modest and unassuming. I think you could not have made a better choice and think as you say, that you are worthy of each other, and I hope that your separation, instead of making you less attached will only bind your affections closer to each other. I wish she would make me a great long visit this summer, I should enjoy it very much indeed. I invited her to come, but she seemed to think she should not be able to, but I wish you would induce her to come.

Your Father told us that him, and your mother and Lizzie, were going on to make you a visit in June. I presume you will enjoy it very much. I wish I could go with them, but I do not think you will see me till I come to New York to live, and then I shall avail myself of the first opportunity of visiting you. I suppose you will ask when I am coming to N.Y. but there is no particular time decided upon yet, though if nothing should happen, I may possibly go there next fall. I am glad you like Frank [Sargent], for I want all my friends to think as much of him as I do, and he thinks as much of you as you do of him. I received a letter from him this morning in which he says he has just seen the Endeavour spoken, the 27th of March, in the South Seas. It must have been a year ago I think as it would be impossible for the news to reach here so soon if was this year. I wish we could receive letters from him, it seems as if he were never coming home but I hope we shall see him soon. We received letters from [brother] Silas [Lee] last week. He was well and in fine spirits. Him and Epes [Sargent] have left the Pearl St. House, and are now boarding at the Battery Hotel on Broadway, a much neater and more actual House.

Laura Ann and family are very well and happy. They have a fine great boy, <build fair> to make a good subject for West Point. They do not change much and seem as quiet and happy as ever. Uncle John has not gone to house keeping yet, but is still at Mr. Grants. I suppose you have heard that they have another Daughter, but I have not seen it yet. They will go to house keeping in a week or two. Vaughan is boarding here with us now. I suppose you heard that Willie left his school rather abruptly. I hope after he graduates he will try to do something. Maria is still Gorham. I received a letter from Addison by the last mail. He is very well indeed and is doing finely as far as business goes. He says there are a raft of Boys coming on this fall to visit their friends

but does not say that he is coming, but I hope he will for I want to see him very much. I suppose you heard of William Spaulding death. His partner, Addison feels it very much. He is now alone in the business.

I received a letter from Olive [Note 1] last week. She says they are all very well; have you heard of the death of her Brother Warren's Wife, he feels his loss very much, and she was a very excellent Woman, and it will be difficult for him to find one to take her place.

I have tried to tell you about all the members of the family, that I can think of, but I am so negligent about writing that I do not keep myself as well informed as I might, with regard to them.

We are having delightful weather now, the snow is all gone and the ice is out of the river, and it is really quite cheering. I have enjoyed the winter here very much. It had been quite lively. We have had quite a number of Parties and <Slugnabs>, all of which were very pleasant and I am beginning to feel quite at home again, though I miss a great many of my old friends that were here when I left. There are quite a number of the young Ladies married, and the young men have gone to the "Golden "Regions" but what there are remaining are the same friends they used to be.

And now Cousin mine. I have written quite as long a letter, as I think you will care about taking the trouble to read. But I hope to receive an answer very soon for we are always happy to hear from you, and I hope you will find time to write to us often. If Grandmother, and Mother were here they would send a great deal of love.

And with a great deal of affection I remain your  
Cousin, Sarah E. Lee

[Note 1: Olive is Sarah's cousin Olive Woodman Hazard (b 1814). She is living in Cambridge Mass, married to Samuel Hazard. Her brother is Ephraim Warren Woodman (b 1823) and are children of Aunt Sarah B Otis (1797-1822) and Ephraim Warren Woodman (1787-1859). Warren's wife was Elizabeth Ferguson (~1829-1851).

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285 4/13/1851 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0268 Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 13th 1851

Dear Brother

I have been to church all day and heard two very good sermons. The last by Dr Dwight of Portland, I think of the best I ever had the pleasure of hearing. It is a cool windy day very much resembling fall, with dust filling your eyes and nose and all similar apertures. Sat evening was one of the most beautiful I ever saw, the moon is about in her second quarter, and the street was almost as light as noonday. I had a splendid walk with a young lady for meeting of my acquaintance in the street I made an exception to my usual custom, on account of the beauty of the evening and her agreeable conversation. Such an occasion does not often arise in Yarmouth, even if I was in a disposition to improve it. For of all the homely, disagreeable people that ever met, the inhabitants of Yarmouth are the most uninteresting and disagreeable always excepting <Teunell> City and Beach Hill.

I made a very pleasant call at Dr Careys last week. Mrs Careys health is still very precarious. They sometimes fear for her reason. William and Joseph are not at home. but the girls, Marsha & Ellen are very agreeable, and the Dr is full as ever of his laughable anecdotes although sometimes they seem almost forced.

Charles is with me yet. He will remain through the term. He has contracted as I feared he would, some desire to go to College. I for one do not think he had better either go or have any desire to go. I do not think he should go for many reasons, and of course I do not want him to wish to go, and to be disapointed. I have talked with him some about it and I wish that you would write him a letter discouraging the idea of his going to college, for I am afraid he will set his mind too much upon going as I said before. Do not let him know that I said anything to you about it. His constitution seems to be weak and his general health poor. I think he would not live long in a sedentary mode of life or if he did he would not be half so happy as he would if he contracts no love for such a mode and lives upon a farm and takes interest in its affairs. But of course you will have your own opinion concerning these things and act accordingly.

Since I left my letter one of my classmates has come into my room with Howard, would you like a walk? I assented and we have walked round to the fore side as they call it, perhaps you used to travel the same path when you was here. We went to and old grave yard with graves and tombs almost a century old. There is a high bluff just behind it and a ledge, from which I saw Cape Elizibeth and Munjoy on the right, the bay and its beautiful islands, in front, with a vessel anchored here and there, and on the far left I could discover Harpswell and the spire of Mr Kellogg's Church. Of course you remember the time that we went a fishing in that direction. On the whole I have had a fine walk, and I am determined that one visit shall not suffice, to the beautiful place on the fore side.

Charles is beside me writing to Mother and I shall finish the letter. I am very glad to hear that your health has so far recovered, and I sincerely hope that your fall will not render you permanently skull cracked.

What a delightful meeting there would be between you and 'Lizzie' now. I can imagine you with your shaven pate and ridiculous skull cap. You must be quite a prominent feature of your class and a very ludicrous specimen of a down easter. If your strength was like Sampsons, how delighted I should be to <flog> you, or with out the supposition I suppose there would be no trouble about it if I could only see you.

Speaking of Lizzie reminds me that Perley was here last week, and on Fast Day (Thursday). He went with Mr Jewett to Brunswick. The latter looked prodigously sleepy when he got back and I cannot for the life of me account for it, can you? Perley said that his Landlady was in good health and spirits.

Uncle John passed through here on Wednesday and I had just time to speak with him at the cars. He said that his people were well, and Maria went to Gorham, the day before. Had I known they were in Portland I should have gone in. Haven't heard from home lately. I write every week. Did you ever know me to write so develish well before. I flatter myself that I am fast aproximating to that pink of perfection - a Macawber of our mutual acquaintance.

The May flowers are budding to blow and I shall gather some this week. Don't you wish that you and Lizzie were gathering them on some of the old and rugged hills of Maine. Of course, but don't weep, but constantly remember that old song,

"Oh a happy time is coming boys" &c (From that celebrated author the 'Poet')

I am getting along finely in Latin but confound the Greek. Tis an infernal bore any how, dry, hard and (excuse me) shit, but they tell us it is glorious disipline.

My respects to Mr Lothrop and every one that cares to have them.

Your affectionate Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Aint you glad that you once resided under the same consecrated roof that the down easter did who is making such a stir in Brookline. Enclosed is a High puff that I cut from the Brookline Freeman. Yankees are ahead and no mistake.

RBH

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286 4/14/1851 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0269a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 14th 1851

Dear Mother

I have been to church with Rowland all day. The Text this forenoon was the 86 Psalm 8 vers. There are a great many that go to meting here. The meting houses are always full, which is some different from the meting in Leeds. Some carriages go with one load, and then go back after another and the carriages are passing pretty lively Sunday morning.

The weather is quite pleasant today though rather cold. I am in pretty good health though I have got a cold. I cannot keep my feet warm.

We are about to have a singing school here. It is to begin Tuesday evening.

We rec your welcome letter in season, I believe the same day that it was mailed. I much thank you for your kind advise, and will try to do as well as I can. I do not know what I should do if it was not for Rowland here in Yarmouth, I had rather go to Readfield than here. I think it will be much pleasanter to me.

The news of Stevens death came very unexpected to me. I never once thought of his dying. We heard of it the day before we got your letter. We heard by Mr Curtis, although he is deaf he seems to know more news than we do.

Uncle John passed through here from Portland last Thursday left Maria there, who was going to Goram the next day. They had a meting here all day Fast day and in the evening. We have not heard from Otis since we last wrote suppose he is studying to make up what he lost in studdies. Rowland is now writing to him.

I get along well with my studies, & hope it will be as you say the 21 of May. That is that I shall be safe at home. Give my love to Martha. Will she stay to our house all summer. I am sorry Annie Gilbert is so low. How does Delie get along this spring? I hope he do'nt go down to Betsey's much, I see by your letter that she is the same Betsey after all. I hope Hary Gilbert will not stay there always. I see that you have men there at home as usual. I hope you will not always have so much to do.

I should like to know the day that father goes to Boston, so I can see him when he goes past Yarmouth. We would like to see him very much when he goes through.

Have Capt Turner's folks heard from Charles yet? Has Silas gone to Vassalboro yet? Tell Delie he must learn to write. I shall be glad when he gets so he can write to me & Rowland. Give my love to him and father, and any one who may feel interested to Phebe & Nancy.

I will leave the rest for Rowland to write. Good bye, Mother. Write as often as you can conveniently.

From your Afecionate son  
Charles

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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287 4/14/1851    *From:* Rowland [Howard]    *To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0269b                      Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles]

[Yarmouth Apr 14th 1851]

Dear Mother

I think Charles is very punctual in writing home for as often as Sabbath day comes he begins his part of the letter. I have written a long letter to Otis of about four pages and it is now rather late. I spent Fast Day in reading which you know gives me vastly more pleasure than going to church or playing ball. I wish Charles would read more. He would be a great deal better contented. When I feel homesick or cross, melancholy, or anything of the kind, a book does more for me than the kindest friend could. I would not give a snap to sit down as some do and talk and play hours at a time. The greatest wonder is to me what they find to talk about. But those who can thus talk about nothing and find themselves I know are my good companions, and I know I am not half so popular as I might be if I should adopt such a course. When I am reading or studying it provokes me to have any one speak to me and of course the enquirer does not get very civil answers.

I had been over to see Mrs Carey this week. She does not seem much like that Miss Stockbid you used to know at school and that Mrs Cary that I knew at Wayne. Instead of the happy, frolicsome woman I found her unhappy and morose. She as well as my conscience reproved me for not seeing her before. She is better than she was and they are in hopes will finally recover. I see that C. O. Turner publishes somewhat, if that is a specimen I saw in the Journal. I think his composition might have been improved by early culture. But I suppose information is the main point. And it does not matter much how a person gets at it.

Give my love to all. Write soon, and don't forget the paper.

Rowland

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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288 4/14/1851 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0270

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth April 14th 1851

Dear brother,

I will put a few lines into Rowland's letter. I get along well with my studies. We have received your letter. We did rect it soon after we wrote ours, which brought us such good news. We have had a letter from mother since we wrote & suppose you have had one too. She wrote that Steven Wing was dead. Died with a fever after having had the measles. I send my love to you and will write more the next time that we write. So Good bye.

From you Afec brother  
Charles

PS write soon Otis.



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289 4/19/1851 *From:* O O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0271

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Apr 19th '51

Dear Mother,

I have again taken up my pen to write you, and am in hopes, as the mail now goes & comes twice a day with us, that this will reach you before the expiration of a week. I would write other days than Saturday and Sunday, but cannot very well, as my daily duties must be attended to first. I wish you to tell me in your next letter, when or about what time it will be most convenient for you to make your journey to West Point. You must fix upon it yourself, for it will not make the least difference to me when you come, if you only come.

I have constructed to the best of my ability a uniform Collar of paper. It may serve as a pattern. Almost any Collar will answer if it is not open behind and is not too wide, for I pin them on my coat binding over which they are to be turned, or pin them on to my shirt binding, according to the kind of stock I put on. It is better not to have any collar on the shirt, as in warm weather the collar must be changed two or three times a day. During the encampment the "wash man" (as the man who takes the clothes is called) takes the clothes twice a week and returns clean ones. A Cadet must be clean then for there is a close inspection twice a day.

You need not be at all surprised if the next monthly report charges me with 8 demerit. A fort night ago today (Saturday) in the afternoon I visited Warren as I had done often before. During my stay there three officers passed by and as I thought I was on limits I took no pains to conceal myself. The next night I was reported: "Howard off Limits 3 & 4 P.M." I wrote as my excuse that I did not suspect that I was beyond our limits on Saturday afternoon. The Comandt. said, I should have known & sent me for the regulations. He read me the articles & notes respecting the exact location of our limits and found me rather deficient in knowledge thereof. He may have taken off the report, as I have as yet no demerit registered, and it is generally registered within one week after the report. It does not make much difference whether it is off or not.

Demerit here does not always signify bad conduct or carelessness - but freedom from it is generally owing to chance or good fortune. There are so many thousand little things to be reported for that a person will necessarily lay himself liable every day. Perhaps the probability of my standing ahead would be stronger if I had no demerit than if I had a few. Mr Browne has tried as hard not to get demerit as a man well could & he has got about 20. Mr Treadwell 24.

Two young men of our Class got their Complement of demerit, and were dismissed the other day. One of them boasts himself a drunkard & the other is a blabbing disagreeable sort of a fellow. I did not regret their departure much.

(Saturday evening) I commenced this letter this forenoon after I returned from the Mathematical Section room and as I spent considerable time in cutting out a pattern collar I could not finish it before dinner. After dinner I went to Mr Sawtelle's room and with him went & made a call on Capt S. Williams. He has just returned from a furlow of a month. He says he spent his furlow very pleasantly in Augusta. He is a very pleasant <> man, and generally liked by the officers on the Point. Since I cut out my pattern Mr Sawtelle has furnished me with a collar, which I shall send in this letter. He says his mother has sent him twelve, 3 at a time in a letter. You may make the part above the binding half an inch (or three quarters of an inch) longer than the pattern which I send. I believe I told you that it was better not to have bosoms in my shirts.

This last week has been very rainy here; the sun has not been seen for five days. Such weather as this Cadets like much, for they get rid of drill, which exercise none, however military they may be, ever take pride or pleasure in. I have been excused from Drills & dress-parades by the Surgeon, since my accident. But as my head is perfectly well I think I shall tell him that I can return to military duty on Monday next.

You spoke or rather father spoke of my monthly report for the month of April. Tell him I would like to know my monthly standing each month. I stood well in April. My mark was not affected for that month by my illness, so I wish him to write what it was for March. This standing belongs exclusively to the month of which it is recorded. Father said that I stood higher than at the January examination. All the months must be put together to

determine my true standing. Last week I made the first mark in the class in Mathematics, the first in French, & the third in English studies. This week I have made the third mark in Math, the second in French, & the first in Engl Studies. I get all the time about the same; but others vary sometimes running above & sometimes below me. Here is the way my marks ran this week. Mond - 2.7; Tuesday -; Wed -; Thur 3.; Friday -; Sat. 3.; Total 8.7. The maximum for the week was nine; and I was "cut" 3 tenths in mathematics one day; the others I got a maximum. For those days under which I put a blank, I was not called up. If any one has been called up to recite three times during the week, the "max" is 9; if four times the "max" is 12. So if I am called up but twice when the "max" is 9, I am averaged on the two marks that I get for the other recitation.

Give my respects to all my friends. Remember to Mrs Lothrop & her family when you see them. Warren was well when I saw him last. Mr Browne is studying hard still and still afraid of being found deficient. I think they will let him pass this June. The Mathematical course indeed is hard to him; but he perseveres.

Charles & Rowland have written me of late. They were well & doing well. Give my love to father, Roland, Dellie and Johnny. As my sheet is full I must bid you good night

Yr affectionate son,  
OO. Howard

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290 4/20/1851 *From:* Jno Otis

*To:* Cadet O O Howard

OOH-0272

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell April 20 1851

My dear Nephew,

I received yesterday your letter, the first since you were hurt. I was expecting a letter as soon as you got better; but suppose you was too much busied with your studies in your endeavour to make up for lost time. I wish you would inform me how your next rank is, for I feared your accident might put you back. R. H. Gardiner Esq of Gardiner, is the visitor appointed by the Scy of War for this State. His son Tredor Gardiner graduated at West Point & is yet Lieutenant in the regiment of Dragoons. Mr Littlefield's son was appointed a cadet. He was at West Point when we returned in March while you were sick & wrote his father from there that you were better.

I saw Rowland at Yarmouth for a moment while the cars stoped on Fast day, & also saw Charles who was on the platform with him. They were very well. I had been on to Boston & stoped a day in Portland with Mr & Mrs Strickland & found Maria there with them. She will return in about a month. I had a letter a few days ago from William. He says the class have chosen him to deliver the Class oration & that he has to prepare a fact for the Senior Exhibition. I greatly feared he would not obtain such standing with his class. I shall be happily disappointed if he suceeds well in the last year of his college life. He was greatly disappointed in not being able to get admitted at West Point. I hope it however has been the means of doing him good, & that he has since attended better to his studies.

I trust you will realize all you expect from the success of Rowland. He was looking much improved & I hear him spoken well of. I shall take an interest in his success.

It is no loss of time for a young man to be kept back from engaging in a profession or business till of mature age. So you lose no time while studying at West Point, if you'll study as I know you will & keep your morals pure & your mind and opinions uncontaminated. Many a young man has been ruined by a too early rushing into business, with the self-confidence of youth. I shall watch your success with interest.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Jno. Otis

Cadet O.O. Howard  
West Point

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291 4/27/1851 *From:* Rowland [B.  
Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0273a

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Apr 27th 1851

Dear Mother

I have just come up from dinner and Charles has not returned from S School so I take time between the services to write home. I have been this forenoon to hear Prof Loomis of Waterville College at the Baptist Church. I like him very much. I shall hear him again this afternoon. Last Sabbath I heard Dr Dwight of Portland of the 1st Parish. They are both tallented men and excelent preachers. It is a lucky day for the people here when their preachers exchange.

We heard from Otis, week before last but I suppose I can tell you no news from him, as you have probably had a letter since then.

My health is good except a wretched cold that I have got in common with every one I meet.

I thought my old Chum at Readfield had forgotten me but I was agreably surprised a few days ago to rec a letter from him of four pages. Hood is a fine fellow and I wish to keep up a correspondence with him as long as I can. He says they are making preparations to have a May celebration at Kents Hill. I almost wish I was there to participate in it. After having beautiful weather for a week it begins to look like a storm again. I have two or three prodigious great, rough, logs that I shall make a violent assault upon, tomorrow in case it rains.

Monday Morning

I have just been examining into the State of my finances and I find that they amount to \$.01 sum total. It isn't quite the thing to be quite so short. There are quite a number of unexpected expenditures that have reduced me thus low, some necessary and some perhaps unnecessary. But most of them are sufficiently accounted for. I cannot send my entire Bill this time, for I cannot come at the exact amount, but I should like to have Father send me \$5.00 by Saturdays mail, and I will send for the rest as soon as I can find out the amount. Boarding in Commons begins to be rather borous. One or two terms is very well but three terms of the same monotonous living, the last term not half so well as the others, makes it rather hard. It is Beans, Fish & Fish hash, Fish hash, Fish & Beans from the beginning to the end of this term together with an altogether superfluous quantity of sower, (I should have said tart, I beg Mrs Masons pardon.) butter, poor Coffee and hard bread, to say nothing of the 'noise and confusion' of 20 boarders, which of course is inimical to study. I am going to have a hard time next term if get into College in the Fall. I have twice that to do that most scholars at my time in the course have, but I can do it if I have health and good spirits.

Just across the way, Mr Woods is erecting a new Acad. It is a wooden building, but has a steeple as tall as ours. It is a stock company, I believe, that are building it. I shouldn't think it would be a very profitable investment.

My love to all. Write by Saturdays mail.  
R

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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292 4/27/1851 *From:* Charles [H. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0273b

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

Yarmouth April 27

Dear Mother

I will once more take my pen to tell you how I get along away from my home. It has been two weeks since we wrote home, on account of father's going through here we did not write last Sunday. I should like to have seen father very much but did not know the day that he would go through and my lessons came in the afternoon so that I could not go up to the Depot every day.

My health is as good as comon. I feel as though it would be pleasure to work now I have been with out work so long. Perhaps I shall feel diferent after I have waked a while. They have began to <work> in their gardens here in Yarmouth. I hope our garden will be sowed early. Are you not going to have any help but Martha <this> summer. I wish you could have help enough so that plant all of your flowers. I want to see a pretty garden when I come home. Tell Delie he must help you all he can and not go away. He remembers my promise to write him a letter. I think likely I shall next week.

It has been very pleasant this last week. I went to hear a man read Shakespear two evenings. We have had three singing schools and have got singing books. Give my love to Delie, Martha and all. I shall be to home in little more than three weeks. Rowland has gone to prayr meting. I have been to meting all day. Write soon so that we may hear from home and from Otis for I suppose you have heard from him since we have. I suppose Roland will go to farming soon.

Good bye. From your Afec son  
Charles

[Envelope]

[Postmark] North Yarmouth ME Apr 28

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine