experiences are requisite to mature the mind. I have been industrious, but I can yet bracket a child is intellect. Of what avail do you suppose all my studying is to be? Could I acquire all the knowledge of a Macaulay, it would not add one little to my happiness. But such is man. Just let ambition once enter his heart, like a shot shot, and his life will be a restless stride after something he can hardly tell what. So far, however, as ambition leads him to develop the powers of intellect, which the God of nature has given him for cultivation, so far it leads in the right track. With one the eye of hope penetrates the distant future, and marks in fancy, a happy, quiet place, where I can enjoy domestic ease, serenity; and, surrounded with warm friends, I can live a contented life. How foolish such dreams. When a man has once launched his heart upon the idea of ambition, he will never rest till disappointed hopes have driven him, broken and shattered, into a quiet harbor. His happiness must consist in reaping the fruits of his ambitions efforts. Methinks I have been talking as though to myself. What I should have said is that briefly is, that I might in the end have been as contented I happy and as industrious as my industrious farmer; but that the channel of my life is now turned in another direction, that quiet retirement could not now afford that contentment.

Remember me again to all. Don't puzzle yourself too much with the half-solution to nonsense. Send your way now if this find in my letters. Good night.

Ours affectionately...

C. May, 1851
Have you learned how Aunt Martha Jane is suited with city life? I wrote Uncle Henry a letter the other day in compliance with Aunt Martha's request, which she made of me when I was at Hallowell. I have not heard from Peleg lately. Perhaps it is his vacation. Almost every day some young man, who expects to be "found deficient" this coming January, comes to me for "citizens' clothes". I have not yet posted with the post office, but I have got a pretty good price. I understand once to dander her my undershirt, but this made my uniform coat so cold, I was colder than before. Dan & company her well versed in cold weather as you very well know. My uniform coat is lined but not weathered. It addition of very good service as it buttoned up to keep warm. I wear it you best. I should more for a good solid pair of boots. Mrs. Wake has a new pair to suit you, Mr. Wake, several articles of protection.

Uncle Endicott said that Roland was growing taller, perhaps and that he looked a little. I am sorry for the latest he will for there is nothing that injures the appearance of a young man more than having more for his constitution than the liver is to do with the lungs into a small compass by not keeping up the lungs. Maybe he has not seen shoulders in their proper place. The Charly's family keep up the right. How is Charles getting along with in a call for studies? The best scholar in this school! And said that the widows place the little man, Delia - is not to see to herings, that good scholar? When I graduate from this place, Delia will be a young man... it does not take long for a little boy to become a man in nature; but much time of much...
I got out of paper yesterday, so you must excuse me. I write to all the family. My love to my cousin Martha Ann. I never saw her, but her sister Lydia & I were old cronies. Does she look like Lydia? You must try to persuade her to come with you. For the poor girl has no mother behind to presume me to home. Has anybody heard from Addison of late? Argo Gilmore, you wrote me, was sick with you. Has he recovered? I am glad father stopped at Mrs. Waite's while in Portland, for it gives Mrs. Waite much pleasure to have my friends call on her. So for today, perhaps the best as well see me as my friends.

Next week we will leave to her to say. I should like to see her at any rate. Tell Rawland that he hasn't got anything this her to do than to write me letters this vacation. If he goes again, I hope he must give my respects to Mr. Sanborn's little family & all my friends there. I went to make a visit yesterday, but found him gone to New York. And said that I looked over to Stony Point, I meant to cold of his writings, when I went to Bear's Kill. I expect now. No more for a little.
Almost every day some young men who expect to 
able to get leave of absence on next Christmas, and visit 
Uncle Ward, but it is uncertain whether Capt. Renshaw 
the superintendent of the post, will grant it or not. 
Yesterday we had a rain storm. In the night it 
cleread away, and is now as cold as it will ever be. I 
expect we shall suffer somewhat with the cold this 
winter, especially those of us who cannot get a great 
coat like January. Remember me to uncle’s little boys. 
I suppose they are now going to school. I wrote a letter 
To uncle I mailed it yesterday for Washington. You did not 
say that he had gone back to Congress, but I presume 
that he had. Write as often as you can. Ask Howland 
what has become of Mr. Jewett, for I have not heard from 
him for a long time. Probably he will spend his 
vacation in Brunswick.

Good night, Your affectionate son

Olive C. Howard.

[Handwritten note at the bottom:]

Good Rebecca...when you graduate next year...will be a young man...It does not last long for a little...
Mr. N. Howard
South Cats, Md.

A. A. Howard
West Point, D. C., May 1837.

Dear Brother Nelson,

I have always been grateful to let this time pass by without having replied to your letter, but here is an answer of possible. You began by telling me how care
are pleasant days with you. Would that the days were none
and the weather were still. We almost have a festival of departing from a lovely day
for the dear, long, gray storm. The cold, dark, that you
Can hardly imagine how dreary. The chill in the air, when the snow has gone, is long
as long as I have. The snow is back again, and I understand
as joyously as you please, living as I am with the
first part of spring to come. My father, my mother, we are
constantly coming nearer, nearer. Come to think of it,
you will be at home in the near, the world will roll away. I'm
not at home, but I am with the world, I am determined after the winter
time to come. That it will be no sooner for me. On the
first as on the middle of the month, you are to be
examed in mathematics by the eighth of the
other studies will not come till the first of
You said Bennett was sick, and if you went. If not, you, but if you
I feared his own condition would not endure. The heavy
time to which he has been obliged to return for the last
few years. I hope he will soon be well again, for he is far from
home, with little to look for, but the strength of his mind
right away. I shall be home. That I am getting on admirably.
Homeward bound occasionally, but on the whole about as


Thad a letter from Uncle Hart the other day. He says his family are about as usual. Augustus is better now. I have to add my name to those of the few that will never be the same. Our examination is fast approaching; and is looked upon with dread by some of our class. There is more than one who will not rather be shot than be found deficient. I can see the last of my first year off all hope of passing. Its doomed in vain; but has been my sole comfort ever since we came into November. Some fallen from the first section gradually, till he has got to the end next to the last. Not the person, but the things he must face for him. I had tried as hard as he. I believe I could go home with a very good conscience. You asked me if I saw Mr. Wells. Yes, I have known him ever since first term. I know all from Maine as well as almost every man in the country. Mr. Teller of E. Taurmont we came here two years ago as one of the few looking young men you can find. I at once a dream came into my leg from which he suffered much. He had or amputated. He has now an artificial leg, which serves him to just a partner. That you would hardly detect his deprivation. He is a splendid-looking man. The best of orators of all which Maine has sent. This time. Mr. Wells. Mr. Clary (of Banger) your father in a picture - perhaps you may see Wells. Give my love to all on paper - I write as soon as you can. Affectionate Brother

A. B. Hartward

Please let us in a Military Parade. You ought to be one as at least belong to the present. It about the best I can render.
Dear Mother,

May 4 1861

I have been visiting all day. I beg you not to send my clothes to the Baptist church. I have been in the school, and the superintendent has sent for the teachers for the year, and appointed a committee to tell where the school should be located. For the school is not in the barn house, has the same appearance as before, and has two rooms to a house.

The weather is pleasant today, although it rained last night, it looks very bright and wet, and the students have all day. I teach, a little on each age. I don't have any pleasant weather for it cannot last all day. The students at Vermont had their Mayting yesterday. I forgot to send a letter to have them take care of our students while we were there. But we have not heard from them very lately. The teacher at the school where the other boy in the township informed him that the teacher's wife was very ill. She is not in a bad state, we think it is about time to go. My health is as good as yesterday, if I get along well with my studies, have been there, very satisfying. I am in the last part of my book. Mr. Weeks has got his Academy hoisted, it stands pretty well. He has made me think he would do so for himself. Nowadays I see and do so much. I am very glad we have begun puzzling today. They have turned some of the papers over to read, and it is better to be sure than sure. It is not going to rain today. I thought it would come in any case. I hope they will not think about it. Please give my love to them, and be sure we shall not write another letter. Your son, Absalom
Dear Mother,

I waited this morning till after the mail arrived expecting to receive a letter from you, supposing that you wrote Saturday as I requested. But as I hear none, I conclude that Mother wants any whole bills before the banks are open. So I will make it up as near as I can and send it in this letter. If I do not get it right, I shall have to let the balance lay over till next term at which time I will make it up. The bill is as follows:

To Board 11 wks. at $3.25 per mo. 24.35
- Books for classes &c. 18.75
- Singing School for ten and twos 1,00
- Repairs 100
- Extra for Transports 100
- Wood & Oil 100
- Excursions 1,15
- Jan 4th 36.30

I have made up the bill as near as I could but I don't suppose it is enough. There is enormous damage this term and do not know what the average is yet. My clothes are rather worn, and I suppose that I must leave a little the vacation. Would it not be better for me to buy new?
My dear Son,

I just received your last letter, but I fear they will be but poorly answered. I have for some days been promising myself this morning for writing you, but I seem as usual rather pressed for want of time, for after my usual round was performed and getting a pair of slippers, about to commence, Mrs. Bullough and Davies came in for your father to assist them in their business, which has hindered me some. I feel as though I had not much comfort you have recovered your health with much less than I could have expected at one time, so your school report—Mathematics, 4; English, 6. This reduction in your in your standing weight, surely nothing of your health can be from or even have been weighing it in my own mind when, on all accounts, I cannot come to that point. I think we must come in June, for many reasons are forming (which I desire to have done up in some shape) cannot be left until June, as I must return to the school, and probably get established at home, and a great many reasons I could name, then the duration there at that point, would be a considerate one, and perhaps more so, to hurry and your father, but that is a small reason for our visit. I think we shall come on about the tenth of June. I have not written to Living on the subject yet, but I think on many accounts, that would suit her, we shall probably enjoy the last object of our visits, that is yourself, all the time you can spend with us, as well one time as another. We received your Easter Collar and shall probably get there nearly night. The worst tends you send nothing about, whether
Where you are now right I shall bring you four pairs of short clothes and four pairs warm. I have got your shirt made without bosses or collars I shall probably write you again before I come to that point. I was invited to Valentine's wedding on the first day of May but did not attend on account of the rain. I have seen Thomas, and Daniel and all who were invited attended with the exception your father and I. There were about forty invited. I intend to call on them when Halls gets home. Rowland in his last letter seemed rather weary. I am in hopes his two weeks vacation will give him a nice spring. I long to see him and Bradley which is a little more than two weeks, I am afraid their common has not been as regular since Dr. Greenward away from them. Mary wrote me a letter by your father when he returned from Boston where he has lately been. I tryvt settle affairs well debt. Obama is now in New York establishing his flannels back where his father, at a letter from him the last mail he is in good health from him and in good spirits and expects to open his establishment for collection the middle of May. says all who have called on him to see him have said there would be a great rush when it is opened. I hope he will do well and be able to take the family on there in the fall. George Lathrop is with him and he has paid his daughters a man by the name of Platt. Sarah Lee tells us the first day of May and stayed about four. Perhaps she said your Uncle John wrote her and all of this spring. But Stickfield brought three days later.

She said Miss Smith has been sick this spring and was not quite sensible. I saw at church last Sabbath. Kate Benjamin with Laura Howard. Miss Ann Howard has been sick all the spring. Dolly says it is ten minutes past twelve and dinner is nearly ready. I know you will think this hurried letter a small compensation for your two long letters but the mail will soon pass here and I must finish at once. Your ever忠实

E. P. Howard
C. W. Howard  
West Point, Oct. 20th, 1833

Dear Mother,

I received your letter this morning and hasten to reply to it. You said that you should come to see me in the first of next month. Perhaps the 10th. at West Point, one cannot see here his mother without a permit and my examination will come about the last of June. I understand there will be a little time to see you. The examination of all Classes begins the second day of June and continues the all the examination generally lasting till the 15th. Since it is most convenient for you to come the first of next month rather than the last if you will get here about the 15th. I can be with you more than at any other time. I beg an examination in mathematics with the have lasted there, so that I shall be one at my ease. Write me as soon as possible. Tell me if you cannot come about the 15th. You spoke of my best friend. This is nothing uniform in them as particular, everybody thinking his own taste, and as for me, I have little preference of any the other white. If I does not resemble the postage, would like to have some send Mrs. Sargent's letters back. 

Your son

C. W. Howard
Stands are as follows. I write you that I went to see
him on Saturday afternoon. I was out for being
off limits. The Report was written off after I came
in my office. Some weeks after this I went to a
letter to him. The Saturday and contrary it
does the Commandant. I found that he was
then acting Commandant as Capt. Alden was away.
I was at the office in quiet. It rained, I spoke
to him. He would go to the court. But if this was
not I in the morning. I wrote another I went to see
Brinks' Office (the Superintendant). That time was
to them. Capt. Alden. He told me to carry an
A to the Commandant. I gave it to him. Again. I asked
him to forward it. Then asked Capt. Brinks if
there was anything improper in my permit. He said he
would talk with me about it some other time.

The next day I was reported for carrying a permit
to the Superintendant, which, the Commandant had refused.
To forward. I went to see Capt. Alden. He told me then
returned. I explained to the Commandant, that he was
the Superintendant's name given. He said I was not in
fact, that he had refused my intimation with a Soldier
that it was not advisable to run on it, but that
the Commandant is an instruction in that if
the sentence must be preserved for the life of proper.
Discipline that if I subjected myself to this harm or the
Soldier's name, that I owed myself to the Soldier,
and that it would be of great injury to me in my
position. Capt. Alden, the Adjutant General, also talked
with me—said, I must not think I had said that it
was not the same but the position that he occupied that
placed me at such a distance. I was at first angry,
could see nothing but folly of ignorance in all the facts,
but I saw that commandante between Officers' discipline would be
impossible of all discipline of carried out, and here
they do not have any explanation to their generally
rules. There is a fellow who, if he remains in the Army
will be promoted. I remember it once. I don't mention
this to his advantage, for it would do me good. I wished
you to know just how it was if the advantage.—

In Charles, I recline in the cell, there are their Spaniards.
It would be the most acceptable of presents. I tell now
that this whole family in so true this would be a wish
for your love that if I can ever you would have it
taken. Wish to Lydia right now, as she write to
know when you will go. I am expecting such happiness
from your coming that fear something will be done.
Perhaps it is better that you should come before I
go into Camp, for whatever you may bring me I
can get better as long as I am in families. Give my
love to all, and write right away. As what I may know not better
you will come exactly as the battle or later. My wards
for the month of March is as good as I could have
expected. Though I did not expect it to be the 85th Brigade.
Further, this is only for one month. I shall be 58 in second
in general standing, I think. I have now returned to all
battle fields. —

Affectionately, your A. H. Howard.
Pocasset 12 May 1857

My dear brother,

I read a letter from you some days since and in my engagement, 
and about the first of May I neglected to 
answer it. I was very happy to hear of your 
restoration to perfect health, and that your 
wife and dear children whom you do not 
mention are in the same health as before that you 
have renewed your studies and allowed to be idle. 

I have changed my residence since you wrote 
and the trouble of moving staying for my 
plants has engaged my attention for a 
month helped Augustus remains about the same 
the rest of the family are well, my youngest daughter 
that married Mr. Harry C. S. Emmons has returned 
with her husband to Chicago. I have been 
vastly pleased with the Chicago & Rock River 
Rail Road, I regret to part with them, more particularly my little 
grandson to whom I was much attached, should your 
friend visit you from the East the coming summer 
you must enjoy on them to visit our tenants 
for yourself and to accompany them 
I got no letters or news from our friend at the 
Eastward of letters from you, they seem correct, 
and we are not expect, except for your health, 

Affectionately yours,

Wm. B. Howard
Dear Brother,

This is glorious weather. I bring you news of the weather. In the spring and these two days were sunny and fine. Today, there is a gentle breeze. I am writing to you about the weather. As the weather improves, it makes me happy. I have heard a rumor that we will have rain in the coming weeks. I do not know what to expect.

I wish you the best of luck. I will send you this week's weather report. Be safe.

P.S. I am writing to you from a pleasant morning. I hope you are well. Your affectionate brother, Charles.

P.S. I sent you the weather. Did you receive it? I will send you this week's weather report as soon as possible. - R.B.
Dear Brother,

I was so glad to hear from you again this morning, and to find out that you and your family are all well. I have been thinking of you all the time, and I hope you are well.

I have just received a letter from your sister, Mary, who tells me that she is well and that she is sending a letter to me soon. I hope you will hear from her soon as well.

I have been working hard on my studies, and I have been reading a lot of books. I am hoping to finish my studies soon so that I can go back to school.

I have been thinking about you and your family a lot lately, and I wish I could see you all again. I hope to see you soon.

Write me soon.

Love,

[Signature]

P.S. I am sending this letter by the mail today, so you should receive it soon. I hope you enjoy it.

[Signature]
May 22, 1857

Dear Brother, Dearie,

I will now undertake to write you the letter which I promised you when I was with you, although I cannot say that it will be a very good one. For I am small yet as well as you. But I presume when you are as large as I am you will be able to write a much better one than this will be.

I hope you have been a good boy since I have been gone. I tried to please my mother, every way that you could. By obeying her cheerfully and pleasantly; for I am afraid that if as well as you have not obeyed them in every thing I would not go to Betsey's. I was sent there, for I was to learn bad habits which there is no cure. One is your language which I am afraid is not very good, but I will leave off advice for I am not so much better than you, and tell you something about Yarmouth. The road that passes through the Village runs N. West & E. East. The Academy and the building in which I am now in which is the boarding are two brick buildings facing the road, each have a Belfry which you can see the bay. The Academy has a bell which is rung every hour, this building in which are rooms for four floors. the lower floor contains a dining room, wood room in which there is a cistern, a kitchen, bed room and bry the upper floor are divided into rooms for the students, the winter is, but a little way down beyond here where they are building another one of the time there is thus a building there now. Oh there was an accident happened yesterday on the R. Road that I must give
an account of the accident to the baggage car broke yesterday when the cars were coming from Portland, or at least they think that was the first that was taken for they could stick there was two trucks broke off from the engine and I believe all but two broken off from the baggage car & there was two pairs broken off of one of the passenger cars, and when they started there was something under of the passenger cars which came up through the floor and if they had not stopped as quick as they did they would all have been killed. but as it was nobody was killed or hurt there was nobody aboard but Dr. Starelton that I was interested with. I shall soon be at home selling. I hope to spot anything look neat about the loyer, for it filled with mother, some I suppose you are at work this Spring sowing the potatoes and corn since you and Roscoe will nearly as much as you can do if you eat all of the potatoes and corn I expect to find some little easy work for someone at home. I do not see any thing of the kind here I always seen with a shelf since I have been here, but I ran saw a car肤t of Calam the other who will keep our school this summer? but you cannot answer any of my questions yet I shall be glad when you get you can write, I suppose mother will read this to you for my letter not her! and all! I shall soon be at home, and then I shall not make my my folks post their branden [erasing] my letter I presume this is the first time in the shape of a letter then next that you have from me I am worth it will be better composed the last time I wrote was in February 4th 13 th here it is growing dark and I expect to write a letter to Alice tonight and send it over to one hour in time and I must conclude by saying good

Yours affectionately,

John.

Kendal and 18. Saloon.

[Signature]
My Dear Sir,

His new Sabbath day and every thing is now quiet around me. I feel a blessing in the scheme of things, and if Old Ship is not entirely at rest I think for his looking so much more at rest, and with the assurance that he will be with us soon. His nurse has gone home, and I hope to have him with us soon.

The weather is fine and mild, and the prospects are good for the future.

I have been writing to the family, and I hope you will hear from them soon.

Yours truly,

James P. Smith
Leeds, May 15th, 1841
and taken his wife and babe to Brooklyn with him he is sure of success now his health is good or better than it has been for some time he left every one much afeard the day he was not so surprised you could go down the Hudson river and go over to Brooklyn and pay a visit to my father and George Latting 25 cents for a one hour's walk up just talking but in my own and living ice cream and supper to your liking, he had not opened his establishment here but would the onefold of May, Allah, Latting, is in a good state of health and is pleased will never receive an affection of the heart in the Disease I have just received your last letter of May the 9th shall not come to this point until the 20th of June it seems to suit your father better not to go on so from a railroad meeting that is a good form of the 12th of June that it is necessary he should attend and it looks like he will have a good chance to know how it is doing my dear friend, it will not make any material difference to me unless written to Lange on the subject yet if I shall write soon to her I sometimes hear from our little make you trouble I suppose your only course is to go to the towns and please yourself there, I suppose there is only one public house at that point and that you have no means of knowing much about where we are there what means must your father take to find you, I would like to see you amusing and write the particulars it will save much writing and save some trouble which you know is foreign to your character with I have not seen your Uncle John since his return from Washington that Caddie Gallon came sorry I cannot benefit to you for he left home with your father to have to look out while seeking them I am sorry for your being the privilege of seeing Warren sometimes for even that was quite a treat to me, that you met face to face occasionally one who was kind and law to me and one who expect to see but I am very much in favor of drinking tea, let our think what it may I understand Mr. Howard has an addition to his family either a son or a daughter, I saw your Aunt at Church last Sabbath and learnt who wished me to give her love to her Carol 2nd in your next letter Valentine Bridgham has been out in the young boys the two last Sabbath a real pretty young man not so with if he is not even good looking Uncle Dong No attends meeting constantly and is in school or even he is now over eighty I have just your last letter to Charley it called for many tender recollections, which with my views and feelings it is as well never to hire in such, I have many things to regret in past life but nothing immoral or criminal neither have I gone into anything with out mature deliberation, but many things have gone different from what I could wish, we can look into our own memories and the results of the course we pursue, but we cannot look into the hearts of others, now direct them how to act I have had many thoughts called up that from the course of others the unguarded observation of others has created feelings and suggested ideas Warren could have thought of but my only and last course is to remain joining and do with what occurs and pray and hope for the best I am sorry if your life will not be spent in vain, but go forward with content in the course you are pursuing I could have wished
Dear Barton,

I am writing this to pass on to my mother. I shall not write much. Charles and myself went into Portland and Kennebunk over night. At the close of the term, Molton has probably written you that he fond your relations that knew of future life. I am well and happy. I am spending my vacation just as you need to do. I shall return a week from Thursday. Your friends made earnest prayers for you health and happiness at church yesterday. I hear that your health is good. If that is the case I advise you to sit in a solution of hina wine. Charles and I will visit a most beautiful place. My health is poor and Charles is worse. But I don't care for myself. I care for myself of Charles. Your friends are all well. I suppose that Molten wrote you that aunt Olin's state was very precarious. I should like to go to it. I don't know as I shall be able. I sent you a paper Saturday about it. I hope to see it. I am anxious. If I can, I will write to you. I just heard to you last night. Moore to Molten in the meantime once I shall see the letters. Grant has given us with Robinson now. The country he is in hopes that his health will improve in vacaction. Our folks are going to Lewiston and will later this along. He finds the insurance as a by this sound.

Lived by R.B. [Signature]
P.S. Please look in one of those Kercher's Journals or at the 3 last — and find the notice of a sale of old Lovett's estate, if you find it.

But if you don't have a letter in your next.

It is of considerable importance.

R. VV.