

C May, 1851

experience are required to mature the mind. I have been industrious; but I am yet but a child in 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 & take up its abode, and his life will be a restless strife 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 me the eye of hope penetrates the distant future, and marks, in fancy, a happy, quiet place, where I can enjoy domestic ease & prosperity: & where, surrounded with warm friends, I can live a contented life. How foolish such dreams. When a man has once launched his bark upon the sea of ambition, he will never rest till disappointed hopes have driven him, broken & shattered, into a quiet harbor. His happiness must consist in reaping the fruits of his ambitious efforts. — Mother, I have been talking as though to myself. What I should have said & that briefly is; that I might in the end have been as contented & happy as an 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-mysterious nonsense that you may now & then find in my letters. Good night.

Your affectionate son
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" the coming January, comes to
for "Citizens clothes". I have not yet parted with the
suit, that I wore when I came on; I shall not unless I see my
get a pretty good price. I undertook once to do Martha's
my under-shirt; but this made my uniform coat ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~crucial~~
so light, that I was colder than before. I am ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~proven~~ ^{proven} her
well versed in cold weather as you very well know I ~~proven~~
My uniform coat is lined, but not padded. It Addison of
very good service as it buttons up so snug. I wear with you,
vest. I would ^{give} more for a good solid pair of boots Mrs. Wait
than for any other article of protection.

Uncle Esau said that Bonland B. was growing tall, perh
and that he stooped a little. I am sorry for the latter, but we will
for there is nothing that injures the appearance of a man any rate
more, & nothing worse for his constitution, than this habit of do
ing the lungs into a small compass by not keeping Wayne he
their shoulders in their proper place. Tell Charlie the family
keep up straight. How is Charles getting along with his a call
his studies: the best scholar in his school? And said that I
witnessed the little man Delle - is not he too to be springs, when
good scholar? When I graduate from this place Cha
will be a young man... It does not take long for a little
boy to become a man, in stature; but much time & much

to get out of paper yesterday, so you must excuse this ~~letter~~
I send my love to all the family. My love to my cousin
Artha Ann. I never saw her, but her sister Lydia & I were
at ~~at~~ Cronies. Does she look like Lydia? You must try to
make her contented with you, for the poor girl has no mother
and I presume no home. Has any one heard from
Addison of late? Arga Gilmore, you wrote me, was sick
with you; has he recovered? - I am glad father stopped
at Mrs Waites while in Portland, for it gives Mrs Waites
much pleasure to have my friends call on her. As for
Lizzie, perhaps she had as lief see me as my friends.
At least we will leave to her to say. I should like to see her
at any rate. Tell Rowland, that he has not got anything
better to do than to write me letters this vacation. If he goes
King Wayne he must give my respects to Mr Samson's
little family & all my friends there. I went to make
a call yesterday, but found him going to New York.
And said that I scraped over to Stony Point, I meant to Cold
Springs, when I went to Peekskill. I expect now to be
Cha

for a little

Almost every day some young man, who expects to
able to get leave of absence on next Christmas, and visit
Uncle Ward, but it is uncertain whether Capt Brewster
the Superintendent of the Post, will grant it or not.

Yesterday we had a rain storm. In the night it
cleared 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 till January. Remember me to Uncle's little boys.
I suppose they are now going to school. I wrote a letter
to Uncle & 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
Oliver C. Howard.

Good evening. When you graduate, you
will be a young man... It does not take long for a little

C. C. Howard

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West Point N.Y. May 1851.

Dear brother Leonard

I have indeed been neglectful to let so much time pass by, without having replied to your letter; but here's amends if possible. You begin by telling me how rare are pleasant days with you. Would that they were as rare with us. We almost have a festival of rejoicing over a rainy day; for then the cheering cry goes round: "no drill". Oh! you can scarcely imagine how dragging these drills become in a warm day, especially when one has been off duty as long as I have. The arm & back ache, but I endure it as joyously as you please - living as I am with the prospect of seeing so soon my father, my mother, &c. the time constantly coming nearer & nearer. "Come to think of it" - you will be at home by the time this would reach your mouth, if ^{if you are at home, where I shall direct} so. Tell mother, if she has not determined upon the precise time to come, that it will be as convenient for me on the first as on the middle of the month, for we are to be examined in mathematics as early as the Eighth, & the other studies will not come till the 16th or 19th.

You said Jewett was sick. Tell me if you left him very sick. I feared his iron constitution would not endure the heavy tax which he has been obliged to put upon ^{it} 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 own right arm". - Tell all at home that I am getting on admirably, homesick & bluish occasionally, but on the whole about as

Mr C. C. Howard
South Leeds
Me

contented here as I have been elsewhere. A feeling of delicacy has sprung up lately & made silent the tongue of some of my more aristocratic & rival classmates. There are several who refuse to speak to me. but it does not trouble me now that I know that it is originated in jealousy & fostered by subtle slander. If one is innocent, cutting imputations may "be passed by as the idle wind;" for time is the true test of character. Mr Abbott & Mr Lee are now & shall be for the future on the most distant terms with me. One of these men stands ahead of me in Mathematics, and probably will in general standing next June. Mr Lee - I had considered him one of the finest young men I had ever met. All at once for some unknown reason he conceived a strong antipathy for me & one day when I went into his room on an errand. he very politely asked me not to enter his room unless invited. I could attribute his conduct to nothing but jealousy. - Mr Abbott too believing that I was falling into disrepute began to treat me with coolness, if not with contempt. I heard of his slandering me in other classes. & of other things, which forced me to ask an explanation. I did it in anger. talking to him harder than I meant. - The next day he came to me & wished to walk, & we walked and settled it between us. that we would forego all association & intimacy till we might come to know each other better. This treatment of my classmates touched my feelings at first; but on the whole has been a blessing to me; for I walk much straighter & mind my own business more. - I have been to our afternoon drill & strange to tell am not so tired, but I can write. -

I had a letter from Uncle Ward the other day: He says his family are about as usual. Augustus no better: Poor boy! I have to add my fears to those of the rest that he never will be better. Our examination is fast approaching; and is looked upon with dread by some of our Class: there is more than one who would rather be shot, than be found deficient; who are nevertheless fast giving up all hope of passing. Mr Broome of Maine who has been my roommate ever since we came into barracks: has fallen from the first section gradually till he has got to the one next to the last: He still perseveres. but he says that there is but precious little hope for him. If I had tried as hard as he, I believe I could go home with a very good conscience. You asked me if I knew Mr Webb. Yes. I have known him ever since I first came. I know all from Maine as well as almost every man in this Corps. Mr Tilson of E. Thomastown Me. came here two yrs ago one of the finest looking young men you can find. & all at once a disease came into his leg - from which he suffered much & then had it amputated. He has now an artificial one; which serves him so good a purpose that you would hardly detect his deprivation. He is a splendid young man. the best & smartest of all which Maine has sent this time. He, Mr Webb & Mr Stevens (of Bangor) go on furlow in a few days - perhaps you may see Webb; - Give my love to all my friends - I write you as soon as you can; Affectionate brother
O. C. Howard.

I leave off to go to a Military Parade - You ought to see one or at least listen to the music. It is about the best I ever heard.

R.B. C.H. Howard

May 4 1851

Ed John Gilman
South Street
Maine



Dear Mother

Sarmouth May 4th 1851

I have been to meeting all day. They organized their sabbath school at the Baptist church to ^{day} choose their officers such as. Superintendent. &c. let the scholars choose their own teachers for the year. and appointed a committee, to tell where the ~~Sepan~~ should ~~commence~~. for, the whole school has the same lesson, and in course, and six verses to a lesson.

The weather is pleasant today, although it rained last night, it broke away about eight o'clock & has been pleasant all day. it looks a little like rain now. I did not have a very pleasant Mayday, for it rained here all day. The students at Brunswick had their May Training yesterday. I guess it would like to have been there. many of our students went down there.

We have not heard from ~~Alis~~ very lately. I heard land say Gilson came the other day in the cars, who informed him that John Harison's wife was very sick. I hope to hear that she is better in your next letter, which we think it is about time to receive.

My health is as good as it commonly is. I get along well with my studies. have been through my Astronomy & am reviewing it, & I am in my the last part of my Arithmetic. Mr. Woods has got his Academy boarded. it stands nearly opposite to this one. I should not think he would do so for he will ruin this Academy.

I suppose our folks have begun farming, likely they have sowed some. I expect a letter soon to hear all. how is Delia is he as smart as ever, tell him I did not get time to write him I thought I would write to him ^{today} instead of you but did not think when I began. please give my love to him and all, maybe that we shall not write another letter before we go home. Yours Affectionately A. J. Howard

Barnstable, May 4th, 60

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 see none, I conclude that Father wants my whole bill before he sends any money. 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 settle it. The Bill is as follows

To Board 11 wks at \$1.25 for term	27.75
" Books for Charles Set & dict	1.25
" Singing School for two and Books	1.80
" Repairs	1.00
" Extra for Insurance	.75
" " " Wood & Oil	1.00
" Excursion	1.00
" Fare at	1.75
	<hr/>
	\$ 36.30

I have made up the bill as near as I could but I don't suppose it is enough. There is considerable damage this term and I do not know what the average is yet. My clothes are rather poor, and I suppose that I must have a suit this vacation. Would it not be better for me to buy my coat now

made. I suppose that I could get one good enough for \$10.00. I shall want something to wear in Vacation and it appears to me that this is the best way of obtaining it, either by going to Portland or stopping at Lewiston. Write what you think about it. If Father does not wish to send the money for all of my bills in a letter, I can leave the Board bill till the first of next term. But the others must be paid now. You must determine what you think about my clothes and act accordingly. If Father has sent any money he can deduct it from the amount he would otherwise send. I will write on Rief of the money and tell you when I wish you to meet me at home. Excuse my haste for I have a long head to write in a few hours and none of it is yet read. I have a bad cough but am in hopes to cure it soon. My love to all

Ever affectionately

Rowland B Howard

My dear Son,

Leeds. May. ^{the} 7. 1847.

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I ^{have} just reread your two last letters 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 pressed for want of time for after
after my usual round was performed and ^{my} Johny, a pair of
pants patched, about to commence, Mrs Lethrop and
Francis came in for your father to assist them in their busi-
ness, which has hindered me some, I feel as though I had many
comforts, you have recovered your health with much less loss
than I could have expected at one time, as your March report
Mark's Mathematics, & English. H. this reduction in your
in your standing weighs merely nothing if your health
is as firm as ever I have been weighing it in my own mind
when, on all accounts I can best come to West Point, I
think we must come in June, for many reasons our forming
(which I desire to have done up in some shape) cannot be left
untill June, R.B.H. will have returned to his school, and Lizarly
get established at home, and a great many reasons I could
give, then the Military show at West point, would be a
curiosity to me and perhaps more so, to Lizzy 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 Lizzy on the subject yet, but I think on many
accounts that would suit her, we shall probably enjoy the
first object of our visit, that is yourself, all the time you
can spend with us, as well one time as another, We received
your Cadet Collar and shall probably get them nearly
right. The waistbands you said nothing about, whether

those you wear are right, I shall bring you four pairs of
^{cotton} footings and four pairs woolen footings I have got your
shirts made without bosoms, or collars, I shall probably
write you again before I come to West 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 ~~met~~ with Thomas
since, and Laura, said all who were invited attended
with the exception your father and I. There were
about forty invited, I intend to call on them when
R.B.H. gets home, Rowland in his last letter seemed rather
weary I am in hopes, his two weeks vacation will give
him a new spring I long to see him and Chanley, which
is a little more than two weeks, I am afraid their commons
has not been so regular since Mr. Furset boards a way
from them Lissy wrote me a billet by your father
when he returned from Boston, where he has lately
been, to try settle Ansars old debts, Olsa is now in
Brooklyn in New York establishing his Mammoth
beehive his father rec'd a letter from him the last
mail, he is in good health ~~for~~ him, and in good
spirits, and expects to open his establishment for exhibition
the middle of May, says all who have called in
to see him have said their would be a great
rush when it is opened, I hope he will do well ~~at~~
and be able to take his family on there in the
~~fall~~ George Lathrop is with him, and he has ~~for~~ his
partner a man by the name of Platt Sarah Lee, called
here the first day of May, and stopped an hour
~~perhaps~~, she said your Uncle John's wife has been ^{sick}

all of this spring, doct Stinchfield brought Sarah here
he said Mrs Sampson had been sick this spring
and was now quite feeble, I saw at church last Sabbath
Kate Benjamin with Laura Howard, Melvin Howard
has been sick all the spring, Dellie says it's ten
minutes past twelve and dinner is nearly ready
I fear you will think this hurried letter a small
compensation for your two long letters, but the
mail will soon pass hence and I must finish
at once, Yours in haste Eliza Gelmore

O. O. Howard

C. C. Howard

West Point N. H. May 9. 1851

Dear Mother,

I received your letter this morning and hasten to reply to it. You said that you should come to see me the first of next month, perhaps the 10th. In West Point one cannot see even his mother without a permit, and as my examination will come about the tenth of June I fear I shall have little time to see you. The examination of all classes begins the second day of June and continues till all are examined, generally lasting till the 20th. 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. My own examination in mathematics will then have taken place, so that I shall be more at my ease. Write me as soon as possible & tell me if you cannot come about the 15th. - You spoke of my wristbands. There is nothing uniform in them or peculiar, everybody suiting his own taste, and as for me, I have but little preference if they be only white. If it does not increase the postage, I would like to have you send Mr Sawtelle's collar back. You sent me two journals. a good story continuing through them & not then finished. I should like to have the next - the last is Apr 17: the next probably Apr. 25th. I put in a permit to visit Warren the other day, & it was refused. Don't tell this to any of his folks. The circum-

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 Col John Gilmore
 South Lewis
 Maine

stances are as follows. - I wrote you that I went to see him one Saturday afternoon & was reported for being off limits. This report was rather off - after I gave in my excuse. Some weeks after this I ^{wrote} ~~sent~~ a permit to visit him one Saturday, and carried it to the Commandant. Mr Jones Lieut & Supt was then acting Commandant as Capt Alden was away. He tore my permit in flutters & abruptly & gruffly told me he would sign no such permit. At 11 (this was at 9 in the morning) I wrote another & went to Capt Brewerton's office (the Superintendent) - Lieut Jones was there - Capt B. looked at it - told me to carry it to the Commandant. I gave it to Mr J. again - saying he refused to forward it. I then asked Capt Brewerton 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 Superintendent, which the Commandant had refused to forward - I went to see Capt Alden who had then returned & explained to him the circumstances, told him who Sergeant Sutherland was &c. &c. He said I was not in fault, that he had noticed my intimacy with a Soldier - that it was not discreditable to me or to him; but that the Army was an Aristocratic institution & that its distinctions must be preserved for the sake of proper discipline; that if I suffered myself to visit him or the Soldier's barracks, that I laid myself open to slander, and that it would be of great injury to me in my

position. Capt Williams, the Adjutant, of Maine, also talked with me - said, I must not think it hard - said that it was not the man but the position, which he occupied, that placed me at such a distance. I was at first angry, could see nothing but folly & nonsense in all they said; but I see that intimacy between Officers & Soldiers would be subversive of all discipline, if carried out; and here they do not have any exceptions to their General rules. Warren is a noble fellow & if he remains in the Army will be ~~proper~~ promoted sooner or later. Don't mention this to his folks, for it would do no good. I wished you to know just how it was & this is enough. -

If Charlie, Howland or Nellie could send me their Sangherry, it would be the most acceptable of presents. Sawlette has his whole family in his room - this made me wish for my brother's at least & your own if you would have it - taken - Write to Lizzie, right away, as she wishes to know when you will go - I am expecting much happiness from your coming, but fear something will ^{come to} mar it.

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 barracks. Give my love to all & write me right away - so that I may know ~~whether~~ ^{when} you will come as early as the tenth or later. My rank for the month of March is as good as I could have expected, though I did not expect it so low as 4th English Shories, this is only for one month. I shall be 1st or second in General Standing. I think - I have now returned to all Military Duty. - Mr affectionate son A. C. Howard: -

Pukikiu 12 May 1857

My Dear Stephen

I rec^d a letter from you some days since and in my engagements, and about the first of May neglected to answer it. I was very happy to hear of your restoration to perfect health, in fact your Professor of Mathematics, whose name I do not recollect informed me some time before that you had resumed your studies and appeared to be well.

I have changed my residence since you were here, the trouble of moving paying for my plans &c has engrossed my attention for a month passed Augustus remains about the same the rest of the family are well. My youngest daughter that married Mr. Henry Civil Engineer has removed with her husband to Chicago Ill. where he is engaged on the Chicago & Rock River R.R. Road. I regretted to part with them more particularly my little Grandson to whom I was much attached, should your friends visit you from the East the coming summer you must enjoin on them to visit me & obtain for yourself leave of absence to accompany them.

I get no tidings or news from our friends at the Eastward except through you, they soon write,

And yet are but wishes for your health & happiness.

Affectionately Yours

Ward B. Howard

but I cannot make up ^{my} mind what to do for I always calculated
to go to College. It is now Thursday morning as
pleasant a morning as has graced Yarmouth this
Spring - I heard a Brass Band play last night and
it was very good music to me -

From your affectionate
brother Charles

P.S. I wish you a pleasant morning)

P.S. I sent you 'The Seaman' Did you see it. I will
send you this weeks paper as soon as it comes
R.B.H.

Yarmouth May 14th 51

Dear Brother

This is glorious weather. I assure you,
I find it remarkable. we have had two pleasant days this
spring and those two days were yesterday and today. I have
had a bad cough for about 3 weeks but if we are going
to have such weather as this I shall have it no longer.
It is enough to make one sick to have a cold drizzling
rain and an uncomfortable East wind. I don't know what
in the world started me to write to you today. for you have
havent answered my last. but somehow I got my
pen in my hand and found myself addressing my
Dear Brother. Our term is most out again and I long
to get away from Yarmouth. I am heartily sick of
of it everything in it. But one week more and I shall
not see it again for a fortnight. Charles is anxious to
go into Portland this week but I don't know whether
he will be able to or not. I may go it at the close of
the term. I havin heard from them lately. Jewett is sick.
The Dr says he has a liver complaint and his lungs are
affected by sympathy with it. His sickness is doubtless
caused by a want of exercise and years of inaction
I fear that he will have to give up his school or rather
I fear he will not give it up until he is as far gone
for recovery. He was sick last winter as has been so
almost the whole of this term. The students have almost
all left Brunswick taking it as an excuse. That Puffblown

sun had the small Pox, so they all cleared out 2 weeks before
the end of the term,

Thursday.

I had a letter from home this morning saying
that the folks were all well, but the worst of it was
that it said enclosed is \$20.00. And when I opened
it, it was not there. I have written Father by this morning's
mail. We have not got along as well this term as
well as we did last in our studies. We have read
VI Books in Virgil and as far as poetry in the Greek Reader.
We shall have Virgil to finish and a shalact to read
next term, the Greek Reader to finish and a review
of the whole course besides writing Latin and Greek
translations of Arithmetical Algebra, I look upon it as rather
a hard time work especially as it the hottest
and most untidy like season of the year.
I wish I could go on to West P.O. or to New Jersey
or some equally pleasurable excursion, but
as I haven't a mint of money I suppose I shall
have to rest contented with but little amusement.
Excuse a short, miserable, letter and write soon.
Are you acquainted with the cadets from this State?
I hear a Mr Webb from Calais often enquired after.
Write me about him.

Love off Brother

Bowling B Howard

Dear brother. Oliver G. Howard Farmville May 14th 51

I now take my pen to answer to your most accept-
able Letter which I rec. in season, & which subject was one on which
my feeble thoughts have rested much. Ever since I was a very sm-
all boy (not a giant now) I have had my mind made up that I
could do what any one could, and then of course if I could do what any
one could, I could accomplish what any of my brothers could, and I have
thought that I would take (as you guessed in your letter) that my brother
for a pattern to go by. & I have always thought it would be a great
honor to go to College, until very lately, or until I rec your
letter. I will tell you another example the which I have looked
at as tried to follow that is Uncle John C. now I have showed you
some of my thoughts, & if you will just stop one minute and look
at them you will see in them the evil ^(Ambition) which you think (but I hope not)
has destroyed your future happiness and peace of mind. If I am
coming to the same point ^{inner would go there} (not wanting) but the point of unhappiness
I think I had better stop where I am (I said if so), still I cannot think
of the idea of always working on a farm all of my lifetime, if that
was all the object I should have ^{shall} ~~wait~~ for ahead I don't think that
I shall ^{wish to} ~~get up~~ late nights and get up early mornings to study if I have
no prospect for any thing but to hire out to work on a farm for a living.
I shall not live long, but I do not know but I can have education enough
without going to college, but you seemed to write as though you would
rather I would be a farmer. Mother says that I shall go to
Kent's Hill next spring I suppose I shall not go to school until
next ^{winter} again, do you wish me if I go to Kent's Hill to study
Latin or don't you want me to study Latin at all. I don't
I do not know what to do for a living unless I work on a farm

May 15th 1857

1857

E H Howard

Yarmouth May 17th 1857

Dear Brother Selie

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. & tried to please ^{father} mother every way that you could, by obeying ^{them} cheerfully & pleasantly, for I am afraid that I as well as you have not obeyed them in every thing. I would not go to Betsey's any less I was sent there, for you will learn bad habits. where there is so many there 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. & S. East. the Academy and the building that I am now in which is the boarding ^{house} are two brick buildings facing the road, they each have a Belfry ^{from} which you can see the bay. the Academy has a bell which is rung every hour, this building in which we room has four floors the lower floor contains a dining room, wood room in which there is a cistern, a kitchen bed room and butry the next 3 floors are divided into rooms for the students, the wharf is but a little way down beyond here where they are building vessels most of the time there is there a building there now. Oh there was an accident happened yesterday on the R. Road that I must give

an account of the axle 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 before
they could stop there was two trucks broke off from
the Carriage and I believe all but two broken off from
the Baggage car, & there was two pair broken off of one of the
passenger cars, and when they stopped 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. Garcelan that I was
intended with.

I shall soon be at home selling I hope to see every-
thing look neat about the dooryard, for it pleases mother so much
I suppose you are at work this spring planting potatoes and corn
I guess you and Rose will ^{have} nearly as much as you can do if you drop
all of the potatoes and corn. I expect to find some little ^{Bosch} ^(mean expression) ^{and in jest}
& lambs at home. I don't see any thing of the kind here I haven't
seen a sheep since I have been here, but I say saw a car full of calves
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 so
you can write. I suppose mother will read this to you, give my love to
her; and all! I shall soon be at home, and then I shall not
make you my folks puzzle their brains ^{trying to read} ~~reading~~ my letters
I presume this is the first thing in the shape of a letter, the next one
that you have from me I am in hopes will be better composed.
The text this forenoon was in Hebrews 4 chap 13 however.

it is growing dark and I expect to write a letter to Otis to night in an-
swer to one he wrote me, and I must conclude by saying good

Rodolphus H. Gilmore

From your Affectionate brother
Charles

one of my boys to have settled on our old place, but it had
long ceased to be any profit before it was disposed of,
and even if it had been kept for Charles, he might have seen
some other place he liked better after his brothers were both
gone Leeds would have lost half half on all of its charms
as Charles loves his dear friends so much, a letter is his idol
your letters are wrapped up carefully and put in the best
place, and read over a great many times, sometime I fear
this cough will destroy him, Dottie is delighted to have Charles
come home, and has shown more pleasure than I could
have thought him capable of, your father and R.B.H.
have ~~not~~ returned and brought news that Uncle
John wife is worse and will never recover what an uncon-
fortable situation your uncle must be in, but I hope
Ben will yet recover and collect his family once more
The foliage is beautiful at present, the fruit trees just
begin to show their blossoms, and the forest trees are
all leaved out, and the meadows are a beautiful green
all nature seems to smile notwithstanding the discom-
forts of man, I have talked with R.B.H. about sending
his dequotype he thinks it looks too to send away
he has yet got to learn that the looks that we love
are always acceptable at all times, Charlie has just
ask how much it would cost to go to West Point, and then
ask if he could not go, with ~~him~~ me if I thought he
could be restored to health by a journey he should take
one, his mind is all in commotion & see, I have been
talking with your father concerning the time we shall
leave home, he says the 17th of June we will set for our departure
we shall probably arrive the 20, or 21, your father has
some business in Worcester we may stop there if we think we
cannot stand it to go so fast, I shall write again before
we leave home, Yours with much affection Eliza Gilmore
O. O. Howard,

My dear Son,

Leeds May 25th 1851.

It is now Sabbath day and every thing is now
quiet around me, I feel a subdued pleasure in the scene around
me, Old ship is not entirely ^{blind} & I think for he is barking tremend-
ously at Capt. Bear Turner who is walking past leading his
little girl, Charles is trying to help Rodolphus, and John is get-
ting their Sabbath school lessons, which seems to try his patience
mightily, Martha is all the help I have, Rowland and Charles
come home last Wednesday, they went into Portland Monday
night, stop at Mrs. Waiter over night, called at Aunt Abby's
and did some shopping and returned to Yarmouth Tuesday eve-
ning hoping coming home. Charles has returned with that same
old cough only increased, and is very anxious to have it cured
& ~~he~~ hardly know what to say to him, when he entreats me
to apply to a physician for I fear the medicine they would
administer might destroy what constitution he has, he is
now taking thoroughwort Symp & am in hopes he will
be better, Your father has gone to meeting and took
R.B.H. him Rowland A. J. and Silas Bates, have dressed
and taken some other route, to get through with the
Sabbath, and now where is this? is the next question if in health
about leaving the Church, (for the clock is now striking
twelve) after listening to a learned discourse from one who
fills one of the highest stations (as a divine) in the United
States, I hope he has communion of spirit with the Most High
for if he has he is even in communion of spirit interested in
the hearts of all around him, Mrs. Gilmore has been here

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 Wayne a week ago last Friday, If you were not
so confined you could go down the Hudson river, and go over
to Brooklyn and pay A. Gilmore, and George Lathrop 25.
cents for seeing his bees work ~~in~~ ^{just} as they did in Wayne and
buy ice cream and honey to your liking, he had not
opened his establishment ^{when he was} here, but would the middle
of May, Huldah Lathrop, is in a poor state of health and is
feared will never recover, an affection of the heart is the
disease, I have just received your last letter of May the 9th
I shall not come to West Point until the 20th. of June
it seems to suit your father better not to go so soon as there
is a railroad Meeting, that is a stock holders meeting the
12th of June that it is necessary he should attend, and he thinks
he shall have a good chance to know how A. is doing by that
time, It will not make any material difference to me I have
never written to Liza on the subject yet, I shall write soon to
her, I sometimes fear our visit ^{will} make you trouble, I suppose
our only course is to go to the tavern and receive you there,
I suppose there is only one public house at West Point and
that you have no means of knowing much about
where we arrive there, what means must your father take
to find you, I would like to ^{have} you ascertain and write the
particulars it will save making enquiry, and some parade
which you know is foreign to your father's wish, I have not
seen your Uncle John since his return from Washington.
that Cadet Collier I am sorry I cannot send it to you
for I let Nancy carry it home with her, so have to look at

while making them, I am sorry for your losing 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
bread and born so near me, and one whom I expect to see soon
but I am very much in favor of obeying laws, let our titulus
what it may, I understand Leth Howard has in addition
to his family either a son or a daughter, I saw your
Aunt Lucetta at church last Sabbath and Lucia who
wished me to give her love to her Cousin Otis in my next
letter, Valentine Bridgman has been out with his young
bride the two last Sabbaths a real pretty bride she is
not so with, V. he is not even good looking. Uncle Barney H.
attends meeting constantly, and is as smart as ever, he is
now over eighty, I have just ^{read} your last letter to Chanley. it
called up many tender recollections, which with my
views and feelings it is as well never to bear in mind, I have
many things to regret in past life, but nothing immoral or
criminal, neither have I ever gone into anything without mature
deliberation, but many things have gone different from
what I could wish, we can look into our own motives
and the results of the course we pursue, but we cannot
look into the hearts of others, nor direct them how to act I
have had many thoughts called up ~~that~~ from the conduct
of others, the unguarded observation of others has created
feelings and suggested ideas, I never could have thought of
but my only and best course is to remain passive, and be
watchful, and pray and hope for the best I say so, I hope
your life will not be spent in vain, but go forward with
rectitude in the course you are pursuing I could have wished

I Leeds May 26th. 51

Dear Brother

I am writing this to put in to Mother's letter. so I shall write but little. Charles and myself went into Rutland and staid over night at the close of the term. Mother has probably written you that we found you relatives, that Hunt & future well will and happy. I am spending my vacation just as you used to do. I shall return a week from Thursday. Your friends made earnest enquiries after you health and happiness. at church yesterday. I hear that your wool is gray. if that is the case I advise you immediately to dip it in a solution of ~~lime~~ ~~and~~ ~~charcoal~~ and I will warrant a most beautiful blue. My health is poor and Charles is worse. But I don't care for myself but I fear for ~~myself~~ Charles. Your friends there are all well. I suppose that Mother wrote you that aunt Ellen's state was very precarious. I should like to go to M. but don't know as I shall be able. I sent you a paper Saturday about 1-2 weeks old. I'll get a new one if I can. I don't write till I get back to you in with but write to Mother in the meantime and I shall be the letters. Jennie has gone up with Robinson into the country he is in hopes that his health will improve in vacation. Our folks are going to Lewiston and will take this along. I'll send the Governor's message by this mail.
Love by R B Howard

P.S. Please look in one of those Geneveek Journals
one of the 3 last, and find the notice of a sale
of Col Lothrop's estate. if you find it, ~~send~~
but it - cut and send it on in your next
letter, it is of considerable importance

R B N