New York May-or
rather Brooklyn June 1st 1851

Dear Otis

I suppose you have given up hearing from me again. but I think I will disappoint you if you have. I have hardly an apology to offer for not having written before. for to tell the truth I cant recollect when I have had an opportunity and shouldn't now never if not Sunday.— I have been to church twice today and now I am going to make a few crow tracks for your edification, for doubtless you will be highly edified— think I should if I knew what I were going to say, but my brain is unusually dry tonight, and I think 'twill be some thing remarkable if I succeed in filling this sheet with anything more interesting, or entertaining.— The reason why I have not had time to write for the last two weeks I have been alone in the office, and expect to be for two weeks to come. our Bookkeeper having gone to Halifax to see some of his friends,— and for two weeks prior to his leaving. I was very much engaged part of the time at the office and one week of the time in my private account, in

again, only sending you this as a rare specimen of antique manuscript, and to let you know that I have not forgotten you.— I am sure I have no idea whether I have written to you since the first date of this or not, but certainly have not forgotten you, for I have thought time and again that I was sure of going up to see you, but something has always prevented me.— I am very sorry for I want very much to see the place & students, to say nothing of the pleasure I should experience in spending a few hours with you, but summer has come & gone, the trees have budded & blossomed, and are now yielding the abundant harvest, the sickle reward of the husbandman,— thousands have enjoyed the smut air of the country, and have long since returned to their homes in the city with renewed health & vigor,— and although I am not one of that happy number I envy them not, though I would have been glad could I have spent a few weeks in some quiet country village in the happy enjoyment of (freedom from care & business, and) the smut society of those I love, but

"Twas on this, from childhood hour,
I've seen my fondest hopes decay;
Some always, came a breaking shower
When ever I wished to go away.
I ever laid a plan to go,
Both from the town & fresh air to gain
But when the mother came to know
About it, it was sure to rain"

I will have my time yet, rain or no rain (D.V) before long.— It runs in my mind that I have written to you since June, since then I have seen your ~~father~~ Mother & Miss Nute, perhaps Lizzie would send me natural, "as you like it"— I spent an evening with them very pleasantly, and was very sorry they could not remain longer,— 'twas too bad they made you such a monkeyish short visit, but perhaps

my room, and on my back,- or as Macaulay would have it "in point of fast"- sick - and for three or four days I was quite unwell.- had a sort of Spring attack, chills, fever, head ache &c &c, but I weathered it, with good treatment, and came out bright again, thanks to a kind Providence.- I didn't feel very mighty for a week or so after I got out, but am now as we have it in our Bills of Lading- "in good order and well conditioned" - Here it is the first of June.- My! how time flies. but I suppose it goes rather heavily with you. for I suppose you are expecting to see your mother and somebody else soon. what a happy boy you will be. only think of poor me, got to wait even so long. and you will soon have your Waite with you.- well,- I can't be happy myself. I like to see others so, and hope soon to have the pleasure of seeing for the first time your lady.- Sarah say she is quite pretty, and Sarah ought to be a judge.- I will not make up my mind however until I see her, and then shall be sure and not be disappointed.- don't pretend to be much of a connoisseur, but shall be able to make up my mind,- "handsome is as handsome does" - Henry Stickland was here a few days ago, but I did not see him. called at his Hotel, and his place where he does his business a number of times - Sarah has had a letter from Perry, he was at the Sydney N.S.W. Jany 16th and coming home will probably be here in the course of a couple or three months - I am glad they heard from him for they were very anxious - Silas is getting along very well, his father has been here for more than a week, has not called to see me yet and I question very much if he does.- it don't disturb me much, and most if he don't - I do not feel that I can with any degree of sincerity show him any attention more than to a Stranger, and I detest hypocracy - he is the father of one that is dear to me, but he never has been what he ought to have been, her protector and supporter,- but all this I do not wish repeated, and you will oblige me by considering it confidential.- Sarah and her Mother both know my sentiments on the subject.- and never not that I have seen the unhappiness that his conduct has caused them, I could feel more cordial towards him - When Sarah last wrote, she said that your uncle Johns wife was very sick, dangerously so; I fear she will not live, for she has been so long ill, that she must be quite low.- would be a severe loss to him, and I truly hope she may recover.- your mother was expecting to come on this month.- Sarah was out there for a day or two the first of May.- Suppose you lay aside your studies this month and go into Camp,- I'll be doubt be an agreeable change for you.- I shall try and drop down upon you some of these days, for a little while. have promised to go to Newburgh once or twice this Summer, and expect what few excursions in the north Rein I get will be all the recreation I shall have until fall when I shall most assuredly turn my head to the East, and get under the Lee of some fine young lady in that quarter,

Sept 30th Dear Otis - Right here I took a scattering spell about 4 months ago, and now think I will go on

Silas Lee's boarding house is at the Battery Hotel.
I presume you will go to see Anna in Brooklyn.

West Point N. Y. June 1st 1851.

Dear Mother,

I received your letter of the 25th a day or two ago, and am glad to find that you are still resolved to come to West Point, although not so soon as I expected. When you do come we shall probably be in Camp a few steps from the Hotel. Wherever you land ask to be carried to the West Point Hotel. After getting there father will find me very easily. He can come right to the camp & enquire for me in Mr Howard, if you please, or he can send a boy or any body to seek ~~him~~ me. Warren says that I must let him know as soon as you get here, & he will dress in citizen's clothes & go about with you & show every thing to be seen at West Point. I see him occasionally. I met him a fortnight ago yesterday at the cemetery. I saw him a moment yesterday as he was going to the Superintendent's. Be sure & never mention in his presence any thing I may have written about our respective rank, or about his receiving a commission; for this he requested me not to mention, but I believe I had written something about it before his request. Uncle Ward has particularly requested me, if possible, to bring my friends to visit him. Perhaps I can get leave. If I can, we will take a trip down to Peekskill. Lizzie writes me that she is all ready when the rest come, said that she saw Marie & William in Portland at Uncle Henry's:

Mrs Sarah Gilmore
South Lee
Maine

Q.M. Department
West Point N.Y. June
1st 1851

They told her that their mother was very low. I hope that she will recover. No blow could be more severe to Uncle in the present scattered condition of his family than her death, but it is not for us to decide what is for the best. —

I think, my dear mother, that you are wrong to regret anything that has been the result of the course you have taken. Whatever may be any expressions, which are often & perhaps too often the result of impulse, or of a momentary feeling arising from an occasional longing for the seeming quiet & happiness of my distant home — be assured that I believe that you have always done not only what you thought would be for my advantage, but what, I am confident, will eventually prove to be for my highest good. In reasoning with Charlie, I only wished, if possible, to root out the false impression which he seemed to have imbibed thus early: viz: that there was anything degrading in the circumstances of an honest farmer, or that he would be a happier man with a College Education than he could be without. I wished if I could, to make him look upon things in the proper light & see that a College course did not necessarily add to a man's happiness.

But after all a young man must learn by personal experience: for my part I have no objections to Charlie's pursuing the same course as I have pursued, but I am afraid that his constitution is not solid enough to bear a heavy tax upon it: I am certain that a sedentary life requires even more native strength, than the active life of a laboring man. I fear that I have already said too much upon the subject for Charlie's good; for the damper which a few words unseasonably & unwisely spoken will put upon the youthful, aspiring Spirits, is often felt for a long time. As I believe that more than half the man consists in his Education, I would not willingly check any feelings incentive to industry in my brother. When he gets to be a little older he must make choice for himself. Scarcely any position can really honor us, unless we conduct so as to honor the position. We may seem to be great because we occupy a high place, but we know that "Pigmies are pigmies still though perched on Alps". — You will of course do what you think best about taking him to New York. I would like much to see him. The expense must be considerable, as I am not situated so to receive you as if I had a house & home here, instead of a soldier's room, & one seat at a soldier's table: where, provided you could go, you would scarcely eat any thing for a week at least. —

Give my love to all. The Examination commences tomorrow. To-morrow will be a lively day. We are to give the Board of Visitors a Military reception. This is not very agreeable to us Cadets who have to be in ranks so long carrying our muskets in the same position a greater part of the time; but it's fun to the Lookers-on. A few plebes (Candidates for admission) are here, and their awkardness & uncomfortable drills excite many a wicked smile, which is so torturing to the homesick heart. Tell Rowland Bailey that I have received all the papers which he has sent. I cannot find the notice he asked for; one of the papers has been torn up. It may have been in that. —

Write soon. Your affectionate son

O. O. Howard. —

My dear Son, Leeds, June, 7th, 1851.

Since the arrivall of R.R.B. & G.W. H.'s letters I have felt particularly anxious to say a word of encouragement to you before the examination, and feared your having trouble with those who are so nearly associated with you might confuse you or injure your recitations, knowing as I do your sensitive nature, although you may strive to overcome your weak side, or barricade against it, still it will haunt you when you would say begone, try hard to have a free mind, you are not responsible for any ones injustice my son however galling the scandal you have suffered you must remember no one in this world, that have any mark of consequence even escape'd the voice of scandal let them alone and they often build a ~~[illegible]~~ gallows, to hang themselves, even our Saviour had enemies, in whom there was no guile, and can we who have every day are obliged (when looking into our own hearts) to acknowledge our own faults, expect to move along so smooth as not to make enemies, and particularly at West Point, where all is ~~strife~~ are striving to get as high a mark as possible, you have mentioned getting angry in your ~~two~~ last letters I know you think well of governing your temper, for it gives your enemies the advantage over you when you lose command of your own spirit, your Mother thinks you have not so strong nerves, since your sickness although you may not be sensible of it I know strength of nerve, or any other, does not return immediately

Jan.

I feel very anxious for you to have all the advantage that belongs to you because I think it is quite a privation in many respects to you to be at West Point, and you are spending some of the best part of your life, and I desire you should have that integrity which alone can give us peace of mind R.B.&b. and C.&b. return at the usual time R.B. will return on Thursday. Charley's health is better than when he came home, Mr Gilbert's daughter Ann's remains were brought here to be interred last saturday she was married about six months, we have received the April report from the War department for April, you stand at that time 2 in Mathematics, 3 in English and fourth in french perhaps you have given more especial attention to M——ics than any other study, I hope our visit at W—— P will not make any trouble for you, for I am of an opinion it is a peculiar place to see one friends We will have our visit conducted as quietly as possible, our visit will necessarily be short, but happy I hope, self possession and and a free mind are necessary ingredients for my son, we are all about as usual growing on so and, I hope your father will fill up your letter as I always like to have everything said in my letters that can be, it is near the time of mailing your father would have finished filled out the sheet but the collector has called it and must be attended to I am sorry he could not say something to cheer you along he takes great interest in situation at West Point Yours ever—

Elisa Gilmore

Portland. Jan 17th '61

Dear Howard.

I have but a few moments to write and therefore can write but a few words. I have but just got back here from home where I spent vacation. Everything here looks blue as the devil and I feel so and everybody else I believe, but "Liz"

It is cussed cold here and has been and always will be I guess. What in thunder did you let Jewett know anything about those cussed verses for? He has been giving me particular on them and "Liz" too confound her. Old Jack is in a Doctor's office is studying medicine

Perry's Eyes are about the same.

As for myself I am all right and hope you are or at least will be ere you read this but if you dont read this within a fortnight you will get well

As ever

Yours in haste

Peleg T. Perley

Cadet O O Howard
West Pt
N.Y.

Boston June 17th 1851

Dear Brother

As our friends leave for New York this morning I have taken a sheet of paper and am standing up in the bar room writing with men walking and talking all around me. When our folks come to Portland, I finally concluded that I would come as far as here with them. I should like to go the whole distance and would, were it not that I cannot leave my Books long enough. I heard her last night, that is Jenny. She is the nightengale. Canary Bird and every other warbler combined. Her power is beyond all conception and a human voice of such strength and sweetness should be received as one of the wonders of the world. But the beauty of her singing did not strike me, I was altogether lost in wonder at the perfection of her modulation and I could not appreciate her effects, or rather feel it, as I expected to feel the music of the worlds greatest singer. My health is not very excellent nor very poor. Lizzie of course attended the Concert with me and I am afraid unfavorable impressions were made upon some of her acquaintances by the looks of the person whom they supposed to be her beaux, "Engaged". Write me by mother on

Upon return I must go to Beaufort now
so good by

Your off Brother
R B Howard

Lieut R B Howard
Co "H" 2d Mass Vol
Hilton Head
S Carolina