

their bosoms, no difficulties or danger can render them very
deeply wretched. Think of some mothers whose children, though
dear to them, are lost to all sense of duty, & right, whose best
lives are degraded by dissipation. Others, who have their
children hanging upon them, from whom disease has
taken away all the pleasures of existence, whose hopes are
a blight with whom life itself is but a bitter draught. - Are
you not blessed. Should you ^{that} be unhappy; should
solicitude take away your rest, and anxiety render your
heart cheerless? No, let it not be so. Ever had I reasoned
myself into the belief that it was best to leave West Point - &
left: Why, it would not have been that I was discouraged.
Far from it. Should I be forced to leave this & ten more such
places, I would not be at all discouraged - Why? I would try
still another. So be not afraid. Like other men I am bound to
see disappointments & trials; and if I would be a man
I must not let them crush me. - Give my love to Father, Roland
& Charlie & Dillie & leave Howland & Co. to discover all we
can in my proxy letter. Lizzie has returned home -
says G, and mother has been to see her. She went to Lizzie
to the White Mountains, while she was away. Remember me
to all my friends. I have not seen Aunt Lucrecia's self
these yet. Tell me all the news. I would like to have a paper
now and then. I don't know but it would be better
for me to take one say the Journal - then I should not
be in such continued & heightened ignorance, in regard
to matters going on around without the circle of West
Point. Accept ^{this} as an apology for a letter, it being
my second effort of today. Write as often as you
can. Your affectionate Son.

A. C. Howard

P.S. { Will Father to send me some letter stamps - if
he has any, it being very inconvenient to pay a
letter since I have no money. - (see pocket) A. C. Howard

West Point P. B. Sept 25th 1857.

Dear Mother,

I have just completed a
letter to Howland and if there is material enough left in my
head or my heart you shall have one too. We are now
fairly "underweight" in the third line. One fortnight has slipped
away, since we came out of camp, already. I changed companies
in order to live with Mr Browne upon our coming into Barracks.
going from "C" company in which I was when you were here
to "D" company - the company of tall men. I stand almost at the
foot - "on the left" of it. I am comparatively as a trooper. I am now
under Lieut. Jones. As little Glosson says I put myself into the
Wolf's mouth. But I have not got a single report yet since I
came into the company. I think I have gained by the exchange.
Mr Browne is now a little unwell. went to the hospital this
morning where the Dr kept him. I presume, since he has
not returned. I am now alone. I have a splendid room
- that commands all the scenery in and around
West Point. Except that high hill directly west of the Hotel,
Kearney, Old Springs, the Hotel, the river, all meet my gaze
when I look forth from the window. The only disadvantage
is in its distance from the ground, giving such superabundant
exercise to the legs, running up and down stairs. Three pairs
of stairs every time we wish to step outdoors. But it is new,
neat, convenient, quiet & qualities very essential to a cadet, who is
obliged to study & to keep clean. It has two alcoves in the back part
separated from each other by a partition with the whole front open

into the room, morder that the eye of the inspecting officer may
see the beds at a glance from the door. All the rooms are
warmed by furnaces under the basement. Now that I have
located myself - I have not thought precisely. You remember the
very long building the east end of which was scarcely completed
when you were here - well, in the eastern division on the upper
story, is the north east room, you will find on the orderly
board Brown - Howard printed in small letters - over the bar
that runs along over the front of the alcoves, the same names
printed in large letters - from these dates, you may easily
discover our residence - Now that I have located myself & given
you somewhat of an idea of my position - I will pass to myself.
I am hale & hearty, books are my companions, study & strolls
my recreation - The change from languor & comparative
involence to immediate & intense application was rather
sudden, but its ^{effects} ~~relations~~ upon me has not been unfavorable
to health. In drawing I have made a beginning & hope to do
moderately well. In riding the Frenchman finds no fault
with me, in mathematics I made ^{for the first week} the second best mark in my
section, a man near the foot of it having made the first.
In French I probably shall not keep my stand, for there certainly
is not an individual in the section, who does not know more about
the language than I, and then I am way up to the head - To give
you an idea of the way we recite in French - Professor Agnel, himself
a Frenchman, who speaks & understands the English so well that
you could not detect that he was a Frenchman, is our instructor, & man
he is full of activity, driving, expecting, thrusts to be as active as
himself - He is the best instructor that I ever saw under. He gives
us a reading lesson, this lesson must be got in such a manner that we

can give him the English, as he reads the French. He gives us a
a long lesson in English at the same time that we must translate
into French, orally as he reads the English. He addresses us in French
telling ^{us} to shut the door, open the window, tell what page or
where our lesson is in French - If we cannot learn the language
by such methods of instruction, we may as well give up hopes
of learning it at all. At sometimes seems like jargon to me
but he slackens his pace a snail, so that my slow ear may
follow him; whereas I find that all the others can understand
him I repeat without difficulty. In Mathematics we have as instructor
Guy Deek. said to be the "kindest Mathematician that ever graduated
here. If a man knows any thing he seems to have the power to
bring it out of him; if he does not know a thing he is too sure to
discover it. This much for myself and instructors. You ought
to see the battalion now, more than three times as large as when
you were here; twice every evening we are marched with
the music by separate companies from the barracks out on to
the plane just in front of the Professors' houses, where you
saw Vassco's company drilling, when father & I went out to see
him. This makes a splendid appearance for the battalion is
now so well drilled that it moves just with as much precision
as clock work. Now for yourself. How has your health been since
your journey? You warn me not to let care wrinkle my brow &
frown my forehead - not to let trouble embitter my spirit or
render it gloomy; Now you should remember that upon your
health & strength depends the happiness of your children. That
these must not be impaired by anxiety, by care, by over exertion.
Let your mind be easy then, for your children are well circumstanced
no remorse is knowing at their vitals; while innocence reigns in

Pukskiu Sept 24 1851

Dear Cousin

Your kind letters contain expressions of too friendly a nature not to impress upon me that it is my bounden duty to answer at my earliest opportunity, also the kind interest you were pleased to take in my personal welfare, you will also except my acknowledgments for your kind wishes for my restoration to health? I am of the opinion that the course of treatment I am now pursuing may be productive of the desired object for without health what is a person but but a being of disconsolation, of gloom, and of sorrow.

More desirable is health than all the wealth of the world and more to be prized than all earthly promotions. The most serious affect of my protracted indisposition was my being compelled to relinquish the very acceptable situation, I have been holding for the last two years of Teller in the bank at this place. But such being the way of the world, and the end we must all be subjected too eventually, we will let the subject drop for one more agreeable

I was sorry to hear your governors would not let you come down and spend a sociable Sunday with us but I suppose were there are so many necessity compels them

them to be very particular, I saw Rundle here
some few days since, at a little party
by one of the Ladies of his acquaintance
this place. Father has been somewhat affected
with diarrhoea for some time past but he is
now nearly or quite recovered from it and
he is much obliged to you.

It has been rather dull here for some time
with the exception of last Friday when
a transient Circus Company made
appearance in our otherwise quiet village
which tended to stir up the other wise
monotony of passing events. You must excuse
my very short letter especially when you
favored me with such a good long one
but a friend is waiting for me to take
a ride out in the country with some company
if I do not write now I do not know
when I shall be able to get another opportunity,
and I have waited so long now.
I suppose you almost think I had forgotten
you begging you will be kind enough to
make enough to make my best wishes agreeable
to your mother when you write her again
and hoping you may long enjoy your present
happiness is the fervent prayer of your
most humble and obedient friend and admirer
this at your earliest convenience is the
desire of yours truly

W. S. Howard

increased very much this year. There are a great many plates. Some perhaps go for the purpose of getting the favor of Professor Sprole: but far be it from me to judge any. I am not what the motive, the exercise will do them no injury. There are a great many fine young men, strictly conscientious and upright, who do not go to this class; on account of the ridicule to which its subjects are and the motives which cadets are sure to attribute to them. I don't know for theirs in the wiser course; but as I began when I neither knew nor cared for ridicule - now, for the sake of consistency if for nothing else, I will keep on. I am well aware from experience, that if I did not go, that I would scarcely look in my bible, and never converse at all upon religious subjects. I am not blind I know; but as long as I am not an infidel, nor a sceptic, and would not be either, it becomes me to think upon serious things sometimes - and the most appropriate time is ^{this} Sunday afternoon at our place of meeting.

Give my love to all - Tell Howard Bailey I am looking for a letter from him. I shall a letter from Augustus Howard yesterday. His father & family are about the same as usual. Remember me to all my friends at the Center - Tell me how you all are getting on -

If your own health is good: If Warren Lathrop came to see you, tell me what he said.

Remember that I am as ever

Your affectionate son, O. V. Howard

P.S. Have you got a superabundance of letter stamps? It is rather inconvenient to prepay letters here - otherwise than by stamps.

O. V. Howard

West Point N. H. Sept. 27th 1857.

My dear Mother

You know I used to keep a sort of diary in college (if a sketch which was scribbled by fits and starts every day and again not often, then once a month, is worthy of the name). I took it up this evening for the first time for three months & was so glad & so interesting to run over my past reflections, that I came near forgetting that I had promised myself to dedicate this evening to you. I perceive through my former scribbles, that I am about the same being as of old, subject to fits of cheerfulness and depression, continually undergoing changes in feelings & spirits, yet ever guided by good intentions, full of purposes & resolutions to press forward always sustained by hopes of some success, a thing rather vague, rather indefinite but still a little farther on. If I can continue to be as industrious and accompany my industry by a little more sense of rectitude & uprightness, I shall be content, let what will come. Perhaps I am talking in circles. Tell me, you said the continued review of the past. Such is my manner of reflecting when I forget that others have not been installed in my breast so as to become acquainted with all my thoughts. To state the case plainly. My passing life like every other man's perhaps, is continually presenting to my reviewing eye, in sort of double picture, in one light it seems bright, clear & very pleasing; in another a dark mass of badly arranged, misplaced materials. When I catch a glimpse of the

...please it fills me with dejection and a distrust of my
own worth: then I try every experiment of turning the canvas
till the picture resumes its happier face. I am almost ninety
one! who would think it! Boyhood & youth chase each other
in rapid succession and we become 'men in years' before
we are aware of it, and too often before we are prepared to
pilot our own bark over the waters of life, opening so suddenly
& widely before our inexperienced eye. If I had remained at
home I would very soon be a voter. Who knows what
my politics might have been: father may suggest
an abolitionist. The soldier however must have no
politics of his own. It would do for him to slander the
President. He must ever be the upholder & the servant
of the party in power: i.e. hold his tongue & do as he
is told. (Sept. 28th) I shut off my writing at late last
evening that "slaps" put an end to my writing classes before
I was aware of it. I never had attended so closely to my
duties before, as now excepting the time just before I
entered College. I seldom go to the lecture room without
having every portion of my lesson well fixed in my mind.
Whoever stands at the head in mathematics is expected
to display considerable talent - and if one has not much
to boast of, why he must work. Brigadier General Totten,
and the Secretary of War, Mr Conrad, came into the lecture
room the other day accompanied by some other 'notable'
gentlemen & several ladies. I was called up first I went
to the board on the most difficult thing for me in the
lesson. I did, however, moderately well. Mr Conrad
came & spoke to Mr Lee of my class, calling him by his Christian

name. I believe in my heart I do not harbor the least hard
feeling or jealousy against Lee. I believe our difficulty arose
through the intervention of others, and I regret it. But as
he turned me out of his friendship & society, I shall
scarcely go back unsolicited I probably not even then;
for a young man ought to think twice before he
wrongs another quite so publicly. Notwithstanding ^{since he is} for a
young man so talented, & generally so exemplary, & always
I cannot help respecting him. Day after day we sit side
by side in mathematics & in drawing. Seldom do either of us make
a mistake. Each keeps striving for the same goal - we never speak
to each other, nor look excepting that the one in his seat usually
looks at the other while he is reciting. It would never be remarked
by a stranger that we were not good friends. It seems queer, non-
sensical perhaps, but so it is. I never injured him in the world
nor he me but once. Mr Abbott is different: when I meet him
he usually puts on airs, at which I can't help smiling sometimes,
but we never speak. I am sure I hold my head as high as his -
often, if not always. You may think I am haughty - not so. Had
I been these would not now be my enemies. I strove hard to avoid
this. I once looked many things; but now I must hold my own.
I am not unhappy. When I have earned a position that they will
respect a character that they cannot overthrow, then I may
make overtures for reconciliation. Now May & others would
think such a course "boot-licking". The sons of Dr Wood & May
Humbell are my bitterest enemies. I have as yet taken not
the least notice of them - neither knowing, nor caring ^{for} their
mistakes. They are both handsome, flattered, & ambitious.
I have just returned from the Bible Class. Our numbers have

It has been a long time since I / Oct 5th
began my letter, but I must now finish
It for Warren leaves tomorrow. Mother has some
matters that she intends to send to you by
him. you will see by the date that it is Sun-
day again. our folks have gone to meeting.
It is a very pleasant day today, the sun shines
bright, the wind blows somewhat but not hard.
We received a letter from you last night dated
Sept 28th, I suppose that you are to be pres-
ent to meeting today, it seems ^{to me} as though
that it is not a very pleasant way, ^{to me} I should
want to go when I wished and come when I wished
but I suppose you can't help it now, as I look
out of the window I see the pretty yellow apples
likely a sight that you do not see very often.
I wish you could come home here and stay a
few weeks. I think that we all should enjoy
it very much indeed. I now will end my
humble letter by saying, good bye.

from your Affectionate Brother,
Chas H. Howard.

P. S. You will see that it takes a long time
to write a long letter.

Charles

Dear Brother Speeds Sept 27th 1851

Your letter dated Aug 1st was recd by me
with pleasure. and your letters to mother & Roland have been
recd also. Why I ha'nt written before since I recd your letter is
because I ha'nt had much time apart from my work, and in
what I have had I ha'nt felt like writing. you will understand
by that, that I work some. My health is better than it was
before I was sick; I have no cough at all. Roland and I have
done our work, with what father has done, since haying, alone
we have dug part of our Potatoes, & we found that ^{a part} of our
white ones are rotten. the red ones are ^{not} so much ^{as the}
others. father ^{raised} had fourteen bush's of wheat this year, it is the first
for a long ^{time}. Mrs Barrows kept as is keeping a high school ~~in~~ in Ensign's
district. I did not go because mother thought
that it would be better for my health to stay at home.
this fall. Mr Davie is teaching a singing school here and
I attend it, mother pays a dollar for 4 evenings.
They are about having a writing school which I expect
to attend. & which will be taught by Mr Silas Sprague.
I believe John Cain was tried yesterday for selling
spirited liquors, but I don't know what the result
was. The Baptist Association was held here Wednesday
& Thursday. The Singers up to the center hired Mr Horace Gould
from Winthrop to come and sing with them. they practised
considerable before the Assocn so that they had a very good
choir, Mr Barrows' Daughter has a serephone which she
plays upon ^{with a violin & played} ~~very well~~ ^{by Mr G. makes good music}

Aunt & Lucretia has given up her visit to N. Y. Clark
her son, came home from Boston sick with the fever.
mother heard from him sabbath day, he was better but
he had not sat up any, nor had any appetite. Little Henry
has been sick with the Cholera morbus but he has been
out. ~~for some~~ I should like very much to have a sketch
of your life. I don't know as you would have time to
copy it, and send a copy of it home. if you could I should
like very much to have one, or if you could bring it home
when you come next year. The weather has been cold
and windy of late, but today it has rained all day, it is
quite an unpleasant day for that reason. The yearly
Camp meeting of the Methodists was about 4 weeks
ago all of our folks went one day but Johny. Uncle
John's wife has ^{been} moved to his house I believe she gains slowly.
about a week ago William was up he stayed all night
to uncle Ensign's, he wasn't here to our house but a little
while, he came up to monmouth to collect old News-
paper accounts. I have ^{for you} rather bad news from Dr Gary's
family, for Mrs Gary hung herself with a shein of
ajarn on a bedstead, while on a visit to Gardner. It made
quite a change in William, Rowland has gone to
Brunswick he went Thursday, or I believe he was going to
stop to Yarmouth all night and then go to Brun-
swick. I went with Rowland to Lewiston to a ser-
-mon Managere and the two little boys went with
us, and a pleasant time we had. Brother Otis, it
is Sunday morn. It rained about all night but it

has ceased now and it bids fair to clear away, as I hope it will.
Father & Mother have gone to church alone
to hear a sermon from Mr Barrows. Roland
is in the Kitchen singing mournful tunes. &c. he
~~says~~ ^{talks} some about going to California in the spring,
but I do not think that he will go. Liza was
here Friday she was trying to make K. promise
her that he would go to ^{Writing} ~~singing~~ school. but he would
not promise to go. We ^{have} had news that Sarah
Lee was to be married about the middle of next
month. aunt Ann was well when we heard from -
Hallowell last. The young folks of
Leeds are many of them getting married. Lydia
Gurner is published to Mr Brown of -
Carrol Me. Ann Stetson has been published
to Mr Johnson, and Mr Frost's son who lives at
slab city has been married to Thomas ~~Spotts~~ ^{Spotts} daughter
so you see that the young folks are all getting
married. Oct 3

Dear Brother, it has been some time since
I began my letter, for it is now Friday.
Yesterday I went to Lewiston with Errol &
& Roland to get my Daguerotype taken to send
it you by Warren. Mother thinks that it does
not look quite so healthy as I do & rather older
than I do. Roland & I have been ploughing
this week. down ~~below~~ below the orchard.
Dr Lord is about going to Dunkirk a town in
the west part of the state of New York

My Dear Son,

Leeds Sept 28, 1891.

It is now six weeks, ^{since} I wrote my last letter to you, we received Rowland's and my letter one week ago, it being the week of the Baptist Association, and many things to do for R.B. preparing him to leave home, gave me no leisure for putting my thoughts into the form of a letter not that my thoughts are long away from you. R.B. seemed very light minded while at home, but still hope he will give his attention to the pursuit of knowledge in the right way. Arza and family have commenced house keeping, at Wayne Village, his health is not so bad as when he left home last year but still bad, but he has accumulated sufficient property, to last him some time if he is prudent, I expect Warren will leave soon for West Point, the last time I saw him, he said, he should go the first of Oct. which is near by. I have ^{Sabbath evening} been out to meeting to day, had a very thin meeting I gathered all ^{the} news I could from all our friends talked with Uncle Barney he says Melvin is undoubtedly in the consumption, Uncle B. ask me questions about you, saw Uncle Ensign and wife, John and wife, and Sam. Uncle Skillman's two sons and wives and some grand children &c. I am glad to think from the tenor, of your letter, that ^{you are} in good spirits and in good health; Tuesday aft. R.B. I have learned that Warren L. will not go until another week I have not seen so much of Warren since ^{he} came home, as I should like, but I presume he has found ^{enough} variety to satisfy him, I attended camp meeting one day, saw many persons there whom I know that I do not often meet with I past the schoolhouse where you taught school, Uncle Frank was there with his young wife and many others, of my acquaintance, the time is wending it way towards Winter and after Winter comes spring and then the month that will bring my son to me

if nothing in the way

London 6 October 1891

John D. Lawrence

your Uncle Ensign returned from H. yesterday says says that Sarah leaves H. immediately after the ceremony of marriage is pronounced I think I shall go down at the time if I am anxious to know how they all are your father's business will lead him to Portland next week, I shall probably hear from Lizzie at that time, Charlie wants to go to the wedding with us I shall write you about the wedding, I saw Mr. Tenley at camp meeting he talked some about his white mountain excursion said Lizzie was blacked up some, her looks would have suited Cadet Langdon better than when at West Point, say to Cadet Langdon he has my good wishes and to Mr. Brown my good wishes, with a hope he has fully recovered his health, I hope to see him here next year to visit us, and by tender him my good wishes in word of mouth, I have of late visited Mr. and Mrs. Sampson, and Mary Church, their daughter and found them pretty much after the old sort paying great attention to visitors, having somethings to annoy them such as their high school had stopped for want of dollars to the damage of the teacher and ~~boarder~~ their Boarder, there were two ladies teaching in the village which took away so many of the scholars it spoiled the high school, and he quit after trying it a few weeks greatly to his damage. &c. &c. Wayne is another place than it was four years ago, a few dirty stones with little in them, the most agreeable place I saw in the village was Miss Fairbanks little shop, I doct. Stinchfield he was quite social, has almost recovered his health so he has quite a good practice, some think Jance to Stinchfield will do pretty tolerable well practice in law in Kennebeck I believe I have written nearly all that will interest you. Rebecca is singing in the back room, his words as near as I can write them one to dear to dear as he sings that time, daily, I understand Mrs. Hammond from Brunswick is here on a visit her husband has sent her home nine hundred dollars from California, and sent for her, to come to him in California, which plan her friends are much opposed to. Charlie has been writing the news of the town I heard last evening your Aunt Angelina had been bleeding at the lungs which is the second time this summer I hear she will soon pass away, Thomas sung in the singing house last Sabbath I wish this was written after but you must take it as it is from your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore

when I was at West Point you was anticipating much good reading; how was it? did you enjoy that privilege? what authors have been your companions? speaking of the Bible class do you continue still to take the advantage of it, and what time in the day is it, We received the report from the war department through your camping season containing your 28 ^{in Sept 28 or August} ~~merits~~ ^{for gals} ~~for gals~~ ² ~~for gals~~ Aug. they did not disturb me at all, but they might if I had not been kept as you ^{aided} ~~aided~~ ^{aided} so faithfully with your situation, I do hope you will continue to go on ~~faithfully~~ ^{uninterruptedly} in your course through the ^{part of the} ~~remaining~~ ^{year}; all your acquaintances in Maine remain about the same, R. St. J. has the same ups and downs he always did what he intends to do with himself no one knows and ~~hardly~~ ^{hardly} think he has no fixed purpose himself, for his dress for occasion company he put on a pair of old worn out pants that you left at home, and an old blue jacket of Orrin Bates's and his Beanel very long, and would not come to the table, and look, more like "Crazy man than any other, but none of these things move me at all I am so used to them and they pass away without any particular damage, to any one, but I sincerely wish he had a good wife, and was well settled, a wish I never expect to have realized, his marriage must be precipitate or he never would agree with any one long enough to be married I am entirely alone in the house this afternoon the girl has gone out to a quilting, your father is making a dragg Robund and Charles are plowing the field East of the Orchard, I can ^{hear} Robel plus and John's voices out at play, I am within sound of cannon, you might say how is that? in a state where military training is not tolerated by law, I will tell you there are ten ^{independent} ~~companies~~ ^{companies} come together at Turner village for a muster today, and this afternoon they are firing off the powder

from their field pieces I hope no damage will be done Oscar Turner has gone, over to ~~Witnere~~ ^{the} scene, I understand your Uncle John has carried his sick wife home, she can ride out, but cannot walk he carries her in his arms to the carriage, and from it, she has been in such a state of weakness, I wish Maria would take a little responsibility upon her, and take home John and Penny, and take care of them, in that she might show some gratitude to her overburthened father, for the over much care he has taken with her education but I fear her selfishness will keep her from seeing any duties before she is reminded of them, if Maria could only know it such a course would give her more consequence in the world than any other, Wednesday, you ^{will} ~~perceive~~ ^{perceive} that my letter is more like a diary than any thing else, that give you an idea of the amount of time I have daily to dispose of, not finishing writing yesterday has given a new stack of materials, for last evening's mail brought me a letter from your Cousin Maria containing an invitation to Sarah Lee's wedding to take place the 14th of Sept, morning. Dr. Lord is in, making his last call, preparatory to leaving Leeds for ever, as a home, it seems a matter of regret to see all those leaving us, who have any desire for improvement, the doct, intends taking West Point, in his way to Sun Kirk his place of destiny, he says he shall be at West Point the 8th of Sept, and call on you, I hope you will be so situated that you can be within some or you can introduce him to some one who can show him round, perhaps Warren, will be there before that time I saw him yesterday he will leave Leeds next Monday, his Mother and Mary Jane will accompany him as far as Nantucket to Point a relation he will be there by the 14th or 15th Charlie has taken some pains have his miniature taken, to send you, I wish it looked more familiar but sitting to Lewiston, gave him the headache and he

of which we hope ^{move} the vanity and how soon we retreat from one advanced position to another, till understanding wit, and cultivated sensibilities and the powers that once "wandered through eternity" are tamed and disciplined to the mere household business of smoothing their ~~own~~ progress through the troubles of the world. We look back and fancy we have grown wiser as we have grown older but in fact we have only grown worldly, hardened and selfish. Such I suppose is not your experience as yet - you have as trust in the women - but sooner or later you will I think find it so. Jenett is at Yarmouth. Rumor says he and his woman have had a flange up but I don't think it can be so. Have you heard anything of that kind? Have you heard from Townsend lately? I had quite an idea of going to Peru. This fall but gave it up. Let us hear from you soon Chas and tell us all about yourself - how you are getting along - how you enjoy yourself and so forth.

In haste, I am
your old friend and Chas
Oleg S. Perley

Portland Sept. 29th 1851

Dear Howard,

I have been owing you a letter for some time, and have at last found the time and the inclination.

And to proceed at once "in medias res" I am here in Portland after a vacation of five good long weeks during which time I played the lazy to my heart's content and have been teaching here for the last fortnight. I have as you see entered on another year of teaching which I hope may be my last (not my last year but my last year of teaching).

During my vacation I had a very pleasant time (the women do not enter into my calculation of a time now though they used to be deemed so essential)

Only think of my being at home for the long space of five weeks and meeting Miss Gould - Arzella - and a number of others and not riding, walking with, hugging or kissing one of them.

By the way I saw your Mother at Comp-

meeting as well as Rowland, Charles and the "Old Gent." They were all in good spirits. I was at Jack's Father's at Pittston His woman was then. Her health is very poor - She has been at The Shores Springs this summer. I suppose Liz. has told you that ^{we} were on the summit of Mt Washington also during the times.

Senett and Robinson are to be at Yarmouth I see another year. Neither Senett nor myself were at Con. and it has been some time since I have heard from him. I declare Horrold I have fairly exhausted my stock of news and so for want of anything better shall be obliged to write about myself as I always do and in a letter I don't know but a fellow has the right to be a little egotistical and talk more about himself than he does about others at least that is the way I want a friend to do in a letter to me I had rather he would talk of himself than to treat entirely of matters in general. Now as for myself Chum, I am getting along nowadays sort of easily. My school goes easily at least my part of it and I take it easily. As for the women I have ceased to

to trouble my head about them and the time when I shall be a "married man" looks farther in the distance to me than it ever did before. "Chance and Change have wrought their will" on all of us since we left College to a greater or less degree. The world as I find it is not such as I would be glad to have it. It is not such as I looked out upon and forward to, in our college quietude.

But everything to me has become disenchanted. It beats all how soon the contest and struggle of life and the contact with worldly and selfish men, knocks the romance and enthusiasm out of a fellow. "'Tis true and pity 'tis 'tis true' that such is the case. How soon with men even of intellectual character, a youth of enthusiasm, full of strong purposes and exaggerated impulses, is followed by a gradual disenchantment, till the care of self and its interests seem to become the only reality! How soon we learn to smile at our past delusions! How soon we begin to look with an indulgence half contemptuous half tender, on our younger companions who are possessed of those longings