
323 9/14/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0305

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Sept 14, 1851

Dear Mother

I have just completed a letter to Rowland and if there is material enough left in my head or my heart you shall have one too.

We are now fairly "underweigh" in the study time. One fortnight has skipped 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 - in the left of it. I am comparatively as short. I am now under Lieut Jones, as little Closson 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, one that commands all the scenery in and around West Point. <Croneat> that high hill directly west of the Hotel, Newburg, Cold Springs, the Hotel, the river, all met 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 by running up and down stairs three pairs of stairs, every time we wish to step out of doors. 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, on order that they 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'nt though 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, in the north east room, you will find on the orderly board Browne-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 <data>, 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 & drills my recreation. The change from languor & comparative indolence to immediate & intense application was rather sudden, but its effect on 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, who does not know more about the language than I, and there I am way up to the head.

To give you an idea of the way we recite in French. Professor Agnel himself a French man, who speaks & understands the English so well that you could not detect that he was a Frenchman, is our instructor. A man he is full of activity, driving, expecting others to be as active as himself. He is the best instructor that I was ever 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 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, to tell what page or where our lesson is in French. If we cannot learn the language by such method of instruction, we may as well give up hopes of learning it at all. It sometimes seems like jargon to me but he slackens his pace usually, so that my slow ear may follow him, whereas I find that all the other can understand him & reply without difficulty.

In Mathematics we have as instructor Guy Peck said to be the "keenest 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 the plane just in front of the Professors' houses, where you saw Warren'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 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 & furrow 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 <impeded> by anxiety, by care, by overexertion. Let your mind be easy then for your children are well circumstanced. No remorse is gnawing at their vitals, while innocence reigns in their bosoms, no difficulties or danger can render them very deeply watched. Think of some mothers whose children, though dear to them, are lost to all sense of duty & right, whose lives are degraded by dissipation of 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 be unhappy, should solicitude take away your rest and anxiety render your heart cheerless. No, let it not be so. Even had I reasoned myself into the feeling that it was hard to leave West Point & left. Why it would not have been that I was discouraged. Far from it. Should I be found 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 this crush me.

Give my love to Father, Roland A Charlie & Dellie & have Rowland B to discover all he can in my prosey letter. Lizzie has returned home, says grandmother has been to see her. She went (i.e. Lizzie) to the White Mountains, while she was away. Remember me to all my friends. I have not seen Aunt Lucrecia's self here 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 & benighted 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
O. O. Howard

P.S. Tell Father to send me some letter stamps if he has any. it being very inconvenient to prepay a letter since I have no money (en poche).

324 9/24/1851 *From:* W. A. [Augustus]

To: Cousin [O. O. Howard]

Howard

OOH-0304

Peekskill

Source: Bowdoin

Peekskill 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 possessions. The most serious affects 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 continually, we will let the subject drop for one more agreeable.

I was sorry to hear your governor would not let you come down and spend a sociable Sunday with us but I suppose were there are so many necessity compels them to be very particular. I saw Rundle here some few days since, at a little party given by one of the ladies of his acquaintance in this place. Father has been somewhat affected with diarrhea for some time past but has now nearly or quite recovered from it and <wishes> to be remembered kindly to you.

It has been rather dull here for some time with the exception of last Friday when a transient Circus Company made its appearance in our otherwise quiet village which tended to stir up the otherwise dull 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 consequently if I do not write more 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.

Make my best wishes again 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 answer this at your earliest convenience is the desire of yours truly

W. A. Howard

325 9/27/1851 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0306

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Sept 27th 1851

My dear Mother

You know I used to keep a sort of diary in College (if a book, in which one writes by fits - sometimes every day and again not oftener than once a month, is worthy of this name). I took it up this evening for the first time for three months & more and found it 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 scribbling, 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 guarded by good intentions, full of purposes & resolutions to press forward always enlivened by hopes of some success, a thing rather vague, rather undefined but still a little farther on. If I can continue to be as industrious and accompany my industry by a little nicer source of rectitude & uprightness I shall be content, let what will, come.

Perhaps I am talking in riddles. Why, you ask this 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, a 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 <latter> phase it fills me with dejection and a distrust of my own worth; then I try every experiment of turning the canvass till the picture resumes its happier face.

I am almost twenty 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 wont 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 put off my writing so late last evening that "Taps" put an end to my writing before I was aware of it. I never have attended so closely to my duties before, as now excepting the time just before I entered College. I seldom go to the section 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 section room the other day accompanied by some other 'notable' gentlemen & several ladies. I was called up first & sent to the board on the most difficult thing for me on 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 & probably not even then for a young man ought to think twice before he wrongs another quite so publicly. Yet with all, since he is a young man so talented, & generally so exemplary 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, nonsensical perhaps, but so it is. I never injured him in the world nor he me but once. Mr Abbot is different. When I meet him he usually puts on airs; at which I cant help smiling sometimes but we never speak. I am sure I hold my head as high as his then, 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 over 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 they & others would think such a course "boot-licking". The sons of Dr Wood & Maj Turnbull are my bitterest enemies. I have as yet taken not the least notice of them - neither knowing, nor caring for their motives. They are both handsome, flattered, & aristocratic.

I have just returned from the bible Class. Our numbers have increased very much this year. There are a great many plebes some perhaps go for the purpose of getting the favor of Professor Sprole, but far be it from me to judge any. I care 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 it subjects one and the motives which Cadets are sure to attribute to them. I don't know for theirs is the wiser course; but as I begun when I neither knew nor cared for ridicule - now, for the sake of consistency if for nothing else, I will keep on.

Again, 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 pious, I know, but as long as I am not an infidel, nor a skeptic, 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 Rowland Bailey I am looking for a letter from him. I had 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 Lothrop came to see you tell me what he said.

Remember that I am as ever
Your affectionate son
O.O. Howard

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

326 9/27/1851 *From:* Chas H Howard

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0307

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Sept 27th 1851

Dear Brother

Your letter dated Aug 18 was recd by me with pleasure and your letters to mother & Rowland have been rec'd also. Why I hav'nt written before since I rec'd your letter is because I hav'nt had much time apart from my work and in what I have had I have'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 so as the others. Father raised fourteen bush's of wheat this year. It is the first for a long time. Mr Barrows kept or is keeping a high school in uncle 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 24 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 spirrituous liquors, but I don't know what the result was. The Baptist Association was held here Wednesday & Thursday. The Singers up to the centre hired Mr Horace Gould from Winthrop to come and sing with them. They practiced considerable before the As—ion, so that they had a very good choir. Mr Barrows' Daughter has a serephene which she plays upon & which with a violin played 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. 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 Johnny. Uncle John's wife has been moved to his house. I believe she gains slowly. About a week ago William was up. He stoped all night to uncle Ensign's. He wasn't here to our house but a little while, he came up to Monmouth to colect old Newspaper accounts. I have for you rather bad news from Dr Cary's family, for Mrs Cary hung herself with a skein of yarn, on the bed stead, while on a visit to Gardner. It was quite a change in William. Rowland has gone to Brunswick. He went Thursday, as I believe he was going to stop to Yarmouth all night and then go to Brunswick. I went with Rowland to Lewiston to a Managerie 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 talks some about going to California in the spring, but I do not think that he will go. Laiza was here Friday, she was trying to make R promise her that he would go to writing school but he would not promise to go. We have had news that Sarah Lee was to be maried 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 Turner is published to Mr Brown of Carrol Me. Ann Stetson has been published to a Mr Johnson, and Mr Frost's son (who lives at slab city) has been maried to Thomas Lothrop's 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 Orin B & Roland to get my Dagueryotype taken to send 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 the orchard.

Dr. Lord is about going to Dunkirk, a town in the west part of the state of New York.

Oct 5th

It has been a long time since I began my letter Otis but I must now finish it for Warren leaves tomorrow. Mother has some mittens that she intends to send to you by him. You will see by the date that it is Sunday 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 27th. I suppose that you are to be marched to meeting today. It seems to me as though that it is not a very pleasant way. I should want to go when I wished and come when I wished, but I suppose you cant 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 homely letter by saying, good bye.

From Your Afec. brother
Chas H Howard

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

327 9/28/1851 *From:* Eliza Gilmoie

To: Oliver O Howard

OOH-0308

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Sept 28th 1851

My Dear Son,

It is now six weeks since I wrote my last letter to you. We received Rowland's and my letters 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 I 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 nearby.

Sabbath evening

I have been out to meeting to day; had a very thin meeting & 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 Laura. Uncle Stillman's two Sons and wives and some grand children, &c. I am glad to think from the tenure of your letter that you are in good spirits and in good health.

Tuesday P.M.

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 variety enough to satisfy him. I attended Camp meeting one day, saw many persons there whom I knew 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 providence prevents.

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 demerits for July, 2 for Aug. They did not disturb me at all, but they might if I had not been kept acquainted so faithfully with your situation. I do hope you will continue to go on uninterruptedly in your course through the remaining part of the year.

All your Acquaintances in Maine remain about the same. R.A.G. has the same ups and downs he always did. What he intends to do with himself no one knows and I think he has no fixed purpose himself, for his dress and association company. He put on a pair of old worn out pants that you left at home, and an old blue jacket of Irvin Bates's and his beard very long, and would not come to the table, and looks more like a "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. Rowland and Charles are plowing the field East of the Orchard. I can hear Rodelphus and John's voice's 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 come together at Turner Village for a Muster to day 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 witness 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 Fanny and take care of them. In that she might show some gratitude to her overburdened 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 that my letter is more like a story 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 14 of Sept. morning.

Doct 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 Dunkirk his place of destiny. He says he shall be at West Point the 18 of Sept and Call on you. I hope you will be so situated that you can be with him some or you can introduce him to someone who can show him around, perhaps Warren. Will be there before that time I saw him yesterday. He will leave Leeds nex Monday. His Mother and Mary Jane will accompany him as far as Nantucket to visit a relation. He will be there by the 14th or 15.

Charlie has taken some pains have his miniture taken, to send you. I wish it loked more familiar but riding to Lewiston, gave him the headache and he was not so sprightly as common.

Your Uncle Ensign returned from H---I yesterday says Sarah leaves H---I immediately after the cerimony of Marriage is pronounced. I think I shall go down at the time as 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 Perley 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 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 something to annoy them such as their high school had stopped for want of schollars to the damage of the teacher and their Boarder. Their were two Ladies teaching in the Village which took away so many of their 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 stores with little in them. The most agreable place I saw in the Village was Mrs Fairbanks little shop. I saw doct Stinchfield. He was quite social, has almost recovered his health so he has quite a good practice. Some think Gancels Stinchfield will do pretty tolerable well practticing law in Kennebeck.

I believe I have written nearly all that will interest you. Roland is singing in the back room. His words as near as I can write them are te---de---te---duray. He sings that tune dayly. 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 Aurelia had been bleding at the lungs which is the second time this summer. I fear she will soon pass away. Thomas sang in the meeting house last sabbath. I wish this was written better but you must take it as it is.

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O Howard

I enclose six stamps, half I have.

328 9/29/1851 *From:* Peleg S Perley

To: [O O] Howard

OOH-0309

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

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 les" 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 - Arzilla - and a number of others and not riding, walking with, hugging or kissing one of them.

By the way I saw your Mother at Camp 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 there. Her health is very poor. She has been at the Sharon Springs this summer. I suppose "Liz" has told you that we were on the summit of Mt Washington also during the time.

Jewett and Robinson are to be at Yarmouth I see another year. Neither Jewett nor myself were at Com. and it has been some time since I have heard from him.

I declare Howard 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 now days 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 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 brought 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 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 part delusions! How soon we being to look with an indulgence half contemptuous half tender, on our younger companions who are possessed of those longings of which we move the vanity and how soon we retreat from one advanced position to another, till understanding wit, and cultivated sensibilities and all the powers that once "wandered through eternity" are tamed and disciplined to the mere household business of smoothing their owner's 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 all trust in the women - but sooner or later you will I think find it so.

Jewett is at Yarmouth. Rumor says he and his woman have had a flare 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 <Tenn.> this fall but gave it up.

Let us hear from you soon Chum 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 Chum
Peleg S. Perley