

New York Oct 1 1851

Friend Otis

Yours of 24th ult came duly
 at hand. I hope this first letter may be
 the commencement of a long continued & frequent
 correspondence between us. I am fully aware
 you are not overburthened with leisure time
 and therefore will excuse you accordingly.
 I suppose Frank will in all probability commence
 matrimony soon. He contemplates committing the
 act this month. I think Silas intends going with
 him. Perhaps after Frank has been thoroughly initiated
 he can give you a few lessons. How does Nett get
 along since his return. Tell him I would like
 to hear from him. He probably had a good time
 while on furlough. We have all left the Battery
 Hotel. Silas & myself board at 75 Beekman St.
 I moved more on his account than my own. I
 used to cast him more for board than he could
 afford to pay, with the salary he is getting. and
 another thing true being a bar at the house
 I found it full & handy for him in the
 way of smoking &c. As you say it is his own
 fault if he don't make a smart fellow as he
 has plenty friends and a good situation. I think

If he had remained in Boston much longer
he would have been a "Spoiled" child. His
intimate friend Jerome Mass has been more
injury than benefit to him. I have just about
satisfied him of the fact Business of all kinds
in N.Y. is very dull. The Banks are bursting at
and the merchants are failing which keeps
us in constant hot water. There seems to be
but little prospect of a change this fall as money
grows tighter every day. The Banks must dis-
count for less than 18% a year which will
ruin any man to fear. I am afraid
I shant make much out of my Boston Depot
as I find Brown spends the money about
as fast as he can make it. I am glad you
have entered your new quarters & like them so much.
I see they have conferred the title of A.B.
upon Dan Eaton. I have no doubt the decision
if he is a good fellow and honest fellow and
one deserving success. I understand your Cousin
Jm Otis gained some laurels at last Commencement.
I think Silas will go down with Frank.
It will do him more good than anything
else as his health is not remarkably good
this fall. I will send you some papers soon
till Billy Webb to write me soon. Remember
me to all my friends & write me often, I wish.
Yours Truly
Opes Sargent

Dear Cousin

(Oct. 4. 1857) West Point N.Y.

I undertook while in camp to give you a brief sketch of my past life, such as it now presents itself to my recollection. I am thinking such a course may be a bore rather than a blessing to you; It is not best however for a young man to begin anything, and back out before he tests his powers - A young lady said to me the other day - that in these days, when ladies pay their own postage it gives them the privilege of writing what they please. Perhaps if I will pay my own postage I may claim the same privilege. Since I wrote you we have left camp & already been five weeks in barracks. I have resumed my studies with my wonted courage & industry, and have thus far succeeded very well. Our time is more occupied than it was last year - so much so, that it is almost impossible to get a half hour's respite during the week excepting Saturday afternoon. Our studies are no less in amount or number, besides we have to spend one afternoon in drawing the next in the more pleasant task of learning to ride. I do not succeed remarkably well in drawing as you might judge from my penmanship. I believe I left myself at the age of ten yrs - just after my father's death. I staid home, worked on the farm and made sap-sugar in the spring; scarcely anything transpiring of any note, till Col. Gilmore came to carry my mother, my brothers & myself to a new home. I was pleased with the change like all boys, though my brother was an exception: Portland rather demurred, and out of revenge, would never upon

any account call his new father, father, for more than three years. Charlie was very little, a pretty boy of two years. So, he had not much to say upon either side of the question. I can see now that my mother's second marriage has been a blessing to us all; for my step-father has uniformly treated us with all the care of own children; he has preserved our property & put it in good shape, and never has been harsh or unkind to either of us. At the age of twelve I went to live with my uncle Mr Otis, at Hallowell. I took care of his horse, milked his cow & went to school. I saw other boys studying Latin. Of course I too must study it. My friends said, no; I was to be a farmer; what good would Latin do me? It made no difference; study it I would or nothing. There then, I first entered upon a course, which put the idea into my head of going through College. I staid with my uncle over two years - a sort of gentleman servant, entitled to all the privileges of the one & obliged to perform the duties of the other. I worked on his farm about three miles out of the village, in the summer. He would ride out himself in the morning - sometimes bring me back & some times let me walk back in the evening. In the fall & winter I went to school to a fine old gentleman Mr Burnham. I shall always remember him with gratitude & pleasure. He conceived a great affection for me & treated me accordingly, encouraging me & stimulating my rising energy by praise, and never flogging me except when he could not help it; and even then whipping me very easy. I remember once; our "recess" was to be

conditional: if we wouldn't whisper once for the forenoon
we might go out: and if we did whisper we could go
out by going up & taking a peering. At recess time
about twenty boys marched resolutely up to his desk
and took a flogging - I got off mighty easy with two
slight blows. When I first went to Hallowell the boys
called me green; would laugh at me & mimic my flat
country - sounds. This as you may well judge I would
by no means bear, and hence arose many a pretty
hard fought battle. I was short & stout and used to
fight about two at a time. I believe I generally came off
conqueror, but seldom without a black nose, black eye,
or some other hard mark. Soon however I got my
spirit pretty well established, and gradually too my
greenness wore off. (Nov 2^d) - You begin to think
you are not to get another letter; and you will not
if I rest a month every time I lay aside my pen.
I hear that Aunt Anselia has been spitting blood & is
in very poor health. That Aunt Lucrecia's family name
many of them been very sick. She has been obliged
to give up her intended visit to New York. Give my
love to your father, brother & sister. Tell him, your father,
that I am sorry he should think it gives me so much
trouble for him to come & see me. All the trouble is that
of getting a permit and this is nothing. Tell him not to
give up coming to see me. I have not heard from you
for a very long time. How is your health this fall?
And my cousin, Elizabeth, she did come to see her cousin
last summer? Ask her if she remembers, that I told her

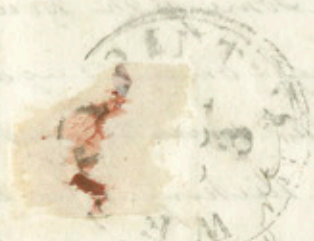
Elizabeth was my favorite name - upon which she suspected this
I was in love. But to resume - After I got home from my first
stay at Hallowell, with a very little knowledge of English, and
very little knowledge of Latin (for I had read the Latin reader
and Virgil's Bucolics.) and also I had got the Greek news
(tuptō) - my progress had been so promising, that I was
very soon sent to Monmouth Academy, to prepare for the
College. Being between 14 & 15 years of age I began to think of
myself man enough to hear the girls about; and hence as
you may suppose, since opposite products cannot well
harmonize, I neglected my studies. I would study chemistry
for the sake of sitting by the girls in the class, I bought drawing
utensils, for the sake of having the pretty little drawing mistress
come sit by me, and show me. However I made out to
wander through Cicero's orations. In this state of compe-
titive ignorance, I set out the next spring - dressed in an
entire suit of Grey - for N. Yarmouth Academy - situated on
a few miles from the city of Portland. This was the 1st of Feb^r the
1841. I arrived there after a ride of 40 miles in an old red "pin" ex-
posed in a strange place, guiding not a soul that I knew, home
sick, tired & cold. They shrouded me into a little bit of a
dirty room, without a bed or fire. I had brought my bed
though, so I was prepared for that emergency - well in a
short time I joined my class. I was surprised to find the
so proficient. They would read Latin as so much English & cl-
rattle off the Greek verbs ~~as~~ 'like fun'. I found myself
a perfect goose - I had thought myself a scholar. There
nothing which will stimulate a young man to exertion
so effectually, as to find others ^{the same} age far in advance of him -

This class was to enter College the coming September - During
 that little time of about seven months, I should be obliged to
 read all Virgil, all Sallust, the Greek reader, and 4 books of
 The New Testament in Greek & review Cicero - and get in
 addition six sections in Smyth's Algebra. To the student this
 looks like a two years course - especially for a beginner.
 I began to apply myself with all my might. Towards
 the last of the ^{first time} ~~course~~ I thought I was going to fail -
 as Mr Weld, my instructor said I would have to remain
 another year. I thought him a little selfish in his
 advice - knowing that it was for his pecuniary interest
 for me to remain - I declared I would enter college.
 One fortnight still was left. During that fortnight
 I allowed myself only 4 hours sleep each night
 excepting Saturday night. Stood at a "stand-up"
 desk - and studied - took no exercise - no recreation
 only leaving my books long enough to get my meals.
 This took the flesh off. but I passed the college
 examination, as well if not better than any one in
 my Yarmouth Class. The young man with whom I
 lived at Yarmouth - called the most talented of the
 whole class, spent that last fortnight in "preening"
 that is, riding into Portland & coming back drunk -
 I remember he & I rode to Brunswick - where the
 college is situated, 16 miles from Yarmouth - he often
 ridiculed me because I would not drink with him.
 I tried to persuade ^{me} that it was niggardly & ungentle-
 manly not to do so. &c. &c. Then he was smart, enough

energetic and talented - before he graduated - he
was absolutely degraded in taste & in intellect - a
perfect rake & drunkard - shunned by those who
^{once} courted & flattered him, but who were more
politic ^{but} less open hearted & generous. He had been
suspended from College three times - and hardly
permitted to graduate. Leaving you now at the
threshold of my college course - I will bid you
good bye. If you will come to see me I will
show you my two brothers in miniatures - so you
may form some idea how your cousins look.
I wish particularly to ask your father if my
brother Rowland resembles my father when
he was of his age. - Write me as soon as
you can - Remembering that I am
your affectionate cousin

A. A. Howard.

Wrote of. My health is good. Give my love to Charles & Ellie
Johnny & Nell. Write me as often as you can get
an opportunity; as often as is consistent with your health.
I received your last letter & the envelope in which it came.
I am your affectionate son, I. L. Howard.



Mr John Gilmore
South Scitzy
Gloucester

Oct 10 1851
I. L. Howard

West Point N.Y. Oct 10 1851

Dear Mother, Saturday night has come round again, and again
I take my pen to commence the pleasant task of communing
a few moments with you, my mother, to whose love & care
my reason tells me I owe more than my heart is wont to
acknowledge, more than I seem to appreciate when wrapped
up in self. I neglect to study your comfort & your happiness.
I call this a pleasant occupation, because it is ever pleasant
to feel that you are doing another a pleasure. To know that
your own weaknesses are overlooked, your errors forgiven
and your thoughts however common or ill expressed are
perused with an unfeigned & deep interest. It is pleasant
too to let fancy disenchained from the common toilsome
every day confinements take wing & visit scenes more genial
and more loved not because they are really more beautiful
but because they connect themselves with the pleasures of
boyhood because they contain home & those friends who are
friends indeed. When I am writing to you my mind flies to
the places in which you are moving and is continually recalling
and reliving to you those events in which we two have had
a common part & a common interest. Thus recollection & fancy
being side another & at the heighten my heart for the time
being to scenes & to pleasures which are real. How easy is it of
my readings during the period of your imprisonment they amount
to nothing. Like thousands of other good resolutions they indeed
are resolutions. I read some portions of the history of the United States and a
few novels but I am conscious of going with insignificant things from the past

The news of Sarah's approaching marriage anticipated you and reached me before your letter. Frank wrote me two or three weeks since, inviting me to the wedding; which invitation I shall of course be under the necessity of not accepting. I wish them all the joy imaginable at the wedding, which is said to be a very important era in a man's life and a no less important one in a woman's; and especially do I wish them a permanent happiness resulting from the ^{new} relations ^{into} which they are about to enter into. In my opinion Frank is a fine man - a man with whom a lady could not well quarrel and if Sarah is not happy with him as a husband & protector it will be her own fault. I believe all my young friends & playmates are marrying off but it is some consolation to be to remain know that I shall enjoy a longer period of youth. I never meant to get married when I was a mere boy yet although I might seem sometimes to my friends 'mighty well' preparing for such a breach of promise.

I have not seen Dr Lord or Warren in this region yet. I am sorry the
 Dr is about to leave you or more properly perhaps that he has
 left you just as the field is beginning to prosper. Thanks to Uncle
 Ensign & her internal improvements! How happens it? Hasn't
 people paid him well? Or does he feel that the field is too narrow,
 that he can obtain another situation more in accordance with
 his taste & ability? I never mind; I will ask him if he comes
 to see me myself. I presume some of the "would-be-young" ladies
 feel a little nettled at his leaving; or am I again slandering the
 fair sex? I have been out this afternoon to gather walnuts. They
 call them hickory nuts here. Hickory trees are as common here
 as the hick with us. I suppose Delle would like the sport of
 picking a few baskets full of these and more still the sport of cracking
 and eating them.

I have been unlucky enough to get some additional demerit this month: 3 for absence from the parade of guard at dinner. I forgot that I was on guard & went to dinner with the battalion. Whereas I should have been walking post. Again one night I was late at unfixing bayonets at dismissal from parade. This will give me 1-. A man has to keep pretty well awake: keep clear of reports, unless he is a favorite, especially where they had as lief report him as not. I never expected to keep clear of demerit this year; and therefore if they do not increase, or exceed 30 I shall be well satisfied. (Sunday) I have been to church this forenoon, and listened to a very good discourse on the evidences of the Christian Religion, by a gentleman of great authenticity. Since I was once obliged to study Paley's Evidences the subject being familiar becomes interesting when I hear it.

the antipode of China. I sent you one of his
letters last summer. published in the *Enquirer*
of which you never acknowledged the rec. I
think he writes a beautiful letter. his descriptions
of men and manners in the countries which he has
visited are admirable. I am glad that Dr. Lord
and (our cousin Sargent) visited you. It must
have been a great relief for you to see old and
familiar faces again. for although new friends
are ever so agreeable, yet when you meet one
that can be called old there's something
inexpressible in it. Is it not so?

I am not getting along as well as I could
wish, getting some most execrating terms
especially in Greek. In algebra and Latin I
do very well but not ~~so well~~ as some others.

Write soon. Give my respects Warren, and
don't forget your college correspondents and

Yours off Brother

Rowland

Bowd College, Oct 15th 1851

Dear Brother

Having sufficient excuse in the
state of my health from the admirable duty of
attending Parson Adams delightful meeting and
sitting on those luxurious seats. I take the opportunity
for writing you. I have a bad cold and cough
but I am in hopes to get rid of it in a few
days. The ground here is white with snow and
ice, and this morning I noticed a sleigh gliding
along quite smoothly to the tinkling of the bells.
From these indications I suppose that winter
is very near at hand. The snow has thinned all
exercise in the Gymnasium and the ropes covered
with ice look gloomy enough. I suppose your
place for recreation is well fitted up and of easy
access in all seasons. Write me about it. The students
are dropping off one by one as I suppose they used
to do when you was here. As the Fall term draws to
a close the fumes of schoolmaster grow darker
and darker and gradually their forms become
stiffer and more dignified as they prepare to
"frighten the apple munching archers with the
squawking of their shoes."

What a blessing it is, isn't it, that Providence
has provided a way that a student may discipline
his patience — or kill himself! I have not engaged

a school as yet although I have had several
very good offers. One in Bodolicham, a Clapham school,
of 45 scholars for £22, but report says it has some
very hard boys, and I think I shall not take it.
Laurel & Carter of Portland wrote me that I could
have a school in Cape Elizabeth of 3 1/2 months at
£25.00. but did not mention its size or character,
Not desiring to take a very large or ugly school.
(You I have a presentiment that I should die) I have
written them that I would take it if numbers and
reputation were favorable. If I go to Cape. I shall
have your Portland friends quite near. Mother wishes
me to come home and stay this winter, which of course
would be much more pleasant to me than teaching,
I don't know yet which I shall do. It will
depend in a great degree on my health and
my reflections on poverty — We have one thing which
you did not, and I assure you is a decided bore,
viz. Prof. Stowe's lectures. He lectures on religion
3 times per week. On Friday and Sunday we are
compelled to attend, but on Saturday it is voluntary.
I hear the bell ringing now for the Sabbath lecture.
Prof. Stowe is a man of decided ability but his
efforts seem to be purely intellectual. His reasoning
is sound and incontrovertible, but he has nothing
for the imagination, nothing for the affections,
nothing that appeals to the heart, and consequently
he is extremely uninteresting. I have not heard from

Mr Jewett this term and I think he has not been
in Brunswick. I don't know how it seems to
you but it strikes me that he is exceedingly
cool. That is, not so enthusiastic as you
would be under the circumstances. just think
of only 16 miles and railway at that, and not
visit the one of his heart's choice, but once in two
years, or on Thanksgiving or some such occasion.
But I have some doubt of the heart's having
much to do with that matter, although I know
but one of the parties, yet it seems to me like
a work of the head, a mere business transaction.
What do you think? I tell you how it is
Bodolicham is devilish cold, and the way the wind
creeps up a fellow's trousers legs is an argument
for bloomers. Why if a woman should wear her
there would be no necessity of hoops in their
petticoats to give them a graceful presence, for
their skirts would be constantly distended after
the manner of an umbrella. Such is the rush
of cold breezes from the cellar of Bodolicham through the
cracked floor of no 20. I had a letter from Charles
last week he is in good health and spirits. Mother
wrote about a page, but no news. I suppose you
hear from home nearly as often as I do although
your distance is so much greater. Our Tutor
read me a letter the other day from his brother,
who is now stationed at Chelmsford. He spoke of you
among his claps — and others who

wait upon the table from tea and coffee &c for
which I receive the enormous remuneration
of ten per cent of my board. All the students with whom
you are acquainted inquire after you frequently and
Prof. Updegraff says that you was a particular friend
of his with whom he has passed many pleasant
hours. Write soon and tell me all of ~~the news~~
about yourself and about College and everything
else and remember me always as

Dear off Brother
Rowland

P.S. I had a letter from Lizzie just before going
up to Hallowell, saying that she would go up
with me, but as the day was somewhat rainy
she did not come, and I very much disappointed
went alone and disappointed all the rest.
But the day was not fit for her to be out.
She wrote me in good ~~health~~ and
spirits.
Your Brother
Rowland

Cadet C. C. Howard

Branswick Oct. 17th 1851

Dear Brother

As I have a little spare time
I will begin a letter to you although I may
not finish it until ~~Monday~~ Friday. In the first
place I saw Father, Mother and Charles last
Tuesday at Hallowell, at which the long
delayed wedding was at last consummated.
They, that is our folks, were all well and
appeared happy and at this point so much occurs
to me for writing you that I must defer it
for a future season.

This is a Sabbath morning cold,
rain as you know all of those mornings are
in rain. Branswick is not everywhere else
I believe I told you that I had a fine time at
Hallowell. Rev Mr. Thurston of Winthrop performed
the wedding services to render our cousin and
Triumphant young man and wife in the eye of
the law. Aunt Ann looks blooming but rather
overcome by the press of duties. The Bride looked
exceedingly weary and the Bridegroom exceedingly
comfortable. I like his appearance very much.
Dilas is the same as usual, I suppose
you have seen him lately. Don't be struck
you as being rather proud of his cake-making.
His pedantry is my greatest objection to him.

William is ill, at home. He has the reputation
of being a good scholar and fine fellow.
His last two years in college were much more
successful than his first. Maria is the same as
usual, perhaps a little more womanly. On the whole
this although I would not whisper it to anyone else
I do not like my cousins over well. I never feel
at home with them as I do with my school friends
and acquaintances. William & Maria have a sort of
reserve that makes me uneasy and Silas is continually
boasting of the exploits of "Amur about town" as
he has experienced them, and does not even
restrain his stories of wine bibing, oyster eating &c
in the company of ladies, in which I think he
shows a lack of good sense as well as good principles.

Most all of the wedding party came down
with me in the cars on their way to Portland
and thence in about two weeks to N. York. I
hear that William & Maria returned to H
yesterday but I did not see them.

I am getting along pretty well in my
studies but do not make good sails as yet,
especially in Greek. We have a fine teacher in
Greek, perhaps you know him. John B Sewell
recently principal of Lewis & Clark Academy, I tell
you he is a decided "renew." Old Upland as
he is denominated by his families, is a genuine
one isn't he? He has held a number of boys

previous conversation with me on a diversity
of subjects and, if I did not think the old best would
fit a little now and then just for convenience, just
the smallest mite in the world, I should think a
great deal more of him. Don't you think he is steadily
coming in bringing about his ends. He has been
trying very hard since our College initiation to get
our class to sign a certain paper to prohibit anything
of the kind next year, whether or no he will make
out is a question.

You may well suppose that I have
been bored to death by the fishing for secret votes.
Our class is small compared to the Sophomore
class and there is at present a question among
them as regards the balance of power, and each
has exerted itself in the piscatory line, a little
more than I believe is customary. And of course
so much the worse for the poor, suffering freshmen.

I have been strongly fished for the four classes
and haven't decided yet which to join and don't
intend to vote I got ready. Chew!!!

Your Friend Wendell has been rather cool (but
quite more agreeable) since I have avowed my
independence.

I have been burdened with
two rather onerous offices and devilish lucrative
they are con- of my class for Catalogues & Commemorative
The last is especially disagreeable as I have to

Leeds, Oct. 19, 1854,

Dear Cousin

I feel to regret my negligence when I look at the date of your letter and think how long it is since I received it; I must confess I have grown very careless of late about writing to my friends, it is not for want of love or that I do not think of them, but as you know procrastination is the thief of time I have been putting it off from time to time till I am almost ashamed to write at all, thinking perhaps you have forgotten there is such a person as your Cousin Laura. But enough of excuses I hear from you quite often and that you are doing well though I understand you have had some little trouble since your Mother was there but have overcome it - in a measure I was much interested in hearing your Mother read your letters last week I was down to see her and spent the afternoon I could not help feeling hurt to think you was blamed unjustly but do feel glad that you have overcome them it must have been very trying to your feelings indeed to be reported of that you did not do, I expect you have seen Dr. Lord by this time he was going to call and see you I shall miss him very much this winter I expect to be very lonesome ~~isolate~~ most all the young folks have left Leeds all those that were company for me but I anticipate much pleasure in seeing

you next summer if we both live Oh I long for the time
to come, and think how you will look and of learning
you tell all that has passed since we last parted, I have
seen Elizabeth. Wait three times this summer spent the day
with her at your house, called on her when I was
in Portland and she came down one Sunday a short
time ago with Mr Peasey and we rode down to your
mother's and stopped a short time I am very much
pleased with her and think I shall hold you
to your promise of living with you she is handsome
amiable and very lady like in her appearance and just
such a person as I should think you would like and
that you may both do well is the sincere wish of your
cousin, you gave me a long lecture on marriage in your
last letter I agree with you and think I am better off
as I am, unless I could find one that would reciprocate my
affection but I do not expect to therefore I will be
contented with my lot and condition in life which is
a very good one and I feel contented and happy
as our uneasy mind like mine can be I endeavour at
all times to think all is for the best with it be joyful
or grievous, and when I can put my trust ^{alone} in Providence then
I am happy and know that all he does is right I feel
at times that this world is all a fleeting show and
that it is our duty to be prepared for another for we know
not how soon we shall be called to give our account
My two Sisters in Philadelphia have experienced religion since
their Father's death it was a great loss to them and to me
for I always anticipated that I should see him again but

he has gone to his long home and my prayer is that I
may be prepared to meet him there, Aunt Lucetic's family
have most of them been very sick but are all getting better
I thought they would lose little Therry but he has got
quite smart Clark is better but gets up very slowly
Everet has put his Sister and William on the town
and I do not know but it will kill Aunt Aurelia
she is very unwell and has been spitting blood lately
her troubles have always been great but now they
seem more than she can bear Marianne remains with
her Mr Joslin has taken William for the present
I told her I was going to write to you soon and she wanted
me to send her love to you I think her troubles in
this world will not be much longer my heart aches
for her she appears so disconsolate and unhappy with
no prospect a head of it ever being any better, Uncle and
Aunt Martha went to Thallowell to the wedding last
Tuesday they were married at eight O'clock and started for
New York at nine O'clock Sarah Lee is Mrs Sargent now
I presume they will call on you soon Addison Martin was
at the wedding and the governor so I expect they had
quite a grand time your Mother was there and Charles she
will tell you all about it John and Thelma are well and Ole
has got to be quite a boy can do errands very well I talk to him
about you and ^{he} seems to remember something about you, the people
in Leeds have not got done quarrelling yet and the singing I
fear will go down and be the mean yet of driving our
Minister away but all we can do is to hope for better
days write as soon as you receive this and don't do as I have
Your true Friend Laura Howard

Melvin & Clark Leadbetter. I believe I told you that the
Young Leadbetter who graduated here graduated at the
head of his class, which I begin to think requires a pretty long
head. Tell Charlie that a sketch of my past life has never
been written. I formed such a design so as to amuse & enliven
my cousin, but I found it too much. I have been obliged
to give it up. I rather think Charles already knows as nearly
as much of my experience as I do. Give my love to all. Roland
& A. must wake up. Tell him if he has the blues, he must
kill them. Life is the best, the effectual remedy. Life in its
essence: Why who would grope along with a clouded brow,
and a downcast look, with a steady discontent visible
in ones every look & act? Why? Such a man ought to be in the
Army, in this United States Prison. Give me liberty, a lucky
return, from the gold regions, with a "pocket full of rocks".
Wouldn't I cut round among the young & attractive fair ones?
Do you think I would make myself miserable with imaginary
evils? I reckon I could wake you up Roland. Even with
my long face, I would start a fund of cheerfulness somewhere.
I consider a young man a perfect absurdity, who ~~feels~~
for no reason in the wide world, will give up his soul
to a settled melancholy. I have had to bite my lips
now & then, and felt as though all was not right; but I never
have ^{suffered} & never will suffer Old Melancholy to have a welcome
seat at my board. Never "taps" again. Making periods in
my writing. Tell father "to never mind" the misspelling or
bad handwriting this time.

Your affectionate son

C. O. Howara.

L. 281 76. 100
with H. 100

West Point N.Y. Oct 26th 51.

Dear Mother.

I fear if you do not get a few
lines from me this evening - I shall not get another
opportunity before next Saturday to write you. Last
evening my usual time for writing being Saturday, was
employed in solving several very hard problems. ^{connected} ~~connected~~
with our lessons. To day I have already written
Rowland a letter - I have heard from you in several
different ways - through Rowland's & Laura's letters -
through Warren, Dr Lord & Mr & Mrs Sargent
(en propres personnes) or if you don't like the French
in their own persons). The latter three happened here
together last Thursday evening about 4 o'clock. I got
excused from drill & parade & was permitted to stay
at the Hotel till 12 past 6. Then I had to leave my friends
and go to my room. The next morning, as good luck
would have it: when I went to get a permit of
Capt Brewerton I insisted on seeing him. Mrs Brewerton
came to the door. I told her my friends came 'from far'
were going away that afternoon - & that I wished to be
excused from recitations very much indeed. She made
me come in to the fire - carried my permit to Capt B.
& made him sign it without permitting him to put in
his usual limitations "when not on duty &c". The Dr
stopped only till 9. on Friday. Frank & Sarah staid
till 1 o'clock. We had a very good time. visited the
Laboratory & all the places that you visited, saw the

relics of the Mexican spoils - as well as those of the
revolution. I discussed their merits. Sarah thought
she would rather have those 42 pounders on ~~the~~ our
side, than on the enemy's - - - She & Frank appeared
very well & very lively - neither so insipid, nor foolish
as we expect the newly married pair to be. (Monday)
"Kips" came to interrupt me last evening in the midst
of my meditations. - It is now evening just after supper.
I have two long lessons to get, besides walking Post an
hour & a half. So you see you can get but a few
lines at this sitting. I had a city - to make the other
day in drawing - i.e. a city - represented by topographi-
cal signs - Well! I thought I had done it admirably -
when our instructor, Dick Smith, came round & said
"Your lines are too light, Sir! too far apart: show too much
white paper." This is a specimen of my success in
topography. Yet I am confident I will rise gradually -
for I can take pains & stick to it as long as most any
one. Warren brought me Charlie's miniature - and what he
says is a piece of Lydia Timmers' wedding cake - Give
my best respects to Lydia as well as my best wishes for
her happiness; if she is in Leeds. Remember me to Sarah - tell
her I shall expect to hear of her marriage next. When you
see Laura, give her my love, & tell her she must not
be impatient for a letter; for I can't get ~~off~~ ^{not} more
than two a week, certainly till the drills stop.
I hear sad news of our enterprising rail-road. Why
I was anticipating a ride upon it almost to my
father's door next June. Now does Uncle Ensign talk

feel about the down fall of his favorite road? Was "Gid"
(following the common parlance) has 'Gid' exhausted all
his fund of gas & persuasion? Cannot stockholders
be induced to contribute a few thousands more? -
Tell Charlie, that I am very grateful to him for his
miniature - if it is a true likeness, he has changed a
good deal since I left. How thoughtful is you to send
me those mittens - for they are really a luxury here in
cold weather! I was unfortunate enough to lose
my blue ones. - Good night now. I will probably
fill out the sheet tomorrow evening. - The Dr sent his
best respects to you & our family. Said he should always
recollect our family I ^{his} Leeds friends with a great deal of
pleasure. - (Wednesday evening, just beforeattoo.) You
see I am writing my letter by "piece-meals"; but perhaps it is as
well, for if I had mailed it Sunday you would not have got it
sooner than if I mail it tomorrow. I find by yours & Laura's letter
that Aunt Archib is in rather a bad condition. Do the people
of Leeds blame Everett for calling upon the town for to assist
him in the maintenance of those children? It is indeed hard for
a mother, who is proud, who has been accustomed to feel independent
and to live independently, if not in affluence, to see her children
so reduced, and it helps the matter little to think that their poverty
is owing to their own helplessness. But father would say such is
the way of the world. Give my love to her if you see her & also
remember me to Aunt Lucretia & her family, through any one
of whom you may meet. Tell Uncle Barna, who always takes
a lively interest in me & my welfare, tell him that I often think
of him, and hope that ~~he will~~ live till I return. Inquire after

Bondain will meet with better
success in their endeavors to instruct
him. My last letter from - Ois
was written the evening of the
18th; he had been on guard
that day and had just returned
from walking past as he com-
menced the letter. It is true, we
cannot appreciate the pleasure he takes
in receiving letters; away from all
friends - comparatively speaking.

How is Charley's health? I hear
he was at the wedding too. think
he might come and make me a
visit. we should like much to
see him here. and Dettie.

With much love to you & yours
I remain your true friend
Ed. White
To Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Please remember me to Laura. tell her, if
you please, it would
be most pleasing to

hear from her too

Perhaps we (she and I)

are somewhat alike

with regard to letter-

writing, but tell her

to write me - sit

weight down without

forethought as I did

this afternoon

It will not be

"much of a task."

Portland, Oct 30. 1851

Dear Mrs Gilmore

I know you are
not expecting a letter from me
just now, but as you have
formerly invited me to write
you, I flatter myself the reception
of this will be as cordial as
if I had written the particular
time. Will it not, dear Mrs G.?

I should be most happy to

write and receive letters from
my friends or have uninterrupted
correspondence with many, if I
was not so forgetful (or rather
negligent) myself. if one writes me,
it is seldom I answer promptly
if at all. therefore I can blame
no ~~one~~ but myself if I do not
have correspondents. I can
remember 'some things', and
write 'some letters.' it is true,
but considering, is'nt that a
natural consequence? I suppose
you, as well as all the rest, enjoyed
yourself very much at the wedding.

I regretted to have the weather
keep me from being one of the
party; however am happy to
say I was at the wedding levee
at Mrs Stricklands. (Tuesday evening)
I intended to have seen them
again but unfortunately I did
not have an opportunity. I
see friend Roland, has not learned
my name yet; he writes Lizzie H.
instead of Lizzie A. I'll have to
tell him my opinion of him will
not be very flattering, if I cannot
teach him the first letter of the
alphabet; hope the Professors of