

One never could entirely appreciate Webster without hearing him. One of the greatest attributes of a good speech, no doubt, is that it reads well, but not much less a mark of an orator, is that it sounds well. It has been remarked of Webster that he remarkably united the two. That while his speeches were eagerly read and greatly admired by all high and low. There were few Americans or foreigners who could move or convince the mind of an audience like Daniel Webster. Since his death he has been elevated to a position which I did not think Webster would ever occupy. In many years he has stood our first statesman and our first jurist but not till he was dead did the general voice pronounce him the first of Christians. I hope this is so. If he did unite in himself all of these attributes then truly may it be said. The world has lost and Heaven has gained the greatest, noblest man of time. With love and belief in you, R

South Leeds Nov 7th
[1851]

Dear Brother

We received your last Saturday's mail and as mother will not have time to answer it, I thought I would write you by this mail. We heard through Aunt Martha Jane that Mrs Waite was improving and we are in hopes to hear soon. Through you that she is quite well. Our folks are all well, Charles as fat as a pig and about as voracious. I saw Mrs Sampson on Saturday. She inquired for you and sends her love. She looks very poorly. You remember there always used to be a bright red spot on either cheek, but it has all faded out, and her face is thin and pale. She speaks as quick as ever, but her voice has lost its strength and her manners their vivacity. She thinks she is getting better and I am in hopes that you will see her yet the same Mrs Sampson that you used to know. Arza is better than I ever expected to see him. He can walk some around the yard. His wife is (I have forgotten those French words expressive

of the fast) pregnant, and will be as
helpless as her husband in a few weeks.
Our Rail Road is finished to within one
mile of Limerick Station and the Freight
Cars run every day. The private security
of the Directors & Treasurer have done much
towards finishing it. But they are quite
confident that the road will pay them
and I hope it will. Franklin Pierce is
president *future* *esse* sure enough.
The Whig Party never was so useful as
before and I fear there is not enough
left of it, to use up so again. Democracy,
Progress, Union & Power are rampant
and I hope that now they have got the
power they will have a good time, with
no whig to molest them. I am going to
leave politics entirely now. but if the
Whig party and myself are left four
years from now. I shall go into it
again head over heels. I suppose that
you have heard through Warren of his
brother Elias' death. It was a terrible
blow to his mother and I suppose it
must have been to his wife. They had
concluded that in time they should
see him again and now he is
snatched so suddenly away and that
cherished hope is so suddenly crushed.

that it runs even to us, and looks on,
cruel. He was sick with the Cholera, but
five hours although he had been down
with the Diarrhoea for some time previous.
Charles Sumner wrote his folks the first
news of his death that Mrs Lathrop received -
Charles says that he is doing well
detailing liquors &c in Co with Mr Allen
formally of Hallowell. I believe Roland
talks some of returning to California this
winter but I don't think he will. I shall
go somewhere and study this winter but
I have not concluded where to go yet -
I will leave this open and perhaps some
of the others may wish to write. Mother
suggests that today is your birth day and
that now you number 22 years. I
suppose this day is not so interesting
as one year ago today, when you were
21, and a "man for yourself" However
pull your own ears as hard as you
think we should pull them if we had
a chance. I have just been reading the
eulogies of Messrs Choate Everett and
Hilliquet on Daniel Webster and I
congratulate myself anew that I saw &
heard that great man in the last public
oration which he delivered, although
I accomplished it with 5, or 6 or one third,

I saw but little of him, but R. B. thinks I saw enough of him
he is rather handsome, which will be a disadvantage if he is vain
how I wish he might do well, Ann thinks she shall go to New
York next year she sees nothing worth remaining here for.
I have just read your letter, of Oct-10th & am glad you are
so good about writing, & often think what ^{I should} do if you should
neglect writing to me, and indeed the interest & take in my
sons keeps me from being a stupid thing, Charles is teaching
Dellie to sing by note, Mr. Davis is teaching a singing
school, preparatory to our dedication, as the Methodist are
building a house near Mr. Salmon Winger's, Charles attends
the singing school, it is now evening Charles is bringing in our
milk, your father is bringing water to work &c. &c. we live up to
the old sent Jane Bates, & just called in to say something
about work, and Huldah is here to make us a visit, your father
has been out to meeting and says Abelton Rose is published
to a lady in Canton, Charles was at Wayne yesterday
and called to Mr. Lampson all well there I suppose you
knew Addison Martin had returned from California he says
the greatest reason for returning is because to see ~~to~~ his
sister Mantha and put her in the way to have a
~~superior~~ suitable education I understand she is already
with Mrs. Hazard in ~~Cambridge~~ Cambridge, when I returned
from West Point Mrs. Hazard said she would like
to have her live with her, and thought she could do
well by her and I really hope it will ~~do~~ ^{money so for}
Mantha needs such a friend, Addison has promised
to come to Leeds, and I very much hope he will
for I want to see him, I heard in Hallowell that he
had returned, here to get him a wife to carry
to California, he says he shall go to West Point this
winter as he intends stopping in New York some of

My Dear Son,

Leeds, Nov. 9th 1861

Yours of the 26th ult. was duly received on Tuesday
I was truly happy to hear from you, and still more so, to find you
in such good spirits, I feel as though you had had quite a share
of pleasant friends to call on you, of late, which were no doubt
real gratifications, you must almost feel as though you had been home,
I thought of you, a good many times, yesterday, it being your 21st
birth day, I should ^{have} liked to have spent ^{the} day with you and made some
account, of the day, but you seem to be far away, and I hope you
are going forward cheerfully, in that way, which will be for your
future benefit, in the package I sent by Warren Lothrop.
I sent a slice of cake, cut through the middle of a loaf, about two
inches thick, with sugar frosting on the out side, of it. W. attended
the wedding, perhaps he brought wedding cake with him to
W. P. & I had a visit from Blank Leadbetter last week, he brought
his good little Mary Ann with him, it gladdens me to see two
kindred souls happy together Blank says Aunt Clara with ^{the} same
happy smile he did when he was five years old. he is recovering
from a severe illness, your Uncle Frank, eldest boy is sick at
your Aunt Lucretia's it seems as though your Aunt Aurelia
had arrived at the crowning point, of trouble, but there
are troubles in this world that here is a mere shadow, in com-
parison, but I think it will be the means of carrying her to eternity,
certainly, Everett has not shown himself much of a man, in
any respect, Charles had a letter from R. B. Howard, on his Brother
Rowland he did not mention having received a letter from
you he says he goes on smoothly in College has a bad cold
and dreadful cough which I am sorry to hear,

Your father received the report from Washington for Sept. showing your standing it was, first in Math,, fourth in French and twenty fifth in drawing, elements 27, I think, I believe I have not mentioned this to you before as I think I have not written to you since, Mr Bates is in the other room telling the news of the neighborhood and your father is reading law to him on the occasion but I don't hear enough to make any thing of it, I look forward full of hope to next June when you will return, if nothing ⁱⁿ Providence prevents, We have not lost all hope about our railroad we think it will go forward next June perhaps in other hands, from what it now is, Capt. Turner's family heard from Charles not long ago he is hired in a tavern in Sacramento City, his wages are one hundred dollars per month his father thinks he changes business to often to do well ~~extend putting in~~ some I shall put into my letter some more letter stamps, I purchased some at Shallowell when I was there, Charles keeps coughing in the other room which keeps me in jeopardy all the time I hope you will take care of your health through this cold winter that is approaching, Eliza Peres Jennings was here last week, he said Orville had sent them his wife's miniature it is not long since he was married Eliza Jennings talked as though he was pleased to ~~xxx~~ with Orville's prospects, he is so from them he is nearly lost to them I see I have nearly covered my paper, and hope it will be acceptable to you, from your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore.

O. A. Leonard,

the railroad is not so far gone but it brings some labor for your Mother yet we are to have a directors meeting at our house next Wednesday, to morrow a town meeting is held to take measures for repairing the bridges swept away by the late heavy rains, the two northern ones are gone, ^{head over} little John ^{has} gone home William came after him last Thursday, he was happy enough to be one amongst them once more, John has left a ^{host of} friends behind him in Leeds, I had a small letter from Missie A. White, one week ago, in it she mentioned receiving a letter from you, I enquired of William how the love at Index Henrys passed off Henry well W. said he never saw Uncle He exert himself so much to be agreeable, I enquired after our friend Henry how he carried himself, William thought I did not hold up the end of his yoke, or was rather abashed minded, or modest, or diffident said uncle Henry asked him to draw him out and he did endeavor to, but he soon relapsed into his usual cold state, I wish he could be more interested in what is going on around him, if he has talents why not show them, and have them some benefit to him, my interest for him makes me enquire after him and speak of him, we have had a snow storm, and had four or five inches of snow which laid on the ground three days and then a tremendous rain to take off the snow, the great rise of the ~~Chandraseen~~ ^{Chandraseen} river rose so fast which caused the loss of our bridges everything in our neighbourhood is about as usual, I believe I have not written you since the wedding it went off Henry well, H.B. went down the river with them and in the cars to D. and stoped at his uncle's John's one night to get with in company with John Lee, he thinks I. real disagreeable

by a man who formerly lived in this place
somewhere on the Erie R R at a village
called Port Jervis.

Lib sends her compliments
and is much obliged for your kind message.
Whenever I can get the opportunity I
will come up to the point and make you
a few hours visit write as soon
as possible and trusting you will excuse
all errors, and pass my youthful inexperience,
I have the honor to remain

Yours faithfully
W. Augustus Howard

Pittskill Nov 10th 1851
My dear Cousin
Your most welcome letter
came duly to hand and filled as I found it
to be, "with thoughts rich as gems, but as
eastern flowers" you can imagine it proved
exceptible, especially, to one who has hard
work to relieve the dull monotony of the
passing hour. And not very often by a
letter from a respected friend and Cousin
and also of the same name and family.

Not satisfied with once
perusing your welcome letter, I have taken
it in hand for a second reading, when the
thought occurred to me that this would
be the proper time to answer, it being Sunday
and nothing whatever to disturb, the equilibrium
of my passing thoughts, but the crackling
of the old back-log on the Fire-place,
so here goes for a letter, with my feet
higher than my head, ensconced in an old
arm chair, with my fundament most com-
fortably seated on a soft cushion.

So much for preface, and
now, like the old preacher, I would beg leave
to say a few words "before I begin."

We have had considerable excitement for the last few weeks about political matters, and getting ready for election, thinking this would afford some fun I went in, as the boys say, and as the Lord would have it proved successful, so you see I feel rather elated over my victory, and the overthrow of the Whigs: "poor deluded souls to dream of Heaven" to make an empty boast of victory, as they did and then get defeated as they did, you can imagine it came rather hard, but "Sic transit gloria mundi".

Real every day life as for instance yours, is often replete with all and sometimes more than the fancy can conceive or the mind realize. For my own part, I have not seen the roses shed their leaves very many times, and the stars in my youths sky are almost as radiant as ever. But when I look back over the short stream over whose bosom my bark has glided, here and there its course is all ready darkened by mists and gloom.

Many of these clouds have been, as I passed through them, big, with crests, which if narrated would be likely to earn a quiet shake of the head which expresses so plainly the secret conviction "he is indebted to his imagination for his

facts." But it not being my intention to tax your credulity by the relation of these events in which I have been personally interested, for fear that in perusing them "your hair might stand on end like the quills of the fretful porcupine". I was what is rather inclined to be, in my youth a pretty hard costumer, ready at any time for a good spree and being at that time, clerk, in the Bank in this place with a salary of \$500 which you know is first rate for the country you can imagine I flourished, after being in there two years, I was taken sick, and had to leave, this came rather hard as the President having just died, I had been promised the office of Cashier, provided I could get well enough by spring to except the office and perform the many duties, with a salary of \$1200 so I went to New-York, and consulted some of the first physicians the City could boast off, but found myself after staying there some month or so worse than when I first went, so disheartened, and disappointed, I came back, instead of a well man with (as the saying is) a flea in my ear, and since then have not done any-thing in the shape of business. My brother Lucius was sent for, to tend store, out in a place

Old Howard
Nov 13 1857



Old John Gilmore
South Leeds
Maine

West Point N.Y. Nov 19th 1857.

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Dear Mother,

It is Wednesday afternoon, and I have just returned from riding. and if I can hold my head steady I will try to write you a few lines; for you may be sure that riding as we do without stirrups is rather violent exercise for the nerves. Speaking of riding, I may as well tell you something the manner we are taught to ride. Immediately after coming out of camp. we had to furnish ourselves with a riding dress, i.e. very thick pants with buckram-like bottoms. & straps. a snug jacket called shell-jacket and a pair of leather gloves, this with our forage cap which I had on when you were here completes our attire. We ride one hour at a time, three afternoons of one week & two of the next alternating with the drawing section - to wit. The first section goes to drawing Monday, Wednesday & Friday. The remainder of the class ~~are~~ divided into two riding squads. The first going at two O'clock. the second at three O'clock during those three days. The other two days, Tuesday & Thursday, my section takes its turn at riding. The rest going to drawing. This is the manner of the 1st week. The second week, my section goes to drawing the two days & to riding the three. When we began we were allowed only to walk our horses, put into a 'uniform' position & made to keep it - holding ourselves firm by means of the knees & legs - without any stirrups & on rather

slippery saddles. - I thought I could ride admirably but found I knew nothing about the science of riding. In a little while after a few drilled ^{condemned} by the Frenchman, who could scarcely speak English, we were allowed to trot & still later to gallop. When! how we go round that riding hall now. Some let go the reins, forgetful of their discipline, and grasp the pommel with all their might. Some & can't make their horses gallop. Others lean the side ache and ride into the ring. This was the fashion of our riding under the Frenchman - very lately, however the Frenchman has gone, & we have had some splendid rides under Lieut. Sacket. He makes every man keep his place & his very voice seems to move the horses. The Horse I rode today at the head of the squad, would obey his commands to trot, walk - gallop. turn to the right or left as the case might be - as quick as a flash with scarcely any guidance. I received your last letter - containing the stamps - I received a letter from Rowland to day. He says he has a cough - but is otherwise well. He writes in very good spirits - thinks he is doing very well in Latin - but not very well in Greek.

He mentions Professor Stowe - He does not seem to like him very much - thinks him all head & no heart - a very intellectual man & sound reasoner, but carrying no sympathy. & scarcely engaging any of the sympathy of others. It was not so when he first came to Brunswick. He drew a

crowded house then: Everybody seemed to listen to him with eagerness & wonderment. I could not comprehend how a man in the short space of thirty years could lay in such an immense store of knowledge. He lectured on the old Testament, reconciling ~~the~~ the apparent geological inconsistencies of some of the events recorded - with the true science of geology - & showing that very passages were strengthened by the science. He seemed to possess a fund of humor, mingled with a bluntness of speech, which was for me almost irresistible. I could not listen & was sorry when he closed. The reason I did not write you a letter last Sunday was that I got out of paper & had to wait - till I could get some by order. It is almost parade, & I must now close wishing you all the best of health & comfort. I suppose you have good sleighing already - as Rowland says they have in Brunswick. We have seen no snow yet; nor any remarkably cold weather. I am not getting on quite so well as I anticipated in my studies, but I don't regret anything - shall stand as well as possible and put up with it. Give my love to all. Rowland says, you tell him, he had better ~~come~~ go home & spend the winter than keep school. He says & he has had several offers of a school - but has not decided yet what to take, if he takes any - Remember particularly to Charlie & Nellie as I suppose they are listening to hear their names mentioned - in best. Your affectionate son
C. D. Howard

Otis Howard Esq
Military Academy
West Point
N.Y.

Paide m

Dear Cousin

Saturday Nov 26 1851

Although, most worthy correspondent; you are my debtor as regards letters, still, to while away the dull monotony of a few passing hours, I have come to the conclusion to pen you a few lines.

Perhaps you have never like me, been waylaid in the midst of your business avocations; they heels tripped up, by a treacherous malady, and you left to count the tedious minutes as they passed, in the solitude of your sitting-room for two years in succession?

If you have, my dear fellow, you can pity me with all your heart. But if not, just behold me? seated in an old arm chair, the cushion of which occupies, day after day, and day after day, has got so used to my fundamental principles, that should I be absent for one day, would cry out for its old companion. I have in fact worn out every source of amusement. I know the sound of every clock that strikes, and bell that rings in the place. I know to a second when to listen for the whistle of the Locomotive, bearing the New York morning papers, the reading of which occupies an hour or so. But all these have grown wearisome to me! And even the well known step of my Doctor, as he enters in the morning;

with healing in his countenance, as he slowly walks up the hall, no longer affords an agreeable interruption to the monotony of my apartment.

I then took upon myself to beguile the weary hours by studying music on a Piano not for the purpose of joining a *Niger-Band*, but as I said before, amusement. I soon found even this has no charm, for a languid ear, however struck by the sounds, that issues. I tried to read, got among others *Lamartine's* history of the Girondists; which you are aware has attained quite a celebrity, as a historical work. But alas, my mind would not fix itself, I turned over leaf after leaf, but threw it bye finally in despair; says I at length as a "*dernier-resort*," if I cannot read a book, I will go to work and write a letter to - Otis.

So here you have it, and will undoubtedly find it to be, as Shakespeare says of the justice in his fifth age of man full of, "*wise saws and modern instances*," We were honoured on Sunday last, with a visit from your companion *Rundle*, who, in his suit of gray, and military cape, cut quite a dash in our quiet little church, even the ladies, when Charley was walking up aisle would turn to one another and whisper, "*What a proper man*," Should you see him in, at any time remember me, in the shape of my best respects.

We can boast among other things, of a visit from one of a visit from one of the Hungarian Exiles, who being a graduate of one of the Military-schools of his native place, was pretty well posted-up as regards matters and things; and had also served as Captⁿ under *Absolut*, during the last war. He having been with us, *Protherin-ham* for a year past as engineer out west, of course met with a welcome reception, and left with a promise to come again soon. But perhaps my letter, has proved tiresome to you; if so I have but one observation to make, my brain has become chuck full of odds, and ends, and after a long time, these matters become shaken up in my mind, and find this an admirable way to relieve it.

So fall too, to what I have set before you most worthy friend, you find it very long, and as some say, "*Variety is Charming*." So good bye, and I wish to be remembered to you, write soon for your letters always prove, a welcome visitant.

To Mr. Howard
West Point

Respectfully Yours
Augustus Howard

Old Howard
Nov 30 1837

For John Gilman
J. M. Peck
Maine



West Point N.Y. Nov 30th 1837.

Dear Mother.

I was thinking last evening, it being Saturday that you might be expecting a couple of letters from your two boys. Then I wished I had written one in the middle of the week. I would write every week if I could, and do it well; but if I should try I would soon begin to hurry over my letters, and they would very soon be hardly worth the reading. I cannot write so easily, nor so rapidly as I could when in college. It is partly because my mind is comparatively excluded from literature, not having the emulation continually stimulating me to study different authors & reproduce ^{the} ~~my~~ thoughts which my readings used to suggest; and perhaps I am more considerate about writing whatever comes into my head. Anyway the fact is true that my intellect moves slowly now in everything; but if it goes right, if the results of thought, of meditation are correct, we will not complain. The only thing to be regretted is that my friends have often to wait so long for an answer to their letters that they think I wish to put a stop upon the correspondence. I have received two letters from Augustus Howard since I have written him one. But I believe mine doubled his in length, so we are at quits. He says: "Perhaps you have never like me been waylaid, in the midst of your business avocations, your heels tripped up by a treacherous malady, and you left to count the tedious minutes as they pass in the solitude of your sitting-room, for two long years in succession." - If you have, my dear fellow, you can pity me with your whole heart; but if not just behold me: &c". He describes his privations, & fallen self. - but does it in a sort of cheerful, humorous manner, which almost makes you laugh

while you pity the poor fellow with all your heart. I want to make him a visit on Christmas if I can do it. I shall try to get a leave.

Time glides on pretty fast: 'tis almost January, one month more and then comes another examination, which is to dethrone me from the seat. I have been a little unfortunate lately in drawing. I was printing 'topographical signs' over the top of my piece, after I had finished the drawing - having worked on it ever since we commenced in September - I got a blot on it where a letter was to come - I scratched it out & scratched a hole through my paper. I should have cried, had I not remembered, that I was twenty one. - A little care would have saved that: but 'tis no use reflecting - I have injured my standing very much. - The instructor in drawing has not seen it yet: I am bracing my nerves for a 'trimming' - you know I always fear a scolding more than a whipping. The future must amend the past as usual - so good bye to the subject. Lizzie writes me that she has not received an answer to her letter from you; says Felix has received a letter from Rowland about taking the school at Cape Elizabeth. It is close by Portland as you know - I Lizzie thinks she shall see Rowland very often, if he will take the school. It being so near the city, I fear it is a large, hard school. Has he written you much about it? - If he keeps - it is not very far from the time to begin. Uncle Ward has not been to the Point since last Encampment. He thinks his visits put me to a good deal of trouble, because I have to run about after a hermit every time he comes. ^{That} his giving day has come & gone with you - The day was just like any other to us; we had some ^{boiled} salt fish - with bread & molasses for dinner. & our

usual supper. We are generally better provided for now than when I first came here. A graduate of the institution has the oversight & direction of our supplies, and gives very good satisfaction. For breakfast & supper we have what are called 'rolls'. They are each equal to about two common biscuits. We have one apiece - with coffee in the morning & tea at evening - These rolls are made of flour & would be good if fresh - but as there is a regulation in the army prohibiting the use of bread till it is a couple of days old I believe: at any rate our rolls are always dry. At dinner we have a regular routine - beginning Monday and ending Saturday. I have not paid attention enough to the subject, to tell what we have on each day, excepting ^{that} we always have fish on Friday. Fura & I believe you spoke of Melvin Howard - his sickness. How does he do? - Is Charlie going to school on the ridge this winter? Tell him he must write me without waiting my slow motions. He shall have a letter soon. I want him to tell me what he is going to study - about his singing school & anything in which he is interested. And Delle - ask him for ^{it} he is going to study this winter - Tell him he must study real ^{hard} for he must not be outdone by his other brothers in scholarship. I would like to race over the hill this winter with them - but such good times as they will have will not be mine. Tell Roland I think he cuts me rather cold - If he finds anything in any paper which he thinks will be of interest to me tell him he must send it to me. Give my love to each & all & write me as often as is consistent with your many duties & your state of health. Do write Lizzie a few words if you can: she thinks so much of my mother & my mother's good will - Good night - Your affectionate son. A. C. Howard.