

River as far as Peekskill, having started off on Saturday
a sloop that we had been purchasing, and I came, or
rather went up to get a cargo of Buck for her. I thought
of you as not being many miles above me, but could
not spare the time to go and see you. I got home again
about 8 o'clock in the evening & found that Sarah had
received letters from Maria & Willie. The folks were all
well, of your own family or relations; Mrs Selman (Miss Lucia's mother)
was very sick indeed and not expected to recover, was confined
not long since and gave birth to a young son (I think), and
has not recovered from her sickness. Maria writes that they
are having fine sleighing and enjoy it finely with their sleighs
& sleighs. Their Thanksgiving dinner came off at Lewis Arms, Billy
says "ample justice was done to the Turkey, which was a goose"
the two together I think makes a very respectable Bull. I
should like to enjoy for a few days the fine sleighing they are
having down East now, - a very few days would satisfy me for
the winter. - I suppose you are having some fine cool
breezes about this time. - Mosquitoes don't trouble you much do they?
Our weather has been rather cold for a few weeks past, but
I hope for the sake of our business, that it will be mild for a
few weeks so that we can get in a little more stock before
it closes up. - It is getting along toward night and I must
hurry and get this letter off tomorrow, for it has been in hand
long enough. Why have you been so long silent? waiting for
Sarah or myself to write eh? - Don't wait again and we
will try and keep up with you. - Make our united regards to
Hebb & Lothrop, also remember them to your room mate, Tom Amos
I think his name is, & believe me with sincerely affectionate
Yours
J. J. Sargent

Brooklyn Dec 3^d 1831

Dear Otis

You no doubt wonder at our long silence,
and perhaps with very good reason, for I think one of us
might, amidst the multiplicity of "domestic cares" have
found time to have dropped you a line. if for nothing more
than to inform you that we are still in existence, if we
are lost to all around us, in the enjoyment of the "Honey Moon",
I have been waiting a while to see if it (the moon) would
not set, but I must wait still longer, and may Heaven
grant that I may be so happy in the anticipation of it
as to wait until I am grey, and then may I feel that by
its light I may still see the virtues of my dear wife.

Otis - we are happy, have been - and with the blessing of God
hope to be through life. Sarah is all that I can wish, so
far as a wife. - for five long years have we been acquainted
with each other, three of which we have been engaged, -
and (as you are well aware) though it is pleasant, extremely
so, to be with the dear object of our affections before mar-
riage, and notwithstanding it is an old saying that
"Courtship is the pleasantest part of a man's life". I have
the audacity to contradict it, at least in my case, perhaps
it is no one of the exceptions that forms the rule, and perhaps it
may be that I have not enjoyed the married state as long
as is sufficient to be a competent judge. I think I have,
but though you may be unacquainted, you may not be much in-
terested in what I have been saying, so for a change I will

branch a little. He arrived at home safe after leaving
West Point where we enjoyed ourselves very much, thanks to
our Cousin Etie. Once more at home I thought it time for
me to look round, and see what was to be done next,
as I had decided on leaving Mr Benson where I have
been for the last three years. He would not do for
me what I thought he ought to. I have finally got settled
in Brooklyn, and have hung out my "shingle", having
on it "Tucker & Sargent". "Time Sath Brack & Co." so when you
want a "Brack in your hat" you can be accommo-
-dated. He has been in operation for about four weeks
and are doing "as well as could be expected", - must spring me
expect to do a large business, and have every prospect
of it. It is quite a different business from the one I have
been engaged in, but I am my own man now, and in that
I was another, and besides, I have a prospect of making
some money now; there it was slim, - I must leave you
now and go to dinner, will call again soon.

Dier & It took me longer to get my dinner than I thought it
would, as it dont often take me three days, - the truth is I have
been as busy as possible since I left off, and withal have
one of "Sob's confusions" right on my thigh, and a run round on my
left thumb, and this morning a prospect of another of the
former on my hand. pleasant, decidedly, I dont think. Belie
are something I am quite unacquainted with, for I have
now had but one, and that about 20 years ago, I dont know how
to account for them, if you can by any System, Mathematical,
Philosophically or otherwise, I should like to be enlightened.

As I am writing now, the Guns are booming from the Battery.

in honor of the arrival of the distinguished Kereganian,
Kassuth, - such a demonstration as is now being given
him in New York, was never known in this country, - it
would have afforded me great pleasure to have gone over
with Sarah this morning to have witnessed the monument,
but was quite impossible, without neglecting my business
which I could not think of doing, she has gone however
with some friends, and I dare say will enjoy it exceedingly,
Kassuth, I think is the most remarkable man of the age,
think of a foreigner to our tongue, making such magnificently
eloquent speeches as he did, one following another, throughout Great
Britain, or rather in London & Southampton, I think he is
a most remarkable man, and one of, if not the greatest
orators of the age. - I hope he will not be injured by the
attention that he is receiving from the American people, there
is some danger of it.

I suppose you hear from the East often, Sarah. I hear
from Maria & Mother once in a while, I dont know of any-
-thing new or interesting to you. Addison is down there now
and says he is enjoying himself "some", he will be here in
January again and return to California in February, I think
he has done very well since he left this country for the Pacific,
and I am glad of it, for I think him a capital good fellow, and
one that will make a good use of his money - he boarded
near us while here, and we enjoyed having him come in and
see us very much - it would not be very surprising to me to hear
that he had, like myself "turned Benedict" - he ought to have a
good wife to take to California with him, and I hope he may get
one, I think he wants one, - 9th Yesterday I went up the

West Point. N.Y. Dec 5th 1851.

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Dear Cousin.

I presume you think me a lazy correspondent - but you would find me otherwise, far otherwise - were I not tied down to a military Academy - where, though you may be twenty one you are scarcely your own man. Since I wrote you my birth day has come round - twenty one the 5th day of November 1839. Just think of it: we are twenty one: old enough to vote, big enough to think & act all by ourselves - to manage our own concerns; go a courting, if we please - yet - married if we have a mind: - What liberty! What is a glorious thing to be twenty one - to be such independent men? But ah! here's the drawback. we are both of us slaves. I have surrendered my liberty and misfortune has seized upon yours. But it's no use groaning - cursing or repining. The past cannot well be mended; let us then together with ~~our~~ hearts full of hope & cheerfulness look forward to a better future - to the time when we will be really twenty one. I would judge by your letters that you were in very good spirits, & disposed to look upon matters philosophically at least. I've not more time to write you - and especially a more lenient set of governors that I might visit you now & then; & chat away some of these long, dull hours, which must draw so heavily upon your patience & equanimity. - It is now Saturday - Being on guard to day, I was obliged to walk Post while the Battalion was at dinner. This brought my dinner about two o'clock - This delay as you may ^{well} suppose sharpened my appetite not a little. The result was that I eat a surprising quantity of corned beef. Hence - you must not be surprised to find my brain dull - & my memory

clagged this afternoon. - I believe we followed the boy till
till he arrived at Bowdoin College. I got into Brunswick the
evening before my Examination was to take place; and of you - can
recollect the peculiar feelings which you ^{man} had upon the eve of
some event, as you conceived it, all important to yourself, about to
decide your destiny; you can easily picture the ^{expectant} boy - the novice
waiting for the morrow with his heart palpitating between
hope & fear. The day came at last - at day-light, we were on
the ground. Students collected around us, dubbed us with the
name "sub-freshmen"; but yet, notwithstanding the significant
epithet, they treated us with great civility. We listened to their
valued pictures of College bliss, and were charmed to think that
we soon were to become participants of College honors & "College
dignities". - Soon we were interrupted, by the approach of a
long-reverend-looking man; his head bent, as in meditation & his
step slow & steady; he came up & asked if we were candidates for
admission. - Finding that we were (there were 3 of us) He led
the way, beckoning us to follow - We entered a building ^{which}
afterwards learned was the medical college; & were conducted
into a large, dark room - where we met the assembled
'faculty' of college. I remember with what awe I regarded
those dignified, stern-visaged men at that time - their
perfect silence & the dim light added not a little to the
effect they had upon the simple boy... Our reverend Controller
whom I found to be the celebrated Professor Upham brought
out his big Virgil first - then a man in gold-spectacles, the
very personification of dignity-itself took a part of us away
into one corner of the room to examine us in Sallust. After passing
through his hands. Another Gentlemanly, handsome man led us away

into another apartment - as dark as the first - with skeletons & human skulls on one side & curious models upon the other - Every new thing served to impress me with awe anew, so much so that the Greek motto stuck in my throat; but he took me up in an easy place where I knew the story, & this good fortune limbered my tongue. Thus we pass round through the hands of all not excepting Old Prof Smyth - with his pierce look & stalwart frame - who found us most all wanting in his Algebra - I passed however through the ordeal & was admitted to all the immunities & privileges of a freshman - to take my room & place at the ensuing Commencement. Before this we were to have a vacation of four or five weeks. Behold me then at home - how large - how nicely I felt! Member of College! Didn't I strut about with my standing dickey, & didn't the young ladies all look upon me as a splendid fellow - At least so in my pride I flattered myself - In September I returned to Brunswick: lived with a young man of my ~~acquaintance~~ acquaintance - the first half of a quarter - Of this time I have but a poor recollection - excepting that I was a freshman - I recollect one night: my door was stove in and in came a mass of entrails - belonging probably to some Stolen Goose - Before this term closed I met with the young man with whom all my college joys & sorrows are in a measure connected - for we lived together for the four years - becoming as much attached as brothers - His name was Perley. Your father will probably remember Eliza Lane - she married Old Esq. Perley's son, of Livermore - This young man was the fruit of that marriage. I never had seen him before, but had heard of him & knew that our mothers were very intimate when in their girlish days - This was enough to make me seek his

acquaintance. He had been consumptive - He entered College about a year before me - but his health threw him back a year. He came about the middle of the term. Very soon I formed an acquaintance - The first thing that attracted my notice of his peculiarities was his love of romance - He always would have his Byron when I called to see him - soon we read together - then we walked & talked together. In short not many weeks passed before we two were very intimate - I & what my Chum & he left his - together we took a room & thereafter lived together till the close of our College course. Perley is an uncommon linguist and a splendid writer, but Mathematics came hard - on the contrary I had a sort of predilection for Mathematics, whilst I was very so to stumble over Greek roots. Hence we combined, giving & receiving mutual assistance. I shall have much to say of my old friend & chum hereafter - but now I will give you a slight idea of a Freshman's life by copying a few passages from my diary - (March 30 1847) "The Sophomores attempted to hold our class into the Chapel after 'prayers' this evening which occasioned, besides striking, pulling, scuffling, scratching - an intense excitement - which made every body talk at once at the supper table, and has driven all study from our heads this evening. but we were too smart they could not hold us." - This is one of the long established precedents for imposing upon poor freshmen. It is now done away with - since the College Government had an eye to that in building the new Chapel. In these "Holdings" as we called them - I being light used to jump upon the heads & shoulders of the 'Sophs' I walk over them through the door way & entry till I reached the outside, where I succeeded in breaking the brace of men who filled the door once or twice, and with an enormous pressure in rear, out they would go all in a bunch - 50 young men rolling head over heels. If you had been there & heard the mingled shouts of 'Victory & Defeat' - curses & cheerings, you

about scarcely believe that all those young men had just
emerged from the house of prayer. (June 19th 1847)
It is quite cool. The wind blowing quite hard - I have
attended prayers & recitation, & eaten my breakfast - now I
am seated myself to search my brain for something to
write in my Journal. As I can think of nothing else but
what I am encircled with I will speak of College life - is
the life of a freshman. 1st He must bear the taunts & jokes of
the upper classes, without a murmur, have the poorest
room in college and that poorly fitted & furnished. Every one
coming into his room takes the liberty, with impunity spits
on the floor - covering it with no matter how much filth
and dirt rendering it so much the blacker as a room
could be which had been occupied 14 weeks without washing
but to all these inconveniences he soon gets accustomed, so
that what he thought at first his pride could not brook
he can submit to with perfect composure & enjoy
himself in his humbleness. The freshman too has some
privileges - All his misdemeanors are excused or overlooked on
the plea of his being a freshman & ignorant of college laws
& customs. He can study as hard as he pleases, provided
he studies hard enough, read as much as he wishes & write
as much as he can" - &c -

In my next I want to tell you of my first College
vacation which I have skipped in my course - for that
is connected with two pretty girls in association - one of wh
you have seen - Both bore the name of Lizzie & both were
unfortunate enough to captivate two College Chums.
I was going to write this letter over; since I have taken
no pains as you see - but as my common fortune would
have it - after I had copied three pages ok! how nice! I found
that the remaining side had a big blot upon it - so here
goes - trusting to your generosity to forgive, & your friend-
ship to conceal - I will send you this scribbled sheet -
I want to go to see you on Christmas - If your father
will write a pretty strong request for me to come -
stating some pretty substantial reasons, for I know
you have some - Why I think I can procure a
short leave - Give him with your brother & sister
my love. My brother Rowland now seventeen has
entered College. I think he is teaching a winter
school now. He is bigger & heavier than his Cadet
brother. All about them same down East. Aunt
Aurelia is quite low in health & spirits as well as
in point of wealth - for she has none - scarcely a
cent. - Write as often as you feel like it - Don't be
regulated by me - I will now tell you a secret - I
can when I take pains write a plain fair hand.
But like the poor Gascon who fought terribly when he squarrelled
I never take pains - excepting when I write a love letter - My father
is to that is building the new Chapel. In these "Holdings" as

Tues. Dec. 1. 1857

Friend Howard

I have your letter of the 27th ult.,
 the receipt of which I would thank you gratefully
 acknowledge. It seems that while I was very
 easily & complacently throwing myself upon my
 dignity & cautious reticence in the matter of
 addressing you, you were doing precisely the same
 thing in reference to writing me - Now I am
 certain that I have written to you since I recd
 a letter from you, prior to your last, though
 whether you received the letter or answered it I
 do not know & wait on. I am, of course,
 unable to say - I have been waiting about
 4 months for the reply I had vainly come to the
 conclusion that you had found other acquain-
 tances more apt than your tastes & was almost ready
 to resign myself to the sad fate of a deserted
 & complete oblivion so far as you were concerned -
 But really I am greatly & happily disappointed
 by the perusal of the one which now lies before
 me. It seems that though the attractions of
 West Point are great & absorbing, still a small
 work in your memory & regard for the same
 & associations of Bowdoin - those days of
 pleasure & profit, of struggles & disputes, of

Genl. O. Howard
 Military Academy
 West Point
 N.Y.

Yours truly
 L. M. Brock

of papers & news, all of which have been safely
passed through our gun forts to the Anties &
responsibilities of war - It is pleasant to look
back upon that hour & think of the many incidents
which then so much interested us though they for the
most part appear rather trivial now - But there
are the opening scenes of military life
characterized by their peculiar phases & yet
giving a foretaste of the fiercer struggles which
are to come. A preparation season in which trials
are for the necessity of your strength & of which
our recuperation was to be enjoyed in exact
proportion to the effort we made in after life -
I don't know that I regret any of the apparently
fervid circumstances of my Army course -
I am inclined to think that they all had their
advantages which were then counterbalanced
their folly & vexation - But enough of the
past - I am glad to be informed of your continued
prosperity & hope you may yet come out No. 1 - However if others
have the advantage of you that is a circumstance to which you
which you of course are not provided against - I would not
myself object to come if you horseback rides, for aside from
the pleasure of them (which, as you suggest, could probably be
worn as a duty) they are capital & more of which I
don't get more than an ordinary show - As by your opinion
that I could easily take a premium & stand if there, I am willing
to take your word for it & purchase & believe it without trial

I saw your brother in P. a week ago - He is keeping school in Cape Elizabeth -

on the whole I should hardly recur to the kind of
cultivation I needed - and no more do I need the
discipline of school teaching - But the money - that's the
object with me, while of course I endeavor to do my duty
as far as I can - and yet avoid the toil & confusion
of this meddling. I find opportunity to study some
which I also improve as far as possible - I have
commenced reading *Sold* - I have finished or rather
have gone through with *Blackstone* & have nearly completed
the 3^d volume of *Scott* - At the ~~present~~ accomplished
graduate a week before the close of ~~the~~ - did not
intend to spend any more time ~~in~~ - close of
my first year out of College in Pedagoguing, but after
a better reflection I thought it might be as well as
perhaps better to ender it another year - The 18th of August
next will see me bidding a final Goodbye to this business
without any foil - I shall then push for the West as fast
as my convenience will allow me - I shall probably remain
at ~~the~~ commencement - as I was not there this year - My health
is tolerably good, though both that day temper I apprehend begin
to feel the effects of my avocation - Oh! it is ruinous, too
bad for a man - How did you spend Thanksgiving? I
did it in the most quiet way imaginable, right here down where
else all day - dallied about - Winter term commences next Thursday
I have only been to Portland this vacation - saw Presby, &c - all well -
Dear good spirits - and now wishing you all prosperity &
happiness, I will subscribe myself
Your friend & servant
L. N. Swett

Old Howard
Dec 14 1857



PAID

paid

Dr John Gilmore
North Leeds
Maine

West Point N.Y. Dec. 14th 1857

Dear Mother,

I have written six letters since yesterday noon, and consequently feel a little tired; but happening to think that two weeks had passed since I had written you I thought I would try to fill another sheet this evening. I received a letter from Rowland at Cape Elizabeth - which I answered today & another from Dr Lord. I am a little anxious about Rowland's health, having that cough. How did he look when at home, pretty bright & healthy? He writes me that his district is seven miles from Portland. I was sorry to learn that it is so far; for I thought that the situation would be much pleasanter for him, being where he could go into Portland & spend the Sabbath & all spare Saturdays. Dr Lord has settled in Lancaster this State, near Buffalo; he writes very favorably of his situation; - What do you do for a physician at Leeds? It is a pity Dr Lord could not make up his mind to stay with you; for a young man of his integrity is rare - but like other young men he has some of the laudable ambition; and I will readily admit, that, if he wishes, wealth, influence or reputation he does well to seek another spot than Leeds. I doubt not but that a philanthropic young Doctor, would have an excellent field of labor at Leeds; but I would almost as soon think of settling them as a lawyer. Dr Lord has a reflective mind & a clear, sound judgment, and if he only had a little more native energy his success would be certain. I have been reflecting a little

of late upon the Physician's life - and strange to say I have felt
sorry that I had not embraced the profession immediately
on graduating from College. There is something deeply
interesting to me in the study of Anatomy, so far as our
course entered into the subject - and then just think of
the ability & the opportunities the physician has to do
good. Hardship is often & always thought of when one
speaks of the Doctor - but after all - there is no more, & no
worse labor in the practice of medicine, than in the
successful practice of any other profession. Every body
sees the physician, sees his toil, his restless nights - his
travels in the cold & storm; but the mental labor of the
would-be rising lawyer & the midnight study of the
^{conscientious} conscientious divine are considered not at all, are
counted as nothing because they are not seen. And from
my little experience I would not judge that the profession
of arms carried with it very much ease & dignity?

I, however that I am, have got the idea of fame, of greatness,
of reputation into my head: - I know too that the physician
however deeply learned - however skillful, stands but
a poor chance of enjoying the esteem & praise of his
country at large. But as I grow older my ideas undergo
a change. - Fame is a sort of nothingness, a bubble, which
looks brilliant, beautiful, attractive, but ~~something~~ which
you cannot touch - you cannot grasp. Pursue it as it
seems to dally in the air before you - approach it - it is
nothing but a name. Common sense says the heart must

find its pleasure, its true enjoyment in doing good.
These are reflections; I remain where I am, turn
neither to the right, nor the left. Study - prepare your
self for something: - be not picky, unsteady; there are
the silent promptings of my inward self. I am now
getting on very happily, certain of losing the head of
my class. 41st in drawing - bad marks, now & then -
considerable demerit - these things stir up occasionally
some rather unpleasant feelings - inevitably succeeded
by strong resolutions, clinched by closed teeth: but
with all my eye is as bright & my heart as light as
it ever was. I am bound as usual to do as well as
I can - and take the consequences without flinching. -

How is Charlie? in good health & spirits & very kind
to his brother Jellie - and how is the latter young
gentleman getting on? Is he going to be a good
scholar & a great boy when I get home. - How I wish
I could drop in upon you now, if only for a few
moments. - I presume I would find father asleep in
his chair, over the financial part of the President's
message. I can see you all as I have seen you on
many a winter evening; in the kitchen rendered so
pleasant by the big glowing fire on the hearth. - Here
we are warmed by subterraneous furnaces, by means
of flues in the side of the wall - where the heat rushes in
in invisible torrents. Tell Roland to stop his dreaming
about the happy life in California. Good night. My love to
all -
Yours affectionately
Ed. Howard

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 Peckville 19th Dec^r 1851

My dear Nephew

The anniversary of Christmas is fast approaching, with it we anticipate an annual visit from you and regret they cannot be more frequent.

Your Cousin Augustus continues much the same his health is such that he cannot visit you at the Point.

Will you present my respects to Capt^r Brewster with a request that he will permit you to visit your Uncle and family on that occasion,

As the Ice in the river may cause some unavoidable delay in returning on the same day, could you not be permitted to stay over at least one day. If not incompatible with your rules and regulations, myself and family would be much gratified to have you extend your visit for more than one day.

Yours Affectionate Uncle

Ward B. Howard

W. B. Howard Esq

for which, he must take a short walk as far as
the Court House and explain, this he did and
satisfied the gentleman how they were obtained,
after which he let him start for home.
What do you intend to do New Years not I
hope spend it over dusty Books and moth Eaten
Algebras if you will do as I do, go around and see
your friends, take a social glass with each one,
and when night comes go home about half cocked
you will have a merry day of it.

But the clock strikes had my eyes begin to
close so I will close this letter wishing you
a happy New Year, write soon and tell me
how you got home &c. Miss Johnson came
last night and we had another good game at
whist, all that was wanting being yourself.
But then you know parties at Whist are
spectators and principals for, they comprise the
whole theatre themselves, and I was more
interested looking at her as I call her than
at the cards. But fare well, I am writing
this to while away an hour which has passed
and half of another. Lib and Father remain
in good health, and with many happy New Years
to you I remain

To S. S. Howard Esq
West Point
U. S. A.

Yours as ever
W. A. Howard