
351 1/4/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother - Col John
Gilmore

OOH-0331

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 4th 1852 [Sunday]

Dear Mother

I have let more time slip by before writing you than I intended when I finished my last letter; but since we have no church to day, and I have resolved some time since not to open my text books for the purpose of studying on Sunday. I will dedicate this forenoon to you. Speaking of studies on Sunday. Sabbath evening I have usually employed to get my lessons for Monday morning. I had long thought it was hardly right, that I ought for the sake of my health at least to lay aside my books for one entire day out of each week, but the fear of doing badly on Monday would over throw my resolutions. But at last I began to get provoked at myself for such a want of sense & self-command, and broke off the habit which had been sealed by five years practice. I make up for it by getting up between three & four on Monday morning. I believe I have done as well on Monday as on any day. There are two young men in the first section, who never study sundays, and one of them almost always gets a low mark on Monday morning. Perhaps he cannot like me wake up when he chooses.

Since I wrote you Christmas & New Year's have come & gone, and with them all the luxuries we are to expect at West Point for another year. I found Capt Brewerton unusually pleasant & obliging when I presented my uncle's letter containing a very pressing request for me to visit him at Peekskill a day or two before hand. He granted me even more than I asked, allowing me to leave the Post on Wednesday evening & return on Friday morning. I had a very pleasant visit at Peekskill; found my cousin Augustus about as usual, still subject to those frequent & frightful attacks of his malady. Uncle had a fall down stairs with a lamp in one hand & a tumbler in the other; he broke neither, but hurt his head very much & dislocated his shoulder. But when I was there he had nearly recovered from the effect of the fall; his arm being still a little lame.

I left this place Wednesday evening just at dark a little after parade to cross the river for Cold Springs. The river had just frozen over leaving air holes as is usually the case where the tide rises (ebbs) & falls (flows) every day. It was storming furiously & growing continually darker & darker. But Cadets are not easily intimidated when a 'leave' is in question and I think I have never been a very timid child at least not within my recollection. Well three cadets of us with a guide & a lantern set forth for a two miles walk on the precarious route. Now I suppose you are expecting a scene, some narrow escape, but no, I kept ahead of the guide more than half the way and once even set time in the proper direction, thus clipping in to Cold Springs as light as a feather - so much for the exploit of your wonderful son.

Well when I got to the depot I found that we must stop there all the evening or nearly so for the cars. After racing about awhile in search of amusement to still my impatience I sat down before the depot stove & was soon joined by Professor Agnel (pronounce his name Angel.) He is the most accomplished scholar on the Post having visited nearly all parts of the world, & being able to speak purely three languages, as if they were his native tongue. I never could decide whether english or french was his mother tongue. He says he has a little boy six years of age whom he has never allowed to speak a word of english to himself. He says he used to whip him if he attempted it. Now the child is very indignant & will have nothing at all to do with his father if he addresses him in English. I asked him if the child could speak english as well as he could french. He said yes, of course, there being an English atmosphere all around him. He thus amused me telling me about his family & his experience abroad. He had travelled in South America, or was an Officer there I don't know which. He had much to say about the french authors, & the french institutions. He was in Paris at the time Louis Philippe was restored in 1830, and described to me with the warmth a personal observer the horrors of those three days which sufficed to put Louis again upon the throne. The excitement was intense, maddening the crowd, composed of men, women, children of every size & age. Would in their blind fury stand the full charge of the cavalry, rush upon the horses, get under bellies & slash them in pieces. He said the soldiers had been ordered to fire into every collected crowd. He told me too of some of his own narrow escapes.

Thus passed the evening very pleasantly. The cars arrived about nine o'clock or after & set me ashore at Peekskill just after all hopes of my coming had been given up & my cousins gone to bed. The next day I went to church with uncle in the morning, afterwards had a splendid Christmas dinner prepared especially for me,

went to Mrs Rundell's in the evening, where I took tea & stopped the evening in the society of lots of ladies. I felt of course like a fish out of water" but I reckon I behaved most of the time like a well-bred young man.

The ladies had a good deal to say about my father. Uncle Ensign they did not remember so much about. They all agreed that I resemble my father then, but Mrs Rundell thinks my hair is darker. I hardly think that can be, but my hair is darker & better now than it has ever been before. The misses Philips at Newburg are almost angry with me because I don't go to see them; but it is next to impossible. They are still keeping a large boarding school filled up with young ladies I would judge from New York & Brooklyn. They speak of me to almost every cadet who gets up there, requesting me to come. I think I shall get leave after this January to go up there to get my tooth pulled. I have'nt yet decided whether the lady cousins are worth such a painful sacrifice or not.

The January examination commenced Friday last. Our class will be examined about next Wednesday or Thursday. My mark for the whole time in mathematics is the best by a little more than a unit, 1.05 I believe. Everything depends on the examination. If I do well I shall probably remain where I am, if badly will fall. I am waiting for the issue, but with no great anxiety for I have done as well as I could, that is I have studied as much as is consistant with my health.

Now I have talked sufficiently about myself. I wish to know how my friends are getting on. Is Rowland's cold any better. Why has he not written? I wrote him a letter to Brunswick - another to Cape Elizabeth. Probably he has got neither. If he is well enough & at home tell him to write. I am anxious to learn how he does. Give my love to Dellie & Charlie. Ask them if they have'nt any good word to send me. Any news to tell me about their studies, their school, their master, their playmates, and their fine times. I presume a good many little boys remember me as their teacher, & more perhaps as their schoolmate. Hasn't Dellie any large stories, fine ones of course to tell me, about the new things that have happened? I shall look like a little boy side of Rowland Bailey, if he is so large and tall as you say. I suppose Charles is running up imperceptibly perhaps to you, but I shall notice it, for I have him in mind of the same size as when I left. Ask Roland A if he had as good a time on Christmas eve, as we had several years ago when we went to a party at Wilson Gilberts and returned late, late or rather early in the morning ensuing in a drifting snow storm. Lucy Dunham was my lady and she is married.(?) It seems to me now that all my old companions are yet boys & girls. How is it that they are getting married! But ah! I myself am twenty one and who knows but others may grow old as fast as I. On New Years we had quite a feast. Oysters the night before & at noon of the day quite a dinner - after which I got two whole pieces of mince pie. I live well enough always. I am not disposed to grumble at our provisions. I always have health & a splendid appetite, who can ask more? Yesterday after noon little Closson & I raced about the woods, for exercise & reconnoitering. Sometimes off limits & sometimes on. We didn't care so long as we did not get "hived". We met Harville in our rambles. He looks badly all freckled & pitted with the indelible marks of the small pox. He says Warren is well.

I got out of money when I went to Peekskill having 50 cts to start with. I borrowed of Uncle one dollar. I can pay him on furlough or you may send me a dollar.

Did Lizzie make you a call while she was at Livermore?

With much love for you all. I am your affectionate son.

O. O. Howard

P.S. Why think Uncle does not write me? Tell me how grandmother was when you heard from her. Give my love to father. Did he lose anything by his official transactions as treasurer of the Road? Mr Browne is again full of fears that he shall be sent off this January. I think he is safe.

[Envelope]

[Postmark] West Point N.Y. Jan 6 Paid 3

Col John Gilmore

South Leeds

Maine

352 1/4/1852

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0332

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds January 4th 1852

My dear boy

Tis a long while since I have written you, many events have transpired to prevent me from it. Charlie's letter came to hand one week since. Glad to hear your health and spirits are good. Suppose ere this your preparation is made for examination, and will be over ere this scrawl will reach you.

Christmas too, is over with all its anticipation and I hope all is well. You will tell us in your next letter how you find your Uncle Wards family and how much Mixture of pain and pleasure you found in going to Peekskill.

The same day I mailed my last letter to you I recd one from RB Howard saying unless some radical change took place in his health he must come home. I was not disappointed. I knew when he went from home, he could not stand it long unless the syrup he took with him helped him. But his school was large, and school house hot, and walking on the beach a half mile where the Cold Sea breeze took him on leaving the school house increased his disease in two weeks to an alarming extent. He reached home and did not leave his bed for a week. Since then his disease has been wearing off. For ten days we kept his Chest and back one <series> of <sores> made by croton oil, and every other means used to clear his lungs of the matter collected there. He has had some discouragements in his progress towards health but I think he is in a good way towards health if nothing befalls him. He has a cough yet, and has never had a change of air, has never been out of doors yet nor any room where there is any change in the temperature. What will be the result of this sickness is yet to be seen. I fear if he returns to those College rooms again his disease will return in full force, but that is yet to be determined. He has not received any of your letters from West Point, he stopt at Mrs Waites over the sabbath on his return from Cape Elizabeth sick enough all the time. I am under great obligation to Mrs Waite for her kindness to R.B. and would be glad to thank her in person. R.B. said they were coming up with Perley to Lewistown, Turner and Livermore, to spend Perleys Vacation. When he first returned he was in hopes to be well enough to go for them and bring them here, but we have not heard any thing from them. I thought if Lizzie knew how sick R.B. was she might possibly find means to come here, but their time is expired I think. I have written Lizzie a letter the day I mailed your last. I expect it lays in the office at Portland now, after I had prepared my letter for the directions I gave them to your father to write the superscription and he directed to Lizzie A Waite as we are in the habit of speaking her name. If she should call for such a letter at the office it was intended for her. I intend writing her again now that my poor Brain is getting more settled. I have slept two nights without any care of RB, your father getting up to renew his fire. R.B. has begun one or two letters to you and thrown them aside. His head was in a sad condition when he came home but his pult is quite even, and his eyes look quite natural.

I know but little about what is going on in town as I have not been out much this winter. They always seem to be in trouble at Uncle Barneys. Ruggles Sylvester who has been so long in the habit of having fits died in one not long since. I don't know how Uncle B gets along. Ruggles was able to take care of them. Your father has just returned from Church and come in and given me a trimming about his shirt collar. They are always too broad or too narrow or too short or too long and I am never in any humor to hear him. Dellie is trying to write something to you and Charles is writing on the same table with me, and R.B. is taking a luncheon on the sofa. So you see my boys are near me all but you. The rest of our family are well.

R.B. had a letter (from W. O. O. [William Oliver Otis] and Maria [Otis]) of condolence and congratulation. William thought sickness much better than school keeping. Maria said their family were all sick except father. Her Mother she said was very sick. She (Maria) had been confined two weeks to the house. Don't think strange that your Uncle John don't write for of all men I think him the most full of <care> and business. I think he is living beyond his income and struggling with all his might to get the better of his circumstances. He is gone from home a great part of the time. I should not think strange that Maria does not write according to the view I have of her. She might answer a letter and she might not, from sheer indolence. Addison Martin has called on us and thinks he shall come to West Point before he returns to California. He intends arriving in California in March. I am glad to hear a good news from Sarah and her husband. I hope they will do well in every respect. Your Aunt Ann is with Mother. I have heard that she will visit Portland this winter. Probably visit Mrs Waite &c.

She has never come to Leeds since her return to H. I think she would come, and honor me with a visit if I should send for her, that I shall not do, at present. John Harrison Otis has gone into trade on commission in Mr Alden's store. I have not heard how much business he is doing. We have had an uncommon cold winter so far but still I am hoping for warmer weather and shall be untill spring. We have gloomy weather to day, neither snow nor rain but a frost catching on to the trees untill they are loaded with ice sickles.

Do you hear much about Kossuth the hungarian general. Our papers are filled with accounts of his greatness. I thought you West Point Cadets might catch the enthusiasm towards him. Gerry Lothrop I understand has had the honor of an Introduction to him. Your Aunt Ann would like to go to New York to live and I think she eventually will go there. How does Langdon carry himself. You have never mentioned him. You can give my love to him if you think best, and Warren too, although they accused me of preaching false reports about him when I came home from West Point. I was not in the least guilty, no doubt he thinks so. But I don't care.

Yours
E.G.

353 1/4/1852

From: Charles H Howard

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0334a

Leeds

West Point
NY

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Jan 4th 1852

Dear brother

It has been a long time since I wrote you a letter, but I received one from you dated 20th December. It was quite a long one comprising five pages. As you say I like to have letters & long ones too from my brother, but better than I do to write them myself, but I know it gives you pleasure to hear from home. So I will try to answer all that you write. I am in good health and I think if you should see me you would not think that I was pale.

Rowland is getting along well, as well as we could expect. You asked, if he had any trouble with his school? I believe he did not. He liked his school very well. We have a very good school here taught by Daniel Wing of Monmouth. It has kept four weeks and will keep three or four more. I have been to singing school this winter. Mr Davie began a school here last Fall and it finished Friday night but there will be 4 more meetings to prepare for the Dedication of the new Meeting-house. I do't know that you know anything about the new Meeting house. The Methodist of Quaker Ridge have got them such and it is to be Dedicated next Thursday. It is situated below or south of Salmon Wings barn on the right hand side of the road as you go towards Mr Brewster.

Sunday 11th. It has been some time since I began my letter. I could not finish it because I went to school. Dellie is writing on the same table with me. He has written (if you can read it you will see) that I am sick, &c. I suppose that he ment to convey the idea that I was unwell. I have got a bad cold. I said the meeting-house would be dedicated Thursday, but I made a mistake for it has not been dedicated yet but will be next Thursday. There was a new meeting house dedicated at Wayne Village situated on the oposite side of the road from Arza's. Who lives where Mr <C> Wing the miller used to live.

We recieved a letter from you last night, and one from Lizzia which contained one which you wrote to Rowland and directed to Cape Elizabeth. I have got along well with my studies this winter. I study Weld's grammar. I have got to Interest in my Arithmetic. If I have good health I guess I shall go to Kents Hill next spring.

There is a funerall sermon to be preached at the meeting house to day for Mr Ebenezer Lothrop Mr Thomas Lyson. He died away from home and was not brought home, but they had a sermon preached. Our folks did not go up, it stormed so this morning. Lizzia wrote that her mother was sick all the time. She was at Livermore. If it had not been for that she would have come down here. She wrote that she just rec a letter from you.

Our teacher, Mr Wing, has some different arangments in school from what we had been used to having here on the Ridge. In the morning we read in the Testament, and then in the Fourth Reader, after which the smaller classes read and then Arithmetic and Geography. After we read in the afternoon, we write a spelling lesson taken from our reading list. Just as school closes at noon and night he asks them all if they have whispered, and they have to say whether they have or not and if they say yes he puts down a black mark.

I suppose you have not skated any this winter. Dellie and I have skated a great deal. You have enough to do beside skating and if not I don't know as there is boy enough left in you to play. The first part of the winter we skated, but the ice is covered with snow.

Rowland has been writing funy things here on the table so you see that he has not forgotten how to make fun. Rolan A is reading a novel out loud. It is one that you with some others presented to the Athenaeon society. I believe the name of it is Norman Leslies.

Dellie learns very well this winter. He studies Smyth's Arithmetic and he studies Geography with me. The boys and girls in his class in spelling have a chain to wear when they get to the head, and leave off there; then they take their place to the foot, the one that gets it the largest number of times has it when the school finishes. We have got a new oil cloth carpet on our kitchen floor. Mother has got some very, very pretty plants. There is one pretty rose on her bushes. Now it looks very pretty when there is nothing green out of doors.

From your affectionate brother
Charles

[to] O.O. Howard

[This letter is continued on the next page with a letter from Eliza Gilmore on Jan 6, 1852]

354 1/6/1852

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0334b

Leeds

West Point
NY

Source: Bowdoin

[This letter is the continuation of a letter from Charles on Jan 4, 1852]

Tuesday morning [Jan 6, 1852]

Charles and Rodelphus have exerting themselves to write to you. Rowland still appears to be in a good way of recovery. He has not been out yet. We have such stormy weather. He cannot go out with any safety. I don't understand your being so short of money. I shall enclose a one dollar bill in this. I hope you will be careful and send it to your Uncle. If you need any money next summer before coming home write in season, to have it sent from here.

Yours ever
Eliza Gilmore

[Envelope]
O. O. Howard
West Point
NY

355 1/8/1852

From: E. A. Waite

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0335

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Jan 8 1852

Dear Mrs Gilmore

I should have written to you sooner in answer to your very kind and most welcome letter had I not expected to have seen you before this time. I felt unpleasant to return without seeing or even hearing from you, but mother was sick all the while we were gone, and I did not wish to leave her; she was not able to leave her room 'till New Year's day. She is quite well now excepting her cough troubles her much. Mr Perley received Rowlands letter last evening, we are very glad indeed to hear his health is improving. If I had known he was sick I should have made greater effort. After Mother got better, to have gone to Leeds. Mrs L was in this morning. She heard from Rowland when he was the sickest and had'nt heard since till I told her. Expects Mr Martin and Mrs Lee at her house tomorrow. Hope Rowland will pardon me for keeping his letter so long. I am very much obliged for the liberty of reading it. I have not heard from West Point since. Remember me with love to all who may inquire after me.

Yours
E. A. Waite

To Mrs Eliza Gilmore

356 1/8/1852

From: Rowland [B.
Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0336

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Jan 8th 52

Dear Brother

I do not feel as well today as usual being afflicted with a severe headache, but I am gaining strength and flesh slowly and am in hopes to go out in a few days. What discourages me the most is my extraordinary susceptibility of cold. The slightest breath of cold air seems to close up my pores and gives me a cold unless I can overcome this difficulty, the climate will keep me within doors most of the Winter. I have my fears of returning to College and taking my old room and I don't know where I can get a better. The Sophomore Class is so large that they occupy their own rooms and all the best of the Freshman rooms. If I was in perfect health with 'listing' the windows and doors and covering the cracks with a carpet, I should get along well enough. But with the predisposition to a lung complaint which I think now is fastened upon me. It would be little less than self sacrifice for me to attempt to study under the same circumstances that I did in the Fall Term. But the state of my health will decide everything.

We have had a severe snow storm and the roads are drifted after the old fashion and the men have been out two days breaking them out.

Roland is the same as ever only worse. I think the evils of his natural disposition are increasing upon him. He seems to want energy, resolution, perseverance and independence of character, in fact all of the requisites of success in the world. But he has other qualities which if fully developed might be of great advantage to him in life. His sisters are <naging> marriage and if it is of the right kind, I think he had better conform to their views, & tell him he has arrived at that point in life, where suicide is inevitable and all he can do is to seek the most honorable death, whether to be drowned in the sea of matrimony or otherwise.

I like Addisons appearance very well and hope that he will go to see you. He has seen Lizzie and likes her very much, but think she is excessively little, but you know a Calafornian idea of everything is remarkably extensive.

I was to go to Livermore after Lizzie but the state of my health would not permit, and thus we were all deprived of the pleasure of a visit from her. In your letter to Charles I thought you prided yourself considerably on being able to hear the gossip of Maine without anyones knowing it. But as every one knows that you have a secret correspondent among us. Your information of remarkable movements (of the tongue) does not appear so wonderful.

But that was rather funny that the sage father of our Unkle Henry should take such a painful interest in your affairs as to try to arouse father's fears for his son's future matrimonial prospects. Mother told me and I told Lizzie and she wrote you and thats the whole story. I suppose L- wrote you that she had a present for your Twenty first birth day. If she didn't don't let her know that I have for perhaps she wishes to give you an agreeable surprise. It is a beautiful edition of Zumale poets of America, a very appropriate present, selected in fine taste.

Maria writes me that she is having a very gay time this winter, attending Balls, soirees et cetera but is kept from the Christmas gayeties by a severe cold. Report says that William is quite studious in his fathers law Books. I suppose mother wrote you all the news as so I shall none to tell. Write me soon and remember me as

Your aff Bro
Rowland

357 1/11/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0337

Yarmouth

Source: Bowdoin

Yarmouth Jan 11 1852

Friend Howard

It is a week or more since I recd your very acceptable letter & I will endeavor to write plain the conjectures in which you seem to be indulging at my expense & in relation to my private affairs. In the first place you are correct in the supposition that I am a free man, free from entangling alliances with any & yet so far as I am concerned at peace with the whole world. (A certain portion of this little contemptible town of Yarmouth excepted). Then I must confess as hereupon I have few sympathies or bonds of relations or even friendship.

But to proceed - as I said I am a free man, free to go or come as I please, free to do as I please, to say what I please, free in the widest & most comprehensive sense of the term, & at present I feel no particular disadvantages from the peculiar Independence of my position. I reckon I am after all just about what you took me to be in respect to female society but nevertheless I do not yet despair of finding a better half to share the better or the worse, sometime or other as soon as I shall be ready to receive one.

It is a consoling reflection that there are enough of them such as they are, & some of them are good enough if you can only find them. But as for me I got kind of sick of the business & gave up in disgust as much as any thing. With no particular provocation & without any other pretext than my own individual impressions of propriety, I concluded it altogether wise to <dismiss> myself from all such connections for the present, & be ready to commence again when the occasion might seem to require it. I didn't cost me much of <course>. Whether it was more difficult for others I leave you to judge. Not that I am indifferent to the pain of others, by no sort of means. I regret anything like that most sincerely & wish it may not be on my account & really I imagine that the real happiness of all concerned was consulted in the <>.

As to the <rumor> of its accomplishment therefore I leave you to infer. It is done & can't be undone & I would not have it undone if I could. So now you see I am cast ashore, run aground yet at perfect liberty to swing in any direction I may choose & when I decide to put out if the wind <or> be favorable. I can do so without stopping to hoist in & stow away my anchors & cables. I am in readiness for the voyage.

But how is it with you? Still first I presume. Well, that is right & you incur less blame for doing so. But Old Jack they say has cut loose and anchored again rather suddenly. In fact I guess he was anchored in two places at the same time. That was too bad - too bad. There is no doubt about his playing a double game, I suppose. Who would have thought it of him. I always imagined that he was as immovable as the hills - <ad?ted>, faithful, unchanging <Cur> - one whom no thought or deed could vary from the star of his first adoration <> I had supposed that certain obligations increased by him in that quarter would compel him to the observance of his vows.

But it seems that all of these things & more too were not enough to arm his heart against those vily attacks of an unsuspected arrow. And then if he had only made a tolerable exchange it would seem to be better. But if the trouble was known I do not think his later solution a very flattering one for his taste. But there is no accounting for one's tastes in such things you know. & really I am beginning to think that mere respect is hardly a sufficient basis for such relations. Love goes when it is sent they say & I guess it does. Mine I fear has never yet been sent, when it ever will be or not is what the future alone can satisfactorily determine.

I saw Jack's present lady about a year ago, & really I was far from being favorably impressed with her personal appearance & accomplishments. A little and horrid girl about 18 I guess, as wild as a hawk, but Jack couldn't stand her facinations when they were so constantly bearing upon him & he therefore surrendered at discretions.

<Ardgraves> is married but this is probably no news to you. Well how wasted are his days of facination & gallantry in Brunswick. The first victim of the class of '50. Who'll be the next? I can't even guess. May be I shall take a notion to get married & go right straight off. I think this will be the only way I shall get off anyhow.

Perley was here one week ago to day. He was just returning from his vacation tour up <here> & he seemed to be in fine health & spirits for him. He is about as sick of Pedagoguing as I am & I presume that this will be the last year of the business for both of us. I shall be happy, most happy, to see you when your vacation comes. I expect a long visit from you of course & you must not disappoint me. I do not have much to do in school this term as we have a very small school. But I make my time of some profit to me by reading Law. This letter has been hastily written more so than it will be read I fear.

Write soon & remember me as

Your friend &c
J.N. Jewett

359 1/18/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0338

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 18th '52

Dear Mother

I have taken my pen this evening to write home, and the question arises to whom shall I write out of my numerous correspondents at that cherished place! I am thinking on reflection that you deserve the next letter. Our examination finished last night & I came out as you will probably find before this reaches you, first in mathematics, fourth in french and thirty ninth in drawing. Mr Lee second in Math, third in french and sixteenth in drawing. I must now <trail> till next June. If I can rise twenty files in drawing, I will come out ahead at that examination. All things are possible to the determined mind - that is all reasonable things. I may do it - we will wait & see.

I have written a letter to Augustus to day & enclosed the dollar you sent me. You think it odd that I should be out of money - so do I. You know father let me have ten dollars. I bought some books to read in camp, particularly to keep from thinking so much about myself, my situation & my prospects. With a part of my money, I got some one to buy some things that I needed at the store. I let Langdon have a little, which he promised to pay in a few days, as soon as he got a letter from home, which he never did. In the summer while in Camp, I used to go to Joe's, you remember the little building close by the Camp ground, and get ice creams, and sometimes when it was hot & I did not feel like going to dinner, I would get a whole dinner. Well when I set out for Peekskill, I had between fifty & seventy five cents. Capt Brewerton would have let me have money from the treasury, but I forgot to ask him and I could not get it well after I came back. Here then is a fair explanation of my prodigality, showing at least where my money went to, if not my prudence.

I am now in debt about 25 dollars, I presume you wonder at this too. I will attempt an explanation. In the first place by coming in September I lost two months pay, 48 dollars. I was obliged to buy six pairs of white pants this summer, whereas my classmates had their old ones & bought none. Our class had to furnish themselves with a riding suit in addition, which has not come before till after furlough. This suit came to fourteen (fifteen) dollars. We have enough in all conscience to support us well for the four years, but you see by this that it is at present unequally distributed. One set of summer pants will last me nearly through. One riding dress & artillery suit will certainly. I now put in just as few orders as possible. Our drawing instruments came this year too - about 14 dollars. Third class men, those who are "boning" furlough as they call it, nearly all look threadbare.

Next June, I shall be I think about 12 dollars out of debt, that is, if I "bone" it hard. The two month's pay for the summer while we are away is given us in advance in Clothing. If we do not take it in Clothing we don't take it at all then. Perhaps you know that two dollars per month is reserved by the Government to give us a uniform suit & a sword when we graduate. Then in fact we have but 22 dollars a month now.

If you understand these statements you will not be surprised to find me in debt, and the strictest prudence would hardly have kept me from it. Those who are much out of debt made large deposits. If I draw money from home, for furlough, by prudence, I shall be able to more than repay it when I graduate, unless I should have the luck to be made an officer this coming year, of which I have no expectation, for since I have been squad marcher, I have not reported enough to please such military men as Capt Alden, our commandant, and then everybody knows I take more pride & more interest in my studies than in military bearing.

In our class four young men have been found deficient & are to be sent away, 6 more were deficient in drawing alone and are to be retained. One young man, Mr Philipps, when he came here says he did not know a vulgar fraction from a decimal & has by industry mastered the course in mathematics & in french but they 'found' him in drawing & say he must go. He failed to make a few straight marks & must leave. He has 180 demerit. His is the only case where drawing alone was the finale. I hate to see him go for he is my friend & I think it is palpable injustice.

This January is the first January examination in which any but plebes have been sent away. Mr Stevens & Webb of Maine were both 'found' last January, one in drawing & the other in Mathematics, but being permitted to stay both more than redeemed themselves before June & now are out of danger. Mr Browne has been 'on

pins' for some time, but he just saved himself again, next to the foot in Mathematics & also in french, & 45th in drawing. He will have to labor very hard between this and June to pass. After that he will have little trouble from the nature of the studies.

Just before they went to be examined in Mathematics, the last section (called "the immortal section") came to my room. They are all fine looking young men as there are on the Post. Some were as pale as a cloth, some trembling & all excited & anxious. They knew some of their number must go, but who? He that happens to get something that he cant do well on. I know some of them would as lief be shot as found deficient at this Academy. So much young men become attached to this place, after the first year. Our class is now 60 in number, no 59 - 15 or 20 more must take leave of us before we graduate.

My class is now drawing problems partly in perspective - niches, spheres, abacus, cones, cylinders, &c, with their shades & shadows the light coming in a given direction. It involves all our knowledge in mathematics to lay them out with the pencil, and the greatest care & neatness to put them in ink with the right line & circular pen. This exercise we have till the first of February instead of reciting in Mathematics, so that we are obliged to draw five hours a day.

Oh! How it makes my bones ache, but I begin to do admirably. I believe you would say some of my drawings look finely, though you would not understand them. But they are not half as good as some others in the class. But as usual - 'keep trying!'

I have said a good deal about West Point in this letter & its affairs, and if the above suggest anything, which you would like to know, you must mention it. I hope you will be able to say that Rowland is entirely well in your next letter. I shall answer Charlie's, Rowland's & Dellie's letters as soon as I can. I would like to write more & oftener, but you must see that I cannot always do it. But never imagine that I neglect to write through indolence, or want of affection for my mother & brothers, for you must know me too well to suspect me of the one or believe me guilty of the other. Give my love to all. Tell Rowland Alger, he needn't get married till I get home, for I want some young men in Leeds. After five more months of solid study I shall feel myself prepared for furlough & I fear you with others will find that I have'nt a bit more common sense or refinement, than when I set forth. But I am not going home to show what I know but to have the happiness of seeing again, face to face, my mother, father & brothers. So good night.

Your affectionate son
O.O. Howard

I meant to write really nice when I started, but you will see how well I succeeded before you get through, if you ever do. From this you can form some faint idea of my great success in drawing topography. OOH

360 1/18/1852 *From:* Peleg T. Perley

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0339

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Jan 18th '52

My Dear Old Chum,

What would I not give to have you sitting here to night with Liz and Mother and me! What a happy set we should be - in fact we are quite so now at least you would say Liz was could you look in upon her through these frosty windows and see as I do now working away, in her own graceful, happy way embroidering her 'scarf' and looking all so pleased to think she has got me to write to you for she says she is so busy she cant. As for me you have an idea that I am misanthropic, gloomy, unsocial, "ruined" in fine and it would be useless for me to tell you I am not so, so we will let it go as it is.

But by the way I am inclined to believe that I am about as happy as most men - mind you I have got to calling myself a man - and as for being "shattered" as 'Liz' and Lucretia (not Mrs. Waite) call me or as to having ever been love sick I most strenuously deny the accusation or the imputation. I am naturally communicative and say what a great many would keep to themselves and what had perhaps better be kept to myself and so under myself liable to be called ruined when I am not. You know just what I have passed through yes, suffered, for you know I did suffer, but you ought to know that I am not so gloomy and misanthropic as you pretend. But I am in a hurry and cant stop longer to talk, about myself except to say that I train "Liz" the best I know how. She goes to the Lyceum and we do hear some first rate lectures but she has found out some of my boys, who go there and detracts a good deal from my Pedagogueorial dignity by peeping round by me and making me laugh &c. Old Jackson, I don't know but you may have heard of it, has given Miss Clark the mitten and is engaged to another woman, a Miss Dearborn of East Pittston; and what is more Old Jewett has given Amanda the mitten. I saw Jewett a little more than a week since and he told me this with his own mouth.

What do you think of it? Eh! Isn't it a pretty pair? What do you say? I am ready to exclaim with Cicero "O tempora! O mores! Or as I should say O Moses! That Butler should have done it and got damned for it of course is nothing strange but that the pious and devoted Jack! And the deliberate, dispassionate, unwavering Jewett should have fallen from their allegiance is to me astounding, fairly so.

What is the "class of '50" coming to? I did not look for such a development so soon in fact I never did. I was much pleased with your glance back at our old college days. Many things that then occurred, already float dreamily before me while many show brightly and can never be forgot. How fortunate for us poor mortals it is that things past soon get shaded and dimmed. Byron says,

"Joy's recollection is no longer joy

While sorrow's memory is sorrow still"

but I think we forget our sorrows sooner than our joys and I am glad it is so.

I am really glad you are doing so well in your present career as you are and be assured I hear of nothing with more pleasure than your success. I have no fears for your success for your energy and perseverance will render your triumph certain.

In haste, I am as ever your more than friend.
Peleg T. Perley

[To] O. O. Howard

[Envelope]

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard A.B.

West Point

New York

[Postmark stamp unreadable]

361 1/30/1852 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0340

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Jan 30th 1852. The last part of this was written Sunday Feb 1st

Dear Brother

Although, I shall expect a letter from you tomorrow yet having a little spare time I occupy it in this manner. My health is decidedly poor although much improved. My general health is very good but my lungs are affected considerably and I have a coughing spell every morning. I am at a stand to know what to do. I fear if I return to College and occupy my cold room and devote myself assiduously to study that I shall be 'used up' for some time and you know if I do not return at the first of the term, that is in about 2 weeks, I cannot, for a year, if then. I think that to leave College at the present time will decidedly injure my prospects for life and I am afraid to continue there will ruin them. The former is certain and the latter uncertain. Now the question is, which is the greatest evil, the certainty or the uncertainty?

On account of making up my 'review' which I left last term I must decide very soon and my health at present will not permit me to study at all, if it does in the course of two or three weeks.

Another question with me is what is it best for me to do if I do not return to College? I should like to see you and talk over this subject. I think I ought not to stay in this climate unless there is some powerful motive for so doing. If I should leave Maine I should try either the Southern States or Calafornia. My inclinations at present lead me to look favorably upon the latter. If I understand its climate from what I have heard form Addison, Roland and others and from what I have read casually. I think it quite favorable to my constitution. The air is of equal temperature, and consumption and the thousand and one lung complaints incident to our State are unknown. The other diseases such as intermittent yellow fever and cholera are such as may be guarded against by proper attention to diet and apparel. Addison said, 'If your lungs trouble you so that you are unable to continue your studies come to Calafornia and I will see that you are well situated.' I have none of what is called 'Fever' for Calafornia, but rather regard a journey there as a sort of pennance that I owe to my forfeited health.

But perhaps I may not go to Calafornia or any where else, at least, don't say anything about it to any body. Dr Garcelen was here yesterday and advised me not to return to College at least for 6 weeks. I am quite fleshy after my sickness and probably if you should see me you would pronounce me to be in robust health.

They had a town meeting here yesterday (Saturday) to vote on loaning the credit of the town to the Rail Road. The Project signally failed. The friends of the measure being out voted two to one. The towns of Livermore, Wilton & Jay had voted to 'lend' before us, but will now retract (probably) as the measure was to raise \$75000 with 15000 for the share of each, and the taxpayers of those towns will not contribute any unless the whole amount is realized. The last hope of the Directors is now extinguished and future generations seem destined to see a road graded for 14 miles and abandoned. Which will probably teach them how futile are all such projects, and the above towns will sink into their former obscurity perhaps some what deepened by the dead loss of \$50,000 or more. A loss that falls the harder, because most of the sufferers are those of small property, who contributed their saving for this work. Father has lost his office of Treasurer and thinks he is very nearly secure for his debt against the Co. How Uncle Ensign is I don't know.

You probably hear from our Temperance law, now and then. I believe there is nothing that Down Easters feel so proud of as of that, although it meets with violent opposition in our own State yet such is the enthusiasm for it here and such its reputation abroad that I believe the Rowdies themselves are proud of it and of its author Neal Dow. Gov Hubbard at a late convention adopted the Law as his own child and has pronounced himself a temperate man now and forever and what John Hubbard says he means. I will send you a paper containing the proceedings of the Convention.

At my suggestion Father has subscribed for the Portland Advertiser for you and I suppose you will rec it regularly hereafter. By a late reduction, the price is 150 per year. I think it is the best paper in Maine. I wouldn't stay at West Point a week without a Maine Whig paper and I suppose you feel something so.

Our folks are well except Dellie who is complaining of various infirmities today and wondering if he shall be able to go to school tomorrow. It snows today, a regular cold winter snow storm of the worst kind, and out of doors all is chill and dreary and in doors Newspapers are in great demand. Grandmother is at Uncle Ensigns, is going to stay in town 2 or 3 months. She has a project in her head I believe to <remove> Uncle to Hallowell, but I don't know whether she will carry the day or not. John H has abandoned farming became a merchant trading in the shop that Jesse Lane occupied. I hope he won't quite ruin his father or anybody but himself by the operation. I have had one or two sleigh rides and 5 or 6 walks and shall double the amount this week if I can. We have not rec your rank yet, probably because we have not been to the Center P.O. I am glad to hear of your success and congratulate you upon your prospects. Hope to see you A No 1 at the end of the course.

Your aff Brother
Rowland