

classmate, who warned on my Post about the said problems;
well! a Military little Cadet-Captain, ^{Muller} being officer of the day,
came round to inspect for lazy sentinels! Opened the door
of the Entry in which I was - or rather ought to have been -
walking & asked: all right? I hastened into a proper
place & answered 'all right'; but 'twas no go! He did
not see me in the door of a room, but suspected that
that was the case & reported me accordingly - I knew
I was guilty I did not say much about it; but felt
rather mean walking off thus for it -

Lizzie wrote me that she saw Aunt Ann in Portland at
Maud Henry's; at whose house she attended quite a large
family party - Do you know whether she has heard
from Perry lately? What has become of the poor boy?
Give my love to Grandmother, tell her she must keep smart
if possible till I get home - Ask her if she cannot
tell you something to write me. Give my love to Charlie &
Dellie, ask them what kind of a looking thing they
imagine their cadet-brother to be. Tell them I will
pay them for all the letters they will write me, by coming
to see them next June. Rowland Bailey must get well
as soon as he can. I can't endure the thought of his
staying, at home half well, half sick - Tell him I
am ashamed of writing so few & so short letters as
I have been obliged to of late, but I will try & repay
him one of these days. How is father's health? does
he grow old? And in spite of the liquor law does he
keep 'apple juice' in his cellar? - Good night! I
have filled my sheet, if you can read it - you can
do better than I could a fortnight hence. Tell me
of your own wellfare - & remember that I am
Your affectionate Son
Al Howard

Al Howard

Dear Mother,

West Point N.Y. Mar 7th 1852.

After spending the Sabbath in our usual
occupations, that is in those occupations which we usually engage
in on the Sabbath, I find myself in my room, sitting at my table thinking
about furlough, about my home & my friends in the distance. As I
told you I have made up my mind not to study any more Sundays &
Sunday evenings, I find it rather hard to abstain, when I know that
I haven't got a word of my lessons for the morrow: but a resolution
is, of course, good for nothing unless persevered in, so to preclude
all inclination of consulting my text books this evening, I have
undertaken the very excusable labor of writing to my mother.
Since I have spoken of it, you may be a little curious & enquire how I manage
Monday mornings, not having got my lessons the night before? Why I
do as you do, waking mornings. I get up betimes, & go after regulating
the precise time of rising according to the length & difficulties of my
respective lessons. Sometimes at 4, past 3, sometimes at 4, and often
or at five. You ask, is there no danger of being reported? No, in
the winter season I never knew an officer to get up before 8 o'clock;
nor would I, if I were in their places. I do hate to turn out
so early, but I will not let laziness make me the poorer. How do
you all do? the invalids or as the Frenchman says, 'les Malades'?
How do they do the two Rolands? You see by coupling their names
I cannot do ^{justice to} the respective orthography of each. But seriously
is not Rowland Bailey getting better? are his lungs affected?
I cannot seem to make much out of him: he says he looks well
so much so that I would not believe him sick; while he is not well.
Has he a bad cough like ^{the} one I carried to Brunswick a few years

ago; tell him I cured myself with Sperdy's Cherry Pectoral; this remedy
might be efficient with him; but he must mind & not drink it
by the gill as I did, for he might not have any strength of chest
to bear it. I presume you would be a little surprised & not a
little disappointed, if I should write you that I could not leave
West Point this summer; and yet such might seem to be the
case from a letter of the Secretary of War to a young man who
formerly belonged to our class, but was found deficient & turned
back last June. Mr Black (that is the young man's name) wrote
to the Secretary of War, to see if he could not get a furlough with
our class. The Secretary of War, replied that he could not allow him
one; for according to the regulations no young man could have
a furlough till he had been here two entire recruitments. He
came in September with me. So, if on that ground he is deprived
of a furlough this year, on the same ~~ground~~ my prospect of a furlough
is rather dim. Yet you need not be afraid; for I will go any
now. They do things after in the Army without shuddering at
small things. Capt Brewerton could not put on the face to tell
me I could not go on furlough with my class, although
he can tell those young men who have been 'found deficient
& turned back' flatly that they cannot go till their present
class does. But putting ^{the} worst construction we can upon
the matter: supposing he would say, Mr Howard, I am sorry
to tell you that you cannot go away this summer, but must
stay & keep our pleasant company. I shall reply without
hesitation, Capt Brewerton, I have not seen my home for two
long years, my class is about to leave, & it is palpable injustice
to keep me here; give me my leave, or I tender my warrant as
Cadet. Yes I shall certainly leave up my situation before I

give up my furlough; unless I merit, this as ~~is~~ a punishment
for some crime not yet committed. This I believe is the meanest
place on earth; Just think of it here is Warren Co., my friend &
so near I cannot even see him without infringing the
most stringent of our regulations. When I write I am ashamed
to say to you that I don't know how he is & what he is doing?
He took notice of me when I was sick, he came to me - When
I heard that he was sick I could not get near him - You must
not any of you at home believe this to be pride; for it is no
such thing it is absolute necessity; When I was a plebe, I
could go with comparatively little danger down to his
barracks; but now every officer on the post will recognize
me at any distance. I saw him pass the other day - he looked
well at a little distance; I was marching my section; he did
not see me. Was Roland A. ~~recovered~~ recovered entirely from
his fever? I was thinking about him this morning, when I
saw a young man who resembled him a little I fancied.
My pen is very treacherous, tell father; in fact it is one that
I gave up as good for nothing a month ago - but I
could not raise a better this evening. Perhaps I might write
better with a stick. I do really long to see your faces once more,
& time begins to ~~to~~ drag, because of my impatience; But 'drills'
'Rum Jones' will soon cool my impatience. Saturday evening I walked
my first extra tour of guard duty; the first punishment, bating
demerit, that I have received since I have been here.
We had some very hard problems one night; just before I
went on post as sentinel, I had been studying them, but had
not succeeded in solving a single one; so, I thought, there
would be no danger in talking, at the door of a room with a

Dear brother

Salem, March 14th 1832

I have just eaten my dinner at home; a privilege which you do not enjoy. I did expect to be at Kent's Hill before this. ^{the reason} Why I did not go before was because Roland, as was so sick. For he has been very sick, I believe Mother wrote to you in her last letter that he was sick with a fever. He had mostly recovered from that, when he was taken down again by the *Coryphela* which he had in his head. He was very sick but about all that Mother did for him was to put an Rumm, she kept cloths wet with it all of the time on his face, the Doct. burnt his forehead and neck, so he kept it out of his hair, & did not have his hair all come out as you did and another thing I did not have his hair, he had his friends to take care of him. There has been a great deal of sickness in this town this Spring, ~~then~~ three little children have died here in this neighborhood lately, Jimmie Gilbert, Henry's son died last night at about 10 o'clock, he was about six years old, About ~~two~~ two weeks ago Herman Wing's oldest and youngest children died with

Feb. 13th
 I will occupy some of the spare room. I have not noticed any since last November & M. College two weeks before the end of the year and I suppose have all of the room to make up, which after paying three months to make them it otherwise would be, then I have to live as some future time the health of this town, which the back will be very hard for me. When at Brunswick last fall I had a much and even so to put up with the staff and then noticed among the last night I have not a taste for study, I cannot learn as easy as I used three years ago. My health certainly will not permit it. Study then I suppose last fall I have a very morning and cannot learn any weight on my chest. The highest cold gives a week's journey that I put at almost every breath. My aim is to see and understand, in conversation of them. It is a wonder that I do not know what to do about learning to College. My state in the connection and debate in which I can bring to bear my extensive but decreasing reading. But in recitation of it and I think I fail. Tell your wife and say that I fail. I shall write you to measure everything, there are my sentiments, that there

the same disease which was the Canker rash.
Primans children were both of them little
girls, one was about 3 and the other 6 or 7 years
of age, his wife and his little boy had it at the
same time, Henry Brewster has had it too
and his sister Martha.

Before Roland was taken sick he and
father ^{had} cut up about 17 cords of wood, Rodol
phus, and I, & Rowland, Bailly have cut
some of it up & B cut some more in
a while, father has ~~split~~ most all that
we have cut, father has done more work
this winter and spring than he has before for
a long time, he cut almost all of the wood
and Roland drove team, now Roland
is sick and he helps me do the chores
he cleans out the largest Lintins most
of the time & I help me some about
my chores, would you like to know
about the things out to the barn? I think you
would, we have got two horses, one Rowland
used to call his colt and the other is
my little red colt he will be 3 years
old this summer he is about as large
as the other Rowland has harnessed
him two or three times he goes well
we have ~~taught~~ taught him to back some
there is ten head of cattle now, four

oxen & two cows, one of our cows died
the other night, we have about seventy
sheep, we did not have so much hay
last year, as common the hay is rather
low in both the sheep & the other barn.

It is growing dark so that I cannot
see the line and I must stop writing.
Mother & R. B. have gone down to Mr. Gilbert,
We rec'd a letter from you last night
and a paper from Warren, I, I have been
reading the list of Eng. by home this spring
I have read you vol I want to go to school
this spring I know that I will learn, yours &c
Dear Brother I must go to doing my chores, Charles

I came in here and found
Charles scribbling away and thought I
would ~~go~~ in a word, always having
my pen ready with no objection to writing
except the mechanical part - i.e. in my
way. Our snow is gradually melting away
and sleighing is decided to be
I had to lead the colt yesterday from
Mr. Bates with mother in the sleigh.
Slump! Slump! all of the way, Roland is
rapidly recovering. He is thought by some
to have been dangerously sick. I will write
you a letter in a few days. Till then
farewell

Your Brother Rowland

a single sheet & I will thank him it - I would
be content to leave it to the judgment & patriotism
of our Statesmen. If they would only decide soon
& stop this confounding clamor - But yet I cannot
I do not entirely uphold Russell in his plan of operation
his appeal from Congress & the people. I do not exactly like
the appearance of it. I think it has a tendency to stir up
the people against the government - & this is certainly very
undesirable as it might endanger our own internal
peace & security much more than Russian despotism
can - That he is a true patriot & a sincere lover of civil
liberty I do not question - I hardly think however that
I shall pursue a crusade against either Nicholas or Russell
though I should like most mightily to see them both put
into their proper positions - It is humiliating & intemperate
& uncivilized that a semi-barbarous Autocrat should be allowed
to lead the character & institutions of enlightened nations
to his own devil's standard - But hold up my pen -

I haven't said a word about the women yet. Well
they do not disturb me at all now-a-days - & I give my
thoughts to other & graver subjects - I yet I can't tell how
soon I shall be again entangled, though I see no possible
chance now - I spent my last vacation on the coast
of it, in Portland with Perley, not having any woman to go
to see - I now am busy in the day-time & amuse myself
evenings by reading Low &c. - When is your vacation - I expect
a visit from you this year - Just give us a little
information - Truly &c. Friend J. N. Jewett

Worcester March 14. 1852

Friend Howard

Yours of the 22nd ult was duly
received & will be very cheerfully acknowledged
Of this I do not need to inform you - But
how are you on Intemperance & the next Presidential
Election? - things which are at present agitating
"the country & the whole country" - What is your own
opinion of Russell, or do you know so much
of him that you are able to attend to what you are unable
to give even a passing attention to the great question
of the cause for which is so indefatigably laboring?
If I recollect rightly, such things did not much
concern us when in college & it may be that they
are alike foreign to the business & thoughts of
ladets - But in this as it may. I have my own
notions of the matter & I presume you have - I understand
I agree perfectly here. Now I go in for checking
the Russian Bear in his predatory incursion, south
of his hereditary limits. He is of a disposition to
destroy altogether too fierce & overbearing for
milder regions, though in his own Arctic
home he may be a pretty good Bear & nothing
more. He has not yet learned how to part
off his thick & heavy furs & perhaps imagine

that they are as appropriate & necessary in the
impulse & even timid as they are in the Frigid
Zone. He should in this respect be taught
a lesson of wisdom by experience & be made to feel
the suffocation which is due to his timidity &
presumption in tripping upon the enclosures
of ^{his} own imprisoned & liberal neighbors —
Or come to the plain matter of fact, I believe that
the Russian Government, is the embodiment of every
thing hostile to the spread or even the existence of liberal
principles. It is the epitome of concentrated despotism
in Europe & as such sits like an incubus upon
the neck of Freedom, political & religious in the
Eastern Continent — It is the leading antagonist
of the very principles on which our government
is based & as such it is incumbent on us
for us to remain friends for any great length
of time — The development of liberal institutions
in Europe demands our sympathy & assistance
which cannot be rendered without virtually
entering our protest most emphatically against
Russian interference. I don't mean that we
are in any danger of coming even speedily to
a rupture with that center of despotism by
a firm but respectful protest against its unjust
& illegal assumptions, then we are by granting our
recognition & sympathy to those who are
struggling for an independent political existence

In the one case as well as in the other we surely
avoid our disappointment of the position which the
Russian government has unwomanly assumed —
I must confess that I am surprised at the quibbling
and disputations that our Legislators are indulging in
upon this question. Are we a feeble people having a feeble
government or are we also tributary to the great stream
of Liberty & Slavery, which forms its ready
waters of Adulation & Submission and the life of
Semi-civilized Russia? Are we or are we not that
the world has been pleased hitherto to regard us; "the
Bread of the Free & the Poor" — It seems to me
that upon this question, the shortest possible account
of time to decide is necessary — Of what importance is
the friendship of Russia to us. Let her shut ~~their~~
Ports to our commerce, refuse to send us her Iron &
Steel or her Iron & her other products we command
I wish not only the but other European nations could
refuse them to us — Then should we develop our own
native resources & grow great on the products of
our own industry — Confound this fawning to Russia
& Austria too, I say — I grow impatient & sick as I
contemplate the endless discussion, which the question
of Intervention or non-intervention, of Tradition and
Exigency depending, has already given rise to & already
in our Congress with as little prospect of settlement
as ever — Why not decide in one way or another
& that too speedily — But this is a question too "big" for

giving for her character. Believing so I could conscientiously
take the sword. But there may never be the necessity; perhaps
reflection may tell me that I can do more in civil life. My
heart would incline me to do good, for a pleasure - to take the
position where I could benefit others the most - but my head
gets filled with ambition - Vanity & self love have good deep
root and will not easily be rooted out. It will not do to
be governed by small - narrow contracted views. It is wrong to
pitch upon some ideas, the offspring perchance of a timid shrinking
heart - and fashion it into a principle, to pitch upon some dogma
make every thing else conform thereto. My mother need not tremble
for me - a courageous soul is the groundwork of all true
greatness. Aful conscious, excepting at times ^{when I} have been acting
the fool, that I am made for something - and therefore feel
a dignity & a pleasure in pressing onward.

Rowland wrote me somewhat about Brown University. Tell him
to inform me more about the course of study pursued there.
I begin to agree with him that, if he dislikes Latin & Greek & has
no peculiar love for Mathematics, to continue his course at
Yorndon might be an injury to him intellectually. But I feel
that he ought to systematize his acquirements. If he could be
made to believe it - he is far in advance of what I was when I
entered College. I was then but a child - and far from being a thorough
scholar. The best way after all is said & done ~~is~~ for him to take
his own course - then he will feel an interest in what he undertakes
and we will not fear a failure: He must take exercise this Spring
& Summer, not too much, but work moderately with father &
Roland, &c. Tell Charlie that I would put in, with this, a half sheet
to him, but I am out of paper & dislike to borrow. I am
making some preparations for Jurlough; and occasionally laying
some projects. But I neither want nor expect any exciting
pleasures. I shall return quietly, placing my enjoyment in
prospects, in the welcome that I shall receive from you all, the happiness
that I shall feel in being with Lizzie & my mother, with my brothers &
my old friends. I shall wear uniform, because I do not feel able in
addition to provide myself with a citizen suit. But I am not going to
be vain about it. If I thought I should become vain through attention
or flattery, I would return with as simple a suit as possible - but
the pride that I have, is deeper than vanity arising from dress. Uncle
Nard insists upon my stopping with him a few days before I leave

If possible, I would like to gain a little knowledge of the Great City, yet a little
 accustomed to civilized society. Before I start for Maine, therefore I may stop
 a couple of days in N. York. If we get away Friday afternoon or Saturday I
 shall stop in N. York till Monday. I think, though I know that I would
 feel impatient to be with you. Elder ^{W. Howard} Point N. Y. March 21st 52.
 Cadets say it is best not to be in too
 much haste. If we would enjoy Burlington. If Uncle resolves to go on with me
 I shall have to stop with My dear Mother. I'm instead of going to the City
 for a day or two, but I don't much think he will. I am of the opinion that
 Uncle Ward is rather poor, though he always paints the bright side out.
 I presume you began to think
 it is time you received a letter from the only son who is now
 absent from you. I have written two letters to Howland, so near
 together that he will probably get them both by the same mail. I find
 that the letters that I write on Sunday never reach you till the
 next Saturday. I know that I could remedy this by writing
 in the middle of the week, but when I do this, I write so
 slowly that I hardly ever finish them till after tea, and
 it is poor policy for me to take the time out of my sleep.
 I always feel less clear headed the next day, and if
 I succeed sitting up it would in time abate the vigor &
 energy that I am obliged at all times to display in order to
 preserve the confidence of my instructors & maintain my position.
 I graduate ahead in Mathematics as I expect to. If I choose
 I can return to West Point as an instructor in that branch. The
 pay of an Assistant Professor is nearly one hundred dollars
 a month. This you see for a young man who needs a
 competency is worth striving for. But I dislike the idea
 of involving myself heart & soul in Mathematics - I
 love a field where other powers of the mind are called into
 exercise - Yet there are many advantages in a Station at
 West Point: It gives a person in a measure, a permanent home
 He is not subject to be sent hither & thither according to the exigencies
 of the moment. A wild life full of chance & change is not repugnant
 to my enthusiastic nature, but if I should see fit to get married

I would be indisposed to lead such a harmless existence as the most of young officers are obliged to lead. As long as I remain in the army there is not the least danger of a want of a competency. But seldom is an army officer rich. I presume you often struggle yourself over my views & leading principles - and wonder that war is not repugnant to every principle of my nature. Our good Christian people who reverence Washington, and are willing to sustain & support in every respect the solid principles that he promulgated, that he sacrificed ease and pleasure to introduce, are apt to forget the basis of our government. They talk non-resistance, like Quakers, under every & all circumstances. Our government is essentially mild & pacific, is ever ready to substitute intelligence & diplomacy for brute bravery & force, but still in the present state of the world our good & far famed government would very soon dwindle into insignificance, if not be blotted from existence, if it proclaimed itself to the world a perfectly non-resistant. if it threw aside every means of defence; Theologians & Moralists may talk; fancy may depict a world of peace, amity & good will: But the most devoted Christian, who becomes a statesman, who opens his eyes & looks abroad without prejudice & dogmatism - sees at once that these model non-resistant states are but the airy creations of enthusiasts, who see evil in society & wish to experiment, and through a desire of ameliorating man, propose measures which at present would be a curse rather than a blessing. Others care not for expediency; they extend to nations at once the rules which our Savior promulgated for the regeneration of the individual. In theory it is fine. But we know that a man must have a single heart before he can & will carry out our Savior's principles &

precepts. Nations are composed of many & conflicting elements. it is impossible for them to act as an individual in individual cases. The Christian who is wronged, can keep his enemy with shame by forgiving him freely. Between heart & heart this influence is direct and all powerful. But the soul of an ambitious State is not so readily reached & tamed. - If the individual in his humility, & through a Christian spirit literally opens his ~~heart~~ vesture & bares his bosom to the knife of a remorseless assassin. If he spare him 'tis well - if he slay him, the victim is a martyr to the cause & the principles he maintains; he will be the gainer since he goes to a better world. But let a nation like ours publish such, as an actuating principle, ~~that~~ soon would ~~be~~ the beautiful fabric of our free, republican government, be the object of the rapacity & avarice of foreign powers. how soon would our free institutions disappear before the tread of Ambition & anarchy? Would it be right, would it promote the cause of Christianity, of general peace & universal love - to remain quiet, passive & become extinct. I think not? What then is the duty of the young man, who has been born in this free & favored land? His country has given him birth, afforded him every opportunity of culture extended to him a protecting arm - at the same time permitting him free thought & free action! It is right, it is his duty to defend her. Our fathers have bequeathed us a rich treasure and we their sons must guard it: we must give to the millions that come after us, the same rights that we enjoy. - "Now then does this apply to you my son?" "Here in short is the sum whom. I believe a defensive war is right - as the father would believe it right to slay the assassin, who was about to murder his wife & children, as the brother would believe it right to raise his arm against the villain who would seduce his sister & strip from her all that she possessed worth

money by his Brother to take up a note and had neglected to ask his Brother for it, the money for which he took the due bill he counted out to him from his pocket Book at a later time thinking he should have it any time on asking for it, and when he left New York and went to Virginia, he gave up all the papers to Ward to settle, and somewhere Ward had always ~~but~~ thought that his Brother collected more than he paid over, there was one stage company in particular that failed, which he supplied with grain that owed him six hundred dollars which was recovered, &c. and the debt never in the city ^{any more} paid he had letters asking for pay of him from the city, I was his companion which was seven years after he left Beekskill, perhaps this will suggest to him self why does Elmer trouble me with these old things not because I wish to do it but since you have become acquainted with your Uncle, and Beekskill, West Point &c. and so harassing as I know it was to ^{your} father to be in debt (but he was independent in ^{this} state, after a struggle of a number of years) that I almost shudder that you should even be so situated, you spoke of Bowland R. having to many advisers, not so I think for I think he holds every one at such a distance they would not be likely to offer him much ~~or~~ advice I have him as close as a mother could and am the most afraid of his nervous system of anything, this is what he is the most afraid of ^{of} ~~that~~ notice, when I am attracted to him that way, he immediately laughs heartily, he need not fear me, I should be the last person to wound his pride or approach such a subject, I know it has been painful to him to think, but am in hopes that state of feeling is wearing off, he did not come home any too soon no one could have known he was he has never been out in the evening but once if he is not capable of pursuing a ^{but} literary course we must abide it, have just received a letter from Charles, he likes his situation but I have but little hope of his staying long, he carried away a pint bottle of cyrus he says it is half gone, and what he is to do when it is gone he don't know, he was so anxious to go that consented if you lived with him you would feel bad to see him try to hide his bag.

My dear Son,

Leeds March 22, 1852.

It is a long time since I have written a letter, it is now five weeks since I wrote you, I have thought I had something of importance to say to you, but I fear, I shall not get it into my letter, you say my Mother need not trouble for me, my nature must be changed before I can become callous to the welfare of my children, your Uncle Edward is a pleasant gentleman, and if he comes on with you I should be exceedingly happy to treat him as a brother, and his friends would be glad to see him no doubt, your Uncle Franklin's wife died this morning at 5 o'clock (I understand) she became the mother of a young child a few weeks since, who lived two days, she has since sunk away in a quick consumption, I hope you and Lizzie will be able to spend a good share of your time with me, my Son I know it is impossible for you at your age to form any idea of the strong desires, and intense feelings of your mother left as you were at your tender age to ^{the} care of an inexperienced mother, and full of plans to ^{have} you respectably reared, do you think one day or one hour can pass while I have my senses, without a glance of my imagination for all of my change, I am always anxious about ^{your} purse because a small independence is so comfortable, I am always anxious for your prosperity in your undertakings, in every respect, you cannot imagine how much I am warped to and fro, by the tone of your letters I had an idea while at West Point last summer that our visit in January or other was increasing, ^{your} perplexities, I do not yet understand what the use of your deposit was ^{that you made} when you arrived, nor can I conceive how you could beg whole dinners at Goe's, and not be reported for it, I recollect you said in your first letter that Elmer C. Bly. saved 100. \$ while he was there and made no deposit, now you have been there ^{only} one year and half

and made 25 dollars deposit, and had 10 dollars since, beside other small helps and still ask for so more to bring you home on furlow, and what have you done with your sittings dress that you wore there, I recollect you said once in your letter you had had some applications for that suit but should not part with it easy, you told me in one of your letters I could ask you any questions that your letter suggested, and as there are some of them, I would like to have them answered every month we have a report from the war department, giving your standing &c. and always attended with a strict charge not to provide cadets with money, as their provision was ample, and therefore parents or guardians were doing them an injury, by so doing, you are twenty one, and now ⁱⁿ you have a right to act for yourself but that does not lessen your mother's interest in your welfare any, I do not feel as though your manner of life, had in any way, been calculated to increase your habits of money making or saving, ~~habits~~ ^{only} as years ^{mature} increase your judgment in every respect, your father settled with the judge of probate in January as the three years came round what you had left was 500.00. I had hoped this sum might remain whole for future use, but if you say so, you shall have the fifty dollars you mentioned before your return on furlow, it is one of your mother's ambitions to see you independent not because your Uncle Stillman prospered all your father had would be spent before you were twenty one if I married Mr. G. I have always desired you to be independent at one time as well as another, sometimes with money, a man can have great advantage which would alter the case very much without and, except if you live ^{on} will some day have a part to act among men, if you remain there, at West Point and graduate and should have a lucrative employment and desired to get married you would find your five hundred dollars quite convenient, I do not suggest these

things to you expecting you to be guided by them, but they are merely suggestions of a dear Mother to a son, I know you are young, and full of hope and expectation and have a world before you, where there are chances in abundance none now do I wish to cool that ardor in your youthful breast, I hope your aims are high in merit, but as I have suggested my reflections to you, you will have a plenty of time to talk to me between now June, you said something about my being jealous of your writing more letters to B. B. I take almost as much pleasure in receiving his letters as my own, your Mother does not deny the pleasure she feels in receiving her name penned in the handwriting of a dearly beloved son, I do not wish you to feel under any moneyed obligation to any of your father's relatives for you are not I could convince you of it at once, from your birth I have been your guardian and guide with the help of my heavenly Master to whom I desire to give all gratitude, I desire to treat them with politeness but own powers they have nothing to do with, what your father left he and I saved by prudence and care, and hard labor, and you are under no obligations to any of his family for they got all out of him they could at all times, these words are not penned in bitterness of feeling, for I feel none, at one time your father with me was reckoning over what he had, and among the rest he had March's due bill for one hundred dollars, I saw and read it, he in the way of his dealings needed the money and wrote him for it, he did not send it and after some years he came to Maine, and sometime after he had gone, I asked him if Ward paid him over the money he owed him he said No, he had brought on a note he said he had paid ^{a note} of his in New York City to the same amount it was all a mystery to your father, and this was what he said to me, that while he was in trade sometime he had sent