

My Dear son,

Leeds April 31<sup>st</sup> 1852

you will see by my date that my other letter laid over the last mail day, but as it is of little consequence when my letters are dated, I shall send it, if there is anything that wounds your feelings in any <sup>way</sup>, you must remember it is <sup>from</sup> a faithful heart where the ideas originated, and one that tries to view things on all sides and with candor, I do not wish to cool your youthful ardor, but when I you pen your youthful anticipations, you cannot wonder, that the uncertainties of life present themselves to me at once, although I am not in <sup>the</sup> habit of conversing or writing much on those subjects still they are vividly marked on my imagination, there will be time enough between now <sup>for me</sup> to say a great deal to each other on all subjects that concern us, if you wish to say anything in confidence, you need not fear my exposing any feeling of delicacy of yours, the last letter I wrote you, was put in one with R. B. H.'s, did you pay double postage on it? Nellie has a letter written to send you but I think I shall not send it as it will make a suspicious <sup>looking</sup> letter of it, you ask in one of your letters if your father would loose anything by the railroad, that is uncertain, the company are now agitating their business, they have had meeting after meeting, adjourned, this is one this afternoon, trying to do something, your father's services as treasurer will pay his first subscription but if the railroad is a failure he is liable to pay the same amount for the debts due from the company therefore he offers to double his stake if they will go forward with their enterprise, they are now putting forth their last effort, and will probably succeed, but whether it will be for our private interest is uncertain, it cannot be possible

that your father or I shall see any income arising such an invest-  
ment, we must live to a great age to see the debt liquidated  
that one, and will be accrued, by laying the track, it has  
been a source of affliction to me, it has kept me in hot water  
now two years, by wearing out all my best articles in the  
house, and taking away my time, to attend to people who  
came to the tax collector's office without the least faith of even  
having them replaced or any remuneration, but never mind,  
I am still here with, R.B. and Lillie doing our best to be comfort-  
able, and I am in hopes to see the ground here before  
long, but the view from the window looks more like mid-  
winter than any other time, your Aunt Lucretia is about  
moving into our neighborhood on to the Beem farm to stay  
two years Mother has just left us for Ensigns, Laura has  
had a great party lately, but of whom it consisted I do not  
know, I want very much to see Lissie but think I shall not  
until you come on, I shall think about what I have  
written until you answer me, all of us are in tolerable  
good health at present from your ever

Affectionate Mother,  
Eliza Gilmore,

P. P. Howard, ..

Dear Brother

I have only room to say that still I am un-  
decided as to my course. I shall answer your last kind letter in a  
few days. Father thinks to buy in both farms this summer. Orson Lane is  
married. Lehigh has got a good boarding place and a fine fellow for  
Cham. Hope he will do well. It is the last rat for the Railroad,  
if it don't go through. I think Uncle Ensign is a ruined man  
but may be not. Rowland

Mary speak my name, Mary,  
While yours in home's silence lies;  
The future I read in Toit's guardon  
You will read in your children's eyes.  
The past - the same past with either  
Is to you a soft, pleasant scene  
But I can not see it clearly  
For the grooves that run between.

I am glad you are happy, Mary,  
These tears did you see them fall  
Would show though you have forgotten  
I have remembered all.

And though my cup is left empty  
And yours with its joy runs o'er  
God keep you its sweetness, Mary,  
Prising my forehead.

She is living here in the city - I ran across her  
last Sunday as I was going to church, in company  
with an elderly lady. I stopped on the steps and  
she passed up but her eyes did not meet mine.  
She does not look as she used to - but pale  
and Chum you will not think me weak nor  
unmanly nor moping nor down nor anything  
of the kind when I tell you that the sight of  
her gave me a thrill which sent the blood  
rushing back upon my heart in a tumultuous  
tide.

Portland April 11<sup>th</sup> 1852.

Dear Chum,

I have been owing you a letter  
for some time, and have been delaying along  
from nothing more nor less than clear  
sheer laziness - but I tell you what Howard  
I regard that as a pretty valid excuse.

I tell you you dont begin to know how  
lazy a Schoolmaster gets to be for if these  
months used to be enough to make you  
feel any indications of it just imagine what  
a continual drill of a year will do for a  
fellow. I own Howard I dont do right  
and I should be almost too lazy to excuse  
myself at such a length were I not  
afraid you might get a wrong impression  
from my silence and imagine it arises from  
indifference. No. Howard this is not the case  
I assure you. I dont write to you very often  
to be sure but I think of you often Chum  
with the same old feeling of unconquerable and  
undying regard which I always cherished  
for you in College and those days with their  
mingled shade and sunshine and those other  
all fair and bright we spent together at Siermon  
in tramping through the snow to see two pretty girls

rise, the latter indeed all <sup>too</sup> distinctly on my  
vision. There were to me Chum halcyon days  
and I know they were to you. I do not feel  
so much like writing letters as I used to  
do you? You think me growing indifferent  
to you I fear and perhaps to others but I am  
not conscious of this being the case and whenever  
I become conscious of such a thing's happening  
I shall lay it to this cursed school-keeping.

We have spent a great many happy hours  
together which I shall never forget at College and  
elsewhere and I trust there are many happy  
ones in store for both of us though we may  
not pass <sup>them</sup> together nor near each other.

How we used to lay abed and talk about the  
women hour after hour! Liz begins to think  
I have got over being shattered and I know I have.  
What do you think, eh? Liz looked over my shoulder  
though the other evening and read what I was  
copying into my old book - that one I used to  
have in College and she declared I had a relapse  
You shall see and judge for yourself. They are as  
follows

"You are to be married, Mary;  
This hour as I silent lie  
In the dreamy light of the morning  
Your wedding-knave draws nigh  
Miles off, you are rising, dressing,  
To stand 'mid the bridal throng

In the same old rooms we played in  
When you and I were young.

Your bridesmaids they were our playmates;  
Those old rooms, very well,  
Could speak of our childish frolics  
Loves, jealousies great and small.  
Do you mind how passions changed us  
And smiled at the word "forget"  
'Twas a girl's romance, yet somehow  
I've kept my pony yet.

Do you mind our verses written  
Together? but dreams of foun?  
Of love how we shared all secrets  
When that sweet mystery came?  
It is no mystery now Mary  
It was unveiled year by year  
Till - this is your marriage morning  
And I - I am lying here  
I can not picture your face, Mary  
The face of the bride to day;  
You have outgrown my knowledge  
Six years that have slipped away  
I see but the girlish likeness  
Brown eyes and brown falling hair  
God knows I did love you dearly  
And was proud that you were fair

any little detention, might oblige me to borrow or beg. True  
father's principle is good in theory: "Keep boys short & they will  
spend little"; But he would not set out for New York, Boston  
or Portland, with just money enough in pocket to defray  
the expenses of travel & pay for three meals a day & no more.  
I shall not need so much as \$50.00, the sum which I first  
spoke of; I cannot yet tell how much I shall require -  
perhaps none - You would hardly consent to my giving up  
my furlough. Mr Alley told me he was \$100. out of debt -  
Mr Alley I find occupied a different position at West Point  
from what I do; of him I will speak at some other time. His \$100  
was easily made up, \$96. is reserved from our pay during the  
course - 2 dollars each month, then he would have to be only  
four dollars out of debt besides to make the complement.  
"How can you get at Joes;" there is no regulation against it -  
Cadets receiving money is now prohibited - but their spending it at  
Joes is winked at. They are allowed money by order for this purpose, i.e.  
for groceries at Joes. The object of this may be to keep them from  
having any motive to go off limits. Perhaps you would not call  
it a whole dinner, a piece of ham & a cup of coffee. - Joes is under the  
supervision of the officers. He is a negro, with a very large family.  
~~Our barber~~ or rather hair-dresser, for we have to shave our selves.  
Many Cadets, promise to pay him privately, after they graduate.  
No Tobacco or Liquor can be kept by him nor by any other man on  
Government land. There is, I find, a hole like that on the 'pine  
plains' in Leeds, three or four miles to the South West of this place  
called, 'Tins', where Cadets sometimes go to get liquor & tobacco.  
They have to be expeditious & do it between roll-calls & on Saturday  
after noons, removing the risk of meeting an officer. Capt Alden  
sometimes rides round the back roads on horseback to see if  
he can meet any Cadets off limits. If he meets them he reports  
them, but it is beneath his dignity to enter a low, filthy Grog  
Shop. He might if he saw a Cadet in there; but there are plenty

West Point N. Y. Apr 11<sup>th</sup> 1852.

Dear Mother,

I have received your letter; and have  
perused it with attention and interest. You have touched upon  
subjects which have often presented themselves to my mind - But  
before I come to speak of them, I will say a few words about  
writing in confidence. Of course, what I write to my father's  
family is always confidential to some extent. That is I write  
opinions - & sometimes perhaps betray feelings, that I would  
not wish to go beyond our family circle, but with you, my  
father & my brothers I have no secrets; My nature is rather  
open, so are my principles & my views. Do not think from this  
that I shrink from a confidential correspondence with my  
mother, whom I not only love, but have every reason to respect.  
But I think that father, who always takes a lively interest in  
all that concerns me, would feel a little hurt, should I affect  
privacy or give an air of secrecy to my letters even to you. But  
you need not fear any constraint on my part for I know to  
whom I am writing & feel a perfect freedom to say what I  
may feel or think. I am young, a boy, full of errors & extravagances  
at times - and I think it beneficial to lay myself open to you  
& father; Advice & even reproof are now taken by me in a far differ-  
ent spirit, from what my boyhood used to promise, when  
the advice of <sup>my</sup> dearest & best friends seemed mere fault-finding.  
Now I feel the need of the support & guidance of true hearts  
tempered by judgment & experience. Respecting my property -  
I see clearly that the little I possess ought to be husbanded with

the greatest care. I know the advantages that will accrue from a competency, or rather can easily imagine the perplexities & struggles to which utter poverty would subject me. It is, to some degree, with this end in view that I now persevere in a course which is not in every respect the most acceptable. My bright hopes & vivid anticipations are the direct antipodes of my own fears. I think it best to express the former & repress the latter - as a general thing. To own the truth, however, my success in life as a man is as precarious as needs be. Take this matter fairly, without any coloring of the fancy, a Second Lieutenantcy in our army, is an expensive position & one not over flattering. Any other profession must be acquired by additional toil. What then! grow lax, perplexed & discouraged? Never! I mean to pull on; surely if anything is to be gained it is not by pickleness, fear or indecision that I am to gain it. - Some of my expenditures since I left home the last time have been foolish, and yet perhaps few young men would have exercised more prudence. What I have got by order has been necessary to comfort & decency - or essential to my academic pursuits. My suit of clothes, which had been injured by the drills - to which I was subjected as soon as I became a cadet, before others could be made, were finally got from me by a villain. A year ago - a young man, the nephew of Geo. W. Crawford the ~~then~~ ex-Secretary of War, was near being found deficient, and could get no clothes to wear. He had articles of Cadet-apparel, which would be of immediate use to me. - He came to me and offered to exchange, and I made with him

a bargain quite favorable to myself. - I let him take my clothes to clean & repair, his, of course I could not have till just before he left. Well he managed to get off without my knowing it & with this honest personage went my suit without any remuneration. Several other cadets he served with the same bit of experience. He has since been boxed up in the State-prison of one of the Southern States - for robbery, or swindling. - Afterwards released by influential friends he has been sent out of the country; Before he came here he had served as a Lieutenant in the Volunteers in the war with Mexico. To be sure I was the dupe - but I am thankful that I am not the man who made the dupe. - The plain matter of fact reduces to this - I shall by rare economy manage to get out of debt from twenty to twenty five dollars - I have now "making" a furlough coat, a pair of furlough pants & a furlough vest, fatigue jacket & neck-cloth - these just exhaust the \$40, given to each cadet for his furlough suit. - In these things the price was fixed & I had no judgment to exercise. Now absolute necessity requires a pair of boots or shoes & a cap; I would not go without gloves, & standing collars. Notice again - I am exercising prudence to my utmost. My Cadet-clothes are getting threadbare & rusty. My pants require almost every day the exercise of my skilful needle, then just before I go I must get on an order a pair of Cadet pants if not a uniform Cadet coat. This I fear me at the least will exhaust the fifteen if not the twenty of my twenty five dollars, leaving me either the 10. or 5 dollars to get home; with this I fear I would be cramped a little too much. Now I have no ties to support & no extravagant purchases to make; <sup>in N. York</sup> but I would not feel right, to go into the city, when

O. O. Howard  
Apr 11<sup>th</sup> 52

PAID  
Paid  
Col John Gilman  
South Leeds  
Maine

of hiding places where Mrs Jim puts them, I heard one say he  
was concealed in the chimney, another in the cellar.

"The only preventative to these violations is to get a clasp on  
a pledge; for no Cadet will break a pledge while here.

You spoke of Uncle Ward: I discover by his conversation that he  
is not a very moral man. He never hinted that my father had  
ever received assistance from him; but <sup>one or two</sup> ~~several~~ of his other brothers  
and several young men from the "Eastward", have borrowed sums  
of him, he says, & have forgotten to pay. He takes great interest  
in me, especially, I think, because I was ~~so~~ kind to his son.

He is a politician; as you may know; but he shows a great deal  
of delicacy when he converses with me - whom he very soon  
found from my wonted frankness, to be somewhat of a whig -  
somewhat of an abolitionist, rigid totaler &c. - Cheering  
opinions diametrically opposed to his own. He has lost his  
property - does not do much of any business - but I never have  
seen the least signs of intemperance in him; although  
Deerfield is rather an intemperate place. I give it up, I don't

exactly understand my uncle - a man of ability & knowledge  
with a little of the vain-glorious about him, taking much pride  
in what he has done & has been; poor - a gentleman in dress &  
appearance - apparently respected by those about him, & yet  
as far as I can judge doing nothing. There seems to be a  
sort of mystery about the man to me; perhaps I fancy it.

You need not think that the 'old things' as you term them are  
unpleasant to me, on the contrary, I would if possible know  
ten times more of my fathers history than I have yet seen

able to glean from the little you have told me. It is well  
too that I should know something of my uncle's character  
so that I may always be on my guard. — I borrowed  
a dollar of him but I paid him immediately as soon as you  
sent me the dollar. If I send for money, I shall get  
permission from Capt Brewsters; if he discovers that a  
cadet has money sent him in a letter, he sends for him  
demands it & credits it to the cadet's account giving it  
to him on furlough or at graduation. I went up on Cro-  
nest this afternoon, which you may remember lies between  
this <sup>place</sup> & Newburg, a mountain between 14 & 1500 feet high.  
When after much toil up the side of the mountain which is  
almost perpendicular we finally reached the summit —  
the scenery that met my gaze was grand indeed, I never  
had been there before & I was filled with delight & surprise.  
I cannot now describe the view; you could discern the Catskills  
sixty miles to the north west, which elevated these blue heads  
<sup>more</sup> distinctly than you would think at that distance & all the  
intermediate waves of land, cut up into hills & vales appear  
to you like a vast field, and yet like one that you could traverse  
in a very few hours — turn your head & you can <sup>view</sup> see to an  
equal extent in each direction. From some of our large  
hills we can see the White mountains dimly, but here the whole  
area, circumscribed with a radius of 50 miles is distinctly visible.  
When I got to my room I was tired I suppose you — I got  
permission of Lieut. Jones (my friend?), however, to have a light  
after "tapes", & here I am writing — Give my love to all  
I will write again soon — and take up other themes which your  
kind letter suggests — Your affectionate son  
A. Howard

Given 11.00  
5-21-11

My dear  
brother  
Howard  
I received  
your letter  
of the 11th  
and was  
glad to  
hear from  
you  
I am  
well  
at present  
and hope  
these few  
lines will  
find you  
the same  
I will  
write again  
soon  
Give my  
love to  
all  
Yours  
affectionately  
A. Howard

We want a Sheriff. a protection Sheriff. & a specific  
one - one which the existing fixings of interested  
men cannot so well evade. At the North this  
seems to be the point of vital importance, & the sooner  
we have it the better. But I will not further  
sketch your position in these Affairs - for I don't  
I hardly know how I have dragged so much  
of this kind of stuff into this letter, but begging  
your pardon for the trespass upon your forbearance  
I'll change the subject -

As to news in Granville, we don't  
have any - I live a monotonous life, bored  
myself now & then by a trip into Portland by way of  
recreation. I was there on Sat. & was reminded  
of a particular fast day in your College History  
which you will probably recall without further  
specification - It seemed I drained all day  
unread unmercifully I fear you - I got I had  
a very good time talking, reading &c. &c. - Lord  
Old Perry - I had an opportunity to pity his severe  
misfortune of such - too bad. I could hardly help exclaiming  
that is a fine fellow - but how unfortunate! - But they  
is no use - Old Jack is in Brunswick & so is  
Buck - our present term is 4 weeks from  
next Tuesday & then only we have 11 weeks of school  
keeping for us - Good! Remember me in your  
Furlough especially David as  
Your friend truly J. N. South

Granville Apr. 17. 1852

Friend Howard

Your letter of Apr. - was  
duly received & carefully perused. & I am now  
exceedingly happy in replying to it -  
As to the political items which it contained, I  
think I may safely say that it presents no  
not essentially differ - I honor the cause of  
Liberty as one of the dearest rights of humanity  
I am anxious for its advancement, for I deem  
it the prelude to social amelioration & progress  
But political independence must not, may con-  
not be forced upon a people. They must grow  
up into it, make it by degrees a part of their  
habits & modes of thought, a part of their ex-  
ercise to speak. Liberty untried has too often degenerated  
into anarchy & I wonder but little at the  
hesitation you feel in applying themselves to  
the task of regenerating the political condition  
of long established & thoroughly consolidated States.  
The evils of Deception do indeed press severely  
upon the necks of the people & they groan under  
them in an agony of spirit & with the energy  
of despair often arise to shake off the power of the  
Oppressor. but I regard it but a trifling

I am substituted proof of the cool strength of the  
principle of Liberty in the hearts of the people  
that they have themselves risen up to thrust  
out those who have lorded it over them - Reform  
judging, revenge or hate may prompt & almost  
superhuman efforts, in a nation as well as in  
an individual, and armies may accomplish  
wonders against tyrants without preserving one  
spark of genuine Liberty & give their barons  
not a just & holy zeal - To establish & maintain  
Republican Institutions or an independent  
government requires something more than mere  
physical courage - There must be present the  
principle of obedience to laws, of respect for  
personal rights, a ready independence of spirit  
& a magnanimity which shall see the individual  
in the public good. To these we may add (if indeed  
they are not included in these) a noble elevation of  
moral & intellectual culture, which shall enable  
the people to discern at once what are  
the necessary bounds of the civil state, & the  
exorbitant demands of despotic rulers - To  
such elements of national character every  
Political reformer must give a careful attention  
& much more carefully should foreign nations  
heed them in deciding upon a course to be  
pursued in respect to a revolutionary people -  
If we contemplate almost any of the old nations

of Europe with reference to these characteristics  
I say much for that we shall find sad deficiencies  
in comparison with our own country at the time  
it issued its declaration of Independence - I  
most ardently wish in various external circumstances  
the contrast is much more unfavorable to them -  
Slighting powers on all sides hostile to democratic  
movements, large standing armies looking  
down threateningly upon the people whose slightest  
aspiration breathes of Republicanism - Disputes  
engaged in firm alliances & upon the first  
exhortation of the spirit of Liberty, there are surely  
powerful dissensions from foreign interference  
In short I am rather opposed on the whole to protests  
which are doubtful in their effect, for the sake of securing  
a former contest between nations at war, unless we  
are ready & willing to maintain those protests & see  
if success - We should look well before we leap in  
such a crisis, a step of this sort once taken can  
only be retraced amidst the jeers & jibes of  
the nations of the world - or "the powers on earth" as Isaiah  
says - But I also object to such a prodigious waste  
of time as has characterized our present Congress  
on this & other topics - There is other & more pressing  
business which ought to be attended to - Manufactures  
are languishing, Commercial interests are failing  
due a national emergency, Agriculture yields  
but small profits & breeds the storms of the husbandman

were preached by Elder. Eaton, and Mr Gossay  
made some remarks after the close of the  
afternoon sermon. I went to prayer meeting  
last evening, they are having a revival in religion  
here. There were ~~the~~ persons rose for prayers last  
night. I can hear the birds singing some this  
morning. the robins have begun to be seen ~~and~~  
again. the snow went away very fast yesterday so  
that it will all be gone in a few days if it is as warm  
as it was yesterday. I suppose I must turn of  
writing some and go to studying. I have got  
to or get almost through Decimal Fractions in  
Greenleaf's Arithmetic, I do all of the same  
every one hard or easy, I do not have so much  
studied as I might have had as well as not, but  
I have more time to ~~study~~ cipher I am in  
hope that I can get about through my ~~arith-~~  
-mic this term. old ~~of~~ Philosophy is very interest-  
ing Mr Gossay operates to explain every thing.  
My health is as good as usual ad it is nearly good.  
I want you to write me a good long letter  
it is for I have not heard from you sat over.  
since I came from home. Rowland sent one  
of your letters to me in his. I will now close  
by saying Good bye From your affectionate  
Brother. Charles H. Howards

Ch. C. Howards  
11

Kents Hill Apr 24 1852

Dear Brother

I have now been here at Kents Hill  
four weeks, and have not written to you since I came  
from home. and I don't know but you would  
like to know how I am getting along away from  
my friends. I wrote you when at home that I  
expected to come here. Rowland brought me up  
Friday and went back the next day. I got  
boarded at the Mansion house. Mr Eaton is  
the man that keeps it. he is a Meth-  
-Minster & preaches here at the meeting houses.  
he is a very fine man & I like him much.  
We have a blessing asked every meal, &  
prayers every morning and night. I was  
quite fortunate in getting so good a roommate  
or chum as we call them for I room with  
a very fine fellow, by the name of Hewitt  
I was acquainted with him at Garrison's  
he is a very large fellow about six feet in  
height. he is preparing for Colledge.

I like the teacher Mr Gossay very much  
any one cannot help understanding this studies if  
he explains them. I study Natural Philosophy  
Arith & parsing, and besides them I attend Mr  
Perry's writing school. you would scarcely  
think so from my writing but I have just begun

attend the school, may be I shall write better at  
the end of the term, I also attend the singing class  
which meets every night just at dusk, but the stage  
just went by and I must hurry up to the P.O.,  
for I may get a letter from mother, I have been  
up to the P.O., since I left off writing but  
did not get any letter, I have eaten my dinner  
which was fish today, and have been up to  
a sing, we have very good singers for they are  
most all good singers, I sing alto  
I have got so that I can sing most any  
tune in the book. Samuel Perley is here  
to school but I did not know it until  
I had been here some time I thought  
he looked a great deal like Felix, he was  
quite surprised when he found out who I was.  
I suppose you remember, when you went with  
me up to Mr. Perley's we went with our  
large horse, and you was singing news all of the  
way, I hope I shall take another ride with  
you next summer. There are two boys here  
by the name of Baldwin who went to school  
at Livermore I suppose you remember  
them, they are really clever boys I am well acquainted  
with the oldest, he is a good scholar.

I have declaimed three or four times  
since I have been here, I think I am not  
so diffident as I was when I first came

I have written two compositions  
since I have been here, I do not like to  
write compositions very well, but we all  
have to write some thing every other week,  
I had two letters from home last week  
but I suppose that I cant tell you any news  
as you hear from home about us often as  
I do, although you are a great deal farther  
distant from home than I am, the Rail  
Road has been commenced again, and I guess  
you will have it to come home or come a  
very small part of the way, they have all been  
vaccinated with the kind I expect that  
they are most all invalids,  
Della says that he has got some soap  
shovelers for you and I when we come home,  
Mother writes pretty cheerfully, they have not  
got any one to come on to the farm yet  
or had not when they wrote,  
We have had a very hard rain this past  
week which carried the snow most all  
off, so that it seems more like spring  
and I think we shall have settled traveling  
soon, the sun shines bright to day and  
it is pretty warm, Dear Brother it is  
now Monday morning and a pleasant morning  
it is the sun is just beginning to show itself,  
Yesterday I went to church all day, the sermons