

My Dear son,

Leeds April 31st 1842.

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 ^{way}, you must remember it is ^{from} 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 see your youthful anticipations, you cannot wonder, that the uncertainties of life present themselves to me at once, although I am not in ^{the} habit of conversing or writing much on those subjects still they are vividly marked on my imagination, there will be time enough between now ^{for me} 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.D.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 ^{looking} letter of it, you ask in one of your letters if your father would lose anything by the railroad, that is uncertain, the company are now agitating their business, they have had meeting after meeting, adjourned, there is one this afternoon, trying to do something, your father's services as treasurer will pay his first subscription but if the railroad is closed down 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 investment, 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 taxonomers 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 comfortable, and I am in hopes to see the ground here before long, but the view from the window looks more like midwinter 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 Lizzie 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,

O. O. Howard, ..

Dear Brother

I have only room to say that still I am undecided as to my course. I shall answer your last kind letter in a few days. Father thinks to carry on both farms this summer. Orson Lane is married. Leady has got a good boarding place and a fine fellow for Chum. Hope he will do well. It is the last stab 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 gourd
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,
Preserving forevermore.

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 11th 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 don't 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 don't 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 don't 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 Livermore
in tramping through the snow to see two pretty girls

rise, the latter indeed all ^{too} 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 ^{them} 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-horn 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, every wall,
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 somewhere
I've kept my pony yet.

Do you mind our verses written
Together? but dreams of former?
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
In 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. Your 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 even prohibited - but their spending it at Joes is winked at. They are allowed money by order for this purpose, i.e. for sundries 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. running 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 11th 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 & extravagancies 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 different spirit, from what my boyhood used to promise, when the advice of ^{my} 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 drilles - 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 fur lounge coat, a pair of fur lounge pants & a fur lounge vest, fatigue jacket & neck-cloth - these just exhaust the \$40, given to each cadet for his fur lounge 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 vices to support & no extravagant purchases to make; ^{in N. York} but I would not feel right, to go into the city, where

O. O. Howard
Apr 11th 52

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 preventive 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 ^{one or two} ~~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 ~~at~~ 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 totaliter &c. - - - - -
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 Brewster; 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 ^{place} & 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 & 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 ^{more} 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 ^{view} 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 assure you. — I got permission of Lieut Jones (my friend?), however, to have a light after 'taps', & 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

We want a Sheriff. a practical Sheriff. & a specific
one - one which the existing feelings of interested
men cannot so well evade. At the North this
seems to be the vital importance, & the sooner
we have it the better. But I will not further
exhaust your patience in these Affairs - but feel
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 Greenwich. 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 Fast day & 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
remained 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 Jan
next Tuesday. I have only one more 11 weeks of school
keeping for me. Good! Remember me in your
furthest especially David as
Your friend truly J. A. Swett -

Greenwich 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 know 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 annihilation & 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-
istence & speak. Liberty must be tried but 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 Disunion & indeed pass severely
upon the necks of the people & they grow under
them in an agony of spirit & with the energy
of despair & the aim to shake off the power of the
Oppressor. but I regard it but a trifling

dem demonstrated proof of the real strength of the
principle of Liberty in the hearts of the people
that they have themselves risen up & thrust
out those who have lorded it over them - Reform
journey, 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 preparing one
spark of genuine Liberty & fire their barons
with 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 & laws, of respect for
personal rights, a ready independence of spirit
& a magnanimity which shall see the individual
in the public good. In 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 discriminate wisely between what is
the necessary burden of the civil state, & the
exorbitant & demands of despotic rulers - To
such elements of national character every
Political reformer must give a careful attention
I much more carefully should foreign nations
have 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 speedily than in similar external circumstances
the contrast is much more unfavorable to them -
Brightening powers on all sides hostile & democratic
movements, large standing armies looking
down threateningly upon the people whose slightest
aspiration breathes of Republicanism - Despot
leagues in firm alliance & 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 prodigal 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
as a natural consequence, Agriculture yields
but small profits & breeds the storms of the husbandman

were preached by Elder. Caton, 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 leave off
writing soon and go to studying. I have got
to or get almost through Decimal Fractions in
Greenleaf's Arithmetic, I do all of the sum
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~~
this term. ~~study~~ Philosophy is very interest
ing Mr. Gossay expects to explain every thing.
My health is as good as usual and it is nearly good.
I want you to write me a good long letter
often for I have not heard from you so often.
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. Howard.

W. C. C. Howard

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. Caton is
the man that keeps it. he is a Meth.
Minister & 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 room mate
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 Garrisonville
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.
Piercy 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 Perry 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 Selig. he was quite surprised when he found out who I was. I suppose you remember when you went with me up to Mr. Perry's we went with our large horse, and you was singing now 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 as 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 sap shovels 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 hadnt 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