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373 4/3/1852

*From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0351a

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds April 3th 1852

My Dear Son,

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 you pen 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 June for us 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. Did you pay double postage on it.

Dellie 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 loose 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 goes 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 debts liquidated that are, 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 treasure'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 Dellie doing our best to be comfortable and I am in hopes to see the ground bare 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 Been farm to stay two years. Mother has just left us for Ensign's. 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

[The next letter from Rowland is a continuation of this one.]

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374 4/3/1852

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0351b

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Leeds April 3th 1852}

[This letter from Rowland is a continuation of the previous one from Eliza Gilmore.]

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. Orrin Lane is married. Charley has got a good boarding place and a fine fellow for chum. Hope he will do well. It is the last rub for the Railroad. If it don't go through, I think Unkle Ensign is a ruined man, but may be not.

Rowland

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375 4/11/1852 *From:* Peleg S Perley

*To:* Chum [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0352

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 School master gets to be for if three 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 others 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. Those 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 cussed 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 shuttered 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 disclosed 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 hour 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 bridesmaid they were our playmates  
Those old rooms, every wall,  
Could speak of our childish frolics  
Loves, jealousies great and small.  
Do you mind how pansies changed us  
And smiled at the word "forget"  
'Twas a girl's romance, yet somewhere  
I've kept my pansy yet.

Do you mind our verses written  
Together? Our dreams of fame?  
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

Mary speak my name, Mary.  
While yours in home's silence lies;  
The future I read in toil's <window>  
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 graves that rise between.

I am glad you are happy, Mary,  
Those 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 it sweetness, Mary,  
Brimming 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 torn 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.

[See Note 1]

But enough of her. I tell you Chum I have ceased to trouble myself about her though I now and then think of her and I do not believe even with your hardihood self-control you could meet the woman you love wedded to another without emotion.

The fact is with me what I feel I am sure to show - others feel as much and more but no one knows it but themselves.

By the way I hear that Old Townsend has quit his woman. So this adds another to the catalogue already too large in our class, of those, "Whose love is of themselves a thing apart." Do you think Howard the rest of that quotation is true "'tis woman's whole creation"?

I don't like the spirit in which Jewett speaks of his former lady. If he speaks of her he sort of seems to chuckle over his leaving her as though it was a mighty clever performance. I don't blame him for rejoicing at his freedom but to exult in the idea of having done a handsome thing is a little too much. Liz says she cant bear him

The say old Adams of our class is staying with Miss Susan Springer - so Old Jacks says, who is at Bowd. Attending medical lectures. Tom smith has got engaged to a rich girl out to Tenn, his uncle tells me and has quit his school on the strength of it. 'Thots the way they do it - not much of a way either. Jewett would like to wait upon one of Jen Broeck's sisters I guess. But all this about Jewett is "sub rosa" you know. He was in here about a fortnight since and spent the evening there. You see how the cat jumps with him don't you!

My father wrote me the other day he had sold his farm and he may possibly move here. I shall quit teaching this fall I think and what to go to doing I am sure I don't know. Cant you advise a fellow? I shall be glad to see you here Chum in June and no mistake and I know a number that will, though you will take the Shine all off of us citizens for the time.

Once more Chum accept my excuses and if they are not valid make them so by accepting them and let me hear from you as soon as you can.

Neal Dow has been defeated here but the issue was not the "law" but the execution of it. I think the law will be triumphantly sustained in the State and in this city. It is the best law this state or any other ever had as any one who witnesses the operation can but see. Though formerly a rummy myself I have given my support, such as it is, to the "law" from the first because I saw if carried out it must be effective.

As ever I am your true friend  
Peleg S. Perley

[Note 1: From this point to the end of the letter was filed separately with serial stamp 398). It has ca July 21, 1853 written in pencil at the top and was filed with the 1853 letters. However I believe that it is the missing end to the letter of April 11, 1852. The beginning of this is referring to a girl friend of his who is getting married, and fits well to the April 11 letter. The references to Jewett's relationship to his girl friend and their break up also fits with the timing of that event. The reference to seeing Otis in June is probably referring to his furlough which occurred in the summer of 1852. Neal Dow was defeated for reelection for Mayor of Portland in 1852.]

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376 4/11/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0353

West Point N.Y.

Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 opinion 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 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 and 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 the 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 fickleness, 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 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 be rare economy manage to get out of debt from twenty to twenty five dollars - I have now in 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 we at the least will exhaust the fifteen if not the twenty of my twenty five dollars, leaving me either 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 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 eat at Joe's;" there is no regulation against it. Cadets receiving money is prohibited - but their spending it at Joe's is winked at. They are allowed money by order for this purpose, i.e. for sundries at Joe's. 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. Joe's 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, 'Tims', where Cadets sometimes go to get liquor & tobacco. They have to be expeditious & do it between roll-calls & on Saturday afternoons, 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 of hiding places where Mrs 'Tim 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 class 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 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 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 teetotaler &c - cherishing 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 sign of intemperance in him; although Peekskill 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 father's history than I have yet been 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 Brewerton. If he discovers that a Cadet has money went 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, thirty miles to the north west, which elevate their 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 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, described 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  
OO Howard

[Envelope]  
Col John Gilmore  
South Leeds  
Maine



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377 4/17/1852 *From:* J. N. Jewett

*To:* Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0355

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth 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 at present we do not materially 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, nay cannot, 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 existence so to speak. Liberty untried has too often degenerated into anarchy & I wonder but little at the hesitancy men feel in applying themselves to the task of regenerating the political condition of long established & thoroughly concentrated states.

The evils of Despotism, do indeed pass 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 & unsubstantial proof of the real 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. Passion, jealousy, revenge or hate may prompt to almost superhuman efforts, in a nation as well as in an individual, and armies may accomplish wonders against tyrants without possessing one spark of genuine Liberty to fire their bosoms with a just & holy zeal. To establish & maintain Republican Institutions or even Independent government requires something more than mere physical courage.

There must be present the principle of obedience to Laws, if respect for personal rights, a nearly Independence of spirit & an equanimity which shall see the Individual in the public good. For these we may add (if indeed they are not included in them) a noble elevation of moral & intellectual culture. which shall enable the people to discriminate wisely between what are the necessary burdens of the civil state, & the exorbitant demands of despotic rulers. To such elements of national character every political reformer must give a careful attention & must 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 must fear that we shall find sad deficiencies in comparison with our own country at the time it issued its declaration of Independence. & most assuredly when we examine external circumstances the contrast is much more unfavorable to them. Frightening powers on all sides hostile to democratic movements, large standing armies looking down threateningly upon the people whose slightest aspiration breathes of Republicanism, Despots lingered in firm alliance to repress the first exhalation of the spirit of Liberty. These are surely powerful dissuasions 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 fairer contest between nations at war, unless we are ready & willing to maintain those protests & sure of success. We should look well before we leap in such a case. A step of this sort once taken can only be retraced amidst the <> & <jeers> of the nations of the world. or "the powers on Earth" as Kossuth 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. More factories are languishing, Commercial Interests are failing & as a national consequence, Agriculture yields but small profits to reward the labors of the husbandmen. We want a Tariff - a protective tariff - & a specific one - In which the <cunning> <feignings> of entrusted men cannot so well erode. At the North this seems to me to be of vital importance, & the sooner we have it the better.

But I will not further exhaust your patience in these topics. In fact 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 Yarmouth. We don't have any. I live a monotonous life, varied only now & then by a trip into Portland by way of recreation. I was there on Fast & was reminded of a particular fast Day in your College History which you will probably recall without further specification. It snowed & rained all Day most unmercifully, I assure you, & yet I had a very good time talking, reading, &c, &c. Saw Old Perry. I had an opportunity to pity his severe misfortune afresh. Too bad. I could hardly help exclaiming - He is a fine fellow, but how unfortunate! Perley is as usual. Old Jack is in Brunswick & so is Buck. Our present Term is 4 weeks more from next Tuesday. & then only one more 11 weeks of school keeping for me, Good! Remember me in your Furlough especially & now as

Your Friend Truly  
J. N. Jewett

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378 4/24/1852 *From:* Charles H. Howard *To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0356 Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 Minister & preaches here at the meeting house. 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 Yarmouth. He is a very large fellow about six feet in height. He is preparing for College.

I like the teacher Mr Torsey very much. Any one cannot help understanding their studies if he explains them. I study Natural Philosophy Arith & parsing, and besides these I attend Mr Perley 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 dark. 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 sings for they are most all good singers. I sing alto. I have got so that I can sing most any time 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 Peleg. 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 most 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 to yours 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 Pox so that they are most all invalids. Dellie says that he has got some sap molasses 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 ths 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 begining to show itself. Yesterday I went to church all day. The sermons were preached by Elder Eaton, and Mr Torsey 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 six persons rose for prayers last night. I can hear the birds singing some this morning. The robins have begun to be seen & heard 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 now and go to studying. I have got to or get almost through Decimal Fractions, in Greenlief's Arithmetic. I do all of the sums, every one, hard or easy. I do not have so many studies as I might have had as well as not. But I have more time to cipher I am in hopes that I can get about through my Arithmetic this term. My Philosophy is very

interesting. Mr Torsey <spirates> to explain every thing.

My health is as good as usual and it is usually good. I want you to write me a good long letter Otis for I have not heard from you but once 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  
To O. O. Howard