

The Clap after this, that is all but one or two - determined not to sit at the table at any rate. I tell you I trembled when I went to the Mess hall the next day for I had the whole Clap watching me - the ropes of my furlough began to grow dim. But as good luck would have it, the order was changed & certain men were detached from the fourth Clap by Capt Allen himself to sit there permanently - and my heart was relieved. You don't know - can scarcely understand the nature of disobedience of orders in the Army - or of its punishment until you have been there.

Give my love to all.

Your affectionate Brother

Chas. Howard

Mr. Richard P. Howard
Fourth Leeds
Maine

PAID

May 3 1852

May 3 1852

West Point N York May 1st 52.

Dear Brother

I owe six letters. What shall I do? We began general review a day or two since - and I find that we have got to go over eleven hundred pages of pure mathematics in twenty six lessons, half of it was got before January, and has faded in consequence from my memory to an alarming extent. What shall I do? - Would you not rehearse to me the fable of the speaking clock; reminding me that I shall have to tick but once in a second. I am not so very tired at the prospect as from the actual ticking that I have accomplished. But with a little more than a month between me & furlough, how can I be discouraged?

To tell you the truth, however, I do really feel a little chagrined to think I can't go home - and tell you that I am at the head of my Clap. Yet I console myself by the consciousness that it is no easy matter to preserve that standing, especially when we take into consideration my want of talent in the fine arts. At January I made up my mind to rise in Drawing - We began to paint - I descended to 56 the first month - We began etching the human figure & landscapes with the pen - By dint of unremitting application, working at my room & in the Academy I rose up to 45th the second month. I am still improving - but I have to pull up hill - Oh this Drawing! I like it - I take pleasure in it, but cannot excel - I think I shall

I shall write him a letter - we seem to be doing very well at West Point - Charlie a few days ago -

practice sketching somewhat on furlough. Speaking of furlough reminds me, that I must have permission of father to go home. written after the following form -

Capt Henry Brewerton

Corps of Engineers

Superintendent Mil. Academy

West Point N. Y.

Leeds-Me. May - 1852

Sir,

I request that my son (or ward) Cadet Oliver C. Howard be allowed a leave of absence during the period of the ensuing encampment of the Corps of Cadets.

I am Sir

Very respectfully

Yr Obedt Servant

(Signature)

Since so many of these permits or requests are to be obtained from so many different persons, it is desirable, so thinks Capt Brewerton, that there be a uniformity in the documents, though it may not be strictly essential. I shall write for \$25.00. I think now; but I hope to be able to make out with much less. I am out of debt now, but cannot tell how much till our books are settled. We have a muster of cadets & of all belonging to the army on the post every two months - which period is called a settlement. Then, or after this muster the account of each cadet is balanced - and if he finds no error - he signs the pay-roll; testifying to the receipt of an amount of money which he never sees, ~~but~~ which he realizes in the food that he eats & the clothes that he

wears, the room that he occupies with its accompanying furniture, the books & drawing utensils that he makes use of &c &c. — The charges here are made just in conformity to the pay - reserving the equipment fund which is nearly six dollars for the whole time - they manage just fairly to exhaust the remainder - This equipment fund the cadet has in cash if he wishes it upon his graduation or he can have the amount due - if he is found deficient - dismissed or sent away on any plea. —

We have had quite an exciting time amongst us of late. The Command or Superintendent, wished to try some experiment about putting men at a table in the mess-hall - plotting probably some new arrangement. They took a long table - at which certain cadets of bad repute in the corps were sitting - added to it others to make the original table a very long one - and then ordered a cadet-captain to keep it full at all meals. He thereupon undertook to fill it with plebes - but a person can fall out of ranks after the roll-call if he chooses & not go to meals. Upon this privilege, at the command "fall out" all the plebes fell out. Well; at the mess - the cadet captain before mentioned, ordered third-clasp-men individually to go to the table - The Hall has two parts called ~~the~~ respectively the upper & lower mess-hall - in the lower mess-hall several refused to go to the table & were put in "arrest" - some left the mess-hall by permission & were reported for that. When the same captain came to the upper hall - ~~that~~ where I sit - several of us who knew nothing of the experiment below went to the table. Those who are in arrest will probably be deprived of their furlough -

I am particularly anxious for you to enjoy yourself in your new position, and I know you so well to suppose ^{you} would be happy, unless you fill the place to your satisfaction, I hope you will mind no more upon other people's statements, I always have & had a presentiment that Randal of Peckskill, had no principle whatever, and would or live get any one into trouble, he attracted my attention that very entirely, particularly after we met him at Peckskill don't never trust him, Wood an in inch, keep this in remembrance from me he would deprive any man of the idol of his heart to gratify the lurking devil in his heart, he had a faculty of making himself agreeable to those he would injure, these are my views of him before I knew his name, when he was walking guard as we passed him and repassed him, Mrs Woodman is with her Mother, I believe all your friends in Leeds are in health, I have scarcely seen them this spring, Nathan Coffin rides out pleasant days he cannot speak any better than he has for three months, he can scarcely whisper, I expect, your Brothers will enter deeply into the late disaster as Doct. Putnam is a brother-in-law to Mrs Frost with whom they board, within a few days nature seems to be putting forth her beautiful life herself in May, the grass begins to cover the fields and foliage begins showing itself, you never say any thing about the younger man you live with, do you board at Mary Ann Thompsons, now, I seem have an imaginary view of West Point at times, as quite beautiful. from your affectionate Mother Eliza Gilmore & A. O. Howard.

My dear son, Leeds May 5th 1838.
Your letter came to hand by Saturday's mail, the evening after, leaving your brothers at Topsfield, it being the morning of the thirtieth of April, thirteen years since your father closed his earthly course, I mentioned it to Rebecca Rowland, at the shop, as I left, I saw her a short time, I hoped she would go to Topsfield with me, but she had some people about going to a boarding house and I could not remove them, as I knew so little of the people where she was going, but on arriving and finding how pleasant the boys were situated I regretted exceedingly, that I had not tried harder to persuade her to accompany me as I should have spent a day or more with her, Rowland said why Mother why did you not make her come, I will write to night for her to come to morrow, but thought of returning early in the morning and could not in ^{that} case have seen her, if she did come and so my visit passed along, I did what I could for the boys and returned found your father at stopping place ready for me in less than three hours after parting with your Rowland at Brunswick, where I saw Honatus Howard, and Leonard Maxim, who are Medical Students perhaps you may remember Cousin Charles Howard with whom your father was distant & long visits, Honatus is his son, Rowland has become acquainted with him he roomed with L. Maxim, since my return, I have been afflicted with biles on my neck and shoulders, which have made me rather a helpless creature, but seven or eight of them have matured, and I am in hopes the worst of it is over, I am very glad you have had a change in your position, and as I have reason to believe you deserve some relief from your

I saw William Chis in Portland he was glad you were removed to a higher place. Still the higher the place, the greater the responsibility, and your mother thinks from your reflective mind you will consider it in that light, I have been in hopes that the light of the gospel was dawning into your heart, if so my son encourage such a dawning, you cannot conceive of the daily comfort of having on an all sufficient arm, Brother Charlie said Chis would have more time ^{to} study now and attend his drawing, and would not be reported for every little thing, that is quite a consideration to have more time to study and be in readiness for examination, this Vice Presidency Mother hopes will be a future benefit to you, you have no idea what bounding feeling your Mother has when thinking of any benefits that will accrue to her sons. I have just referred to the March report from Washington which gives your standing No. 2 in Physiology, No. 6 in Chemistry in drawing No. 15. his demerits for the Academic year & 33. Yesterdays mail brought my accustomed letter from R. B. H. and C. L. H. Howland says he received a letter from F. Lizzie the same day I left, she seemed overjoyed at Chis promotion, it is a glorious thing for him (R. B. says) I hope he will bear prosperity as well as adversity, he thinks you have had that and, Bummer it manifests that led me to the A when in you might fail in that respect, I questioned myself all around, and could not or did not answer them at all, perhaps you have questioned yourself on this subject yourself, and could answer them better than anyone else. Your father has within a few days been commissioned by the directors to go to New York city to make a payment on a railroad contract and has expected to have here tomorrow on Thursday, but the late

report of the disaster of the express train seems to confuse all his calculations, as Doct. Carlson was a delegate from this state to the Medical Association, convened ⁱⁿ the city of New York the last week and is reported, that forty Doct. have already been taken out of the Cars drowned who were returning to New England, the disaster was caused by the draw being left up Brother Ensign will go to Lewistown in the morning train to learn the facts it is of vital importance to our community, that Doct. G. is saved if it proves that the Doct. is saved your father will leave here at noon tomorrow, or in the morning the day after, if I am able I will go to Portland ^{with} him and have him set for his Daguerreotype he has promised me to set for it, I hope everything will turn out for the best, Tuesday Morning. Your father has concluded to start for New York this afternoon, I cannot tell when he will be at West Point, but will go there soon as he gets through with his business in the City, and not come back by the way of the City, I shall send you a small package by him, you must ask him for it, for he will never think it, he cannot carry much because he will take nothing with him except a sachel on his arm we got but little news yesterday from the railroad disaster, the only hope that Doct. Carlson is not lost, is that ^{he} did not enter the Cars, Doct. Putnam of Brunswick, has been lost he is one of the delegates from this state one other has reached home safe with his wife, to Winterville Doct. Whillet and Carlson no news of them had reached their homes at nine O'clock yesterday Morning, Your father has come in, and says he will probably be at West Point Friday, I feel rather feeble to make a visit of a number of days from home but am in hopes to feel the better for it, I shall return on Saturday.

pledges. dishonor &c. The engagement was one in which the whole town and Topham too, were intensely interested. And Jewett is very unpopular in that region at present, but I'll bet on his upright honorable conduct in any matter, won't you?

I can't write without raving and so I will stop assuring you that your return is the most interesting topic of the season among relatives, friends, and acquaintances.

I hope that my time will be so disposed of that I shall have abundant opportunity to enjoy your society. I remain as ever your affectionate brother

Roland

You have been an unfortunate youth from your childhood. I suppose you remember running against posts, spraining knees, getting into ponds, now getting caught. All the fulfillment of your dark destiny.

Yours off Brother

R B Howard

South Leds May 14th 1852

Dear Brother

You can't think how everything has altered within ten days. The snow banks have all disappeared and in their places the grass has sprung up fresh and green. The trees are in leaf - Oats wheat &c are up, and looking finely. In short the work of a whole season has been done by a few warm, bright, days. I have worked considerably in the garden mostly in mother's corner, among her plants and flower beds. Yesterday I have planted about two hundred strawberry plants. I suppose they will not bear much before another season.

The men are preparing the ground now for planting corn, all hands seem to be busy at work. Surprised by the lateness of the season and the beautiful weather. Father, as usual giving the general orders at breakfast and dinner tables, Mother spent yesterday afternoon with Aunt Lucia and I after tea, ~~and~~ went for her. Lucia is the same slim, fragile looking thing that she was, perhaps a little taller and more womanly than when you knew her. I should like to have you here now first rate, for the fun of fishing, if nothing else. I am just making up to

the beauties of sucker spearing. I know that you would be delighted with it. I don't forget the time that you kept me fishing in the sail boat, after I was putkin'ly sick. Landing in the Skeak wonderful. That tickled me of salt water fishing when there is much of a breeze or swell, but down by a little fork on a dry shore with rubbers on, it is vastly different. We heard from Charles this week through Mr Barrows. That Gent saw him at Hayette. When on an exchange last sabbath. Charles appeared very glad to see him I think soon if we will go up for him next week. Since I wrote you, I have been down at Brunswick Portland &c, I settled my bills at the former place, disposed of my furniture and did other things preparatory to leaving college. I enjoyed myself very much the few days that I spent there. My Class mates appeared very anxious for me to return to my class. Boys of all sorts and kinds were offered to assist my making up, and it was with much difficulty that I resisted their importunities. But I had made up my mind that it was best for me to leave and I have left. At Portland I met all of your friends. Lizzie looks and appears as charming as ever. Mrs W. is the same frank, open hearted confident body that you, I suppose know better than I do. Percy as

usual, was alternately sad and gay. I believe he is very popular as a school teacher. The day before I went in. Percy & Lizzie went a Maying with a party of friends. The latter was pretty well tired out and rather unfit for the long walk that we had the next evening. Going down to buckle Henry, to make a short call. We found ourselves among quite a party. That unknown to us had been invited for the evening. But however I enjoyed it very much and passed a very pleasant evening. although, wholly unacquainted with any except our relatives and Lizzie, I believe she did not enjoy herself as much as I did. About ten O'Clock we had a fine Oyster supper, served up in good style. For you know, ^{when} Henry tries, he is decidedly some. I found Aunt Ann, blooming, healthy, happy, looking Aunt, and quite polite affable &c - greeting her hopeful nephew with showers of kisses, and et ceteras. The next day I took dinner with them and came as far as Garmouth when I was set down by mistake. I found Old Jennie, the same good looking, self satisfied slow spoken, unsocial good fellow ever. By the way, you having a very delightful gossiping correspondent, must have heard (of course) that Friend J. has abandoned his Brunswick speculation. The B. Old women stick up their noses and talk mysteriously about broken

South Leeds May 14th 52

Dear brother

I have not written to you this great while.
I just finished a letter for Charly. R B is not long to you.
we got to working ^{on the} farm the last day in April. we sowed.
we have got the guest farm to take care of. and this one to.
I want you to com home now for I want to see you.
our old Rail Road must go now they have ^{rec} money enough.
It is not but a short time before you will be at home.
when I see ^{you} I shall be pleased as you are when you came
and so good by from your affectionate

Brother Rodolphus

Dear Mother

and we good by from your affectionate
when I see what ^{very} pleasant the weather was when you were
it is not but a short time before you will be at home.
are old still stand straight now they have ^{not} changed much.
I want you to soon have news for I want to see you.
we have got the great fair to take care of, and this one too.
we get to work long before the last day in April, we cannot
I just finished a letter for ^{on the} Sunday. It is waiting for you.
I have not written to you this great while.

that class of novels which give a man false impressions -
erroneous conceptions of human things, has had an injurious
effect upon him. (At least so I fancy). There is an undue
excitement in such reading. To a person of his temperament
comparatively inexperienced & very sensitive - and this
excitement, when it abates naturally produces a depression
and induces a gloomy spirit. I, on the other hand ever
having some object ahead have pursued it cheerfully.
Life has looked bright & pleasant, and my bosom has
ever thrilled with glowing anticipations of future good.
So different were we in disposition. Yet for some
season we have enjoyed each other's society & many a
pleasant time we have passed together. I humored his
eccentric per chance, and he was frequently kind like
a brother. I am in College & he is gone to California.
May he do well & return! It seems uncertain. But his
is perhaps no more uncertain than the fate of those who
remain at home. We can enumerate many dangers
to which he will be exposed; yet there are many, many
dangers to which we are constantly subject, but we think
not of them. By change of place we may modify our dangers
but we do not escape them." Such were my reflections
then. It may amuse him to hear them even if they
are not ^{all} just. Give my love to all. Ask Laura to when
you see her if I did not write the last letter. Give her
my love - & remember me to all Uncle Ensign's family.
My health is quite good; my hair not quite so gray as
father's. - Does Lizzie write you? Write as soon as convenient.
Your affectionate son - Wm.

C.C. Howard 204

West Point N.Y. May 16th 1852.
Dear Mother,

It is now a long time since I
have written, in fact much longer than I intended that it
should be; but I find it impossible to write week days while
we are on general review. But I will forego excuses for it
is time that I should write something else. It is Sunday as you
may see by my date - Sunday morning & a beautiful morning
it is at West Point. The trees are all leaved - and those which
blossom are in blossom. The grass is quite high, giving the
plain a rich dark green covering; in fine, West Point now
has on her finest dress; Nature thus decked, the clear morning
sun with its genial warmth, and the quiet of a Sabbath-
day, only disturbed by a few little songsters, give to the soul
a sort of subdued genuine happiness. It's just the time to
think of home, of one's early boyhood, of one's mother & those
that are dear. I dream like the fairy wanders from spot to
spot - from person to person, far away. - But stop, or your
mathematical boy will ape the poet, or your aspiring
soldier forget his methodical calling & wander in the airy
castles of ^{the} sentimental dreamer. Everything proceeds with me
as it is wont. The monotony is relieved by the prospect of farthings
drawing nearer & nearer. In a few short weeks I will shake
off the shackles of military rule, and steer my course, free as the
bird that sits on the tree before my window, towards my old
home. I spoke in my last letter to Rowland of some young
men, who had been put in arrest for refusing to go to a

ertain table in the Map-Hall. They have been tried by a Garrison Court-Martial & their punishment was published last evening. They are to be confined to their rooms from June 1st till the battalion goes into camp. & for some walk post signified as a sentence from this till the 30th of June - & somewhat more during that period: then they can go home. It is rather a hard punishment, but no more than they expected. I went to see Warren yesterday. He has a very pretty, neat little room all by himself. I have found a very private path by which I can get there without being seen off limits. I had not seen him to converse with him for several months before. He was in very good spirits & in excellent health. Give my love to his mother & tell her I shall visit him before I leave for home & get anything that he may wish to send. Charles Barville has been ordered to Danke as a private soldier, for some violation of their military regulations. He has now a miserable wife ^{he is} pitted horridly with the small-pox; and has been deprived of his Corporalcy & become a common soldier: rather an unenviable, hopeless position for a young man.

Now I will come to the subject of money-matters. I did not gain so much on my last settlement as I expected, and if I do not receive anything from home, I shall not be able to leave with my clasp. I went to the Superintendent yesterday and got permission to write for money to make a deposit. I wish father to send me twenty five dollars if he can conveniently: I shall try to make out with as much help as possible; both for the sake of having money

while on furlough; and also for my return. All who came with me in September have been obliged to write for money; graduating the amount according to the distance they will have to travel in order to reach their homes. The most of those who came in June are forty dollars in advance. You may direct it to me & I will deposit it, to be restored to me when I leave. The most of those who came in June made a deposit of 70, or 80 dollars. This then will readily account for the amount that they now exceed me. I received a long letter from Charlie not long ago, descriptive in detail of his school. He seems to be very content & happy at Kent's Hill. How is Roland now? Is he at work with father on his farm. And Roland A? Ask him of it is three or four years since we have seen each other. But I have the time of his leaving recorded in my Journal. Perhaps should be amusing to him to read my reflections at that time. Now they are.

"March 15th 1849." Roland G. has gone! Really gone! I have been so much engaged of late that I have scarcely thought of him: now memory returns. Much time have we spent together in perfect harmony. Many pleasant recollections rise up before me of the times when we have made a hard task easy by our merry & joyous pratings - recollections of our boyish discussions & philosophy. These by our separation must become the endeared memorials which we hold of each other - The future always looked brighter to me than to Roland. - The natural bias of his mind seemed to incline him to view the dark side of the picture. His reaching of fiction, or rather

Evening, since I wrote the other three pages, I have rode to Joseph
Turner, to see Mr T who is great sufferer, she has a large abscess on her
side, which is a dark purple, how long she is to suffer is known only to
him who overrules all things for the best good of such of his
children as love him but O! the mysteries of God, they are in-
-table, Mrs T seems to desire to have patience to bear all that
is allotted her, seeing her changed my train of thought
-ary much, how much we need a higher power than human
to guide our stumbling footsteps through this world of
suffering, Your father said when he read your last
letter directed to me containing two sheets he should
write a part of my next and I gave him an opportunity
but the suddenness of his journey gives him ~~time~~ so little
time for preparation, that he could not say any thing
this time, one thing he says the theory of keeping boys
short for money is not his, it belongs to some other person
I regret his being called away from home at this time
as we are doing our farming well this year, you
has helped three weeks constantly, Jane Bates has been on
visit to Massachusetts, for a month past and returned a
few days since full of spirit delighted with every thing
she saw but happy to return to her old home, I think my
pens are the worst I ever used I have tried a number
and all seem to go in the same way, R B is in hearing
and keeps a constant clearing on haming, which sounds
bad to me, you will perceive two hands writing, I had near-
ly two pages written when I spilled a lot of ink on my
sheet, it was then about time to get my dinner and
Charley offered to copy what I had written and did
I hope I shall have a better pen before I attempt
writing again, from your affectionate Mother
A A Howard

Elin Gilmore,

Speeds May 23^d 1852 305

My dear son

Your's of the 15th inst came safe to hand last eve.
We were all of us very happy to hear from you. Charlie made on fur
last evening. R B. H. went for him Friday. his mother ^{thought} of weeks were as long
as she wanted to be without seeing him. he will return tomorrow.
I did not read R B's letter to you I never read his letters unless I take them up
when he does not know of it. I read his answer from you, I think he has
inherited some false notions which neither contribute to his comfort nor
nor his true friends who love him dearly I think he studies to be peculiar
in this daily manner of conduct, does trouble me, although in itself it amounts
to ~~me~~ nothing, If I judge rightly from words I occasionally hear him
let fall; he thinks himself not duly appreciated, and with that idea
puts on those airs which he often does. I am truly disappointed in R B.
But stop another if nothing befalls any of us we shall be together again in one
month or a little more. R B. needs a real friend, such a one as
his mother can be if he would admit her, but I am a stranger to him
only as I watch his movements. How wrong it is in him to ^{hold} ~~be~~
at such a distance from me, I perceive plainly, that the cause of his ill health
he is not removed, and know he does not want I should know when he
coughs, and gets as far from me as possible. I have great hopes when
you arrive, and are with him you will get the whole truth of
his bodily sufferings, and his secret discontent, while actually his mother
does not know as he has any. I have just reread a part of your last
letter in answer to my last one to you my suggestions in that letter were not
merely to lay open a source of poverty, but to have a perfect understanding
between us. It does not seem to me, that a smart young man with
your endowments would feel poor. but still cash in pocket
is perfectly convenient at all times, and people who are the most
capable do not always find opportunity of turning their talents
to advantage. Your father will enclose the twenty five dollars

you require, and more if you say so. I have seen but little of Laura, the winter and spring, that are past. Uncle Ensigns family are in health & Mother has returned to Wallcutt. I presume R.B. wrote all the news about Portland, Brunswick, Hall and Leeds in his last letter. I will not repeat the same. Mrs. Savie is ^{very} sick, and I am very anxious about her, she has been sick about ten days. Arza is so run down that he cannot do any business. That sore in his side that drove him from Brooklyn, has doubled its force upon him. It discharges a great quantity of matter daily. What with a bad cough and no appetite has ^{reduced} him very much. R.B. and C.H. called at Wayne Friday eve. to see him. R.B. says he is strangely changed, since I saw him; so emaciated and purely white with a little flush on each cheek, I have not seen him since sleighing. Mr. Berry called lately to see him, and speaks of him in the same way. There must be a closing scene to us all some day and some when, your father recd. a letter from one of the directors last eve. requesting him to be in Boston tomorrow afternoon. He will leave home at four tomorrow morning to be in time for the cars at Greene. I intend to write to Lizzie today to give her an express invitation to spend all the time with us that she can this summer. I saw Mrs. Lathrop a few days since her health is good. Mary Jane was with her. She is a great big girl with red cheeks, & Marvins Otis & Anderson is coming to Leeds this summer, she has not been here since you went to Westford. I suppose you have. William Otis was in Boston in Mr. Ross's Office preparing to be a collector of News paper accounts. If R.B. had not written so many letters this spring, I would ^{write} some of the news of the day, but it would not be inclined to reach a second time. Leeds is just the same place it ever was watching each other to make sure that they have as many faults as I have, and of course no better. Charlie is indeed

a lovely boy, he sings well he has just now been singing with R.B. I believe I wrote your Aunt Lucretia lives on the farm where Mr. Breen formerly lived her husband has hired it for two years. Your Uncle Frank and his two boys live together without any housekeeper, having their bread baked out of the house and their washing done in the same way. Fiee don't you, is married to Stedwin Perley. I thought Lizzie and you would have to ride up there and make a call. I think I heard that Mr. F. had taken her home, his father died very soon after Henry died, it is now about the time of the year, I used to be looking for you home from college, where think you are all of your college classmates at this time. I expect your Aunt Lee is at brother Ensigns, and will be here soon to make her farewell visits, and then for New York. I have not seen her since Sarah's marriage, I expect her visit with me will be short, as my conveniences are so meagre. I expect soft beds and family tables will be unnatural to you at first. You will feel the change some time before you reach home. I have done expecting even to have much acquaintance with Mrs. White. I think I have made sufficient advance, on my part, you must let us know of all your movements as often as possible until you reach home. Charlie was quite punctual to write for a number of weeks while at headfield, I wrote him one letter and he concluded not to write until I wrote him, but Mother expects her sons to let her know what their situation is and form a few thoughts for her perusal whether she can always write to them or not. The forests are completely covered ^{with} their wanted verdure, the country from my window looks beautiful, last evening I read your letter to Roland & Elger he was melted to tears, and after I got through he left the house for a short time

May 27. 52

My Dear Howard:

I was sorry to learn the other day that you & Brown had had some difficulty. I have heard several different reports of the affair, none of which I could believe. Will you please give me the truth of the affair, - send down a note by Brown, - Are either you or Brown in arrest, - I am certainly very sorry that you have had difficulty.

I received a letter from my brother in California the other day, - he was well & doing well at the time, - have also heard from our friends in Leeds lately, - they were all well.

Truly yours

W. L. G.

