

After you return to West Point I am
going to write more careful, methodical
legible letters if I can think of it. Another
word turn over a new leaf so pray again
once more, R.B.H.

Tuesday Morning

Mother wishes to write a letter but has
not time and so she dictates to me.
She wishes you to examine your wardrobe
and bedding and if she can do anything in
repairing or supplying more during your
furlough, she will. You will write once more
of course and let us know how long you
expect to be on the way to Leeds. Whether you will
bring Lizzie with you or not.

Rowland

South Leeds June 7th 1852

Dear Brother

I received yours on Saturday
and I suppose you will expect one more
letter from home before you see home again.
As mother will not probably get time, I
improve the present opportunity. You say
you know you and I generally find gaps enough
to fill our respective sheets. I was not
aware that either of us was inclined to
be any ways glib. I think we generally
write very plain, sober epistles in accordance
with our general character, which perhaps
is not so vivacious as that of some.
I did not mean the term gossip as one
of disrespect, but rather as a good humored,
story telling, charming, correspondent, who
always has the charm of novelty.
Aunt Lee has just left here for Keelwell
this afternoon with Vaughan. They have been here
four or five days. She does not appear as cheerful
as when I have her in Porttance, probably
because the company is so well suited to her
taste. She is going on to New York before Frank
goes to California, which he thinks of doing
about the 20th, just about the time of your
furlough. Last week I went up to various

parts of Franklin County ~~but~~ ~~not~~ partly for
business and partly for pleasure. I think
Farmington a delightful place. I passed a
day and night there very pleasantly. There are four
of my classmates residing there. I called at your
old Master, Mr. Burnham, and found him
as pleasant and condescending as of old.
His hopeful son Seth, has grown strangely
since you have seen him. He is a very good
looking fellow of about my size. Copying very
closely the politeness and affability of his
honored father. He indulged in some
very pleasing reminiscences of your life at
Hallowell. Recollecting that you used to wash
his face occasionally. Thought from early indications
that you must be rather a pugnacious
individual generally. George remains the same
probably that you know him. He does not
look to me as one liable to abrupt changes
anyhow. Of course she has grown older and
is quite plain. But has a winning smile and
engaging manner. They are in hopes to see you
this summer. Perhaps you and I will go up
that way sometime. I am charmed with the
village and surrounding scenery. Among the
natural beauties of the place I noticed several
pairs of pretty eyes. but they of course possess no
charms for you. Other and perhaps more beautiful
ones have caught A.C.H. Long time ago.

Rail Road business is now the order of the
day and you will probably hear enough of it
this summer to cause you to wish that there had
never been one projected. We are watching
with much interest the result of the Baltimore
Convention now in session. Whatever it is I
think we must have another whig president
except the Fays - are suicidal enough to
nominate Daniel Webster ^{or} Millard Fillmore
for that office. I never took so much interest
in or understood the machinery of politics
as I do now. Sometimes I ask myself why
it is so, but I can not tell.
Mother is not very well today. She is at present
laying down. We have not heard from
Charles since he returned to Hunt's Hill.
He comes home just before you do.
Ben Turner was married yesterday. We have a
new law here abolishing publishing and
numbers are taking advantage of it. Charles
Bedder died this forenoon after a very long
and lingering illness. This afternoon I
have worked on the road and ^{have} been allowed
I believe been allowed the usual half of a
dollar. Delphina Bradster is just home
from Lowell. She has been sick and looks
quite poorly. Charles Turner writes from Cal.
that his health and business are going
on the best come home and see. Rowland

Pekskill 12 June 1852

My dear Stephen

Your kind letter of yesterday was duly received. I am pleased to hear of your good health and flattering prospects in the Academy. I intended writing you before this & will try to do it before you leave for the East. My engagements (leaving finally except the Office of President of the Village Corporation) have been such that I have not as yet been able to leave home only a sufficient time to go to my Quarry.

The same difficulty or official duties will deprive me the pleasure of accompanying you to visit our friends in Maine, remember me kindly & affectionately to all of them respectively. no one would be more happy to see them either here or there than myself. Not the same reason as in my own case will prevent ~~your~~ your leaving your dear Elizabeth accompanying you. She is my true helper and only dependence & in consequence of my having to remain she ^{will} be under the necessity of remaining with me besides for some expect my daughter Mrs. Henry & her children here to spend the summer -

They are now at Chicago Ill. Their eldest
Boy Howard has the pen & quill I have
written for them to come home if possible

Lucius is in a large dry good store
29 South Pearl St. Albany. I am in hopes
he may finally make a merchant

Elizabeth wishes to be kindly
remembered to you. your friend in Portland &
all in Love.

With all of them for ever
Yours affectionately Uncle

Ward B. Howard

J. O. Terhune Esq.

West Point Academy

N.Y.