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385 6/7/1852

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0364

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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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 yourself. As mother will not probably get time, I improve the present opportunity. You say you know you and I generally find gas enough to fill our respective sheets. I was not aware that either of us was inclined to be any ways gaseous. I think we generally write very staid, sober epistles in accordance with our general character, which perhaps is not so vivacious as that of some. I did not mean the town 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 left here for Hallowell this afternoon with Vaughan. They have been here four or five days. She does not appear as cheerful as when I saw her in Portland, probably because the company is so well suited to her taste. She is going on to New York before Frank goes to Calafornia, which he thinks of doing about the 20th just about the time of your furlough. Last week I went up into various parts of Franklin County, 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. Recollected that you used to wash his face occasionally. Thought from early indications that you must be rather a pugnacious individual generally. Georgy remains the same probably that you know her. She 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 wining smile and engaging maners. 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 O.O.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 Party 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 Charley since he returned to Kents 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 Collier died this forenoon after a very long and lingering illness. This afternoon I have worked on the road and have I believe been allowed the usual half of a dollar. Delphinia Leadbeter is just home from Lowell. She has been sick and looks quite poorly. Charles Turner writes from Cal that his health and business are good. For the rest come home and hear.

Rowland

After you return to West Point I am going to write more careful methodical legible letters if I can think of it. In other words turn over a new leaf. So pray I can 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 beding and if she can do anything 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 too.

Rowland

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386 6/12/1852 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* O. Otis Howard Esq

OOH-0365

Peekskill

West Point Academy  
N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill 12 June 1852

My dear Nephew

Your kind letter of yesterday was duly recd. I am pleased to hear of your good health and flattering prospects in the Academy. I intended writing you before this & will try & do it before you leave for the East. My engagements (having foolishly excepted 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 of 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 Cousin Elizabeth accompanying you. She is my housekeeper and only dependence & in consequence of my having to remain she will be will be under the necessity of remaining with me besides we 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 fever & ague. 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 Leeds.

Visit all of them for me.

Your affectionate Uncle  
Ward B Howard

O. Otis Howard Esq  
West Point Academy  
N.Y.