
388 8/27/1852 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0367a South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Aug 27th [1852]

Dear Brother

Although you have been almost a week from home, yet the time I suppose seems very short to you. When a person is almost constantly moving, hearing new sounds and seeing new sights, the moments do not delay. Another reason why the time now seems short to you is, that you are approaching rather unwelcome day. How slow that week draged before furlough. How swiftly the week of its close! We are all hoping that your journey is pleasant and will come to a happy close. Of course there will be a good long letter from you, giving us your notes and feelings all the way along. Tell us about each friend in Boston, New York and how you found Unkle Ward.

The best news I have to tell is that we are having a glorious, long old fashioned rain storm, such as the parched Earth has wanted for a long long time. Father is more content to "let it rain" than ever I saw him before. He even manifested some exultation at the first smart shower last evening. Mr Carpenter came here the evening after you left and Saturday I rode up to Kents Hill with him and Charley went up with the Old man. I got C boarded at Mr Robinsons. I suppose that you will hear from him in a few days. I returned to Leeds on Sunday morning in time for meeting.

Arza is about the same as when you left. The Thrashers are here at work upon that big mow of oats, but I manage to keep out of the dust. You know that I spoke of going to Kents Hill to review, but things were not as I expected and I shall not go. Sunday night I attended one of those "sings" at Mr Barrows. Charles Bates is in the other room talking temperance and politics as usual. Our public temperance meeting comes off on Saturday at 9: ocl. I hope you will get your Advertiser regularly as I suppose you have considerable interest in Maine polatics &c, since your furlough.

I think I shall go down to Commencement on Monday, but shall not unless my health is better than it is today. They are anticipating a great time. They are going to try to create a Pierce enthusiasm after the exercises of the day are over. I believe they expect that gentleman together with Douglass, & Van Buren and other prominent <locos>. Saturday night there was any quantity of documents for you from Washington & Peekskill. Your friends in W appear to be strong anti Scott men. Orrin Bates came home day before yesterday, but I have not seen him yet. I believe I will leave some room for mother and bid you good by.

Your Aff Brother
R.B. Howard

Cadet O. O. Howard

[The next letter from Eliza was inserted here.]

Mother stops on the other page because she has not time to write more before the mail.

Rowland

389 8/27/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0367b

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

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

Aug 27th [1852]

My Dear Son,

you have hardly reached your destination yet my mind has been following you from hour to hour since you left home, hoping for a prosperous journey for you. Saturday's mail brought a letter from your friend Sawtelle saying he could not meet you in Portland, but would be glad to meet you in Boston, on Wednesday and go through to W.P. together. You cannot conceive my dear boy of the strength of feeling that your Mother has for you (perhaps it is just as well if you don't). I hope you will get along well. I shall feel anxious about you until you get settled with your new room mate. I hope former experience will teach you something towards carrying forward your future respectability. Try not be too excitable. It is a wrong state of feeling, sometimes we become so from fatigue of body and mind. I hope that ugly Bile is done with, that began to show itself before you left. Your Uncle Ensign is in the other room talking about railroad affairs as usual
[Eliza Gilmore]

390 8/31/1852 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0368

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Aug 31st 1852

My dear Mother

It has now been ten days since I left you and I have made all my visits & enjoyed my freedom all I shall be able to for a long time. I have felt badly to think you should take my leaving so to heart. It made me reflect & ponder a great deal over the past few weeks that I have been with you. I presume that it seems to you as if I had been home scarcely any. In fact I anticipated a closer stay with you, but the furlough is over and I feel as if I had wronged you by not being with you more & striving a little more to contribute to your happiness.

I left Rowland & father at Greene without bidding either good bye and I thought of that a long time. I don't know why it was, only the cars were separated from the depot by the freight train. I thought Rowland would follow into the cars, but he did not. I met Sam. P. Benson in the cars as soon as I stepped in. He had much to say & many questions to ask - as many as one could ask in riding from Greene to Lewiston on the rail road. I left Lizzie Monday evening and arrived in Boston Tuesday morning & went directly to Mr Gould's. I was a little sea-sick for the first time in my life on the boat but I turned in - lay down on my back & was soon asleep forgetting that I had felt any heavings of the stomach.

Mr & Mrs Gould showed me every attention they could - went with me to the museum & showed me about the city. I went & found Nelson Tuesday and rode with him out about 20 miles & back. In the afternoon I rested sleeping part of the time. The next day I intended to go & see Olive, Rodelphus & Clark. First I found Rodelphus, got on his omnibus & rode with him about an hour afterwards with Clark still longer, then I went to Mr Gould's shop where he presented me with a cadet cap that he had made me. It was then dinner time & I gave up going to see Mrs Hazzard.

In the afternoon after I had put my things in order, I carried my baggage to the Fall River depot, then went to the Providence depot and went with Nelson as far as I could. He sent me through without expense to Fall river where I had to pay three dollars through to New York. On board the Empire State, a boat on the Fall river route, I had a good supper & a good sleep.

I reached New York early in the morning, left my baggage at the American House and started in search of my cousins. After waiting awhile at Mr Landon's where Silas is situated he came and told me that Perry had not left New York - together we went immediately and found him. Perry knew me instantly. He has not changed any, bating his growth. He is about as large as Rowland Bailey, a little round shouldered and very stout, but his face wears the same old expression & his hair is of the same flaxen color. I went with him in the afternoon to see Sarah & Aunt. Both are pretty well & talk of going to California stronger than ever. The baby they call pretty & large - it seems to me little & looks like all babies that young. Perry is soon to sail again for Australia as second mate.

In the evening of thursday I came as far as Peekskill reaching there about 8 o'clock - found all well - Uncle all swallowed up in politics. Friday I carried Elizabeth to Newburg to visit our cousins there. We spent the day with our three maiden lady cousins. They are in the best of circumstances - very pleasant, but all of them quite old. They still teach a boarding school accompanied by a day school. I saw also Mrs Knox, the sister of Dr. Bailey. The latter is an Army Surgeon, stationed now at MacKinnow Michigan.

Friday night I returned to Peekskill and did not come on to West Point till after dinner, coming up to Cold Springs in the first afternoon train. This made me a little belated - that is I did not reach here to report at 2 o'clock for which they put me in confinement to my tent & quarters after we moved into barracks. I shall get a few demerit for it. I do not know how many. It rained the night I reached here and all the next day in torrents & then very hard. The first night I slept with wet feet & wet clothes. The next day I was on guard all day & night in the cold & rain & Monday morning we moved out of Camp into barracks.

Now (Tuesday) I am well settled in my room with a very kind gentlemanly young man for a chum - and notwithstanding my extra labor & exposure I never was in better health. I had made up my mind to take every

thing coolly, but it taxed my fortitude to keep up my spirits under such a cool reception.

I have been a little homesick. If you could have a room & strew your things round & pick out what you want, it would not be hard. But we cannot have a trunk or valise in camp - must get in a tent already full and stow ourselves away the best we can. Our accoutrements are scarcely to be found & when found are all out of order and considering the unreasonably short space of time we have to get everything in order to go on duty, you need not wonder that the mind & heart revert to the kindness & attention that we have left behind, and now and then we feel a little choked - a little homesick.

Lieut. Clitz has been drilling our Class to day and has treated us finely. We are in Barracks too, and with our condition our spirits rise. I am now on speaking terms with all but three in my class. Mr Lee came up to me on my return and offered me his hand & asked very kindly & gentlemanly how I had enjoyed myself this summer. To Abbott, Turnbull & Wood I gave & received no greeting.

Give my love to all. I hope to improve much these coming two years. I think I have a better room-mate, at least one more congenial to my tastes & habits. Quite a number of my class have not been the least dissipated this summer. Several have been sick at home & have come back looking very badly. All, however, are here from Texas to Maine.

Tell Rowland to write me as soon as he can. Remember me to the family one & all. And also to Aunt Lucretia & her family.

Your affectionate Son
O. O. Howard