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391 9/4/1852

*From:* Charles [H Howard]

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0369

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sept 4th 1852

Dear Brother;

I concluded that by this time you would like to hear from me, as you had not, since you left me at the door at home and I thought too that I would like very much to hear from you, and so I take my pen. You see by the date that I am not at home and also where I am.

I came here the day after you left which you know was Saturday. Mr Carpenter was coming up here and Rowland rode with him. They started from our house about one o'clock and I about three. After I had said goodbye to all I seated myself in the waggon and taking the reins started the old White for she was the horse with which I came. There was nothing that happened in my ride which would be worth relating. I called at Arza's as I came and found that he was more comfortable that day than he had been but I have not heard from him since.

Well; I came from Arza's up on to the Hill and found that I had reached here before Mr Carpenter and Rowland. I stopt at the Mansion House and had my horse put up and took supper myself.

I found that there was but one chance to room, and that was with Mr Eaton's boy (the man who keeps the boarding house) in a very small room with two very small windows. The defects of the room I did not care so much about as the fellow I was to have for a chum. He and I never had any trouble but about all he says is nonsense. Still I did not make up my mind what to do until Rowland came which was in a little while. By the way the reason why he did not get here first, was because he went by the way of Mr Barrow's and stoped there some time then he came to Arza's and ate supper. Well when he came, he and I walked up to Mr Torsey's and he told us that there was a chance at Mr Robinson's to board, which is opposite to the Seminary on the other side of the road but when we went there we found that that place had been engaged that afternoon, which Mr Torsey did not know of. But as I could room with Roscoe Jennings if I boarded there, I wanted to board there very much. Rowland told them this and they said that I might come in and stay until the fellow came who had engaged it, and so I did.

Rowland went back in time to go to meeting down to Leeds the next morning. I remained at Mr Robinson's and the fellow came and they told him how that I would like to stay very much, and so he went and got boarded at the Mansion. So you see I remained at Mr Robinson's where I now am up in a little chamber in the N. West part of the house, which is my room. I will now give you a description of it. It has two rather small windows in it which face the West but has no East window for which reason it is rather dark here in the morning. It has two good closets attached to it which are convenient. We have for furniture a bed which Vine is stronger and not quite so hard on the floors a table two chairs a washstand and a looking glass. There is one piece of furniture more that I have not mentioned and one that we do not need very much, namely a chimney which passes from the fire down below in the kitchen up through here, and which with the sun in the afternoon makes it very hot, and rather uncomfortable staying here, but it will be (that is the heat) quite acceptable by & by when the weather gets to be a little cooler.

I need not say any thing about my chum Roscoe for you know him as well as I do. I like him very much for a roommate.

You know I spoke to you about my studies. I study the same that I spoke to you about viz Latin Algebra Arithmetic and Philosophy accepting the last which I could not study because it came the same time as my Latin. Latinum valde multus Amo. I meant that sentence for I love Latin very much if you find that it is translated right you will see that I have learned a little about it. I find no trouble in keeping up with my class either in my Latin or Algebra. Roscoe studies Latin and nothing else. He is in the class that is over in the last part of the book & in my class the book that we use is McClintock & Brooks First Book In Latin. Roscoe and I have some sport in looking over our book comparing our lessons after we have got them out for we do not get them out together. He gets his out in the evening and I mine immediately after dinner. When we compare, we keep account of the mistakes of each. We were comparing the lesson for Monday today and found that he

made 18 mistakes and I 6.

I bought me a blank book the other day and am going to keep a journal. I began to write in it Sept 1st and have written a page every day since and intend to the whole term. I think it will help me in writing composition. I don't know as I shall send a piece of composition in this letter as we were talking about. I have written a piece about the Maine Liquor Law but I shall have to hand it in before it would have time to go to West Point and back. I shall send one in my next Letter.

I should like to have you name a subject for me in your next letter. For sometimes I think of a subject to write about, then after I have written a little, I think it is not a good subject and wish that I had taken some other one.

Oh! I almost forgot to write you about my taking lessons on the Piano. Mr Carpenter staid at Mr Wheelock's while he was on the Hill. He made several calls on me while here and also went with me up to Mr Wheelocks and gave me an introduction to Miss W the Lady who gives lessons on the Piano, and I agreed to take half a course of lessons which is twelve. It will cost me three dollars for taking Lessons and one dollar for practicing one hour every day by myself.

Write as soon as you get this for I do wish to hear from you. Please write about your journey on to West Point. Oh! Otis I have grown old very fast within a few days. I am now fourteen and a few days ago I was but thirteen. For my birthday was a week ago to day [b. August 28, 1838]. Most boys wish to be or wish they were men but I do not.

My health has been quite good since I came here, only I have got a cold that makes me cough considerable. I have had one letter from home since I have been here and I answered that last Sunday. I am now going up to the P.O. to see if there is not one there now. I send much love to you Otis. Please write soon.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles  
(To Oliver Otis Howard)

P.S. Correct my mistakes and tell me of them Otis.  
P.S. Roscoe sends his love to you.

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392 9/8/1852

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0370

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 8 '52

Dear Mother

I thought perhaps you might be looking for a letter from me by next Saturday's mail and if this goes as quick as it ought you will not be disappointed. I received a letter from Charley to day, a good long one of four pages. He says he is doing finely in his studies, likes Latin & likes his room mate. The last news I heard from you was contained in Rowland's letter written at Portland. I had mailed one to him just before I received his. My health is now good and I attend to all duties both military & Academic. My "afflictions" are finally suspended, only once in a while my cartridge box or the bell buttons on my shirt will remind me of the tender places. I was released from confinement Monday and awarded three extra tours of Sunday guard duty.

Perhaps you wish to know why I did not get here before two o'clock. I was under the impression that I must be here before two but I wished to stay away as long as I could consistently with my duty. So I went & asked Rundell. He said that if I arrived here any time before four, it would answer all purposes & nothing would be said. He was mistaken, but I did not say anything of what he told me, merely stating where I was & how I was delayed. It does not amount to much, but I like to have a portion of each sabbath to myself for reading, writing reflection &c, but seeing I was a little careless in the performance of my duty, I will cheerfully walk them out. Sunday tours are more than any others, for the guard is on all day. One relief walks while the other two go to church. I shall be on the relief that stays away from church unless I exchange with some one. The before mentioned is the only report I have had since my return, and I am now getting on finely in every respect.

My room mate suits me well. He is good-hearted, very neat, neither swears, drinks, or smokes and is not licentious, which I have learned to be the especial prerequisites of a room-mate for me. I have not used tobacco in any way nor shape since I have been in barracks & have no inclination to do so. It is a great trouble to get tobacco here if one wishes to, & causes a great deal of trouble & inconvenience after it is got, so I consider it the part of a wise man to forego the use of it.

(Thursday) If I do not close this now you will not get it Saturday. Write to me when you can. I am always delighted to hear from you. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son  
O O Howard

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393 9/12/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0371

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 12th 1852

My dear Mother,

I have taken my pen this morning to make you amends if possible for writing you so short a letter. I had not time then to finish filling up my sheet, and thinking that you would rather receive a short letter than none at all, I mailed what I had written. I have received a long letter from Charlie and answered it by one of equal length. He appears much engaged in his studies, says he likes latin very much & enjoys taking lessons on the piano. He proposes sending me his compositions for me to make criticisms & corrections after which I am to send them back. He also wishes me to correct his letters & tell him of his mistakes. I could not find one in his long letter of four pages closely written. I think this is better than I do myself, for I seldom ever 're-read' one of my letters without finding several mistakes of one kind & another. I received too a long letter yesterday from Lizzie, and it was a beautiful letter, so you see I have no reason to complain of my lot, you all are so mindful of my comfort and my happiness. It makes the time pass very pleasantly and seem very short, when I can get a good many letters from home & from Portland. They promote reflection and give me something to do in my leisure moments, to answer them. They make you seem nearer to me & "soften the pain of absence". They make me forget petty grievances by making me forget the present & myself, while I am indulging in past reminiscences, and in dreams of the future.

Perhaps you fancy by what you saw of me at home & by what you have known of my faults heretofore, that I am exceedingly irritable, but I am not. I now never suffer myself to get impatient; never in the recitation room, never in my room, or at any other time let what will happen. Some time ago I discovered that this fault, for which I seemed to have a predisposition, was gradually growing upon me, and subtracting fearfully from my quantum of happiness; and I resolved to exert myself to overcome it. Now when I feel a little vexed, when any duty seems irksome, I stop still & think - think it will soon be over, put a bright face on the matter and then I find both the task & my heart are light.

Silas Lee was up to see me Thursday and brought with him a man from Boston a Capt McKim, who was very much interested in military affairs, having been Captain of an independent company in Boston, the one to which Silas belonged when there. They stopped all day till after parade in the evening; so that I got excused from all duty from 9 ½ o'clock, after my morning recitation, till 8 o'clock in the evening.

I went to see Warren last evening between supper & 'call to quarters', a time of about three quarters of an hour. I did not see him but a very short time. He looked hale & hearty and said he was getting on well. He says he shall not be able to go home, since it always costs him over a hundred dollars, let him be as prudent as he may. He did not say that this was his only reason for not going, but I fancied it was the principal one because he mentioned the cost. He says his Uncle Jerry is coming to visit him in a few days & will make me a call.

Mr Lee & I now sometimes converse about the lesson. It is much better than to be as we were last year. I am if anything too ready to forgive an injury to suit the notions of military men, but it is right to do so, and my impulses <prompt> me to forgive a man, so soon as he is disposed to treat me well. I do not wish to be on speaking terms with Mr Abbot. He never has conducted himself as I fancy a real, whole souled man should, and I would rather have him keep his own side of the path.

Tell Rowland Bailey I have not yet learned what he is intending to do with himself. I want him to "spruce up a little" and put a little energy & heart into study if he undertakes it this fall. If he could only invest an equal amount of attention and interest in his text books that he ever exhibits in the subjects of Temperance & politics, who knows what a scholar he might make? I would not however for the world persuade him to take any course that would have a bad effect upon his health or do him a permanent injury. I like my room mate very much. He appears always very kind hearted, and has none of those defects which are so hard for me to put up with. I never have, however, had any difficulty of any amount with a room-mate in my room; but I now anticipate more pleasure in my constant associations. Browne rooms with Lazelle. I do not think they will get on very well; at least they did not formerly; but Lazelle is afraid of Browne & I always thought he hated him for Browne was always "hectoring him" when we used to room together in the old barracks.

(Sunday noon)

I have just returned from church. We had a sermon on parental indulgence & filial obedience - or rather filial disobedience and its results. The text was, Absalom! Oh Absalom, my son Absalom. Would to God I had died for the Oh! Absalom, my son my son! It was a good subject & we had an excellent discourse; and especially to me was it deeply interesting. One of his closing remarks was something as follows: "The young man who will by his ungrateful conduct pierce his father's heart with anguish, or fill with tears the eyes of the mother who has watched over him with tender affection & solicitude from infancy will defy all the bad examples that the dissolute can set time to ruin him, for he is already ruined".

A week ago today I finished the reading of the "Wide Wide World". It is a beautiful book. I want you to read it if you have not. I never read a book more interesting, where the main object seemed to be the inculcation of Christian principles. The authoress lives just over the river; her real name is Warner.

Give my love to all. I presume Dellie is still a good boy & helping his father.

Mr Stevens whose name is on the register as found deficient, procured a reexamination, but it did not avail him anything. By his course, heretofore he had prejudiced the academic board against him. He has now spent three years in College & three years at West Point & is if anything worse off than when he started.

Has Lizzie written to you. She wrote me sometime since that she intended to. I shall expect a letter before this reaches you. Remember me to all my friends in Leeds.

Your affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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395 9/16/1852 *From:* Peleg S. Perley

*To:* [O. O.] Howard

OOH-0372

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland Sept. 16th 1852

Dear Howard

I have been gently reminded tonight that I ought to write you a letter and one reason set forth among others was that I am the elder. Well I have no particular objection to writing to you "on the contrary" I like to write to you always whenever the spirit moves - not that I always do when the spirits move because laziness irremediable, incorrigible steps in and hinders me. But I am in for one this eve, in time for mailing too and it is now 7 3/4 so I must haste and to proceed at once in medias us I thank you for writing so cheerily and kindly in my album. It smacks of the olden hopeful college days and shows that your memory of them has not grown dim nor your love for them and me grown cold. One more I thank from my heart for so kind a remembrance.

I don't know but an apology is due from me for my rudeness at Picnic and at any rate you will grant one for neglect of you by me anywhere or at any time is and ever has been however many times I may have been guilty of it unintentional. It really seems to me that I hardly need to make such a declaration to you but I find by sad experience that one must not take too much for granted even in the case of one's most intimate and best friends. Why till recently, I should no more have thought of your taking notice of an odd fib or strange conduct in me, to interpret it to my disadvantage than my own folks. You should have known me better. "Et tu Brute". However, Jewett who I thought knew and whom I sincerely prized as a friend, has taken offence at my mode of treating him so that I begin to think I may appear selfish, cold, distant, moody and uncommunicative and unsympathizing when I am not. So I must be on my guard perforce and be polite and pay attention to my friends and acquaintances and chat and appear cheerful and they will not then think I am careless of them. This is not irony - it is a truth and to me almost a new discovered one though as old as creation.

I don't know Chum but I am indifferent and obnoxious to the charge of misanthropic selfishness. I don't feel so but one cant compare his own feelings with those of others for he don't know what other's are. I don't know that I love any whom I call my friends as they love me - sometimes I fear I love them too little and then again too much, but my love for them varies not such as it is it is constant and trusting. Jewetts letter giving me the cold shoulder as it looks to me, made me feel bad. I could have cried over it. But sundered ties are not helped by tears. They lie too deep for that. I cant tell I am sure what his motive was in writing me as he did, whether he was put out because I made so short a stay with him or whether he merely put that forward in lieu of a better pretext for getting rid of a friend.

I was at Com. and it was a great time. Adams, Bullfinch, Gardiner, Goodwin, Atherton, Ingraham, Perley, Jackson, Snell, Smith, MacArthur of our class were there, all in good health and spirits. Hodgman is the father of a boy. Ingraham is said to have lost his woman - non morte. Annie I have not seen since about a week before we went up country in Aug. You remember what you told me in our bedroom after the tip out, when I had been talking with E. and you called me back? It has not come yet. Oh will it ever! Yes I hope so. Liz is writing a note and she will tell you about a thousand things that I cant now.

I think I shall go home Sat. and stay a few weeks - 3 or 4 say. I went up to see Perry last week and stayed four days with him. He has got so as to walk and ride out and is gaining fast. His arm will be probably stiff partially. His eyes are no better. God tempers the wind to the shaven lamb but seemingly he has not tempered it to him.

No Governor elected here by the people. Legislature - democratic though there is a large Whig gain. The Maine Law so far as accounts have come in triumphantly sustained. Hurrah!

Write me soon. Direct to North Turner Bridge. In haste,

As ever your friend  
Peleg S. Perley

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394 9/15/1852 *From:* Charles Howard

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0373

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sept 15th 1852

Dear brother,

I received with joy a letter from you last Tuesday. I came from my recitation in Latin just after the mail arrived, came over to the house to bring my book before I went to the P.O. & a fellow said that he had brought me a letter which was up stairs in my room. I was not long in finding it then I tell you, nor did I stop until I had read it over twice. It seemed quite short but then when I came to look at it, I saw that it was all over one sheet.

The account of your journey was quite interesting to me. I had not heard from you at all since you left the depot at Greene, but now I have heard all of the events of your journey as far as N.Y. city.

The day that you wrote your letter week ago last Thursday I went to Camp meeting. Roscoe & I and a fellow by the name of Butler started immediately after breakfast to walk to Camp meeting a distance of six miles. We started about seven and arrived there a little before nine. They were having a prayer meeting when I got there. (Viz, was considerable shouting &c). I went to the Leeds tent and found Mary F Lothrop, who told me that Rowland was there. I then went in pursuit of him soon a fellow told me that he had seen Rowland & that he was looking after me; well I soon found him & was very glad to do so. He told me that the folks were all well, which was my first eager inquiry.

I kept with Rowland and we soon found Rodelphus Leadbeter. He had been at home but a few days and was soon going back I believe, although I am not certain. Brought Lucia up to Camp meeting that morning. Rowland & I did not stop long with Rodelphus, but walked on. We soon met Silas Bates who said he came up with Nathan Coffin. Rowland came up with Henry Brewster early in the morning & did not know that he was coming. Well we walked on and in a little while found Roland A. and Orin Bates. Orin had just got home from Mass and was soon going back. I had not seen him for about a year. I believe you did not see him while at home, did you? He looked rugged & healthful. I saw George Jones & Lucin Turner there & a great many others with whom I was acquainted. John H & Helen were there. Helen was as full of her fun as ever. Laura H was also there. She took dinner in Leeds tent with Rowland & me. Just at dark I saw her walking with a gentleman by the name of Webster who has been a kind of assistant engineer to Mr Reed on our new Rail Road ie the Androscoggin.

George Lothrop & Huldah assisted in furnishing the Leeds tent and he invited us to take dinner with him which as I have said we did. My dinner tasted good after walking so far I tell you. Huldah's health she said was about as good as it had been for the summer accepting that she was considerably bent out that day for she was not used to so much exertion. She told me that they were about to move away from Leeds and were going to Livermore Falls to live; said they had engaged a house there & should move soon. I forgot to mention that in the forenoon we heard a sermon by a Mr Foster I believe but I am not sure now what his name was. We had a sermon from Mr Primer in the afternoon, our minister at Kent's Hill. Rowland said he did not like it very well. He is a young man about 25 or 26 I should think. He uses a great many words but fewer thoughts sometimes. A week or two ago he began a sermon and preached a while on (I don't exactly remember the words of the text). Something about a great river or a river flowing on to the great city. It was taken from some part of the Bible, I don't remember where. Well he went on to compare this to the Christian people &c for a while. But! All at once stoped and began to speak on the Temperance & Politics of this state and to urge the people to vote for Holmes or Hubbard, I don't know hardly which but I think it was Holmes. After he had spoken awhile on that subject he changed back again to his sermon. They said that he preached the same down to North Wayne. But it will not do for me to criticize yet.

But to get back to the Camp ground. Rowland was full of politicks, it being but a little time before election. About every man that he met he would if he had a chance try and persuade him to vote for Crosby. I stayed with Rowland until he left which was about sunset or a little before. Mother sent me up a bundle in which was a shirt, some writing paper and some envelopes. How good mother is; she is always caring for me. I staid until the close of the evening sermon which was a little after ten o'clock and then walked home with Roscoe and another of the students. We got here at twelve o'clock.

Since I began my letter I have eaten my dinner and walked up to the P.O. but found no letter. I have got to go up to Miss Wheelocks to take a lesson on the piano now & will finish when I get back.

I have been gone from my letter two hours; I went up there about two o'clock. She had callers then and so I waited, and I have been playing about an hour steady which makes me quite tired to sit so still and strait for so long.

I suppose our folks have written to you that Francis Lothrop has lost two of his children. I suppose you hear as much news from Leeds as I do about. For I have not heard from there since Camp meeting. Oh yes I hear Charles Hutchens went down last Saturday but did not hear from our folks.

Roscoe has gone down to Leeds today. I expect to have all the news when he gets back Monday. He had a chance to ride over to North Turner bridge & so he thought he would go home it being but 2 ½ miles from their home, & he wished to see his mother who has been so very sick you know. The last he heard from her was at Camp meeting. He heard then that she was gaining slowly but had not then had her clothes on. He also has a cousin sick at his fathers with the Typhoid fever. Her name is Harriet Frost. Perhaps you know her. She is Porter Frost's daughter.

I thought of going home last night or going down to Arza's & stoping all night and then going home this morning, and I fairly made up my mind to go and changed my clothes, but I went in to prayers and to hear <> & while in there made up my mind not to go. I thought it over in my mind, thinks I they will think I am homesick if I go home tonight when it has been but about a week since I saw them, but not so much that, that made me change my mind but I thought I might wish to go home again before the term and another thing I did not want to leave my studies. One reason I wanted to go home was to get some winter clothes for I have been quite in need of them this first week. It has been very cold until today, but it is quite warm and pleasant this afternoon.

I have about as much as I can do to attend to my studies. I have no time to play or write or hardly any thing else, any day but Saturday & two hours of that are taken up in playing on the piano. We have got over to transposition in my Algebra, about through fractions in Arithmetic. In Latin we have got to the 62 page. I like Latin much. I have not writin any composition to send as I promised, but think I must next time. I have dec twice since I came. I have not written this very well but I hope you will let the quantity which I have written out ballance the penmanship. Please correct my mistakes and tell them to me in your next, if there is any after I have corrected all I can find, as I presume there will be.

From your affec brother  
Charles

To O O Howard

P.S. Excuse such a long letter. I know to read it is tiresome. Rowland told me that that you was punished for not being there at the right hour. I don't know what it was. Was it a hard one? If it was, I am sorry. We have not elected a governor. It (ie the election) will fall on the Legislature.



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396 9/24/1852 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Brother [C.H. Howard]

OOH-0374

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept 24th 1852

My dear brother

I receive your's of the 18th day before yesterday - no, Wednesday, and at the same time one from Lizzie. Both were good, both of a good length. She rather beat you this time in point of length. She says she must be very careful or you will outstrip her in learning music. You can read the notes so easily.

As you say I carried you on as far as N. York in my last letter. After leaving the boat I was carried straight to the American House - situated on Broadway. Here I left my trunk & valise - and finding myself in such a busy, noisy place I forgot all about my breakfast and started off in search of friends. There is always a feeling of discomfort when you find yourself in a large, crowded place, with nothing particular to do, but elbow your way along - where you meet no eye of sympathy or recognition. However your military buttons will gain you a path if you put on a bold independent air. Yet even then all the Hack & carriage drivers will charge you a double price. Considering these things, for you remember the large share of economy in my composition, I resolved to "foot it" as much as my knowledge of the city would admit of. I steered my course down Broadway, till I came to the tallest Church spire in the city, belonging to what they call Trinity Church - this I recollected had served as my guidepost before. I remembered that Silas' store was on a street that ran just behind the Pearl St. House. I turned to the left and went straight forward a half dozen streets or more - then thinking I had gone far enough in that direction I turned to the right & proceeded in a direction parallel to Broadway. Soon I found Pearl street, then the Pl St. House. Then the store behind - Silas was not yet in. I sat down to wait for him & this reminded me of a want of breakfast. I started off then to find Frank Sargent's brother. I knew his shop was on a st called Old Slip, but where I could not recollect - vain search - my stomach was very angry at this superabundance of exercise.

A nauseating gas is always in those lower streets, and you are always meeting, dirty foreigners, odoriferous negroes - and wadling "old tars". Carts, truck & big footed horses are always in your way, to make you dodge & jump about. Well I sweat over this exercise & find my way at last back to Silas' store. He came in a few moments went with me for a breakfast, at the nearest Eating House - then took me down to the Warf and on board a big-bark bound for Australia, to set sail in about a month. Here I found Perry Lee - a square built big shouldered young man. A little taller than your humble servant - a regular sailor. He knew me instantly, and of course I recognized him. His face & hair, his voice, with many other Perry Lee peculiarities remain unchanged. He could not leave his vessel till noon, nor could Silas be absent from his duties for a long time, so I went to Epes Sargent's shop - where he does up medicines to send off, smoked a cigar and finding myself very comfortably situated, more so than I would have been wandering about over a dusty, dirty city in the sultry part of the day, I let curiosity and love of novelty subside awhile & sat down to scribble down my thoughts at my friend's desk. After dinner Perry left his vessel, dressed himself up & went with me to see his mother at Brooklyn. We found them pretty well. Sarah has had a hard time since the birth of her child, but is now better. They think the girl-baby very fine looking - interesting lovely in every development.

At six o'clock (Thursday) that same night I took the cars for Peekskill. The cars are drawn out of the heart of the city by horses - so you may sit at the window of a car and watch street after street pass by you. You can observe hundreds of different faces and fancy you trace these as many different characters. You see old & young, great & small - ragged boys & girls - prim & proud little ones - Noble, whole soul'd looking men, and thin faced, sharp nosed & chin'd sort of beings, who look very humble, and very absorbed.

Sometimes you amuse yourself by tracing resemblances between the passers by & your friends & acquaintances afar off. But by & by you are out of the city - drawn on, snatched through spruce by that big horse fed by fuel and whose legs never flag or hesitate to perform their circular paths unless broken. I reached Peekskill on the evening, found Uncle & cousin Elizabeth well, living in the same old place & by themselves. Uncle Ward is a Democrat, & goes into politics with his whole heart & soul.

Our father had some cousins at (New Burg or) Newburg - three old maids. They are now by the name of Philips. I took my cousin Elizabeth & carried her to visit them on Friday, and had a very fine time. We had to

pass by West Point on our way on the opposite side of the river. My eyes did not feast upon the grand scenery with the same degree of pleasure that they did two years before when I approached this place. That night, after having seen my elderly cousins, eaten of their nice fruit, and seen their pretty girls, for they keep a boarding school, we returned to Peekskill and like a foolish boy I stopped there till the afternoon of the next day. I ought to have been here dressed in Cadet clothes, ready to report at 2 o'clock. I was one hour & a half too late, for which I have served one weeks confinement to my room, performed one camp tour of guard duty & one Sunday tour & have still two more sundays, with 10 demerit & all that I may get in addition, while performing these duties. Is it hard? No. Only the demerit, all the rest sits on my shoulders as easy as my musket when I am marching to parade with the tune of "Old folks at home".

I am well & doing well. Remember me to Roscoe. You must take a great deal more pains with your hand writing than I do. I want to hear from you as soon as you can write. I have not seen those compositions. You made a few mistakes in your last. I can not correct them now - be careful.

I will give you a subject. "Labor vincit omnia" "Industry conquers all things".

You can take the example of a poor boy, with no wealth but good common sense, and show how he may rise to eminence by making this his motto. You can tell how Bonaparte gained his Laurels & his greatness, how Luther changed the religion of the world. How Peter the Great remodeled his government and made his semi-barbarous people assume a <rank> among the civilized & enlightened nations of the earth. In short how every man who has risen to any distinction has taken for his motto & adhered to it that "perseverance accomplishes all things".

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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397 9/26/1852 *From:* Rodelphus [Gilmore] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0375

South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds Sept 26th 1852

Dear Brother

I have my pen in my hand and I thought that I would write a little. Last fryday mother and I went up to Kents Hill and we went to Charley's boarding place and Charley was studing in his room. Soon he came. And then he had to go recite his lesson. When he came in he wanted to see Mother because he thought he should stay, but soon he changed his mind. So we went out to walk. We went up 4 pare of stairs and Charley and I got up on the Belfry. We looked off all round. Then we could see the Bates hill. They began to ring the Bell. Mother and C and Me Started for home. We stoped at Mr Gilmore's. He has got most well. He walks six feet. Saturday he Charley was sick so that he did not go out a great deal and to day he is so sick that Mother thought he had the fever. RB has got so smart that he kicks about here and all he thinks of is politics. He belongs to two Clubs Temparence and Scott Clubs. He is Secretary of the Scott and Graham Club. Old Mr Coffin has come in to see us to day or since diner.

From you afectionate Brother  
Rodelphus

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398 9/26/1852 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* Son [O O Howard]

OOH-0376

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Sept 26th 1852

My dear Son,

I have just reread your three last letters to Charlie, who is Sick at home (I concluded to take a little table close to his bed, and write to you). His head aches badly, his face is flushed; and pult very quick, I fear he has the tyfoid fever. He wrote me a letter last Monday saying he should come home Saturday. He should walk home, said nothing of his health. After reading his letter I decided to go up Friday and carry his flannels and other cloths, that the season required. Dellie and I started early Friday morning for Kents Hill to visit Charlie and bring him home if he wished. We reached there at half past ten o'clock.

I found C looking very pale and even deathly. On enquiry I found he had the headache several days. Mrs R the lady where boarded thought he did not exercise enough. At the time other boys were at play, he practiced his music. He said he should like to come home and talk with R.B. about his health &c. All the way he complained of his head, and ever since he came home the pain in his head has increased. I found his pult very quick and intermiting. None of my remedies have had the desired affect. The rest of us are in pretty good health, with the acceptions of teeth ache ear ache &c.

Your father is gone the most of the time seeing to the railroad affairs. The Locomotive passes through Leeds every day. R.B.H. is up to something about temperance or Politics all the time. I am not satisfied with his course. I like to see young men begin and follow out the same course. O! how I wish I could direct him and have him follow my directions, but I cannot. I cannot see anything but his general health is good.

Nelson Leadbetter is here on a short visit to his parents, has called on me, and would have come and made a visit with me, had not their babe been taken ill and prevented. They leave next Wednesday for their home. Francis Lothrop has had two of his children die with the dissentary. I was with them some in their sickness and death. It is one of the hardest things in nature for young and affectionate parents to see their little ones, sicken and die. Francis seemed almost wholly absorbed in the one thought that he must have them live, but he could not stay the hand of death.

If you see Warren give my best respects to him.

Tuesday 11 o'clock.

Charlie still continues sick. I have called in a Physition to take charge of him, as I did not feel confidence in myself to treat a patient through a fever. He has most likely lost his fall's schooling if no more. R.B.H. is playing on the aeolean, and Charlie cannot rest because he makes discords. R.B. plays some tunes well. I should like to write something pleasant and interesting but my mind is so full of cares I can hardly collect my thoughts to write anything. I called to see Mrs Sampson the other day. Found her very feeble, and found her quite discouraged. She is very spare. Called to see Arza. He is so he can (with the help of his canes) get from one room to another. Mr Sampson said he met with Mrs Waite and Lizzie in the cars going into Portland. Saturday's mail brought a letter from Lizzie to R.B. in answer to one he had written her.

I seem to feel extremely sensible every thing that touches you. Lizzie spoke as tho' Col. Lee's being superintendent at West Point would have a bearing on you for the worse. But, my son, try to have self possession at all times. If you do the best you can; keep your temper look well to the military rules. If you only knew how unhappy your mother was on account of your manner of commencing your years course I think on her account you will try to understand, and obey the laws of the institution where you seem to be placed. If you are sensible through much care you are subject to forget small Points. Do make a minute of them. I have not always spoken or written to you with that freedom, that I think is a parents duty to a child because I knew your sensitive disposition. But I do think Otis you must be more particular about small things. A great deal depends on small matters. I never could fully understand how it was, that you got your yourself into just such a situation.

Tuesday Oct 5th

You see by my dates in what manner I have written. Charlie is still confined to his bed, and requires the time of

one person to take care of him. I think his symptoms more favorable. He is sometimes beautiful to look upon his skin is so pure, with his dark eye brow and locks and forehead and hair so perfect. His flush of fever adds to fine looks. He has shone the judgement of a man in his sickroom. Dellie is keeping the flies of from his face while I write. Your Aunt Lucretia watched with him sabbath night. R.B. is a great assistance to me about taking care of Charles. We divide the night, one of us take care of him one part of the night and the other, the other part. We have Doct Bradford of Turner for our Physition.

I hope to hear you are getting on well in every respect. I do not want you to live dissatisfied. I hope your health is good. I am glad you went to see the Miss Phillips'. I have a lengthy correspondence between your father and Pamela written, perhaps, for their amusement, or improvement or both. I should judge from them that she had a finished education.

Dellie has written something of a letter for me to enclose in mine. He seems to think his best performances are acceptable, however unperfectly done. Dellie thinks highly of his brothers, and thinks much of their attention and is rather a good sort of a boy.

We have had a beautiful Autumn. So far our seasonable rains immediately after you left home has given a green covering to the fields that is a great improvement to our scenery. I have not seen any of our friends from H. since you left home. I have heard that Mrs Strictland was about to visit me but have not seen her. Since Charley has been sick, I am in hopes she will not come as I could not pay much attention to her.

I should like to have you write me, what is the difference between your daily exercise this year and last, so that I can be thinking sometimes in what manner you are then spending your time.

Francis Lothrop and wife called to see Charlie and tendered their kind services a few days ago. She feels the loose of her little children very much. She had a sister died about the same time of her children. Loiza Mowen has gone on a visit to Massachusetts. I hope she is spending her time agreeably this week while there. I seem to wish to fill up my sheet with something, however insipped it may be. I believe there is a general state of good health in town, with few acceptions. Florus Jennings has been laying sick more than two weeks at his fathers where he lately returned from Massachusetts. Your father raised six hundred bushels of Oates. Georgie Jones is gone to Boston to live. The man with whom he is hired has bought 3 hundred bushels of Oates of your father. I am in hopes we shall turn some of our produce towards paying our workman. I hope you will continue to write me, whether I write you or not. My care for my children is great, perhaps I have failed to inculcate those lasting principles in my sons which I so much desire them to have. I know that we are not our own keepers. With that view, it becomes us, to ask the protection of "Him, Who has an all seeing eye, and not a sparrow falleth to the ground without His notice".

Yours Ever  
Eliza Gilmore

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399 9/28/1852 *From:* OO Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0377

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Sept. 28th 1852

My dear Mother,

I meant that you should have received a letter from me last Saturday - but I found before I got time to write, that it would be too late for a letter to reach you. I used to write one or two letters on Sunday, but considering my tours of guard duty I have not tried of late very often. It has been a very long time since I have received a letter from home, and I should be full of solicitude, had not Charlie said in his letter that he met Rowland at Camp meeting and that all our family are well. I presume you have had too much to do to write. I imagine, however, sometimes that my letters may not be the right kind - too cool - too distant - which makes it hard for you or Rowland to reply. But a little thought teaches me better. With a passing friend a cool & distant letter would deter him from replying, but mothers & brothers do not act on the same principle.

Perhaps you think I do not write enough - so much as a son would who entertained the right kind of feelings towards his mother - then perhaps you think that I devote more time to Lizzie & less time to you than I ought. Think it not if you ever did. For it is not true. I consider it a pleasure to write to you as well as a duty. And though I may have other calls upon my time, yet you shall have your share of it. I cannot think after all that my mother would harbor any feelings of jealousy because she is not the exclusive object of my affections; for this it seems to me would not be natural.

It is my earnest wish that you take us both Lizzie & me, into your love. I am well aware of the anxiety a mother feels for her son touching the step that she thinks is to have an important bearing upon his happiness - that is to say his marriage; it is natural that she should be a little critical in her observations, and perhaps a little more fastidious in her requirements (which perhaps too she never speaks of) than her son. But my mother must remember that I have a pretty clear head, and am disposed to mingle reason with all things. I wish you to love Lizzie. Why? because I think she deserves it. Is she without faults? No, neither am I - though I confess that all the faults I ever discovered in Lizzie were never the result of a bad heart or a bad motive. But I would rather not praise her. All those who know her best say she is a "noble girl". Yet, I do not take others eyes to see with.

I have said this much, not because I thought you did not entertain the best of feelings towards Lizzie, but because I fancied you would like to tell me many things - that you might like to converse with me more intimately, or if perchance you might have received any wrong impressions concerning Lizzie, that you might tell them to me as freely as you would tel me your thoughts when I was a little boy, so that I could correct them.

My health has been very good indeed since I have returned and I have been doing remarkably well in my studies till yesterday. You know I will not study sundays in the day time or evening. Saturday afternoon I took a walk up on Cro nest. Four of us walked in all perhaps fifteen or sixteen miles, up high promontory <steeps> over rough & rugged land without paths & with plenty of rocks or thickets. It was a "wild-goose chase", a sort of exploring expedition taken for amusement. I returned just in time for parade, and to own the truth I never was more completely tired out in my life.

As you see I did not study much Saturday night. Well Monday morning, I began to study as usual immediately after Reveille, but I could not get the whole of my lesson well. The last demonstration I just skimmed over. It was very hard too and was given me just as soon as I got to the recitation room. I put all the work on the board, but made bad work at explaining it. So you need not be surprised if I do not come out first in Philosophy, the first month. In drawing I have been doing well. My mark is very much better than it was last year. The scale of demerit has been raised - that is, now an absence from any duty is 8, whereas it was formerly 3, and other things in a like proportion. The maximum amount is still 200.

I expect to get a letter from you today. I will wait before I write more and see.

(Wednesday)

I did not get a letter yesterday. September is almost out & we have not taken off our white pants yet. It seems so chilly to day that I am in hopes there will be an order for gray pants this evening. Charlie told me all about

his journey to Camp meeting, whom he saw &c. How is Arza? You have not mentioned him nor has Rowland in your letters! I presume from this that he must be better.

I presume Rowland has been full of politics, for the last few months. Tell him there was some rejoicing here at Hubbards defeat. They said men were coming to their senses. The New York Herald seemed to be very much elated at the issue of our elections. It saw the triumph plainly of the opponents of the liquor law.

Have you heard from Grandmother lately? Perhaps if she is able she will be out to see you this fall. Will she not. Lizzie said Aunt Martha Jane was out at Leeds, when she was writing. Tell me what she had to say in extenuation of her husbands course of procedure. How do the Club & band flourish now-a-days. I want you to tell me everything that is transacting at home. Tell me about Dellie, how he is & what he is doing. About father, how his health is and if he is as full of business as usual. No matter how much you enter into detail, anything connected with home or Leeds will be interesting.

Remember me to Aunt Lucretias family. Give my love to each and all who are at home. I shall expect a letter very soon.

From your affectionate Son  
OO Howard