

Leeds Nov 1st 1852 330

Dear Brother

It has been a long time since I addressed you by way of letter. And as you have learned, I am situated differently somewhat, from what I was when I last wrote. And perhaps you would like to hear the circumstances connected with the change in the place of date of my last & this letter, although perhaps you have heard them all through Mother's & Howland's letters. — After writing you my last letter (of which I can hardly remember & perhaps you have entirely forgotten) on Saturday I remained at Kent's Hill until the next Friday (I believe that I wrote you that I intended to walk down to Weymouth Friday eve & then walk home Saturday morning). My health was pretty good that week, although my stomach seemed out of order and my head felt somewhat heavy & dull & sometimes pained me. Well Friday came, in the morning it looked as though it was about to rain, which made me feel a little disappointed. But I soon discovered that it was breaking away in the west & that it was going to clear off. About eleven o'clock just as my Latin bell rang, Mother & Delia drove up to the door. I was glad to see them. I asked you Mother had brought all of my things but she told me I might go home if I wished. I hesitated some time about making up my mind but did so at last just before it was time for them to go and concluded to go with them not thinking however of staying more than until Sabbath evening. And so I took nothing with me more than what I had on me. I wore my pale blue

be obliged to say that he can walk he & his wife came over the week ago last Wednesday they stayed all night - they went to Green Lane brought the new dress for her to wear to the

hat home, which you know would have been pretty cold to wear in the middle of Oct. for I believe it was just in the middle when Rowland went up to my trunk. But you know it did not make any difference to me whether I had any hat or cap as long as I had clothes enough on my bed for about ~~two~~ weeks, I have not needed a cap much until quite lately. But I believe I am getting a hint of my story. We started from Mr Robinsons about three o'clock and had quite a pleasant ride down to Wayne for the weather was very warm & pleasant. We arrived at Arz's a little before five o'clock, we took supper there & when we got ready to start for home it was snowed. Mother thought she must call and just see Mrs Sampson who has been very sick this fall. I believe she was better the last we heard. Mother did not stay long and we were soon on our way home again we got here about eight o'clock. The next day I had a bad head ache but I went about, out of doors & I believe that was the last I went out of doors for about four weeks when I rode down as far as aunt Lucinda's. Rowland went after Mr Bradford I believe Monday, he came Sunday after this for a fortnight I suppose you know about as much about it as I do, for I do not remember much that passed during those two weeks after this I began to gain slowly.

After I got so I could sit up in the armed chair I was pretty lonesome sometimes, for mother was obliged to be out in the kitchen at work I had to sit here in this North Room alone if I could have read I should have had something to have taken up my attention but I was not allowed to read for fear of

improving my eye. I almost forgot to tell you that while I was quite
sick they told me that there was a letter for me from Susan Jennings came
in the mail of that night & that it contained a letter from you but
I was so sick that I could not hear it. in four or five days from
this time I felt so well one day that I asked mother to read it to me
she read a part of it, and had to put it away again for it tired
me so to hear it that I told her I should have to wait until I
got still better before I could hear it. It was not long however before
I could hear it read & also read it myself. It was in answer to my
last one. We recd a letter from you last - a week ago last Saturday.
We were all as you also was very glad to hear that Mrs Wait's was
better. I was glad to see you write so cheerfully so very much more so
than in your last one before. We first heard of Mrs Wait's sick-
ness through your letters & we did not again hear from her until
we again had a letter from you. I was very sorry to hear that you had
lost your money for I suppose there is no way of recovering it there.
We heard from Mrs Wait last Thursday. Aunt Moll
Jane & Mrs Haines, Squire Haines' wife of Portland came
here Thursday morning about eleven o'clock. They ~~was~~ said
she was ~~not~~ improving but slowly. They stayed here a few mona-
nts & mother went with them up to uncle Ensign's Ro-
wland went up to bring mother home at night & brought her
down to a Mr Barrow's to the band for it meets there now
& the club meets at Mr Ingers's house. The meetings close
at about eight o'clock when Rowland & mother started
for home. The cart acted quite gently until they got into the
road when he started and run as fast as possible as far
as Mr Alden's when Rowland turned him into his door
yard he stopped. Mr Alden came out & he & Rowland

examined the harness all over and about the carriage
but could find nothing ~~was~~ wrong Mr Allen led the way
down that hill by his house & Rowland then got in the
carriage and he went on as well as any horse until
arrived at the top of that hill where Jozia Lathrop now
lives & where Melvin Berry did live. When he began to
run again & mother said that he must have run faster
than he did at first he ran until he got to the top of
that hill by Mr Merrill's then mother did not care to
riding any farther. After they had been there a few
minutes looking over the harness Henry Brewster came along
& she left Rowland & got in with Henry & rode by
We were some alarmed about Rowland & so
although unwell concluded to walk down the road to
meet him but before I got more than down to the road
& I being up in the north chamber saw & heard him
it being moonlight evening. We saw him first fast this
of Capt Gurners & I could hear the colts heels strike the carriage
about every second & he was running very fast, I being
weak it frightened me very much. The stairs that I could
descend in the morning without holding on up above at the
letting myself down with my hands I came down pretty quick
at night I tell you. We saw that he started down to the
& mother went down there pretty quick. & I went out in the
rough to tell Rowland & I went but when I got out the
I could hardly speak & I almost fainted away. Rowland
went to meet them also. I found that he was
had been down except to the carriage which had some
holes beat in it. Rowland walked him about all the way
from Mr Merrill's & led him down Jozia Gurners Hill
when he got on top of the Hill the other side of Capt Gurners
he began to run again & Rowland had fixed the bridle so that
could hold him this time and this made him mad
and so he kicked. I heard someone ask father the
day what if he know what made him run or some
like that and he said he could guess perhaps you can guess
I want with what they think made him kick. I don't
he would kick now there was only two or three days about that
time that he would kick. I thought you would like to
know what a time we all had here, so frightened it
has so far recovered that he has been over to make
visit although he has two colts when he walks yet we

Warren brought ^{home} a wife back Sunday. They went
home Friday. Father was down to Ballouville Monday
August he went to get a glue club to earn and sing at
the Mass meeting which was held at Leeds on Wednesday
evening by the Scott & Graham Club of which he is
a member. Other went to the River on Tuesday & came
back the same night. Father consented to let me go to
the meeting although I had not been as far from home
before. Since I was sick I think we had a very good meeting
indeed. Mr. Goddard & Benson were the only speakers but
I could hardly hear. Mr. B. I think is a very good speaker he
is a lawyer from Lewiston. Mother took me away
before Mr. B. had got through. I suppose you have heard
him speak in public. He seemed a little more at home
than Mrs. B. I believe he is much more used to it
and another said that just before Wm. A. Harrison's election
she was sent by the Whigs to see try all up the ^{at the meeting} ~~at the meeting~~
Washington. There was about three hundred present
there would have been about twice that number had
it not been for the disappointment of not having
the cars run as they expected. The hand bills which
they put up it said that they had made arrangements
with the A.R.R. Co. so as to have the cars
leave Daines' corner at 12 o'clock. Norris Ferry 12-30 North
Leeds 12-45 & be at Leeds corner at one. The time appointed
for the meeting. But the engine did not get here so
soon as they expected. Uncle Ensign was chosen president
of the meeting. Rowland did not get the Blue Club of Aug.
B. B. They sang from a Scott song book such tunes as
"Old dan Ankle" "Dearest Mary" &c. I think I have
written about all of the news. It has rained here
ever since last Saturday and not rain much now but is
foggy. George Lathrop & Bullock & Helen came down here
last eve. They are down to now to Livermore Falls. Today
is Election day in Maine. It is quite doubtful who will
be elected. I have been thinking it over & have concluded
that this is about the poorest lot that I have written
for some time. My hand trembles so that I can hardly hold my
pen & for this reason you must excuse the bad penmanship this
time. And I will try when I get a little stronger to do a great
deal better & I hope I can. I am quite weak yet but am constantly

gaining. It has been but about six weeks since I was taken
off. I almost forgot to tell you that we had a letter
from Lizzie last Saturday she said her mother would not
yet sit up. — George Jones is quite sick with the typhoid
fever the same as the one which I had. He is at home, if he
gets up he thinks of going back to California with his
brother-in-law Mr. Curry who has been there about
two years but who is at Mr. Jones' now. We will also say
his family with him. Our folks are all well. The
men are all going to town meeting today. Mother's
health is pretty good. She is sweeping here by me now
don't you wish you could have mother to sweep your
room some times. This must answer for the present. I will
try & do better next time, write as soon as possible. Let's.

Yours affectionate Brother
W. H. Howard

Dear Brother

This is decidedly a bad day for
the greater election the world ever saw.
It rains like (oh most anything) and Father
says a rainy day always hurts the Whig vote.
I should have had no doubt of Maria's going
right had it been pleasant. No really
"temperance men will vote for Frank Pierce."
If that gentleman is elected, it will be
a grand time for Army officers. He'll shake
his fists at somebody, and then look
out for a fight. Vacancies and of course
promotions. I suppose Charles has written
all of the news as I see he has a muster
of a letter. I, at mother's suggestion, inclose
\$2.00, supposing that owing to your misfortune
you may be a little short of change.
Believe me, Yours all true
Howard

of our heavenly master. Louisa has been confined to the house since last May. Last Friday she had an abscess opened on her thigh the under side of it. been gathering all the time when health is very much run down, the general ~~opinion~~ opinion is that she will never recover but I have such a strong desire, that she may that I can see a chance for her to recover. I hope she has seen the worst of it, and she ^{will} yet be a benefit to her family many years. I sent her your address which interested very much, Charles has been there since his return home, the last time I was there, I thought no person could be so well calculated as Wanner to fill his place his old father, you know what an invalid he is and his wife could not walk a step only as he half carried her and Lydia had got so tired she had not set up for two days all went well with Wanner to appearance what a son! what a husband! what a friend! such a man must be, Ezra is a confirmed invalid for life how long he is to remain as he is God only knows, for six weeks past Rowland has conducted himself tolerable well. I do not hear much profane language now, so you see by my letter there is no exemption from trouble any where, I have written this all by candle light and it is now ten of the clock, your father is still at the table reckoning interest on railroad stock preparing a report for the next ^{annual} meeting of stockholders which will be holden the first Monday in Dec., I have blot my paper more than common, but cannot copy. good night my son your affectionate Mother Ephraim

O. Howard

My dear son,

Leeds, Nov. 21. 1852.

I have built me a fire, on purpose to be alone, and give my attention, wholly to you, it's a long while since I have attempted to write a letter to any of my children, I hope you have been prospering all the while but I have heard that all has not always gone well with you at all times, but I hope nothing very serious, has occurred to you, perhaps your Mother has done wrong in letting small things prevent her from writing in answer to each and every one of your letters, but we must abide the result. I ^{could} not and write over my reasons, but they are nothing more than common ones; your demerits, count up to 43, which seems to say all is not quite right, your letters are good, affectionate open hearted, just such as should pass between Mother and son, my sympathies are always awake to everything that affects you, I am happy in proportion as you, happy, have much I could desire, that you were not so much dependant on the treatment you receive from others, I cannot think but what your nervous system is taxed to the utmost in your daily labours, or you could bear more from a seeing man for whose conduct you can feel no other, than the utmost contempt of feeling, and showing contempt in some situations are very different things, what is past cannot be recalled in your situation, neither do I wish to call up any unhappy feelings to no purpose, I think you are perfectly sensible of the deficiency in your composition, or education, you must look upon yourself as far superior to such persons, in your candid moments I can conceive of it, exactly but think it my women's weakness, but we will turn to more pleasant subjects, hoping all is well, We have received your address and your

long and kind letters, I feel as though mine is a poor compensation for them, but still there is a great pleasure in receiving letters from my dear and in answering them. Our thanksgiving is past and with us without much account, Mother was with me and is here now, I have not taken a thanksgiving dinner with her since my father died before this one, she has changed in some respects, very much since you saw her, your father went to Uncle Ensigns for her thanksgiving day so she took breakfast with one child and dinner with another your Uncle Ensign has had very poor health this fall I have sometimes been afraid, he was running down entirely, but your father saw him out yesterday, and thinks him essentially better, he has had a severe cough with pain in the side, nearly three months, I received a letter this evening from R. B. H. he is well and doing well, he has engaged our school, for his vacation eight weeks, so he will be with me through the vacation, Charles is with us, has been two weeks, he is assisting his father in carrying up ^{interest in} railroad stock. Charles does not talk much on the subject of religion, he reads his Bible when he gets leisure. Delle is about as usual today, he walked to meeting house to see ninety yoke of oxen collected and some young cattle, all belonging in Leeds, I do not exactly know the object of the exhibition but I hope to encourage farmers in improvements, your father has been in Portland and called to see Mr. Mus and Miss Waiter and found Lissie a great many percent better than I feared, said she had been sick but considered her quite recovered, said she had been out that day and was quite gay, said she was twenty one ^{years of age} that day before and was making herself merry saying, now

do as she was a mind to the rest of her life, said she was very anxious to go a picking. Wallcut, that afternoon, his visit there, and finding Lissie better was a great relief to me, I hope she may yet have permanent health, you have sometimes asked me what I think of your staying in the army, I have nothing to say, when you have spent four of the best years of your life to study a profession what can I say, but follow, it especially for a season, I do not know what your special causes ^{of trouble} have been, why you have so many demerits I don't know, ^{but} they have been such as may induce you to leave the army and seek a livelihood some other way, but I hope they are nothing that arises from a bad heart, I have sometimes thought Lissie's visit at West Point might make you absent minded, and be the cause of some of your mistakes, it is a natural supposition I very much feared that our visit there might create envy in the minds of Cole's less favored in that respect, to see one of their fellows walking about with his pretty cousin, your father was decided against her going this fall on that account, but did not feel free to speak to her about it. I believe he talked about it to R. B. H. I hope the Dear girl will yet see happy days, if my heart's desire could avail anything you would be perfect in all things, sometimes I have thought, when I am thinking of your hearty anticipations, and then your discouragements, who knows? but your heavenly father is allowing the things for your own glory, to keep the vanities of life from surfeiting you, or to keep you humble, that you may yet be consecrated to a greater work, for whose work is as great as, the work of the Lord, what can be so great an office as an ambassador of Christ, as to devote one's life to the

South Leeds Nov 27th 52

Dear Brother

Thanksgiving day passed off with us in the quietest manner possible only six of us sitting down to Dinner. all told, as Father says. but on the whole I enjoyed it about as well as when we have a crowd. I should like to have seen you here and farther than that I should not care. Mother, Delle and myself went up and heard Mr Barrows Discourse, a thing I never did before Thanksgiving Day. His congregation numbered sixteen. He dipped into Temperance & Politics considerably avowing himself a Ramrod and an Abolitionist &c. Thomas Brigham was at the meeting and while there his mother came down to Aunt Lucretias and poor Tom took his Thanksgiving Dinner in the Closet with a crust and a pitcher of cold water. Thomas thinks of moving to Leeds and I hope that he will. He will quite an addition to this community, and I hope that they will encourage him to remain here. He is a fellow of sound principles and a kind heart. I wish that you would write. ^{kind} I think

he would be much pleased to hear from you. Charles went to Portland last Monday and I suppose you will hear from him while there. I should not wonder if he was a little homesick before he gets home again. He can't amuse himself anywhere so easily as I can. I think of going to Lopham a week from next Monday and reviewing my studies preparatory to a return to college in the Spring Term. Your old classmate Adams has charge of the Acad there, and has written me an invitation to study with him this winter. I have heard from you that he was a good fellow and as I was the most convenient place I could need to go down. Warren has been having a pretty good time I should think. He is quite a lion among the young ladies of Leeds and is looked upon by the fathers and mothers as quite a desirable match. Charles Bates has been almost in raptures because Mr. Calloway Novella three or four times. Warren was to return to West Point yesterday but I have not heard whether he did or not. Melvin Howard is failing fast and they do not think that he can live through the winter. I shall try to see him before I leave. Poor fellow! (his much

correct visit to Bath has given the finishing stroke to his disease. Mrs. Webster feels very much obliged to you for your kind letter and would answer it but she does not feel able. She has spoken of you often to mother a number of times. William Bates has been stopping at John Harrison's for some days. I have not heard that he has gone home yet. I am surprised that he does not come down and see us.

Mother is quite well and will write as soon as she gets time. Our Rail Road is completed to Livermore Falls and the cars make two trips each way per day. I believe they are doing very well, but they will have to do well many a year to reimburse parties for the great expenditure. But however I am glad Leeds has got a Rail Road and I am glad Uncle Ensign has got one, for it gratifies their pride and makes them feel a little smarter!

Father is now preparing his books for the annual report and a hard time he has of it. He not used to dealing in thousands as he has to now. Write as soon and remember me as

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard
West Point
New York

Your brother Charles
is here - spent
Thanksgiving
here. His health
is now very good
kindred was
here yesterday
on his way to
Wash. or St. Louis
conv.
Over the water
lived a eulogy
on Webster here
which is to be
published.
It was all eulogy
Amie was in
here so I was
reading this when
P.S.B.
I thought I might
to put in another.

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Portsmouth, Nov. 28th, 1852.

Dear Howard,

I am aware that I have been
owing you a letter for a long time. I am also
aware that we had a talk when you were at
our house the night of the Tipover about cor-
responding oftener than we had been accustomed
since our exit from College. What the conclusion
we arrived at was I forget but I don't forget
that your last letter was a good, whole-souled
friendly letter and that for that so full of
ancient kindness such as warmed our
hearts in the earlier if not the better days
you deserve a good one from me. This I
cannot promise you to-day for I feel too much
taken up with self to give to others especially
to you such friendly entertainment as I fair
would. So for want of anything better I shall
give you a short history of myself, my own
inner mood, since you saw me or at least
such as it is now for it has undergone too many
changes during this space to be all described in
this sheet and this may be as interesting to you
as aught else though I may get the credit of
being gloomy and - though that will be nothing
new. Well judge me as favorably as you can

and here goes. Inter nos, which being interpreted means between you and me and Lizzie (only I don't wish her to know this) I have been tossed between doubt and hope and fear for the last six months nearly; all terminating as I might have known it would. The worst of it is I have made no mental progress during this time. I have lost so much out of my life. A new lesson not soon to be forgotten has been added to my experience, making me wiser perhaps though I have my doubts but no better I am sure.

Strange, that I should have hoped at all, never seeing one single cause for hope. Well there has been something peculiar about it somewhere. So it seems to me. I don't understand whether she has been indifferent to me all the way along or not. I wish I did. Did, you ^{ever} suspect you were indirectly and mediately the cause of hindering me in my suit? I suppose not. Did I ever? Yes.

Well we shan't quarrel about that. It is hard for a fellow to give up any object that he has cherished especially when that object is a woman that one loves but it is I suppose a part of our earthly experience - of that trial and probation we used to read of in Poley and so maybe for the best. God knows. Hopes rise and set and those that are dearer than life I have seen fade and die without a tear and scarce a sigh with

only now and then a prolonged, sucking whistle.

I don't know that my case is hopeless but I regard it as nearly so. I no longer hope. Enough on this topic. I do not fear of tiring you out but it has been so long since you have had any such experiences - in fact you never had - you have been so happy in your love that you cannot entirely enter into my feelings and I am glad you can't. Yes, Howard, I thank God that this experience has been spared to you. I would this last could have been spared to me. I am now going to work, not with a stout heart for such a one beats not in my breast but stout or resolute or not it must come to this work. I will study - labor. It is my only hope my only salvation. I cannot, I don't expect make a great Lawyer but I am going now to study, to work with a will and though I cannot say it will be a labor of love it will at least save me from vain regrets.

It is the first ^{time} I could ever say it but I can say it now heartily, cheerily, Come toil, come labor, come study, I am your man. I am aware as you are that a man's life is not completely rounded without the love of woman, I know mine cannot be, but if one can't win that he can at least win and deserve his own esteem from the consciousness of duty done, of powers nobly and honestly and busily employed.

Still immeasurably yours
Poley S. Poley

brought out square with the front edges of the shelves. &c. &c.
I commenced this morning at six, and worked till inspection
under arms at 8. folding, sweeping, cleaning & arranging. & then
afterwards till $\frac{1}{2}$ past nine, when the inspection of Quarters
took place. At last the Inspector comes into the room with
a dark lantern, lets it flash in your face to see that you
& not somebody else is in your bed. He is making various
changes & revisions all, of them tightening instead of loosening
the rein, by which we are curbed. But it does not matter.
I do not save how military an officer is, if he is only stable
so that I may know what to expect of him. I have not got
any demerit since he came as yet. I still like Col. Lee. He
comes to church regularly with his wife. She is not so fine
looking as he I ~~think~~ think, but she looks like a good woman;
I wonder sometimes if Lee's father & mother know as much about
the difficulty that existed between himself & me as my parents
know of the same. I presume not, for his father would not have
approved of the course he pursued in the outlet & he knowing this
would not be likely to say much about the matter. I can now
only speaking terms with every man in my class but
Abbot & I cannot help envying him; I have as much
as any ~~for~~ philosophy & good principles can aid me to do
to keep from hating him. He did not & does not seem to me
to act as becomes a man, an independent, honest man.
Yet it is my duty to pursue the same course towards him as
I have towards all the others who foolishly made themselves
my enemies. Give my love to all. Tell Charlie to write me
about his visit; & Lillie to tell me the news. Tell Rowland not
to wait for another letter before he writes. From yr affectionate son
C. Howard.

West Point N. Y. Nov 28th 1852

My dear mother

I have not received a
letter from you for a very long time, so it seems to me:
and perhaps you are under the same impression
with regard to your hopeful son. I intend, however
to get a letter from once a week, hoping all the time
that somebody will write me from home about "that
often." The sun is pouring its rays upon us bright & warm.
If you were here you would hardly imagine that it was
the last of November. No snow. Winter is creeping upon us very
gradually, so gradually that we scarcely perceive the difference
of temperature from day to day. How happy I would be to
be at home now & go to meeting with you today. It would
do me good to see the faces of all my old friends, who will
flock out to the old house. I can see familiar countenances, by
crisps of fancy, with cheerful content impressed, I can see those
aged men wearing a mild peaceful solemnity, sitting with
respectful attention, looking up towards the pulpit. When
they receive a comfort & a pleasure. Old, young & middle aged, all
possess an interest for you when you cannot see them, when memory
pictures them as they used to be. It is time for church. I have been
to church & returned. We had a very good sermon, as we always
do from the pious & pious. He said at the commencement of his discourse
that as we were not required on any particular day, to suspend
our ordinary duties for the purpose of Thanksgiving & praise, yet
it became as too as well as the other inhabitants of the land, to feel

and express our gratitude to the Author of our being & bestower of
all our blessings. Therefore he gave us a Thanksgiving Sermon;
I enjoyed the sermon much, but I could enjoy the Thanksgiving
~~for~~ dinner too. We live pretty well now a days, excepting that
we have had an enormous amount of Strong Butter. I
have not murmured about it or cursed like many others, yet
sometimes, I could not help turning away with disgust
when I had 'spread' a piece of bread with butter, & put it
to my lips to taste. But this is of small amount. I dislike
above all things to think or write about what I eat. It
will do well enough to keep up a conversation by such all
absorbing subjects, where wit & sense seem to lag with exhaustion
but it must be beneath the son who is writing to his mother,
to fill his sheet, with a history of the eatables, delicate & indelicate
which minister to his physical necessities. I have been doing every well
indeed in my studies for the past three weeks. The two preceding the
last, I got a maximum for the week, each week, in both
Mechanics & Chemistry, and a very good mark in drawing.
I shall stand well enough here, not first it is true, in
the end; but if I have my health I will graduate as high
as I wish to. It does not matter much any way, only it
is a little gratification to a proud man to succeed well
in whatever he undertakes; yet a few failures are highly
beneficial. They keep vanity down. Charlie wrote me a note
from Portland, which I received Thursday. He tells me he is getting
right fat & looks & feels remarkably healthy. Very good. I am
glad indeed. I feared he would not be well so soon.
We recently heard of the death of one of the present first class, who
left us last summer on account of illness. His name was Henry

Jatham. He belonged to our Bible class, and was a very
kind, quiet, good-hearted young man. He died at home in
Georgia. I was quite intimately acquainted with him, as intimately
as I was with any one ^{not in} (out of) my own class. His classmates
have met to consult upon procuring a monument for
him. Last evening, in the dialectic Society, of which he was
a member, ^{we} chose a Committee to draw up some articles
expressive of our regret & sympathy in behalf of the deceased
& his friends, who have been called to mourn his loss. The Corps
of cadets wear the usual badge of mourning. It is customary
in the Army upon the decease of an Officer to wear a strip
of braid encircling the left arm just above the elbow, for
thirty days after putting it on as soon as they hear the
news. All cadets now have this badge on, it being three or
four inches wide. West Point has changed its appearance
very much since you were here; all the buildings that were
between you & the new Barracks or Library, when you were at
the Hotel have been torn down & carried off. The ground has
been leveled, paths & gravel ~~was~~ walks made: so that
the plain of barracks present themselves improved ten
fold. How does Mrs Lathrop seem after hearing the death of
her son? It was very unexpected news to me. Although I never
saw much of Elias, I always thought him a very fine
man. I do not know whether Warren has returned yet or not.
I presume not, since he would probably have come to see
me. You can't think how military our new Commandant is.
He makes us fold our clothes, a little nicer than I have ever been
taught. Each thing must be folded so as to present square edges.
All things of the same name must be put in a separate pile, & each pile