

West Point Jan. 2<sup>d</sup> 1853.

My dear Mother,

A new year we have entered upon & your boy is far away. I would have been very happy to have spent yesterday with you to have had Fannie or Charlie wake me with a happy new year. But this was not permitted me. I had not even the pleasure of exchanging a word with any of you, nor could I visit you except by dint of the imagination. January has come and with it the examination, which commences tomorrow. I think my section will be called up about Wednesday. I never have felt myself so ill prepared for an examination in my life. But I will say little about it till it is past, then I can tell you whether I failed or not: now I can only surmise and predict, for who can decide the fortune of war before the battle. You spoke of father's going to Massachusetts and of your accompanying him as far as Portland. I hope you will, and will spend considerable time with Fizzie, for you two do not seem to be so intimately acquainted as I wish you to be, and she would be so happy to have you come. I shall be able to tell you the result of the examination in my next letter. I am really glad to hear you speak as you do of Charlie. I know that he has a good mind and will not make a superficial scholar. Fannie too must persevere for his father's sake, for father will soon be an old gentleman and what would cheer him more than to see his youngest son a smart persevering man, bound to make the most of the talents God has given him, cultivating his mind with

Cal John Gilmore  
North Leeds  
Maine

P. O. New York  
Jan 2 1853



assiduity and thus preparing himself for an honorable and useful position among his fellow men. To be over-ambitious I know is hurtful to happiness, is wrong; but every youth ought to have high & noble aims; and the higher & nobler his purposes are the better since they must spring, to be such, from an upright heart. God only knows the motives by which I have been & am still actuated. Sometimes I would be useful, sometimes I would be great. Sometimes I am swayed by ambition, sometimes by impulse and at other times I fancy that I am possessed of some strong, implanted abiding principle. If you can my dear mother, you must try to influence Jellie & Charlie to love the Bible & its truth - for however unconsciously attained these truths of the Bible will be a safeguard to them when they come to mingle among men. It is dangerous to grow up without a knowledge of this book or a love for it. You remember my little history of Joseph. This story and my sabbath school lessons and what you may have instilled into my memory when I was a very little boy have left a deep & effective impression on my mind. All these things have begotten in me a reverence for sacred things, that all my intercourse with ~~all~~ skeptical & infidel young men could never shake. (Thursday evening Jan 6)  
I did not finish my letter the other evening, and now as I have leisure I will try to fill it out. I received your good long letter this noon - and am happy to hear that you are still enjoying good health. Another still of our old neighbors is gone, and another still, my old playmate is on the road to his grave. It is odd to think of, but we must submit to the will of Heaven without murmuring - The same power

that causes these afflictions will heal the wounded hearts of those bereaved, and made desolate. I passed my examination in Mechanics to day; did very well as well as I could ask in my demonstration at the board. but failed on some important questions that were put to me. (not because I did not know the principles involved in the questions but because the instructors put them so blindly, and perhaps I was not quite so cool & self-possessed as I might have been. I rather expect that I shall not stand first in Mechanics, as Mr Lee did better than I. The standing will be published in a day or two - then I shall be able to write you. We will not be examined in ~~the~~ Chemistry till next week Thursday or Friday. I expect to be about fifteenth in drawing; this is pretty good to rise from 35<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> - about twenty files since Jurlough. There is nothing like trying. Sizzie says she hopes you will make her a visit for she is attending school again. I cannot visit you this winter. Henry's language to father makes me feel unpleasantly on his account. I do not remember of telling of what father said, perhaps I might. For discretion is not a part of my composition. If I did the blame ought to be thrown on my shoulders, for father did not dream of its being repeated out of the family. I would as lief Uncle Henry would not like me as would, he has no need to act thus. If he wishes to be considered an honest upright man. I should not wonder if Henry surmised that father told of it. And it would be very plausible that I should repeat the same in Portland. Give my love to all - Rowland has not written me very lately. I expect a letter tomorrow  
your affectionate son O. Howard



South Leeds Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1853 343

Dear brother

As mother was going to write to you I thought that I would write. George Jones was here to <sup>gh</sup>night he is going to California with Mr. Carriage his brother-in-law he is going to learn the ~~trade~~ <sup>ask</sup> ~~carpenter~~ trade mother said she would <sup>ask</sup> him to go up the River to West Point as he was going to stay in New York city 3 weeks. He is going to start next Thursday. I had a little Book sent me last night from R. B. H. it was a Comic Almanac. Henry is here to work George Bates is here to work. Roland is not to work he has had a bad cold and did not do any thing until with in a few ~~days~~ days. Oscar, Elmer & George & Roland killed the swine yesterday. George hauled poles over on the R. Road to build fence. How long after you <sup>not</sup> graduate shall you go in to the army? I hope it will be a great while. We have a very good School I have learned more these 4 last weeks than I did in the whole of last summer. I study Michels Geography Smiths Chithmatic <sup>read</sup> Grammar and Spelling in the Fourth Book and spell in the Fourth Speller & definer I believe that is all that I study. Charles has just wrote Leizzie a long letter Charles sent his love to you and said he should write soon. George will be here to morrow evening and mother will ask him to come to West Point and see you. So good bye from your affectionate brother Rodolphus Salmons



P.S. write me soon for if you have not written  
but one letter since if you have been at West Point  
so write soon from your affectionate brother Rodolphus

Edw. O. Howard



can endure or perform. I recd a letter from  
Chas by R Delle the other day. I find Delle  
has improved considerably in his writing  
this winter. I am sorry to hear of Addison  
Martin's loss and I really hope that he  
has enough left to start again but I  
have heard no particulars. His loss is  
stated in the papers at \$30,000 which I  
should suppose was high but don't know.  
Addison seemed to be on the high road  
to success, but the fire I suppose has  
well nigh ruined him. I suppose it  
will be rather late news to Miss Brooks.  
Write soon and remember me as

Yours aff Brother  
Rowland

Topsam Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1853.

Dear Brother

I began a letter to you on  
New Years day and in that wished you a  
happy New Year. But I did not send it.  
I really hope that this will find <sup>you</sup> enjoying  
health & happy new year. I received your  
lost in due time and hope I appreciate  
your feelings and sentiments. I have the more  
respect for them because I know that they  
are more regular and uniform than my own.  
I am aware that my whole character and life  
partakes too much of the manner of my penmanship  
& which you have often remarked. a single  
letter taken separately is well enough but  
as a whole it has not a pleasing effect.  
It has no system, no regularity. Of course you,  
that know me so well, know that this is a  
fair index of my character. Now and then I  
have a thought or perform an act that is well  
enough, but I consider myself and doubtless  
my friends consider me, a bundle of  
inconsistencies. The fact is C. is. I have got  
a multitude of those pleasant things, which a  
certain good man has said. have Hell. My  
good intentions, I make no doubt that I  
could give middling good advice. how to



Study. how to live. how necessary it is to think  
methodically—and to write correctly and legibly;  
and doubtless I know the means that will  
contribute to these desirable ends. But there!  
my whole example would give the lie to my  
advice; and show the uselessness of my knowledge  
even to myself. As you say of yourself. I am  
at times theoretically a Christian—and feel my  
own peculiar need of Divine assistance and  
support. Yet I despise myself the more  
for this, because I do not live that, talk that  
act that, which my own conscience teaches  
me is right. My clinging does not arise  
as with some, from influences without, but  
from within. The prime offender of all good  
resolves is that shallowness of mind and  
character, natural and acquired, which prevents  
their taking deep root, the mind having no  
good soil in which they can be cultivated.

The natural quickness of my thoughts, aided  
by love of praise, early indulgence, has contributed  
most of anything to the superficial character  
which I now possess. Verily the hardest study that  
we engage in is, the study of ourselves. I have often  
wondered if <sup>others</sup> found so much difficulty in <sup>understanding</sup> ~~themselves~~  
—and their own character and motives as I do.  
Why? Can't know? ~~these~~ constantly recurring questions  
generally have to answer themselves. We echo the  
thoughts of others and they are echoed within

us. But such as we are, we must live, and  
I believe ~~live~~ the happiest who take it easy.  
Mrs Stow's St. Clair is a fair specimen of the kind  
of mind which I have tried to describe, and  
of which I fear your younger brother partakes  
too much, even to become successful in life as  
men ~~count~~ success, or as I count it myself.  
His letter to you has been in downright contradiction  
to all the rules which have been made for epistle-  
-ary writing. But I got to writing so much  
continued it, to excuse the egotism of the  
above moralising (or what ever it is) for this time.  
For you and all of my correspondents will bear  
me witness that it is seldom that I attempt  
a long sentence or express one of my own ideas,  
which I have rather taught myself to conceal  
than divulge. Filling up my letters and corres-  
-pondence, too much I fear, with bombast, say so.

I have met several young  
ladies of Brunswick, who say they were formerly  
acquainted with you, and the other evening  
a Mrs Forsyth took tea here, who said that  
you spoke at her house last summer with  
Lizzie. On Wednesday I attended the installation  
of the Orthodox Charge of this place. The services  
of which were very impressive. I believe I  
would be an Orthodox minister, if they do all that  
was charged upon Mr. Wilde by his ministerial  
brethren. It is a little more than human nature



My dear Nellie,

Wm  
West Point N.Y. Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 1833.

C O Howard

You justly call me to an account for not having written you more than one letter since I have been at West Point. It is too bad, but you must forgive your brother since he intends that you shall have the privilege of reading as many of his letters home as you may wish. But now to make amends if possible, here's for a letter. I have just finished one to Mother, and would have written her four pages, tell her, if I had not got out of envelopes. You have learned from myself on furlough and from my letters, that the Cadets eat in a large building called the Mess-hall, each cadet sitting on a little round top-iron stool. Well I do not eat there now, but board at a private house. How can this be? I will tell you if you will listen. In the Florida war there was a Gallant Col. Thompson, who fought for his country very bravely against the savage Indians, but the number of his men being very small and being at a great distance from the main body of the Army so that he could not get reinforcements, he was killed & nearly all his men. He left a mother who was a widow & three sisters who were all in rather low circumstances as far as money was concerned. Now out of gratitude to the Gallant Col. for his bravery & patriotism, and out of sympathy for his afflicted family, this left without a protector. The Government of the United States gave these four ladies a place here at West Point, where they could board a portion of the Cadets & receive the pay. They came here a long time ago. The three sisters have got to be very old maids, the youngest I should think being upwards of fifty, though she



yet seems to think herself very young. They take twelve  
boarders, and these are always Cadets of the second Class -  
When one leaves for good, he proposes somebody in his place.  
We live here at "Mammy Thompsons" as the place is  
called, in a low-roofed cottage I am going to board the next  
two months. I get rid of marching ~~to~~ & from meals with  
the battalion. As soon as the roll is called at breakfast &  
dinner, the first sergeant says "fall out", and all  
those who board at Mammy's "fall out" as well as  
those who do not happen to want any breakfast or  
dinner. We have on entering the door of the room  
where the ladies are to make a respectful bow & say  
"good morning ladies" or "good evening ladies", as the case  
may be. The same formal process is gone through with  
on leaving. This seems like a private table, and here  
we have many of the good things. I am glad to hear  
mother speak so well of your progress - and to hear you  
say that you have learned so much. Keep on, my  
little brother, it is impossible to know too much & as  
impossible to know what you are acquiring too well.  
Good night.attoo is beating and Otis must prepare  
his bed, so that he can jump in at ten when the  
drum beats tap! tap! tap!. Be very kind to Charlie -  
try to please father & mother - and be a happy boy.  
I did not go to Duck Kill on Christmas, could not  
get permission, but I did not care much to go, for  
I wished to be getting ready for the Examination.  
I have not time to read this over. If you can find any  
mistakes. From your affectionate brother - Otis -



1853  
Jan 11th 1853

Dear brother Chris

My Dates is <sup>try</sup> trying to get a Private  
School. Mr Wang says he will keep  
our meeting house is done it is to be

Dedicated next Thursday Charles is  
sick. he will get well he is got a cold.  
My Wing makes a Read a veryit we can  
Read it Right it smoo very harmoni  
Howland has got well so that he can go  
all about the house again  
so good bye from your affectionate

brother J. H. Sumner



I guess ~~I will~~ will write some more I finish  
 ed my letter once but I wanted to write some more  
 to you P D H it will go to Brunswick next term  
 Mr. Gilbert. Lies from now I want to go have well  
 you get along in your class. how marks,  
 you have of. Don't you be. have you got  
 many if you have write.  
 so good bye

from P D H Gilbert

W O Howard

I have not read very well I left some

P<sup>o</sup>



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Seattle, Tuesday January the 16<sup>th</sup> 1853

Dear brother

I received your letter last night. I am  
very much obliged for it. I have just eaten my dinner. I suppose  
you know we have dinner <sup>mid</sup> ~~evening~~ long in the afternoon.  
I went to meeting to day. We did not have but one meeting to  
day for there was a funeral in the northern part of the town Mr  
David Phasle's daughter was buried. Mr Barrow had to go and preach  
the sermon. She was brought <sup>home</sup> from the factory. The girls are going to Mr  
Gilbert's to see Maria G. Father is trying to get a longer school we have  
only 7 weeks schooling. We have only got 17 dollars and we want only 1 dollar  
more to pay the master but we have got to get some money  
to pay for the wood and board. Although I guess he would board all around the  
district I ~~and~~ ~~slide~~ ~~down~~ the hill all day yesterday. We have got the hill  
so slippery that I guess that you could not walk so fast as you did  
last summer when you was to home on a funeral there is a lot of crust  
on the ground and the boys have a board and slide away. Father has got a  
lot of green wood. George and Rowland A. got it up to the house. Father  
nor any of us could tell where the town of Bellevue is. In what country is  
it in? Riney is here yet. So was is here too. Mother and father went  
down to McCallum last Thursday and stayed until Friday. Mr Crosby  
is Governor of Maine. We got two majority in the Senate that was  
the smallest majority I ever heard of. I have wrote all I can think of  
to day.

Yours affectionate Brother Rudolph

100 Howard West Point York New



Dear brother

Lads Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1903

It seems some time to me since I wrote my last letter to you. but then, when I remember I find that a great period has not elapsed since I wrote. Still, I know that you will be just as glad to receive one from me. But Betsy has just come in to make us a call, and her tongue, which you know is an important article of her composition greatly perplexes me. You ask me why I do not wish you to remain in the army? But I think you ~~that~~ know my reasons & can tell them to me better than I can to you, I wish to have you have a little more liberty, so that you can go to your friends somewhat oftener than what you now do, by so doing I think you would convey more to their happiness as well as to your own. I suppose, & think I have a right to, from what you have said & written, that such a liberty or at least a little more liberty than you now have, would also be conducive to your own happiness. I was very glad & I suppose the rest were to receive your long letter last night which you will perceive was that of Saturday. Our school did not keep yesterday, and I went over to Brewster's store in the morning to meet father, who came in the car from Wintthrop. I should think from what I saw yesterday that Henry had considered the trade at his new store, as well as the Road Business, for I saw him sell several Road tickets. I get along well with my studies this winter, though sometimes I am obliged to rise at four in the morning to get my Latin, which I shall do tomorrow I think. Perhaps mother will write a long letter, with love from your brother W. Howard.

P.S. My brother was elected Governor of Maine Friday by the Senate. ~~With much respect,~~



He attends dancing school that he may add that to his other accomplishments.

I brought a whole box of books from Brunswick and I employ my evenings in reading them and the newspapers of which Father and myself take eight. I have kept school of 7 hours today and am much fatigued. So I will close this soon. Remember me to Warner. Tell him I feel indebted to him for some of my most amusing recollections of West Point. Charles says tell Otis I will soon answer his letter at length. Mother says tell him I contemplate writing him a long letter which I have been putting off for some time. My respects to your roommates and a speedy delivery from his tormenting boils.

Remember in a letter at your earliest opportunity after Examination. Father's message is, tell him you enclose \$10.00 ten dollars. Good night

Yours affectionately  
Roland

Oliver C. Howard

Leeds Jan 17. 1853

Dear Brother

Your pecuniary wants, if nothing else would be sufficient inducement to me to write, and if it can be obtained of Father I will enclose the ten dollars in this.

Father handles a great deal of money to what he did when you were about home. I should think that something like \$5000 had passed through his hands since I have been at home. He has almost constantly a thousand or over in the house. Not because the Railroad is rich but because it is always for the Co to borrow to meet its payments.

My school goes on swimmingly and is about as pleasant as I ever expect any school to be for me. I am constitutionally unfit for the business and shall continue in it only so long as it seems necessary. I am glad you was able to visit Uncle Wards at Christmas. It must be quite a relief from your monotonous duties. I sent Uncle a



Catalogue. while I was at Brunswick  
and he kindly reciprocated with me  
and then a Democratic paper 'hard'  
in politics and religion. We are about  
to have our Whig Governor reelected and  
probably a Whig U.S. Senator, when these  
results are consummated. I will send  
him the account, as he rather disputes  
my estimate of the politics of Maine  
last fall. Uncle appears to me to be a  
very irascible gentleman. He seems to  
love all that agree with him a little, and  
hate all that disagree, a great deal. I  
made no opposition to his 'hard' sentiments  
but I gathered from his remarks that  
you had. He said that your Abolition  
sentiments had probably injured you  
somewhat at West Point. I told him  
that I thought you never would obtrude  
them. Lizzie wrote me a neat little  
letter tonight the first that I have had  
from her this two months. She says nothing  
about her health except that she has the  
tooth ache and is very cross. I have not  
been to Uncle Ensigns since I came  
home. I saw Laura at Church a week  
ago last Sabbath. She says Aunt Martha  
is quite unwell. The newest thing

to me is the engagement of Lucia Turner  
and Roland. The latter is fairly under  
petticoat government. She has done one  
good thing for him, got him into the Watchman  
Club. but she has not character enough  
of her own to retain her influence over  
him, although it may last until they  
are married. They say Elmina Howard  
is fast hastening the same road that  
Melvin & Marilla have gone. The accounts  
I hear from her are very melancholy.  
You will not probably see her again.

Charles & Rodolphus are both sick with  
colds. but have contrived to go to school  
today. Those little bits of girls who used to  
attend your schools now, being fifteen, esteem  
themselves young ladies. Betty Bates, Catherine  
Hannah Dunham. Sanford Gilbert's girls &c.  
Hannah has grown quite pretty and is a  
good scholar and despite her rustic  
manners is a very interesting girl.

The larger portion of Ezekiel's tribe have  
left the stage. but the dirty faces and  
horrid scents of the remaining three or four  
painfully remind me of the rest.

Elijah is now a bear wearing whiskers and  
potatoes, a kind of 'distingue' air which  
is quite popular with the Leeds ladies.



I understand Doct Washington Turner was a candidate for Governor of the State of Maine Council if Chandler, had been elected Governor of the State of Maine. So you see what narrow escapes we people of Maine have, when such men as W. are members of the executive we must expect misrule, but we <sup>have</sup> escaped so much and perhaps more, your father's business appears to drive him as much now, as it has done at any time, although our railroad is finished, and does as much business, as could be expected in the winter. I invited George Jones to ride up to West Point, and <sup>see</sup> you before he sailed for California, he had an Uncle in the city of New York where he would stop a few days, yesterday was the day he was to sail, I saw well George, we may see him again I have seen but very little of Chiquis family this winter but think they are quite healthy. I don't know how it is but that humoring feeling which has worn upon me seems to <sup>have</sup> passed away for a time. What will be my next call, for conquering my nature I know not, but it is so far out of the way that it don't seem as though it could be called up again. we have had several young persons brought home to be buried this winter, one was Elmira Turners daughter, your Uncle John said Joseph Hale, Abbot has called at his house this winter the father of your classmate Abbot, said he spoke to you, and said his son said you was a fine scholar, and your Uncle said <sup>but without any reference to your talents</sup> likewise that your son was a good scholar. I did not know before that I had known his father he spent one of the May vacations of College at father's and while at Bowdoin College, I recollect after spending an afternoon and taking tea with your father R.B.H. I heard him in conversation <sup>with</sup> John say he did think of finding such a fine young man in Leeds and said, "Oh I wonder I never heard you speak of him before, John answered he seldom spoke much of his acquaintances, I recollect I thought him a very unassuming pleasant young man, I understand Kate Benjamin is married and on her way to Kentucky, she was married last Wednesday I do not know even the gentleman's name who has taken her off so suddenly, but understand he is a railroad builder and has a contract out there. Yours Elizabeth

My Dear Son.

Leeds January 21, 1879.

This is one of the finest mornings, that Jan - ever brings forward, the sun shining brightly over the encrusted snow, which is nowhere more than a foot deep, and never better sleighing, the thermometer about twenty degrees above zero, I was thinking this morning, that I ought to avail myself of such a day, to visit some of our friends, but your father's business was such, that it was not convenient, so I decided to visit my two sons in imagination, by conversation in my letters. I received a letter from R.B.H. on Tuesday, after yours of the sixth, his letter was of a serious, or reflective kind, he spoke of having a cold, which I fear will be bad for him, he said he had written Lizzie and you very late and should expect letters soon, last week I visited Thallowel, left home Wednesday morn with your father, we went to Wayne and stopt at Cross's till after noon, found Orza in good spirits hobbling about the house with the help of two canes. Laverne had a young babe, four days old, a son as promising as any little fellow of that age, Orza had his lounge in the Chamber with his wife, when we went in he was watching the starting of a sleigh ride from his window, at Daniel Foss's, ten couple from Leeds the remainder in Wayne, we had a very fine ride in the afternoon from W. through to R. found Mother quite well and very pleasantly situated, staid two nights, called at Uncle John's come home Friday eve



Melvin Howard died Saturday evening at six o'clock, I did not attend the funeral, as I did not hear of his death until after he was buried. I was at the centre on the sabbath, but as there was a funeral of a Frank girl, in the North part of the town, the people were gone there, and no one who attended our meeting knew of his death. Mrs Stearns of Wayne attended the funeral and will deliver a funeral sermon at the Chapel next Sabbath. I met Elmina, at the Ladies band, last evening. She said he was perfectly sensible as long as he breathed, his voice failed him some days previous to his death, but could be understood in whispers, his father could understand him to the last one minute before his last breath he said his hope was firm. I recollect after your older brother died, and I was trying to raise you from a bed of sickness, his mother used to send him up to our home for me to see him because he was so much like my lost one, she little thought, how much anguish, her kindness caused me but the little boy of three years old, has grown to be a man and now, has passed to that bourne from which no traveler returns, I have long since done questioning the disposition of our Heavenly father towards his creatures, but in the little intercourse I have had with Melvin, his honesty and true heartedness, makes me say in the heart we have parted with a good citizen, that he would be one "who would come up to the help" against the Mighty" the man of sin, I heard some more of Adolsons situation on my visit at the W. a hard case, but I think he will come up again with the rest of the citizens of Sacramento, Perry seems yet to be among the unfortunate it seems he did not go to Australia as he intended when you saw him, but gave up his voyage, and took a place in a

West India, and on his return took a large number of sick passengers on board which proved to be the Solon, and undertook to land them at Charleston South Carolina and was refused by the authorities, and after a great number of deaths they succeeded in landing them on an Island, and the vessel was seized by the officers of Charleston and there he is waiting a course of law, I have not referred to, or answered any part of your letter, a general thing, I suppose you would rather have some news and home affairs written than references to your letter, your father was sorry I said anything in my letter about Henry, talk, I did not mention it, to make any account of it, but to show you that Henry thinks we are under obligation to sustain him let him do what he sees fit, but your Uncle John has been here this week, after reading your letter he said he wished I had not mentioned it to you it was not worth your notice, but he was the one who told Mr. what he heard and gave him a real schooling (says your father is not the only one he has talk to in that) so he may keep still, he thinks a man who is cheating his creditors out of half their dues, should not be offering his thousands on time, He is who lacks in discretion not his friends, but enough about H. I did not intend to give half so much paper room to his case, your Uncle and Daughn stops a night and day, with us, and one night to Ensigns its very pleasant to see ones friends. I thought a great deal about you, at the time of the examination, but then, I could not define my anxieties unless they were for your general welfare when I first went to visit Melvin Howard, he enquired my boys separately, then said, the boys prospects are good, it almost affected me to tears, I thought how ungratefully I had spent many an hour worrying myself I knew not why about my boys.



I got a couple more demerits this morning. Which is rather amusing. I mean the manner in which I got them. I could not find my cap at reveille as soon enough to get to our parade ground. I felt for it in the dark till I found I had already got 'a lat', then I went without any, throwing the Cape of my over-coat over my head. So I will get reported for two things, for a lat & for no cap at reveille. I suppose you think there was no need of my having my cap. So there was not. and this is the only time for the two years & a half that I have been here. I found it on my table. I felt for it there. but passed over it some way in my haste & excitement. Does Howland write home often? Remember me to Uncle Ensign's & John's family. to Aunt Aurelia if you see her - to Aunt Lucretia & her family. &c. I hope they are all well. Give my respects to Thomas Bridgman. I am glad he has gone home to help his mother. She will be happier now & he too now & as long as he lives. I have not seen Warren L. for quite a long time. I do not like to risk going to see him very often. I think he must be well. since a cadet told me he saw him riding out with others in a sleigh the other day. Tell Delle they call sleighs 'Cutters' in New York, and many of them are rather ugly looking things. What we call a double sleigh they call a sleigh. Give my love to father ~~Robert~~ Roland, Charles & Delle - How is father's health this winter? Has Maj. Strickland taken father aside & whispered any scandal in his ear this winter? Was I that boy who reported what Henry said to father? I hope not, and I feel badly about it, for I know father would blame me for repeating what he said. I do not remember of ever mentioning it, the fact itself had escaped my memory till you recalled it.

From Your affectionate son. Wm.

I would like to have  
 you let me have  
 any little amount  
 of money that I may  
 want while here -  
 and charge it to  
 me - so that I may  
 not break in upon  
 the note that I hold -  
 I would not see  
 two dollars - the  
 most of which I send  
 for some things  
 that I subscribed for -  
 I do not need any  
 particularly now -  
 but I would like  
 to have two or  
 three dollars by  
 me for various  
 needs. ~~Yes~~ never  
 and any when  
 it will relieve your  
 self in need - for  
 I can do without.  
 I young man thought  
 very strange that  
 I would not partake  
 of some of his  
 refreshments the  
 other night. I  
 would not because  
 I felt that I could  
 make no return.  
 I have failed not  
 expect a return,  
 but that did not  
 make you less  
 sensitive.

Ohio

I wrote you my last letter than I meant to let elapse before I wrote again. I thought I would wait till the examination should be entirely over. It finished last Wednesday & I have not been able to write a word since from want of spare time. We commenced a new subject, Acoustics. which is not remarkably easy in its commencement. It is too of great importance to learn the first principles thoroughly, else it is difficult to master the subsequent portion of any mathematical work. Sometimes, when I feel remarkably well - my mind is very clear and I can master a subject in a comparatively short time. But at other times my head feels dull & heavy - and I drag over my lessons - drawing conclusions very slowly. Often I cannot account for this difference. Lately, however I have been troubled with indigestion for a few days past, which very readily accounts for all dull feelings, want of aptness &c...

You will probably receive my standing from Washington as soon as  
if not before you get this letter. You will find me 2<sup>d</sup> in Mechanics, 4<sup>th</sup>  
in Chemistry & 16<sup>th</sup> in drawing, which would make me third  
in general standing if it should be made out. Our general standing  
will not be made out till June. Mr Lee is ahead in both studies, &  
5<sup>th</sup> in drawing. I have not done so well as I ought to have done,  
but I doubt if I will ever do any better, for I do not study now  
with much pleasure or alacrity. I wrote Bowland a letter a short time  
ago in answer to one I received from him. He did not say but he was  
well. I have felt a very little homesick lately, for no particular



reason. It seems as if it would do me a world of good to take sleigh rides, sit by the kitchen fire of an evening, have a chat with you all and perhaps I would find a quantum of pleasure even in keeping school. But after all I may be as contented & happy as any one of you - since it is not the place that makes a man contented but himself. We have had but one snow at West Point, and that was over two feet in depth, the greater portion of which is on the ground yet. The river is frozen over - making good skating for those lads who know how to skate & can get permits. I have never been since I have been here. I have no skates & am too lazy to work for nothing, as I remember the fun of skating used to be ever dearly paid for, if I did not tumble down & bump my head. I was always sore & lame for a day or more afterwards. Are you all very well? Is it cold? Have you much snow? We have had the most remarkable winter here for mildness & warmth that I ever remember of passing. The whole month of December & a part of January seemed like October. How is Uncle Ensign & his family getting on this winter? Does Cousin Laura get any sleigh rides? I would like to hear her merry laugh. You spoke of Grandmother in your last letter. said Mrs Francis' death reminds you that you ought to go & see Grandmother. Have you been? If not, when you do go - give her my love, and tell her I shall try to come home, almost on purpose to see her sometime next summer. It seems almost like a dirty neglected that I have not written to her. Addison has been a better grandson in this respect. Had I been differently situated, I should have written her. I never have learned the art of writing fast, so that it takes about all the time I have to spare to write to you, my brothers and Lizzie. I scarcely ever read anything but my paper, and

certainly I seldom ever spend an idle half hour. I hope Grandmother will continue to have good health till I can see her at least once more. Remember me particularly to Uncle John & all his family. Lizzie wrote me that she had received a letter from both Charlie & Rowland. She told me of Charlie's modesty, saying that the reason why he thought while at Portland that he should not write was that he did not wish to expose his ignorance, but said he wrote a very good letter indeed. Ask him if he takes much pains when he writes to the young ladies. I think she said Lizzie wrote too. Is Lizzie or Charlie going to get the schoolmaster's present? - There are 13. or fourteen plebs who took leave of us this morning and are now on their way home. These do not number so many as those who were found deficient the first January in our class. We had four 'found' in our class this January & two in the present first class, none of whom have yet taken their 'walking papers'. I presume only two out of the number will have to go - both of ~~them~~ whom have considerably over one hundred demerit: I hope none, for they are all smart enough to get the course, though they deserve a little punishment for getting lazy. You spoke of Melvin's low state of health - is he yet living? It did not seem when I last saw him that that time would be the last. I am glad he is so contented & happy now, so reconciled. You speak of the evidences of poverty at Uncle Warren's. They never seemed to me poor there - It never once entered my head that they were so - so much can a cheerful spirit throw into the shade every sign of want. (Sunday morning Jan. 23<sup>d</sup>.) - It rains quite hard here this morning. Perhaps you are having a snow-storm. So many alternations of cold & warm weather, of snow & rain make the winters of West Point exceedingly unpleasant.