
426 1/2/1853

From: O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0399

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point Jan 2d 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 Dellie 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 Lizzie, 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. Dellie 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 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 Dellie & 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 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 sad 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 on 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 Chemistry till next week, Thursday or Friday. I expect to be about fifteenth in drawing; this is pretty good to rise from 35th to 15th about twenty files, since furlough. There is nothing like trying.

Lizzie says she hopes you will make her a visit for she is attending school again & 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'nt like me as would. He has no need to act thus if he wishes to be considered an honest upright man. I would'nt 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. O. Howard

[Envelope]
[Postmark] WEST POINT NY 8 JAN
Col John Gilmore
South Leeds
Maine

427 1/2/1853

From: Rodelphus Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0400

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Jan 2nd 1853

Dear Brother

As mother was going to write to you I thought that I would write. George Jones was here tonight. He is going to California with Mr Curry, his brother-in-law. He is going to learn the carpenters trade. Mother said she would ask him to go up the River to West Point as he was going to stay in New York city 2 weeks. He is going to start next Friday.

I had a little Book sent me last night from R.B.H. It was a Comic Almanac.

Nancy is here to work. George Bates is here to work. Roland A is not to work. He has had a bad cold and did not do any thing until within a few days. Oscar Turner & George & Rowland killed the swine yesterday. George hauls poles over on the R. Road to build fence.

How long after you graduate shall you go in to the army? I hope it will not 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 Arithmetic, Welds Grammar and read in the Town Fourth Book and spell in the Town Speller & definer. I believe that is all, that I study. Charley has just wrote Lizzie a long letter. Charlie sent his love to you and said he should write soon.

George will be here tomorrow evening and mother will ask him to come to West Point and see you. So good bye.

From your affectionate brother
Rodelphus Gilmore

P.S. Write me soon for you have not writen me but one letter, since you have been at West Point. So write soon.

From your affectionate brother
Rodelphus

To: O. O. Howard

428 1/6/1853

From: Rowland [Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0401

Topsham

Source: Bowdoin

Topsham Jan 6th 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 you enjoying heartily 'a happy new year'. I received your last 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, of 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 Otis, I have got a multitude of those plans & things, which, a certain good man has said pave Hell. Viz. 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 delinquency does not arise as with some, from influences without, but from within. The prime opposer 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 indulged, 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 others found so much difficulty in understanding their own characters and motives as I do.

Why? <'Cui boaiu'?'> these constantly recurring questions generally have to answer themselves. We echo the thoughts of others and they are reechoed within us, but such as we are, we must live, and I believe him the happiest who 'takes it easy'.

Mrs Stowe'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, ever to become successful in life as men count success, or as I count it myself.

This letter so far has been in downright contradiction to all the rules which have been made for epistletory writing, but I got to writing so and continued it so 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 conversation, too much I fear, with somebodys say so.

I have met several young ladies of Brunswick, who say they were formally acquainted with you, and the other evening a Mrs Forsyth took tea here, who said that you stoped at her house last summer with Lizzie.

On Wednesday I attended the installation of the Orthodox clergiman of this place. The services of which were very impressive. I believe I won't 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 can endure or perform.

I recd a letter from Charley & Dellie the other day. I find Dellie has improved considerably in his writing this winter. I am sorry to hear of Addison Martins 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 sad news to Miss Brooks.

Write soon and remember me as

Your aff Brother
Rowland

429 1/6/1853

From: Otis [O O Howard]

To: Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0402

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 6th 1853.

My dear Dellie,

You firstly 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, thus 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.

Here at "Mammy Thompson" 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. Tattoo 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 Peekskill 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. See if you can find any mistakes.

From you affectionate brother

Otis

430 1/16/1853 *From:* Rodelphus [Gilmore] *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0404a

South Leeds

West Point York New

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Sunday January the 16th 1853

Dear brother

I received your letter Last night. I am very much obliged for it. I have just eaten my dinner. <I have> I suppose you know have dinner Sunday along in the midel 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 Trask's daughter was buried. Mr Barrows had to go and preach the sermon. She was brought home from the factory. The girls are going to Mr Gilbert's to see <Tatia> G.

Father is trying to get a longer school. We had only 7 weeks schooling. We have 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 a round the district.

I slid down the hill all day yesterday. We have got the hill so slipery that I guess that you could not walk so fast as you did last summer when you was to home on a furlow. There is a lot of crust on the ground and the boys have a board and slide along.

Father has got up a lot of green wood. George and Rowland A get it up to the house. Father nor any of us could not tell where the town of Belas is. In what county is it in?

Nancy is here yet. Lucia is here to. Mother and father went down to Hallowell last Thursday and stayed until Friday. Mr Crosby is Governor of Maine. He 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.

From you affectionate Brother
Rodelphus

to O O Howard
West Point York New

[continued on the next letter from Charles]

431 1/16/1853 *From:* CH Howard

To: O O Howard

OOH-0404b

South Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[continued from the previous letter from Dellie]

Dear brother

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 Betsey 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 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 cars from Winthrop. I should think from what I saw yesterday that Henry had considerable trade at his new store, as well as R Road business, for I saw him sell several R 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.

I expect mother will write a long letter. Write soon & remember your brother
C H Howard.

P.S. Wm G. Crosby was elected Governor of Maine Friday by the Senate. Rather unexpectedly.

432 1/21/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0406

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds January 21th 1853.

My Dear Son,

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 Hallowel, left home Wednesday morn with your father. We went to Wayne and stopt at Arza's till after noon. Found Arza in good spirits hobling about the house with the help of two cains. Lavernia had a young babe, four days old, a son as promising as any little fellow of that age. Arza had his Loung 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 H— found mother quite well and very pleasantly situated. Staid two nights. Called at uncle John's. Came home friday evening.

Melvin Howard died saturday evening [January 15, 1853, son of Warren Howard and Rhoda B Mitchell] 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 Trask girl, in the North part of the town, the people were gone there, and no one who attended our meeting knew of his death. Mr Steemens of Wayne attended the funeral and will deliver a funeral sermon at the Chapel next sabbath. I met Almira [Howard, sister of Melvin], 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 anquish 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 my 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 Addison's situation on my visit at H. 'Tis a hard case, but I think he will come up again with the rest of the citizens of sacramento. Perry Lee 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 vessel bound for West India, and on his return took a large number of sick passengers on board which proved to be the Cholera, 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, as a general thing I suppose you would rather have home news and home affairs written than refferences to your letters. Your father was sorry I said anything in my letter about Henrys talk. I did not mention it, to make any account of it, but to show you that H 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. Said he was the one who told H what he heard and gave him a real schooling (says your father is not the only one he has talk to in that way) 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. It is H 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 Vaughan stopt 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 after 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 understand Doct Washington Turner was a candidate for Governors 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 have escaped so much and perhaps more. Your fathers 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 see 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. Farewell George, we may see him again.

I have seen but very little of Ensign's family this winter but think they are quite healthy. I don't know how it is but that <hairraising> feeling. which has worn upon me seems to have passed away for a time. What will be my next call for vanquishing 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 Turner, Mr Simeon Turner's daughter.

Your Uncle John said Joseph Hale Abbot has called at his house, this winter, the father of your classmate Abbot. Said he spoke of you, and said his son said you was a fine schollar, and your Uncle said likewise that you said his son was a good schollar but without any reference to your trouble with him. Your uncle said he did not mention it he would not. I did not know before, that I had known his father. He spent one of the May vacations of College at fathers while at Bodoin College. I recollect after spending an afternoon and taking tea with your father, R.B.H. I heard him in conversation with John say he did not think of finding such a fine young man in Leeds and said, Otis 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,
Eliza Gilmore

O.O.H.

433 1/22/1853 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0407

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 22, 1853

My dear Mother

It is a very much longer time since 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 2d in Mechanics, 4th in Chemistry & 16th 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, & 5th 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 Rowland 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 Cadets 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 reminded 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 duty 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 Dellie wrote too. Is Dellie or Charlie going to get the schoolmasters' present?

There are 13 or fourteen plebes 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 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 23d)

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.

I got a couple more demerit this morning which is rather amusing. I mean the manner in which I got them. I could not find my cap at reveille soon enough to get to our parade ground. I felt for it in the dark till I found I had already got 'a late', then I went without any, throwing the cape of my overcoat over my head. So I will get reported for two things, for a late & for no cap at reveille. I suppose you think there was no need of my losing 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 Rowland write home often? Remember me to Uncle Ensign's & John's family, to Aunt Aurelia if you see her, to Aunt Lucrecia & her family &c. I hope they are all well. Give my respects to Thomas Bridgham. 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 Dellie 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, Roland, Charlie & Dellie. How is father's health this winter? Has Mr 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,
Otis

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. Rowland sent me two dollars. The most of which I owed for some music 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 reasons. Never send me any, when it will leave yourself in need, for I can do without. A 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 knew he did not expect a return, but that did not make me less sensitive.