

and no need. Tell him it is an easy thing for a man
to poster himself and like cut a heap of misery from
this life, but it is as easy to enjoy oneself, and this is
done simply by cultivating a cheerful spirit. When I say
this to him he will look in the fire and say, "How easy
it is to say 'cultivate a happy & cheerful spirit'." yet
how impossible for one situated as I am to put such
a maxim in practice. He may be married one of these
days and after a few months he will wonder why
his wife does not make him a happy man. Ah! she
will, if he tries to make her happy. Here then is the
secret. In order to be cheerful, one must cultivate
generosity, be generous in little things, generous to all those
who are around him. It is difficult. But begin by doing
a kind act to somebody, without letting him know your
intention, without wishing for a return - try the experiment
again and again. It won't be long before kind acts &
kind thoughts & kind feelings will become a habit. Roland
would like me if I should come home, always treat him
kindly, share every pleasure of mine with him, always be
polite & gentlemanly & considerate. Will he not try such a
course for himself. What is the use of ~~sowing~~^{sowing} the seeds
and reaping the fruits of gloom. It is beneath a noble
soul to do so. Cheer up man, you are as well off^{as} & better off
than your brother Alis, if you will admit me as such - and
I would not be gloomy & thus be my ^{own} worst enemy. I would
rather face the cannon. Give my love to father - Remember
me to all at the Center; Laura, Uncle, Aunt Martha, John Keller,
Ellie, Aunt Aurelia, Thomas &c. And remember that I am
Your very affectionate son Alis.

C. Howard

West Point N. Y. Feb. 11. 58

My dear Mother,

I received your kind
letter yesterday and the money you sent me. Your letter
reminded me of my neglect. I wrote three letters at the close
of last week one to Roland, one to Lizzie and one to Berley,
and intended to write still another to you. But time was
wanting. I am obliged to go to the diastetic society Sat. night
so that I have to get permission to leave a light after
dark to get my lesson for Monday. I almost wish I did not
belong to the society, then I would have Saturday evening
to myself. I am not sick and have not been. I was and am
now occasionally troubled with indigestion or a species of it. I throw
up my breakfast now & then, but it does not amount to much.
It is because I eat too much for the amount of exercise
that I take. Soon the Spring drills will commence and then
I will be obliged to take plenty of exercise. When you
read in the report from Washington the prohibition with regard
to letting the Cadets have money. You must regard that as
a general order. It was found that many Cadets went off
limits, bought what are called 'contraband articles' as these things
which are forbidden by the regulations of the Academy are
called and smuggled them into barracks. Now to prevent
this the law is that cadets shall have no money. Money of
course does the cadet no injury unless he spends it for an
improper purpose as for drink &c. - - - This law is not strin-

gently enforced here. See J. the son of the Superintendent also has money. They say his father never gives him any. But his mother always does when he wants any. If the authorities found a letter filled with money they would make the caller who receives it deposit the money in the treasury or send it back to his parents, at his option. If he deposits it, it is put to his credit, and he can have it at graduation or when he goes on a leave. No letters are ever opened, and none suspected to contain money unless they have in them some heavy coin. My money was not taken by an inspecting officer. For inspecting officers never use anything but their eyes. It was taken by a thief and that thief was probably a cadet. I now keep my money in my watch-pocket and since my pocket goes with me, my money will not be very likely to be taken. The great difficulty that the loser meets with is that he can not have a search made by search-warrant or otherwise, since the law does not recognize him as a holder of personal property. I went to our confectioman and left the name & mark of one of my bills. but it did us good. Last money has been recovered that money & the offender discovered and sent off. I told Capt Alden about losing my money before he left & he said he would do anything he could to assist me in discovering the thief. I told you it was ^{hard} work to study. This young student will find to be sometimes the case. But he must not let it make any difference with him, but continue to drive ahead. It is like every other labor. There are times when a man works and takes pleasure in his task. but there are very many times when this is not the case. Occasionally I feel a little

down & perhaps a little discouraged, but not often than I did in College or even at home where I had without realizing it, all the comforts that heart could wish or affection bestow. So think no more of what I wrote. When I am sick enough to make any account of it I will see that you know immediately for I have found by experience this open course the best to pursue - for heretofore when I attempted to conceal from you my sickness I failed of my object & gave you more anxiety than was necessary. I am almost delighted at the prospect of father's visiting me for I want to see his face very much. I shall expect some little token from each of you. Do not send me any big presents for they would be worth to me no more than little ones that cost nothing. I heard tonight that a Bill had passed the House for increasing the course here to five years instead of four commencing with our class. I think this arrangement will not begin with our class, however.

I do not care about staying here another year after the four are up under my present circumstances though I have no doubt it would be highly beneficial.

It is now nearly nine o'clock. I have been to the Diabetic Society - made a speech. From there to the Concert given by the Cadets by the Band (^{this being} every Saturday evening during winter when we have no dress parades) I received a letter from Rowland a short time ago. but you have received one since. Give my love to Charlie & Debbie. I am glad they are good boys and know they will make good men. Give my love to Roland A. Tell him if he is gloomy that he has no right to be so

Speeds February 19th 1854

Dear Brother:

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As it has not been a great while since I wrote to you I shall write a very short letter. It is my birth-day to-day, I am twelve years old. Our Society is getting along very well we have got 30 members all of which are very ^{much} interested; but when we had got money enough to buy some for a paper, so we shall have a paper in a week. We shall take the Maine Temperance Journal now printed in Portland. The Temperance Watchman is united with the Cold Water Fountain of Gardner. It is called the Maine Temperance Journal. Then we have some Regalia which are united to the society. We have got a box (which is here) to keep them in. Charles is writing to Lizzie he received a letter from her not a great while ago. Our School is not closed yet. It closes next Wednesday. Our Society talk of celebrating the last day. I have got to Proposition in my Arithmetic. Good bye remember me as your Affectionately Brother
Dollie

P. S. Poor pen

harm, and be constantly on the watch to learn any thing which ~~is~~ ^{is} permitted me, & take time to decide & see if possible not take a step that I may regret. I have no hesitation how to occupy myself for a few years to come but shall if possible pursue steadily the course on which I have started & always intended to pursue. i.e. I will first get a thorough education, The profession or occupation I shall then follow is an after consideration, though I confess it would be better to decide upon that as soon as may be. I have some objections to the Methodist as well as the Baptist Church & others I do not know much about. The language I would use about the Methodist belief as to Sanctification or Christian Perfection in this world is this, "I have not been brought up to believe in it & I do not yet understand my Bible thoroughly enough to judge for myself & I am not acquainted with the reasons alleged for & against this

by men well enough to decide for myself.
I know enough about it - to know that
the Methodist people hold it as one of
their tenets, & is it not peculiar to them?
As to close communion I do not think
so much stress should be laid upon
it as is sometimes the case. I do not
think it very wrong, but think open
communion better. As to Baptism
I do not think it necessary to salvation,
but should be observed as well as communion
in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Who sent his disciples to preach the
Gospel to all men that they should
repent & be baptised. And it is,
an evidence to the world that you intend
to follow the example of Christ: who
himself was baptised. - But Otis I was
right to a close & mother will write
soon, by asking you if you can get time
to write the very belief of the four churches
Congregationalist - Methodist - Presbyterian &
Baptist. Howland's school finishes
in three days more & we will then

go to Brunswick & I think I shall go
to Kent's Hill. Term commences 14
of March. Mr. Yersey is in the State
Senate, Mr. Walcott will teach. Langue
yes this Spring. I rec'd a letter from
Lizzie a short time since, she is
well. complains of not having letters
from you often, is afraid you are sick.
The sun shines pleasantly to day but
the wind blows cold. From your Affec
tionate Brother Charles H. Howard
P.S. You did not ^{mention} receiving Mr. C's letter.
& the death of Almira but you must have ^{had it.}
my Dear, how are you to day, well
and happy, I hope. I received yours of the 12, ^{just}
the fourth day after it was written, and intend
writing an answer as soon as my nerves are
strong enough, I am much troubled in that way.
you will have to use your best judgment in
regard to supplying your wardrobe your under
clothes & will have ready when you get here
you not need many & hope before that time
at least, new ones. I hope to meet you happily
in a few months, in haste your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilman

South Lead Mo Feb. 20th / 53

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Dear brother

Mother received your letter last night, I thought that I would write to tell you how
like to have a little from your brother. I like to have a
letter from you as you like to have from me. ~~W. S. Bates~~
Bates is here and ~~and~~ a good many others. ~~Thos~~ Kergus
Hunt is dead he died with the dysentery Nancy
been over to Cottonmouth to day sold in P. Julia Gilbert
and here. George, B. has came back here to work. We
have had some cake ~~etc~~ we received a letter
from R. B. H. last night. The grey horse
has cut her foot so that we have to use the red
horse we call both a great horses so we call one red
& grey horses. I have been to meeting to day. R. H.
had 3 valentines Nancy 1 R. B. 1 he is coming

home this week and I guess he will stay a week
write soon from your affectionate brother

R. Howard. Jr

W. C. C.

Mr. C. C. M. M. M. M.

[20 min after 5 o'clock ^{Monday morning}]

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Otis I again resume my letter. Things are passing the same as they usually do Monday morning, and perhaps very nearly as they used when you were here. George & Bates is "pounding the clothes, Lucia washing them. That old powder is thumping the same as I have heard about - ever morning (when I have been at home) since I can remember. Our mother is preparing breakfast, Father sits at the table writing, and looking over his papers. The Co is preparing to make a report, when it is printed I will send you one. Since our school finished I have studied three Latin Lessons each week-day except three. I wished if possible to enter the class which I left last fall when I was taken sick. I don't know though as I can, for the term commences the fourth of March at Readfield & I think Popsham, I think that I shall go to Haverhill this spring. It is not quite sunrise yet. It will be a pleasant day I think Father is going to Barkers Mills mother is going to Waverly's visiting & I wish to send this by them to mail so I must close & harness the horse with soon. Give my affectionate

Brother

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

Leeds Feb 20th 1868

Dear brother

Same time has glided away since I last addressed a letter to you. We were very glad last eve to once more receive a letter from Otis. And to hear that he was enjoying good health. We also had a letter from Rowland last night, he wrote that he should come home the last of this week & should not stop long. The term commences again the 1st of March. We had not received a letter from you for some time until ^{evening} last. Which caused us to have some apprehensions for your health. And it seems by your letter that you are not entirely well. I am sorry for health I think is a very great blessing. but you say that you are not sick. I think really Otis that it will be too bad for you to be obliged to remain at West Point longer than four years. I must tell you Otis about our excursion. Well, there was a committee appointed who were to make arrangements with the Railroad for & with George Lathrop for the dinner. They agreed for the use of the cars last Wednesday to go the whole length of the road from Leeds junction to Livermore Falls, for which

They paid 30 dollars. There were 60 couples who bought tickets, so that it made the price but 50 cts a couple, or 25 cts apiece. It was pleasant in the morning but it snowed before noon. Roland & Henry Maxwell & I went from our house with Capt Turner's young people went to Mr Brewster's store to take the cars. There were a few others who went there to take them, but not a great number. When we arrived at Mr Gusters Depot we found that there were a great many there to join us, and also at North Leeds. We arrived at Livermore Falls about half past eleven o'clock. It then snowed pretty hard, but it is but a short distance from the depot to George's, so we did not go far in the storm. Mr & Mrs the gentlemen passed in w the Barrow & the Ladies up the stairs into the chambers to "take of their things". In about an hour dinner was served. We all dined at one time & in one hall. It was in Mr Treat's house which is but a few steps from George's. Our dinner was a good one consisted of roast Turkey &c. After dinner about 3 o'clock we all attended a concert given by the Misses Macomber, Swin Sisters. Perhaps you

It is now more or less snowed Sabbath evening I have been to church at the center today but two sermons from Mr Barrow. I saw Uncle George's folks they are all well. My wife and I have been to the fair.

have heard of them, and you may have heard them sing. I was delighted with the music. There was a man who attended them and also a young lady who played the guitar. One of the Misses Macomber played the violin the other a bass viol. One of the tunes which they played was "Bankee Doodle". Another was "Home of my boyhood". I can play that on my Harmonica it is the piece of music that Lizzie bought of Mr Carpenter & gave me. But to go on with my description. After the concert, we went again to the depot; it was now about dark the cars were lighted & we had a very pleasant ride down to the junction & back again to Mr Brewster's. Mr Davie was with us so we sang tunes which we knew from the book. But the worst of our ride was coming home after we left the cars. The snow had got to be about 12 inches deep but we arrived safely at home a little after eight o'clock in the evening. I think that the most of them enjoyed themselves much, but riding in the cars made some of them quite sick. among whom was Mrs Barrow, but she soon recovered from it after leaving the cars. Good night

the Legislative Committee, to remodel the Law and put it on a firmer constitutional basis at the same time they will put on what is called the "Venus grip" which is imprisonment of a drunken man, that he may testify where he obtained his liquor. I expect the next thing will be thumb screws, after the manner of the late Inquisition.

I believe with Gov Crosby, that the People of this State demand a Law sufficiently stringent to close every Gay Shop in the Land, and such is the Law I want to see upon our Statute book. We have come within three votes of having a Whig U. S. Senator, but I fear more three cannot be obtained. I should really like to see Pitt Fessenden in the U. S. Senate from Old Maine. She has been disgraced by such a man as Deakins long enough.

When I am examined I will make some enquiries of the Pres in regard to your Diploma. Perhaps I may hear something from it. but I should like to know in the first place what they think about it. Write soon and Remember me as

Yours aff. Brother

Charles C. Corwin

Rowland

Dorchester Feb 20th 1853

Dear Brother

Your last was duly received and I could realize the truth of the old proverb, which says "better late than never". I should like to see you sword exercise first rate. I should think it would be a kind of recreation for you. To me, that and similar exercises would be all that could make West Point "bearable". They must relieve the tedium of study, especially to one who is so fond of physical exertion as you are. I don't know but that I wrote you before that I received a good long interesting letter from Lizzie, in answer to one that I wrote her. I have since replied to it and am in hopes to have another before a great while. I really hope that Mr Perry & Anna will cooperate. I should think it a fine note worth in working and all other points of view, as far as I am conversant with the facts. Yesterday I went over to the College and met many old friends and had a good time talking over old times. I don't know much about the Class that I am going to enter except that it is very large numbering at present nearly fifty. Mr Samuel S. Pike is the new tutor. perhaps you were acquainted with him. He was in the Class of '48. The Freshmen think

very high of him. in fact. I believe that a new brew
always is thought to sweep clean. even if it does
not. It was thought that they were could replace Mr
Senall. But now they say Mr Pike is worth three of him.
I notice in the papers that Miss Laura & Cram
of Wayne memory is married. She at least at last
since that Mr Dyer. which I was afraid she
never would do. He will probably now reform and
devote himself to his wife as a good Husband should.
Leonard Martin is in Brunswick taking medical
Lectures. He was in to see me this morning. I think
he likes it very well. What kind of an M.D. do
you suppose he will make?

I have been to meeting all day today, and heard
Mr Gilpatrick. who certainly one of the ablest Preachers
without any redeeming qualities. such as Mr Ramsdell
has. Mr G possesses neither talents. education nor
yet much good common sense. He is loud
and boisterous in his delivery without producing
effect. which I consider the only excuse of that
loud declamatory style which the Methodists
practice. I shall probably be examined on
Tuesday and then I shall spend a few days at
home. from which I have been away about eleven
weeks. I hear from Levee that R.R. Excursions
are all the rage there. I suppose the people are
trying to make the Androscoggin Rail Road
pay. rather a hard undertaking I should say.

I shall not stay at home more than a week
or more. so you can direct your next letter
here as usual. Mr Adams has gone home as
he usually does on Saturdays. He says give
my respects to Howard and tell him that Georgiana
is not married. Mr Adams is much respected
in Ipsham as is liked very well as a Teacher.
I am in hopes that his income from his
School will increase somewhat the coming Term.
If it does not he will have to abandon it. He is
reading law and intends to make a lawyer.
I tell him he has not trap enough for that
profession.

The Main Law seems to be triumphant all
round. The triumph in Vermont is the greatest
that it has seen since its passage in Maine.
They can in truth then call it the Peoples
Law. and they cannot as they do here twist
its friends off legislating against the popular
will, and of passing an obnoxious Law upon
the People. The Friends of the Law have recently
held a Spiritual Convention in Augusta and
I believe the general opinion is that the
Law will be made more stringent and earlier
of execution at this Session of the Legislature
of Maine does not do a little more. She will
lose her place as the Standard Bearer of this
Reform. Neal Dow and others of our leading Temperance
men have been chosen to act in conjunction with