

and last Sunday against Universalism, I get a little  
uneasy under them sometimes though I acknowledge their  
truth. Professor Sprole preaches most excellent sermons  
and with the most perfectly independent spirit of any  
man you ever heard. I love independence in a speaker  
& therefore I like him. I doubt if I will ever hear  
an other man who will suit me so well. He talks him all in  
all as he. His text to day was 'Be ye also ready, for in such an hour  
as ye think not the son of man cometh'. His sermon was principally  
an appeal to us to be prepared to meet the judgment. I have  
not been able to see Warren lately. When I last did he  
was well. I thought of taking Rodolphus to see him but  
I was afraid of being "killed" off limits & gave it up.  
Give my love to all our family individually & collectively.  
What does Uncle Ensign find to do now. Since his favorite  
project is carried through. Remember me to all Uncle E's family.  
Lizzie says, Laura has written her a letter, and that L. says  
that you told them I was not in very good spirits. You  
may now retract the assertion. Has Ellie got to be a big boy?  
I would like much to correspond with them all or  
Uncle's but I think I had better not now undertake  
it. I do not write home now any too often. but I am  
always very happy to hear from my home, and especially  
do I enjoy a letter from my own dear mother.  
Does Lellie think I neglect him - perhaps I do. I will  
write him now - so good night, from your affectionate  
son - O. C. Howard.

West Point Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 1858

My dear Mother,

I have set apart this evening  
on purpose to write you a letter. In order that you may feel  
cheerful & in no way filled with anxieties for your son while  
you are perusing these lines I will premise by saying that  
my health is very good indeed, that trouble of indigestion  
was removed by one dose of the Surgeons pleasant medicine,  
which by the way was almost as deliciously bitter as those  
bowls of warm 'Thoroughwort' that you used to give me -  
Tell father that I do not know how to spell Thoroughwort.  
but since I believe it a very thorough medicine, I have  
presumed that the above is the proper orthography. I know  
it is a mark of a scholar to spell well, but it is also the mark  
of a military man to convey his meaning in the plainest &  
most expressive way possible. Ask father if I usually spell  
well now. I am not at all so sensitive upon this point as  
when I imagined I knew considerable. I would like to know  
his opinion. Tell him he can scarcely imagine how glad I  
should be to see him - Friday Rodolphus Leadbetter, who has  
been for some time breakwater on the road over the river,  
came to see me. After returning from Chemistry at 12. the  
Coffee of the day came to my room & said that a gentleman  
wished to see me. I thought it was my father, and my room-  
mate said I turned perfectly white. I was so much excited. I



went to the Guard-room & found Rodolphus. I was so much excited that I could hardly write my permit. I spent the remainder of the day in showing him what there is of interest that can be seen at this time of year at West Point, and that is not much. He had a very bad cold. said he could not work very well. therefore he thought he would "lay by" & visit me. I think he enjoyed this visit & liked West Point very much. He promised me if he remained in his present situation till summer, that he would come & see me again when there is more to be seen & when as you may know this place looks less barren than now. I left him at 5 at the Wharf. He said he had not yet seen Uncle Ward but thought he would spend that night with him. I sent him to the Hotel to get his own dinner, for you know that is the mode of our hospitality here. I bought a lunch at Joe's & brought it to my room. we went to see the Third Class ride & I showed him the modus operandi of our Sabot & Musket exercises. He had a pretty good time. I got rid of one afternoon's drawing, which was clear gain. He wished me to give my love to you all, & particular to his family, telling them that he had been to see me. Rodolphus is a good, steady temperate industrious young man & I like him much. He does not like his present situation much, because his wages are so small that he cannot board at a good place & make anything. He seems to have both the spirit of industry & frugality combined & cannot fail in the end of gaining

a respectable livelihood anywhere. I wish I had the elements of the latter good quality - more fully or rather more deeply implanted in my composition. I mean frugality or prudence. This then united with my industry might make a man of me too. We will not have to remain here five years if I am glad. I had made up my mind, if the term of our stay had been extended as it was removed, to leave at any rate at the end of our course, I will now most probably remain in the army a year or two after I graduate, but can estimate the pros & cons better by & by. I presume Rowland will have returned to Topsham before this reaches you. Do you not think he will be able to visit me next summer? Has father given up his visit to N. York? Rodolphus said I looked rather thin in the face and as all ~~cadets~~ cadets do exceedingly little. He thought a cadet looked very small on horseback, who weighs about two hundred; so much does dress change the appearance of a man. I am about as heavy as I was when on furlough. There is but one thing that troubles me now & that is the idea that I shall have to get up at four o'clock tomorrow morning to get my lessons. You think this a small thing I suppose, as it is for any physical employment, but the mind gets excessively dull before night when you get up at 4 & sit up till ten. I am about the only cadet that can do it. My will is therefore pretty strong, but it does not hinder me from feeling very sleepy in the morning. He had a strong sermon today



West Point. Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 1853. 422

My dear Dear Debbie. Oliver A. Howard

You must not expect a very lengthy letter to night, for I have but half an hour to write it in. I am not going to write it very plain either, for it will exercise you at reading writing to study out my scrawls. I had an excellent ride on horseback yesterday on a horse called Santa Anna. Do you know from what ~~man~~ man this horse was named? Tell me in your next letter all you know about him. What country he belonged to. What office he held in his government & any thing else you can learn about him. Write down your thoughts on your state. Let Charlie correct the spelling if he can find any mistakes, and tell you where to put periods, commas & capital letters. I was about to tell you of my ride on Santa Anna, a horse you know & not a man. When it came my turn to ride out, round the ring I cut the 'heads of bran', which I told Charlie of in his letter. I drew my Sabre, which is a big, heavy broad sword, carried it in my right hand against my right shoulder driving my horse with my left. - One of the heads was on the ground & my horse got under such desperate head way that I did not have time to rise up & make my <sup>second</sup> cut after cutting the head on the ground. But I had a splendid ride. Would you like



suck a wild ride? I have once or twice ridden a horse named  
Murat. Leave off the t. when you pronounce this word & pronounce  
the a like a in la in music, or as if the word was Murak.  
Now tell me if you know ~~the~~ who the General was from whom  
this horse was named. I will tell you this much. They called him  
a Marshal. (which is in French Maréchal). This corresponds to  
our brigadier Generals very nearly. Then tell me all you can  
find out about Santa Anna & Marshal Murat, in your  
next letter. I will then write you somewhat more about  
these men. My half hour is up. The drummers are beating  
tattoo, (half past nine). One of the drummers, yes, two of them  
are smaller than you, and one is a little bit of a fellow, & he  
plays on the fife. These boys have to get up in the morning  
& come up to the barracks, for they live about half a mile off -  
and drum us up for reveille. It would do you good to see them  
fife & drum. They can play anything. Sometimes the little  
fellows sleep in the guard-room on the hard benches or seats,  
so as to be there in the morning. One night a Cutler who was  
"Officer of the day", found one there at taps at ten o'clock at  
night sound asleep. He took pity on the little fellow - got  
some old Guard cloaks, wrapped him up - and he had  
good warm sleep that night, such as you are at this minute  
enjoying in all probability. So good night - be a good boy  
and remember that I am your affectionate brother

Ohio.  
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Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> 1853  
Rowland & Charles  
W. Ham March 8<sup>th</sup> 1853

Dear Mother

It is Sunday evening and I am pretty well tired. My duties in the school are considerably harder than I expected. It seems as if I had been here two or three weeks. Charles arrived about 4 O'Clock safe and sound. but quite weary from his ride. He has gone to bed now and is having a good sleep. He will add a P.S. in the morning if he wishes to. I came down here on Saturday afternoon. I found our friends in Portland all well. except that Siggie has a bad cold. Siggie and Mrs W board with Eay Peely who has all of his family with him in Portland. They are not fairly settled. I think that neither enjoy the arrangements as yet, very much. I called on Lie Aunt Martha and Stace about an hour and a half. I did not see Uncle Henry. When I first began this I thought I would send it by Mr Bennett but I could not get ready soon enough and perhaps you will see it nearly as soon by mail. - Wednesday -

This morning I have been all over town with Mr B. - up to the College &c. He has started for Leeds. Charles tells me what a smart board of select men you have. I think Young America



must have succeeded. Aunt Martha is very anxious  
that you should come to Portland when ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> goes  
over on West. She thinks she shall be a  
nurse-keeping if Henry goes away. If she does  
she will leave Portland. Henry talks a great  
deal of going to Australia. I think the tiring  
fatigue of nothing else will be sufficient  
to prevent him from going. There <sup>are</sup> three young Ladies  
here making with Charles myself and Mr Adams  
six boarders. It is half past nine in the evening  
and the Cues are just passing along. The pass  
almost under our window. There is a Lyceum lecture  
in Brunswick tonight but I am too tired to  
attend it. I have two Classes in Latin one  
in Greek. one each in Nat Philosophy, Geography  
Grammar and Reading. They occupy my whole  
afternoon. I shall be able to study considerably  
Amusements but evenings I do not feel much  
like it yet. I have not had a letter from  
Wm, although I wrote him a week before I  
left Topsham. You must have worked pretty hard  
to get Charles ready. I hope you are none the  
worse for it. They have not succeeded well at all  
with my Dickys this week. Tell Lucia I think I shall  
have to send them to her. Remember me to  
all, and write us as soon as you can. I hope  
Thomas will succeed in getting up his Singing School.  
You must help him just as if we were at home —  
Rowland



My Dear Mother;

March 9<sup>th</sup> 1753

I sit now to write you my first letter after having arrived at Topsfield and to confirm what I see Rowland has already written in regard to my reaching here with safety and convenience. I was not sorry when I got to my journey's end, for I began to grow tired, somewhat of riding when I reached Topsfield. When we were just by Mr. Gillpatrick's house Mr. Barrows inquired of a little boy whom we met, where he lived. I did not stop to go into the house but took my carpet-bag and started for Rowland's boarding place, to which I was directed by Mr. Gillpatrick. I had no trouble in finding it. When I rang the doorbell Mrs. Yeast came to the door. I think she is quite a pleasant woman, resembles Aunt Ann some in countenance. Rowland hearing me inquire for him came down stairs. He said that he expected me that afternoon in the cars, but finding that I did not come, he concluded that I could not get ready to come so soon. By supper time I began to grow somewhat hungry, so eat a good hearty meal. Soon after supper Rowland went over to Mr. B's and Mr. Adams went out, so I was left alone. I did not sit long before I found that either I must sleep in my chair, or go to bed. I chose to do the latter. My bed is just large enough for one person, it is in a room which joins Rowland's & Mr. Adams's, there is no stove



in my room, so I shall be obliged to stay in  
Rowland's which I am now in. I have a large closet  
as large as Dellic's <sup>my</sup> bedroom, Rowland went to  
-swick express office <sup>this forenoon & there found</sup>  
my trunk. <sup>(Prof. officar.)</sup> He is going to bring it over this afternoon.  
The bill was one dollar, rather more than I ex-  
-pected. My trunk has just arrived looking just as it  
did when I sent it: Dellic's apples & all. Tell  
Dellic that Rowland laugh'd <sup>at</sup> <sup>he</sup> <sup>bitely</sup> when I sent  
him the apples which he put in. Rowland is now <sup>seated</sup>  
soundly on a kind of lounge which we have in our  
It is neither a chair nor a lounge but <sup>seems to be</sup>  
between those two, it is not so long as a lounge  
nor as narrow as a chair, it has high arms, is filled  
with cotton and covered with calico. You know  
that I spoke of taking one of father's  
-es if he was willing but I forgot it again. He  
wants one very much & I certainly should  
to know what time it is now. I think it  
must be considerably after three o'clock  
the afternoon. Rowland keeps up his snoring. I think  
you will wonder why we are not both at school  
- School does not keep Wednesday after-  
Saturday, P.M. I find that the school is not  
as well classed here as at Kent's Hill  
It seems very much like a town school  
study in the Academy mostly, but I think  
shall study in my room. Our windows are right  
in sight of the cars, I have seen them go just



When I rose this morning it was quite cloudy,  
and about ten o'clock it commenced snowing  
and after dinner it began to rain, so that  
Mr Barrows has rather a bad day to go home  
but it has now closed raining.

I have just now come up from the supper  
table. Before supper I went over to the other  
part of the village, to give Mr Harmon the  
letter for Josephine if I could find his store  
which I did readily. All the inconvenience  
we have experienced to-day, and certainly that  
is a very small one, from yesterday's ride is a  
burnt face. For I rode so long in the sun, which  
you know shone very bright yesterday, that it made  
my face pretty red hot right away and also a  
little "soar". I think perhaps the wind had something  
to do with it. Rowland says that Mr Barrows' face looks  
worse than mine, he was more exposed than I. For  
he gave me the best seat, you remember there was two  
seats, he gave me the back one after we had got a little way.  
Thursday morning. I rose this morning  
about as early as I did when at home, about 4. It  
was half past nine and Rowland and Mr Adams  
were sleeping by my side in bed. Since I got up  
I have been studying my Latin reading book, which  
is Caesar. I have no fire and so it is rather  
cold. Why I have none is because I have no matches  
right I shall get some when the family gets up.  
I have my great coat on so I get along very well. I am soon



going out to take my morning walk, as you wished  
one to. I suppose it is of no use to send this to you  
for you will not get it until Saturday.

I guess you will think this is my journal  
that I <sup>have</sup> sent you when you get this letter, for  
it is now past dinner Thursday afternoon.  
There has been a very sad accident - happened  
here on the Railroad. There was a very old  
man riding in a sleigh across it when the cars  
came along and ran over him. He had his thigh  
broken & he <sup>was very</sup> much injured otherwise, on the  
head I believe, his horse was also killed.  
I believe he was somewhat hard of hearing.  
I am now going up to recite my first lesson  
at Sapham, Rowland assists now in the  
forenoon, and I do not have any recitation  
so he & I am here all alone. I have con-  
cluded to study Physiology Latin grammar &  
Caesar & Algebra. My letter must go this  
(Friday) morning & so it must be finished.  
Give my love to Dillin & tell him  
to wish much in your next letter what  
will come soon I hope. You did not feel  
very well, the morning that I left, but I hope  
that you soon overcame it. We shall know  
if you write as quick as you can. I found that  
the scholars were all quite small here  
especially the boys. This is not like New-Hill  
Acad Hall. Give my love to all of the  
family & Good Bye to them & you  
-ctional. Son Charles



Leeds March 12<sup>th</sup> 1853

My Dear Brother Otis

I took it into my head  
 to write <sup>letter</sup> to you to-day as I have not written  
 to you this great while, & I think a longer period  
 has elapsed since you wrote to me, You <sup>have</sup> written me  
 a short letter since you have been at West Point,  
 the last of which was written last May (I am mistaken  
 it was in January 1852)  
 think. I would like to have you write to me  
 soon; Brother Charles is at home yet he will go to  
 Gents Kill soon. I have been to Meeting today  
 Reverend D. Bates preached; It was thought to be his  
 last while we got up there and found it was  
 not, mother thinks he is going to preach all Sum-  
 mer, but we have no reason to think he is going  
 to stay than that he said he wished as many to  
 come as possible this season. - Oh! Otis who do you  
 think we have for Town officers this year? I will tell you  
 they are as follows; J. W. Turner, what is his office? He is Clerk,  
 of Leeds Maine; Harvey Bates, Stillman L. Howard,  
 Isaac T. Boothby, Selectmen, John Gilman Treas.  
 (only one that is fit in the lot I guess) P. B. Corwell,  
 Agent, collector of taxes & Constable. Thomas Jennings is  
 the committee chosen to fill the place of Mr. Barnes.  
 - Mr. James Scudbeter is going to leave town very soon  
 they have <sup>thought</sup> a farm in Monmouth, about <sup>three</sup> ~~two~~ miles  
 from Mr. Benthie It is said to be a very good  
 had the power to make you happy or comfortable by so &

when I took up the post office, and took out Billie's letter I took up one letter  
 you put one year that day, saying can that child not read? I have seen her  
 whenever I went to church, I saw her first time when she was about 10 years old  
 ask the question, shall I see you the summer? I told me to the church, where she reads and

James Motton, Clara Gilman  
 356  
 but I do not know what is for the best  
 should say, resign



Poland is gone away and Charles & Myself  
will have to do all of the chores; I expect he has  
gone to see <sup>David & W. Turner</sup> who he goes to see most  
every sabbath evening. N. E. W. B. 1  
John H. Otis has got a girl weighs  
a little baby, it is about a week ~~two~~ weeks old 10 Pounds  
or more. Mr Caleb King is dead, he died a week  
last Thursday ~~I believe~~ believe. He is much missed  
here <sup>by many</sup> he was a very good old man I think, and <sup>was</sup> much  
loved by his friends he had <sup>a</sup> some enemies as  
every one has. Mr Joseph Turner is sick with  
the same disease of Mr. W. he is attended by Dr Jones of  
Greene. The Dr. ~~thinks~~ thinks that if he lives until  
summer he may get better. Our Society is going along  
very well we have got 37 <sup>4</sup> members, all are very  
much interested in the meetings, we have new members  
at most every meeting. Charlie is gone to Alee Prayer  
Meeting he said he would send his love to you, and that  
that he would write to you after he got to Kent's Hill.  
Father & mother has got their Daguerreotypes taken  
they have not brought them home yet. Grandmother  
has had hers taken too, it is here mother paid for  
it. Father is going down to Augusta tomorrow and will  
bring them home, Thomas H. Longley has got the  
Measles no one in Mr. L's family has had them  
except himself five in one family has not had  
them, don't you wish you had had them?

Remember me to your Good night, Remember  
me to your affectionate Brother P. H. Gilman  
P. S. write to me next Otis. Rod.



Dear Otis,

Sunday March 14, '53

I have delayed writing to you for some time but it has not been because I have forgotten you. No. The fact is I should write you very much oftener if you did not hear from me or I thought you did not hear from me through another source.

This is not a good reason why I should not write you and perhaps oftener than I do but it operates as I tell you. For instance if I were sure you had not heard of it I could tell you something of recent event which might interest you as connected with my history but I am quite certain you cannot have remained uninformed of it. So you see I have not the heart to tell you what you what you already know nor is there the need of it. Everything outward, external relating to myself or any of us you hear without my telling you and knowing what transpires without me and around me you have the data at least to judge of my interior life, of the thoughts and desires, fears, hopes and regrets that agitate by turns the soul and with the same old round of eating drinking and study make up what we call living. Old Jack, was here with me and stopped all night last Friday. I ran across him at the cars as he was steaming home



in all impatience after a five months absence  
to greet his lady-love and made him stop all night  
with me. He is just as ever - laughs in the  
same old way and he and I discussed the histories  
of our class-men so far as we could trace them.  
I learned from him that Butler is married - was  
married last fall. There was a fellow of Phil. with  
Jack who knew Butler and told him But had married a  
woman who was reputed rich though it was some  
what doubtful whether it would turn out that he  
really was so. B. is teaching. Bell is reading law,  
Frye too is married to a Miss Spear of Rockland  
when he is settled as a lawyer. So you see they are  
fast going - three out of our class. Jack and  
myself too discussed anew the old subject of  
the women with the new light which the years  
since we left college have shed on it but we did  
not make out to arrive at any different  
conclusions than we used to. The fact is that  
women as in the olden days are somewhat  
frail. Well never mind. They were made so.  
They are not altogether to blame for it. Women  
I suppose must have their way and I would be  
the last one to hinder them from doing as seems  
to them best and if they prefer some silly fop  
with just enough of culture to indulge in com-  
mon place platitudes as such as no man of  
sense would use even if he knew he could not



please without why all is I am ready to give way to them and let the dear Creatures have such of such be their preference, Women of such a Caliber I wish to have nothing to do with.

It is enough to make a fellow mad though to think that he has not discernment enough to tell such a woman and to realize that he has been seduced into bestowing a single thought or care on such a one. You can't tell what a woman is at first glance though that glance be a keen one. It takes a sharp eye to see through a grind-stone or to discern by what smites the sight the spirit and soul of a woman. A sweet face too is a mighty wonder off of scrutiny and one oft times in the pleasant bewilderment of loving does not like to scrutinize too closely lest he discover what he fears to. Miss B. did by me as no woman of any regard for duty or stability of character would have done. Her approach so in the last case were unsolicited. In my own mind I had given up or well nigh given up all expectations of not all desires of winning her love when it came to me unsought as a voluntary offering, full, free and unreserved so different from what I expected that I yielded myself without one doubt to the charm.

She made no hesitation of speaking of herself as myself in the second letter she wrote me



in all  
to greet  
with  
some  
of our  
I leave  
morning  
Jack  
woman  
what  
really  
Frye  
where  
fast  
myself  
the  
since  
not  
could  
woman  
frail  
They  
I suppose  
the  
to the  
with  
more  
seems

Whereas I expected to win her love ~~only~~ by  
stages and much pains and you may well  
conceive that my hopes were highly raised  
as whose would not have been under the  
and that my opinion of her rose with the  
thermometer of her love - that I thought  
her quite discerning in her appreciation  
of me and that my hopes collapsed some  
too suddenly for comfort with the working  
of her whims. It was no long and lingering  
after distrust and fears and jealousy and  
doubt but utter indifference treading on the  
heels of what had worn to me the garb of  
love. I was dreaming

That love-lit eyes were mine to gaze  
berry lips were mine to kiss  
but I was reckoning without my host, in so  
words not yet grown classical I was "cursed & t  
sucked." But I am not ruined yet. Not by a good  
deal. I do not and could not care for her  
I know her, I only regret that I have given  
many kind thoughts to one so I see said quite,  
I am heart-whole yet - how as strong faiths exist  
ever in the faith, truth and purity of some  
women. In general they maybe good but there  
are some exceptions I am slightly inclined  
believe. Do you honor women so do I. Do me  
love women so do I. Have you one to be a  
solace and a comfort and a companion and  
blessing through life, a loving household,  
fireside joy forever, with a smile and a



and loving words and gentle deeds and offices  
affection, after the heat and labor of the day  
come over, to greet you? I hope to have,  
two you hope in times, to come to pillow your  
some on a true breast and feel that you are  
not as now alone, so still do I, as for the part  
as for as the women are concerned I would not  
know it other altogether than it is. As for false  
women damn them - No! that savors of resent-  
ment - Confound them - No, blast them - No  
that wont answer; it dont express my  
feelings which are those of utter unconcern  
kind regard to them - so let them be false - false  
to me, to others, to themselves - false to what  
is true - false to their own higher interests,  
false to everything but their own notion to  
which they can but remain true.

Thursday. I wrote you thus for last Sabbath and  
intended to finish it and send you ere now but  
have kept delaying partly because I did not wish  
to intrude upon you with my own selfish regrets  
though I was conscious all the while that you  
would and did sympathize, deeply, heartily with  
me. You tell me in your letter of to-day that  
one suppon one reason for my not writing you  
is that you give me so much advice  
by no means. You give me good advice



such as you may well give, such as I need such  
as from my heart I thank you for. I have already  
told you in the very first of my letters why I do not  
write you oftener and the real why it is too. I thank  
you then for your letter of today. It did my heart  
good and I count never shedding tears over it  
than I have over anything else. It was a most  
welcome messenger and came to me with hap-  
piness in its wings. No man writes me letters which  
I prize and take to my heart and trust to as I  
do yours. But it is almost eleven o'clock and  
six and all of them scold me for staying so late at  
the office and I must hasten though this is a  
thing on which my pen lingers to linger. I will  
only say however that in all the past I can  
recall no act or word of yours which  
was not dictated by the purest friendship and  
most self-forgetful kindness. — I shall not  
allow myself to be snuffed out by a woman  
I shall try not to become more morose or selfish  
though hopes have faded which were dearer than life  
There is yet doubtless much more for me to do  
to suffer and perchance enjoy. Adieu may  
God bless you and prosper you and keep  
you and may a love that knows not to despair  
ever be as now yours, I have not written  
half I would wish — there are some things in your  
letter I will touch on at a future time

Yours Truly,  
John P. Kelly



My Dear son, Leeds, March, 15<sup>th</sup> 1858.

Saturday evening brought to hand yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> which I need not say met with a hearty welcome, & am glad to see you write in such good spirits, although your irritability does not indicate a very firm state of nerve, but I hope to hear that you are improved in that respect, as such a state of feeling is not always calculated to keep a man firm in an emergency, I had supposed my son that your health was very poor, but I thought your symptoms indicated a poor state of health, such as a dispeptic state which well know, is calculated to destroy the energies, and bring on melancholy feelings, and the sooner they are removed the less havoc will be made with the nervous system, I am glad Rodolphus has visited you, R. B. S. called with me a short time to see Lucretia (the only time I have called this winter, your aunt was gone to Whitton several weeks, with Laura who has had a severe sickness,) I never learnt Rodolphus place of labour until then, his mother thought, from what he wrote to Lucia, that he was not contented, for some reason or other, yesterday I had an invitation to spend the day there, or at Mrs Leadbetters Laura's was there she has recovered her health so as to come home I did not go, I was expecting a cousin from the eastward to visit me, in company with Mrs Lavinie they came and spent the day. Your fathers visit at Harporth is deferred by reason of the railroad business, financing, with them is as brisk as ever, your father has never made out yearly report yet, on account of his not settling with the officers of the company, your uncle C. C. is sometimes gone from home a week at a time carrying forward the railroad debts, and keeping them at bay, he does not want for railroad business yet, neither does your father, Ezra Gilmore, is in the same condition he was, when you were at home, an abscess has been gathering in his back, for several weeks, Roland A. G. was over last Saturday, said A. said



he should have it, lanced the next morning, we have not heard since, both of his others discharge a quantity. Daily he had got quite encouraged about his health before this last abscess took place, H. B. H. called to see Mrs Sampson, found her quite well but had not been out this winter Mr Sampson is gone from home is at Biddeford an overseer of a hatting factory. The same mail that brought your letter one from each of your brothers Charlie has gone to Topsham to study with H. B. H. I am not certain whether it is a good arrangement or not, but time will show. H. has just got under way in his new situation & he says it's harder than he expected I fear he will not be able to accomplish what he has undertaken they will both of them write you how they are getting along I understand Sarah Sargent is at Machias with her husband's relations and Silas is gone to Canada with his father, and Perry is on the <sup>the</sup> Ocean, and Ann is in Brooklyn where you saw her awaiting his return, and then will return to Maine, with him, I feel very much to regret these disappointments I do not put any dependence on Charles's health, H. B. H. tells me esp. Perley's family are in Portland and Mrs Waite and Lizzie board with them and that Uncle Henry taking of a voyage to Australia's I think it might be uncertain whether his great self goes that voyage, I feel as though sister Martha is poorly calculated to be left alone with care of three children, but there, time will carry us through with various destinations, Elden Barnum just called here I did not go out to speak with him, because I wished to mail my letter this mail, and I write so slow I cannot calculate my time or I shall fail, Annilla Barnum has gone to Topsham to attend that Academy, I hope her improvements will meet her <sup>parent's</sup> expectations I really hope H. B. H.'s conduct towards C. T. will not be such as to create expectations, or give occasion for observations by speculating people, for I think it needs improvement in mind and person he might had better be occupied in that way than any other I have no reason for saying this, & only from general gossip

Nancy Emanuel has returned from Monmouth after a fortnight's stay with her older sister whose husband died the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb. all the one of the family that was settled, and now a widow with one child six months old, Nancy has been with us so much she like one of us, and we are interested in all her cares and troubles, we hear from California quite often concerning the distance it is thought that Addison will or is in a good way to reinstate himself again as a prosperous merchant he had at the time of the great fire at Sacramento a freightage of goods arrived in the harbor of San Francisco, he was there at the time of the fire getting them out of the vessel he hamed a stone at San Francisco and kept his business a going on, and has done remarkably well, Ensign Stinchfield told me that Uncle Ezekiel Stinchfield's son, returning from California, with \$1500 dollars, and had made great search for his father but in vain, had let his mother and others of his family have a great part of his money, and returned to California mines, again, I also learned from Brother C. O. and wife who have visited Montville this winter James B. is doing well in California, my sister Fanny's <sup>and</sup> son perhaps you will understand who all the relations are your father has not given up going to Massachusetts and thence to New York yet, I am glad your privilege for hearing preaching is so good, I hope the privilege will be a lasting benefit to you I have not heard many sermons this winter, Mrs Lottrop and her two daughters in law visited me last week, I think them fine women Lizzie has answered Laura's letter and put one in it for Charlie and Lizzie, Nathan Coffin is dangerously sick he sent for Doct Millet at Lewiston yesterday. I have not heard from him to day, it is almost the hour for our mail carrier, and my letter not finished but I must leave a blank sheet yours every (C. Howard,) you will please supply the missing words, (Chas Gilmore)



South Leeds March 15<sup>th</sup> / 53

Dear Brother & sis

I received your letter last Saty night I was much pleas with it. Another received a letter from Popsham from R. B. & C. W. They are both at Topes so Charles is not here to correct my letter. R. B. went to Portland a week ago last Friday noon. G. H. went last Wednesday morning with Mr Barrow & Turilla B. The Temperance men have been doing some great things here in Leeds this Spring. Mr Caleb Sumner had \$100 to pay for selling liquors and he had to pay the cost of the Court which amounted to ~~50~~ - Solomon Lethrope Jr has moved up to Leeds a gain he is going to trading here this Spring he is going to begin to trade the first of April Post is shipping wood here at the ~~time~~ Father will go to Massachusetts the last of this month or the first of next month. Mary went away the first of this month on account of her brother in Law dying she came back yesterday I went out after her at Monmouth I went in to the factory and saw Elizabeth M. Mother has got Aunt Anne minister & Sarah's M. Dancer's wife went down to Hollowell last Thursday and got them. Tomorrow Mr Waines Peck and Stubb, are appointed committee to come and settle up with father tomorrow. You asked me to write all I knew about Santa Anna he was commander <sup>and president</sup> of the Mexican troops at the Bat of San Jacinto he was President of Mexico when General B. C. W. entered Vera Cruz he was commander of the Mexican Army when Taylor was in Monteray he was banished from Mexico after the Americans left Mexico. It is expected







Leeds March 16<sup>th</sup> 1853

Dear Brother

423

I am going to begin a letter to you whether I ever received one from you or not. But I am in hopes I shall get one before I put this in the Mail. I spent about a week at home in the usual manner of our vocations. Talking with my mother, and visiting our neighbors and friends. There was nothing in Leeds especially to interest you except the general welfare of your friends. When I returned, I visited Lizzie, as you doubtless have heard. Her self and mother had not got settled in their new mode of life when I was there and of course was not enjoying it much, but perhaps they will when they become habituated to boarding. Aunt Martha and Saml were well. I did not see Henry. Aunt says he talks much of going to Australia, but I don't think there is much danger of it, as she does. In the first place Henry has not courage enough to undergo the bodily fatigue necessary on such a journey and this and some other reasons are sufficient to keep him from going. Before I went home I went to Pres Woods and besides my own business



asked him, if there was any reason why my brother  
should not have his Diploma? He replied in his  
characteristic way, which you know, every Student  
tries to imitate. None in the world that he knew of. Your  
brother left College bearing, in fact, a very high  
Character. He told me to go to Miss McKean and  
take the Diploma and report progress to him.  
I did accordingly, and returned with the  
Document in hand. The old Gent seemed much  
pleased, and said, tell your brother that we  
shall be very happy to see him whenever he comes  
to Brunswick. I deposited the Diploma with  
Mother, Lizzie says it belongs to her and I  
should have carried it to her if I had thought  
of it. However it is safe, and you are a candidate  
for Secunderum gradum in artibus. At last, I  
have received a letter from you. I got it at the P. O.  
on my way to Brunswick tonight and have just  
finished its perusal, and with it there was also  
a letter from Lizzie. Two welcome messengers!  
You ask, how Lizzie looks? Just about as charming  
as she did in your Jun. Lough. But I suppose it is not  
so much to her beauty as to health, that you refer.  
She has a little cough now but I should think  
nothing serious, probably a common case of the  
season. She was in good spirits although I thought  
feeling, at that time a little embarrassed by her  
new situation. Charles is with me and



will probably write in this or soon after. <sup>474</sup> So I  
will let him speak for himself. Simply  
saying that I think him as well and as  
happy as he has been for some time. Your  
letter suggests matter enough for me to write  
over a number of pages and I hardly know  
where to begin. You like. Pius Piece very well  
you say. I do, rather better than I expected.  
but I own I can't discover all of that beauty  
of style and sentiments in his address that  
newspapers of every political stamp seem  
to allow. I have read it two or three times. but I  
have failed to discover his sentiments on  
what I have learned to regard as the leading  
subjects of the Day. It seems to me a carefully  
written document. but I can't see as it  
possesses any more of open frankness  
and unequivocal plain dealing, or similar  
demonstration, from Presidents Taylor & Fillmore,  
the Sec of War. I take to be a very smart man  
a man who will try to do rather smart and  
perhaps uncommon things. Am I mistaken?  
I cannot see how there can be, long, Concord  
between such discordant elements as  
compose Mr Pierce's Cabinet. Extremes have  
there truly met, and perhaps they will unite.  
You spoke of Gatter. He has come to one  
conclusion and that rather prematurely and



think, that Gov Crosby is an eff. or Locofoco man  
with him are synonymous terms. Of course it  
is rather hard for him to put the second Whig  
Maine has ever had, in that despised class.  
I think it very doubtful, about his going to  
New York, but I am some in hopes, that he  
will make up his mind to go. He is too  
much of a Utilitarian to go unless he has  
business a regular Yankee, I was amused when  
was at home, at a remark of his. Mother said  
I were going down to Aunt Loretta's to make  
a call, I had not been there since my return  
to Leeds. When we were ready to start, Father  
came to the door and in his earnest and  
rather imperative manner, asked where we were  
going? Mother told him. But what's the  
said he, going to make a call - said Mother, and  
what's the object repeated Father with  
more emphasis, and he went away entirely  
in the dark as to what use it was that he  
and I should go down to Mr Leadbeters,  
Our School numbers 70. I work considerable  
hard Afternoons, as I have to take the care  
of the little matches for that time. They are  
a regular rabble. All of the Rogues of Leper  
and Brunswick combined. Selanus is fast  
and I have to put them through I am  
studying yet as much as I ought.



it  
So you said something about writing a decent  
looking letter. and I believe I will keep this  
page in about that trim. But come to look  
back I see it is as bad as the other and so  
I will give it up.

Yourself and Lizzie both write about  
being going to West Point this Summer. The  
evidently seems it a matter of first rate importance  
that she should go. This is right and does honor  
to her affection for you. I am flattered that  
she should wish me to go with her and on  
that account, if from no other, I should  
reindeavor to go. But this aside, the desire  
of being you and taking you by the hand,  
and <sup>the</sup> admiration of the place where you have  
spent four years (or are about to spend) of your  
life. The sight of West Point with its historic  
associations, and the Hudson with its romantic  
scenery, and a thousand minor considerations,  
should be sufficient to do away with all objection-  
able pecuniary character. In fact I have but  
a few scruples on that point concerning almost  
anything I desire. You recollect I went to Boston  
with 5.78 and a clean shirt and for myself  
I should have no hesitating in starting for  
New York with double that amount of  
money and 4 shirts. Which capital I can raise



almost any day. Suffice it to say, that I shall  
come out this Summer if circumstances will  
admit, and you and Lizzy will continue to  
desire it. I could go to New York on two days notice  
and enjoy it just as well as otherwise. But I  
suppose it is different with a young lady, who  
has preparations to make for a journey and  
to meet her intended, so I will write to Lizzy  
and tell her I will go, unless something occurs  
before August to render it inexpedient.  
Last night I heard Mr Abbott lecture on Louis  
Napoleon. The lively style of the writer and the  
present position of the man rendered his subject  
very interesting. It was in the same style as  
his Napoleon Bonaparte, now coming out  
in Harper, and for which he receives \$4000  
per year. He made out Louis rather a fine  
fellow, and justified his present position before  
the world on the same ground that he justified  
the murder of the Duc de Enghien by his uncle  
viz. "He made a virtue of necessity". He has been  
introduced to Louis since he was President,  
and has seen him in many situations. He  
says he is a gloomy, retired man, his smile  
is mournful, and his appearance melancholy.  
I think Nap III. is the most interesting man (political  
speaking) now living. Kossuth would be more so,  
if his efforts were crowned with success. Wait  
again, and still remember your brother, H. C. C.



Inches 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Has the wood pile begun to change its form yet? I believe it will remain the same for some time at least. I don't know how long it will last. I don't know how long it will last. I don't know how long it will last.

Mother, I have some of your letters to you. I have some of your letters to you. I have some of your letters to you.

My Dear Mother: (to Olivia Gilmore)

P.S. You & Mother are thinking of attending soon. Lizzie was last week. I don't know how long it will last. I don't know how long it will last.

Rowland & Charles

Sopsham Mar. 19. 18

I have a good still time, comfortable fire and nothing to annoy me at all, and I will take the opportunity to write you a letter, knowing do that you always are glad to receive letters from absent-boys & sons. Why I have this good opportunity for writing this afternoon is because it is Saturday, and Mr Adams have walked to Brunswick & left with myself to enjoy it. My studies are so hard that I can leave them Saturday afternoons & other times during the week. I also did Rowland, attended a Lyceum lecture at Brunswick. by J.S. Abbott. His subject was Louis Napoleon. He gave a history of this now quite distinguished man from his birth until the present period. He has been to France, & has seen Louis Napoleon. He said, "I have seen him in his private walks, I have seen him in his palace and I have seen him reviewing his army of Eighty thousand men, and he always wore that unhappy countenance". I wish that father might have heard that lecture, I do not think he would have gone to see it even into a "drowse" but I think that it might (I don't say it would) have abated somewhat his dislike of Louis Napoleon. Mr Abbott is a resident of Brunswick. I suppose mother & you are acquainted with his name, for he has written many books, as the lives of the different Kings & Queens of England. He is writing extensively for the (Home) Magazine. The lecture was delivered by

Harpur



interesting to me indeed. Don't know I never heard any thing of this kind  
 before. The tickets were twelve cts. So much for the lotter. I  
 got along well in my studies. I now read Latin like folks take  
 my reading book & read quite fluently is that which is in my lesson,  
 which usually is about 16 lines. I never studied *Psychology* before this  
 term. I like it pretty well. It tells me many thing things  
 which you have before taught me. It says it is a good thing  
 to take exercise in the morning air, which I have done every  
 since I have been here. Yesterday it rained more or less nearly  
 all day & this morning it was very clear & pleasant, and I walked  
 nearly two miles before breakfast. This week Mr Adams has given  
 some rules to his school. I told you I believe that most of the  
 scholars study in school. He is to mark every misdemeanor & when  
 they get thirty they are to be expelled from school. They are to be  
 expelled too if they do not either decline or give a suitable  
 excuse, or if they are not excused by their parents. We have  
 now in school about seventy <sup>There has got to be so many that</sup> scholars. Mr Adams thinks  
 some of getting out some catalogues <sup>for this spring term</sup>. I like the school  
 full as well as I did the first week. I shall have time  
 enough before the end of the term to give it a fair  
 trial. Then I can tell whether it will be best for me  
 to come <sup>here</sup> another term. It has now got to be so far advanced  
 towards evening that I am obliged to have a light, we  
 burn tallow for lights. We are furnished with but one  
 lamp & that with but one wick, which is hardly enough  
 for three of us to study by. Rowland thinks of having six lamps  
 filled with oil. Rowland & Mr Adams came back some  
 time ago. We have eaten supper & Adams has walked home. He goes

I would not care so much for you I come from parents of my friends

I have not been writing a letter  
 I have not been writing a letter  
 I have not been writing a letter

8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
ches







Dear Mother

Chances has left me the page which has no ruling, but I can make it do, and must add to it another half sheet. I have been to Church this forenoon and heard Mr Gillpatrick. This afternoon I shall hear Mr J. C. Fiske of Bethel at the Bethel Meeting. Thursday I received two welcome letters, one from Otis and the other from Lizzie. They both wrote in good health and spirits. Lizzie begins to talk considerably about going to New York. I have told her that I should try to go, if circumstances would permit. The School remains about the same as when I last wrote except an increase in numbers. Lizzie writes that she shall expect you in Portland. They are now quite so pleasantly situated to receive visitors & formally, but your acquaintance with Mrs Perley will make you welcome to all. Aunt Martha will be very glad to see you. Uncle Henry is at present gone a fishing to Moosehead Lake but is expected home soon.

Chances says: Hereafter he will give in three six pages a week & totaling have as  
 before. I will give four with take when I feel like it. Such as Mrs. C.

How the wood pile began to grow its form, get tall & is done. It remains the same of  
 the building and how is the little shop as a commodity looking as here is about now. I am at our house now.  
 If she does, I will remember her name to her father & the other. He has shown some love by a  
 Mother's letter.



17.18

They are thinking of sending Fred to a  
 family school in New Gloucester. The expense  
 is \$250 per year. The school is of the same  
 character as Mr Abbott's at Farmington,  
 except that the no of scholars is smaller.  
 I believe that my friend Mr Sumner has been  
 found guilty of being a common seller of  
 liquor, and I suppose fine. This will  
 do me hard on labels but perhaps it will  
 do him good. The Committee of the Legislature  
 have reported a bill making the Liquor Law  
 to be enforced. So it will be of no  
 use to try to make up fines by selling more  
 liquor. The usual resource of Rum Sellers,  
 the new County judges feared as I expected  
 all of the great ones. The fact  
 that Lewiston like all new places has more  
 civility than influence. Although Halliwell  
 does not have so much of the former, yet her  
 influence in State or County affairs would  
 be twice that of Lewiston. She has older and  
 more influential men. men of wealth and  
 stability of character. While the men of Lewiston  
 are only men of the day. Sprung up like weeds  
 and wither. They are liable to fall as quick. I  
 would <sup>not</sup> trust their smart men a great way in  
 any great undertaking. I was talking with



Charles had the better than when I was at home. He enjoys himself well.

Mr Wilde (the Orthodox minister) yesterday about  
Mr Drummond who writes so much for your paper  
He says he regards him as one of the first  
men in the State for ability and goodness. He  
says that in his opinion they have a superior  
in their denomination as a speaker and  
writer on almost any subject that happens to  
come up. From reading his articles I have  
long been struck by his sound sense, elegant  
style, and ready thoughts. I should feel safe  
in adopting his sentiments, than those of any  
writer which you now read. He has a complete  
education, high talents, and strict integrity of  
principle, besides possessing means for the  
most accurate information of passing events.  
Charles has limited me to three pages of paper within the  
postage and so I must soon stop. Annella I think  
is doing well in her studies, only now and then a  
little domestic. She is reading French, Drawing,  
and practicing on the piano. Her trustful and  
confiding disposition have made her many  
friends among the young ladies. Remember me  
to our friends, and you and Dollie give us a  
letter as soon as you can. Be careful of your  
health this damp Spring for our sake and for  
your own. Recollect that we are hourly thinking  
of you and your welfare. Love to Father, Dollie,  
Lucia and the rest of the family. Remember  
as your affectionate son, Rowland



Topsfield March 20. 1853

My dear brother:

Some time has slipped away since I received your kind, and lengthy as usual, letter. You think I suppose, and why should you not? that there is nothing to prevent and that I might reply to you sooner, I will try then to excuse myself from this tardiness. It was but a day or two before I came to Topsfield that I received your letter. I concluded not to write until I got settled in Topsfield, when that was accomplished. I thought I would wait until Rowland rec- his, for you promised that he should have one when he again got back to Topsfield. Now when this time came which was last Thursday eve, I thought I would answer yours. But as Rowland wished to fill his letter himself, I concluded to put mine off a few days longer. And today being Sunday, I take the opportunity which I have from not being obliged to perform any school tasks. Perhaps you are not aware of the way that I come here, which is in a sleigh with Mr Barrows & Amilla. The same manner as that in which you used to be brought to Bowdoin before the Railroad was built. But now the cars stand ready in most every town to take the passenger and his money. But then, every one if he is to travel any great distance much rather pay for his ticket & go in the cars than by other conveyance. And you would not come home as often as you now do were it not for the Steam Engine. Mr Barrows was kind enough to offer me a free passage in

If you will get this so to reply next Saturday afternoon.

You observed I suppose that my date is Sabbath & if you did not, I believe I have mentioned it before. You would not know did I not - tell you I suppose, but that I have written steadily without stopping since I began. But I have done few different from that. I began this in the intermission between the forenoon & afternoon meeting, after hearing Mr Billpatrick. This afternoon I went to the Orthodox & heard a Mr. Sisker of Beth. About dark Adams came back, having been home and stayed all night. He has been sitting by my table all the evening, talking some & reading Jeremiah some. I gave him your last letter for him to read your description of "Catching Heads". He wishes me to remind him to you. Rowland has been and is now sitting down in the sitting room with the ladies. I finished these pages in a letter for home to mother today & Rowland has written three or mother will have a long letter of six pages in Tues. mail. We sent her one of six pages last week too. If she puts one in to the mail yesterday we shall get it Monday or Tues. I really do want to be home. It has now got to be nearly if not quite ten o'clock & I must close, & repair to my bed, or I shall not rise early enough to take my usual walk before breakfast. You have not the time to write Rowland & me separate letters, & I will not ask you to do that when we are together. I don't think you will want me to write much more if I do not do better than I have in this last page, for I see I have written it rather badly. I find that I grow worse on every few lines so I will bring this to a close by reminding you that I have not brought it to it. I remain Your affectionate Brother C. Howard

Very much, my dear brother, for I see I have scribbled over the whole of a sheet. Because the Sabbath is over? Good night

Monday morning while Mr Adams & Rowland are present at my table. I have read my writing over & corrected all the mistakes I see. Please call on me if you can.



his sleigh, so I sent my trunk by express & rode down with him. By this I saved roots, (for I was obliged to pay a dollar for the passage of my trunk,) and so I have not a great abundance of money, I was glad to do this. Rowland came down several days before I did & went into Portland as you know. When I came Mr B. stopped at Mr Billpatrick's & I in pursuit of Rowland started, whom by the direction of Mr B. I soon found at his boarding place, Mrs Frost's, I room with him and Mr Adams. We have two rooms but only one fire. My studies this term are five, viz. Latin grammar & Caesar Algebra Physiology & Arithmetic. I have your old Young's Algebra and am studying it with as much desire to go ahead, if not as much go ahead as you used to. For I wish to be as good a scholar as you and as any one, but I don't suppose that I can be. I read about one Section in Caesar a day. There are two in my class besides me. Rowland is our teacher. Suffer hears my class in Algebra, perhaps you know him, he is a seaman at Bowdoin. Most of the scholars that attend here study in school but I do not. For I cannot study so well & it being about a quarter of a mile from Mrs Frost's up to the Acad. I derive considerable exercise from not studying in school. I attended the lecture by Mr Abbott at Brunswick the other night, I suppose Rowland gave you an account of it. I never went to a lecture of the kind before. It interested me very much.

I have not heard from home since I came here. I left mother as well as usual. She was as watchful as ever to see that I had everything that would conduce at all to my comfort. She must have been very tired after fixing me away, for she worked sewing very steadily for several days before I left. First - Rowland came home with a lot of roads to be mended. Then when I began to pack my trunk I found many garments which wanted repairing. I hope mother will go to Portland this spring for I think she will enjoy it very much, and Lizzie seems to be anticipating it with much pleasure. And Aunt Martha forewants her to come very much too. I have not heard from home for so long that I cannot tell you much news from there. Perhaps you have had a letter since we have. I don't know yet whether father is going to New York this spring or not, I hope he will on your account. You mention sometimes my coming to New York this summer, I should like to very much. ~~Go~~<sup>Go</sup> and see the scenes which have now become so familiar to me, besides seeing my brother Otis. And this summer you are to have an Exhibition at N. Y. City. That alone I suppose will cause thousands and thousands to visit that city. Colonel A. was saying before I left home that he should go to the Exhibition, if he lived & had his health. I think it somewhat of a doubt though whether he will go.







Then a train again to P. at 12 o'clock, returning at 3 o'clock. I am at the fair another at  
about 4 o'clock and return at about 10 o'clock - half past 10 in the evening.

This spring, for I believe you mentioned three  
brothers Mr Cary (who you say is buried) who are  
very sick, and I forget - his father who makes  
the number five. You did not mention their disease  
but Rowland met with Old Mrs Gilbert  
(Benj. G's wife) who told him all about Leeds folks  
she said that Dr Millitt said that it was  
doubtful whether Nathan Coffin ever recovered  
from his trouble at the Leys. Now this is  
sad certainly. When I first heard of his illness  
I thought it nothing serious, and still I hope  
he will recover. She also said that Amanda  
Gilbert, had an attack of Numb Palsy in his  
arm. This is also dreadful, for likely he never  
will again be able to use his arm. This makes  
me think of Uncle Ezekiel, then I suppose  
(by what you say) that he has gone to his long home  
if it is so, we cannot help it.

But mother: We again were gladdened with  
a letter from you Thursday morning, which was  
given I suppose to Mr Leonard on Tuesday. Then  
came out to Portland from Greene on ~~Monday~~ <sup>Wednesday</sup>  
and then came down here Thursday morning, in the morning  
train of cars from P. which got here about eight  
o'clock. There are trains of cars on this road  
at most all times of the day. In the morning  
the train from Augusta gets here about 7  
o'clock. There is one from the other way at 10.

Give my love to Mother & tell her to write me a long letter  
to tell me of her & her folks. I wish her to tell me of her & her folks.



I have just returned from a phreer meeting  
I have just returned from a phreer meeting  
I have just returned from a phreer meeting

I think that it must be late for my eye with about 20 Good night  
very likely you are looking now to see it is best for the night

I have just returned from a phreer meeting  
up to the Baptist Church, having been absent  
from any letter over an hour. Aurilla was there.  
We have an organ but not a very large one  
at the Baptist house. - I see that you we  
have very pleasant weather, for I think I never  
saw a pleasanter day than we had here last  
Sunday & also Monday. In the roads it was quite  
dry & good waggoning here until this afternoon,  
when just enough snow fell to make it  
muddy. I suppose very likely you have not yet  
to using wheels yet this spring, although I have  
not seen a sleigh here for a long time.

You ask if my studies are hard or if I find it  
hard to get any lessons? No not very, although I should  
like to get along a little faster in algebra, but I am  
as far advanced as any who have not studied it before.  
[As to Dr H's pills I think that they do not <sup>have</sup> much if any  
effect upon me. ~~How~~ I am as well as I was when at  
home I think every way.] I have not taken my Syrup  
regularly which you made me, for I have been about  
as free from a cough as ever I was, but I find within  
a day or two that I have caught a slight cold and  
must try the medicine. I said I had not taken it  
regularly, yet I have taken it most every morning  
before breakfast. We have not yet a letter from  
Dr's since our last. Have you heard from him, mother?  
You did not mention about going to Portland in your letter.

From your Mother  
John  
Charles



Monday Morning

Dear Mother

Charles has as usual left me  
 page and I will make the best of it. The  
 has risen clear, bright and beautiful  
 morning, and shines in at our windows  
 very pleasantly. I attended Church a  
 day yesterday and heard Mr Gillpatrick  
 Hee does not improve much and I now  
 how Topsham people tolerate him. The  
 is now well settled, and the walking  
 here and the Academy is fine. The ice  
 left the river and I can see it plain  
 from my window looking as blue as  
 sky. On Thursday Mr Adams went to  
 wedding of one of his friends and left  
 me with the entire charge of the  
 I succeeded very well. On Saturday I  
 the Librarian and took out some books. I  
 not find time to read myself. I  
 But Mrs Frost likes to read and I get  
 for her. So much sickness and death  
 in Leeds make one feel a little melancholy  
 But Hee doth all thinks well.  
 In my reflections on these matters I  
 always contemplate my own death with  
 complacency than the death of friends.



I have thought that there were those with whom I could  
not part forever. It seems as if it would be more  
than the human heart could bear, unbroken, but  
our day, our strength shall be. When we are filling  
the future with mournful pangs, the covering of the  
ties of love and friendship, the parting with those  
kind to us. What sweet consolation there is in that  
little. I should say great promise, that strength  
will be given us to bear them all,

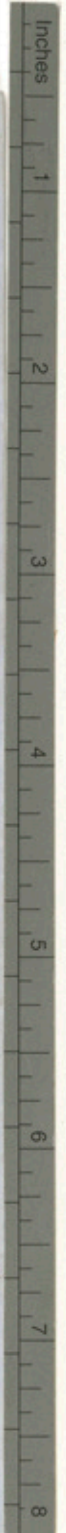
We have been peeping some of these moonlight  
evenings very pleasantly. I thought that Charles had  
not mentioned them. He has enjoyed them  
finely. Two evening our young ladies have boiled  
some molasses and invited us down about eight  
o'clock, to help them work it. You may imagine  
that we had a jolly time. We have attended a  
big party also. One of our scholars made one and  
invited her schoolmates and teachers. I could  
I am sure that Charles should go there myself. That  
he might begin to understand the usages of  
Society. Topsham people are by no means pattern  
of politeness and good breeding in all things. Yet  
the ladies display more ease and refinement  
in manners and much better taste in dress than  
those of Leeces or in fact many places of a  
larger population than Topsham. The vicinity  
of the college serves to raise their standard of  
civilization and gives them a taste for study



I made up my mind when I saw Nathan Coffin that there was not a better time  
much of any direct inflammation on the lungs. I thought that less coughs were  
with inhaled contact or out of the throat.

and reading that they may associate with  
educated men and students on more of sea  
years. My health is good. I am now taking  
some bitters prescribed by Prof Peaslee with  
whom I consulted in regard to my health.  
He is a professor in the Medical School and  
in account of his extensive and accurate  
knowledge, and long experience, probably  
is well qualified as any man in the United  
States for medical practice. I conversed with  
him about Charles, Keel Spoke (I did not name  
any one but gave him the symptoms and asked his  
advice) very encouragingly and said. One  
great thing was to keep up good spirits, take  
active exercise, bathe in cold water and  
the disease would gradually wear off. It would  
not do to stop it suddenly. When I see you  
I will tell you more, suffice it to say I was  
greatly encouraged, and Charles is also.  
Remember me to all, tell Della we like  
his letters first rate. I have got a  
letter about half done to Lizzie. Shall send  
it tomorrow. Keracio Howard thinks some  
of going South in his vacation, which occurs  
about the same time as mine. If he does I shall  
invite him to our house <sup>from New York</sup>  
and afterwards visit with me <sup>at Westford</sup>  
places in the town. My best  
affection to the boys.

Your affectionate son  
Rowland





Excuse the blot since I have  
not time to copy.

full. such as his brother's name &c. He spells very  
well; he must form the habit of spelling everything  
correctly. else he will find by & by difficulty in correcting  
habitual errors. I have never been accurate enough -  
How much better to know a little of that little perfectly -  
than to have the brain filled with a heterogeneous & unwieldy  
mass of imperfect ideas. I believe Charlie takes the proper  
course. he used to do so. never being satisfied with an  
imperfect knowledge of whatever he undertook to study.  
Dellie must follow a similar course. What he learns  
learn thoroughly. I shall remain in the army a year  
or two & perhaps more after I graduate. It would  
be hardly right to resign immediately and after being  
at the expense of getting an officer's furlough in full  
which is very costly. I cannot afford to leave till  
I have received some return for the expense. In any  
corps but the Engineers the duties of an officer do not  
exceed three hours a day. I mean a second <sup>Lieutenant</sup> ~~Lieutenant~~ -  
So there will be abundant time for studying a profession  
and fitting myself for civil life while I remain under  
Uncle Sam. I will some time explain to you in  
full my intentions & my reasons. - I always have a  
set of plans laid out. I may fulfill my purposes &  
I may not. I can well, give my love to all. Roland  
& when he comes to the World's fair will visit me of course  
since he can come up for almost nothing & in little time  
I want to see father. Your affectionate son W. Howard.

W. Howard

West Point, Mar 27. 1858.

My dear Mother,

I did mean that you  
should receive a letter from me last evening, but as I did  
not write it on the Sat. or Sunday preceding, I failed to mail  
one for you in the middle of the week. The reason would  
be apparent to you if you should know the amount of  
Chemistry I have to get now at a lesson, considering too  
that Chemistry requires merely the exertion of memory, in  
which the majority of my class are fully equal to me. The  
subject is really interesting & easy to understand, but there  
is so much detail. so many manipulations, numbers, figures  
formulas & substances with which to burden the memory  
that this study costs me more time & closer application  
than any other. Our infantry drills & dress parades commenced  
two some time ago. I am not apt to write excuses to fill  
up my letters with, but I tell you this, to show you that  
it is not a wilful negligence, that I do not write my  
mother oftener. If you wish it I can write you a few  
lines every week, but I never receive such short  
epistles & I imagine that you prefer to see the sheet  
full. Lizzie is counting strongly on getting a visit  
from you, and perhaps you are there already. Papa  
Rowland & Charlie have each written me long letters which  
lie before me unanswered. Charlie says he has both



just written to mother. Charlie tells me how hard mother  
had to work to fix him away. He is a good, affectionate  
pure minded boy, and I hope he will remain so  
I expect the same to correspond with my brothers all  
I would be glad to. I am very happy to know that both  
are sprightly, intelligent and persevering - storing their  
minds with useful knowledge. If God spares our  
lives & permits us health & strength, we hope to do  
honor to the mother who has sacrificed so much for  
our welfare and is willing even to give up everything  
for our happiness & prosperity. Though I seldom speak  
of it, I am far from insensible to my mother's kindness  
and anxieties. I have done little to make her happy -  
but it is a negative virtue to which I aspire, to do nothing  
which will make her unhappy. I am old enough now  
and wise enough to trace the finger of Providence in  
almost every thing, that, through my mother's instrumentality  
and foresight has made us what we are, and given us  
the privileges we enjoy. Nothing but ourselves can hinder  
us from making men. You say you are glad I have  
the privilege of hearing preaching. I am glad too. - I do  
not know as I ever will be a very good Christian, but  
I enjoy preaching, and love to reflect at times on subjects  
appertaining thereto, and I take pleasure in striving to do  
right. I truly believe the Bible and why I am not a Christian  
I cannot tell. I suspect it is on account of ambition & vanity

You would not call me vain. Vanity manifests itself in more  
ways than one, and the best test is to ask one's self if he is  
constantly inquiring what people about him are thinking  
of him - he may be vain of his character - vain of his position  
vain of his talents. All these feelings which spring from a  
common principle hinder him from bowing before his  
Savior in that humility of spirit, which is essential to his  
receiving a blessing. Ambition too is in direct contrariety  
to the principle of humility, excepting the latter is assumed  
as a hypocritical garb to cover a black heart, and aid  
in attaining to ambitious ends. But enough of dissertation  
It is not befitting a letter. I heard a good sermon to day  
on the Resurrection - It was preached because it is Easter  
Sunday. The Episcopalians make much of this day and it  
is well thus to commemorate the annual return of this day -  
I mean the anniversary of one of the grandest era in the  
affairs of mankind. We discussed at the Bible Class this  
afternoon the first six verses of the seventh chapter of  
Romans which always puzzles the common reader so  
much to fully understand. Rowland says he deposited my  
Diploma with you. Lizzie wanted it, Rowland says - so I am  
now A. B. in reality - some of my classmates put on the  
A. B. in directing their letters - but I forbade it; while  
I am a Cadet. Cadet must be my prefix. Delle wrote  
me a very good letter the last time he wrote me - Tell  
him not to use abbreviations but to write out everything in



has had a pretty hard time. I am sorry to  
hear of the Rail Road accident, \$1000 is a heavy  
loss for a poor man or a poor Corporation,  
almost equal, I should think, the net earnings  
for a month. Our School increases some every  
week but does not advance much in Character.  
The Young Ladies Department is quite respectable  
in point of age and education. but the Boys  
are very backward. Especially the larger ones.  
Otis has ~~not~~ written us but one letter yet since  
we have been here. but we are expecting one  
every day. We shall love to have one  
from you and Nellie. Tomorrow morning. but  
not much. You speak of the low state of  
moral and religious feeling in Leeds. I know  
that it is a fact that it is very low. but I do  
not despair I hope there is a better time coming.  
I am not much of a Churchman. but I do believe  
that what Leeds people most need. to put an  
end to their foolish peaces and contemptible  
quarrels. is a little more of the true spirit  
of the Christian religion. The removal of one  
man. or half a dozen. would help the matter any.  
I could not leave with McLinton and would  
with Mr Barrows. The fact is things would be better  
until the people as a people are radically reformed  
or anticipated. which last remedy, I fear. would not  
be much of a loss to the world, but if there are the good  
men &c? You recollect the quotation. Love to all <sup>Remain</sup>

Rowland & Charles  
My dear Mother Mar 30, 53 Wednesday eve March 30, 53  
I will this evening do as I agreed in my  
last letter, by writing, so that you shall rec it by Sat-  
's mail. We have not yet rec a letter, but I hope we  
shall have one by tomorrow morning, which is the usual  
time for getting them when they are mailed or handed to  
Mr Leonard on Tuesday. You see that it is now Wednesday.  
It is but a short time (last Monday I believe) since we  
mailed our last, so this will be minus much news, but  
it will inform you another, that your sons, or one of them  
at least. for Rowland has written for himself, is in good  
good health & spirits; for I believe with me neither of them  
were ever much nearer to perfection than they are this  
evening. Rowland & I are sitting here all alone in our room  
with no one so molest as annoy us in any way, Mr Adams  
having gone to the Unitarian Society meeting, of which  
he is a member and which meets at Brunswick every  
week. As he I believe has written, we have just  
returned from a long walk alone with each other. We passed  
the time & walk very pleasantly, we talked of home &  
friends, times past & present. Oh! how much pleasant it  
is to be with my brothers & friends than among strangers.  
When we got home <sup>back</sup> tonight from our walk Mrs Brown  
told us, that we had had callers or that she had had some  
who inquired for us, they were Miss Ann Gillpatrick & Miss  
Aurilla Barrows, she said that they were going to  
the prayer meeting tonight. I do not see it very often  
the last time that I saw her to speak with  
her she said that she was not - home sick now



By looking at the before spoken of Antichrist which is just my own  
view upon the

I am glad of this for I do not know what we  
should have done if she had remained so  
long. I don't know but she would have to have  
been sent home in the cars, I shouldn't think that  
she could remain so long in the presence of  
Aunt, for I tell you she is a lively one.

Oh! Mother has Spring arrived up to Leeds  
yet! I consider Spring as come when the robins  
begin to sing their joyful songs. I don't have heard  
here in the morning while I have been at my walks.  
The ladies begin to speak of May flowers but I  
have not seen any thing more than their green leaves  
yet; we shall have some though in a few days. It is  
now, about 3 o'clock, what is generally called "settled  
weather" the streets are now being quite dry. And  
I also observed yesterday that the ice had all left  
the river, I suppose the heavy breakers as quick  
or nearly as this river. Then the boats will begin to run  
& very likely much business and gravel will be taken from  
the Railroad. The other day Mrs. Forest let me take  
her watch to keep hanging in my room, so as to tell when  
to go to visitations. She said that as she did not  
need it, if I would take care of it & wind it up  
regularly, she had no objection I would have it as not.  
It is a gold watch, which cost about 30 dollars. <sup>Send it</sup>

Thursday Morning. This is a delightful morning the  
sun shines very bright & the air is clear. I have  
just been to breakfast & have not yet been to the  
P.O. I've find a letter there we shall. Put in within half street  
From your Aff. Son <sup>Wm. C. Howard</sup>

blackly

P.S. I find that last night in the dark, I began to write very  
give my love to Dottie & tell him that I go out our next  
will be to know Charles  
Topsam March 31/53.

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Dear Mother

Charles and I were thinking tonight  
that it would be pleasant for you to have  
your letters on Saturday than Tuesday. So  
we concluded to begin this week in making  
the change. After threatening rain a while  
in the morning, it cleared off beautifully,  
and we have had one of the pleasant days  
of this pleasant March. We have taken  
a walk tonight of over a mile in length  
and have just come in. The Northern lights  
begin to show themselves brilliantly and will  
fair to make this evening quite more lovely.

I hope everything is pleasant and all  
happy at our home tonight. I hope that you  
especially are well and enjoying yourself.  
The week with us has passed, so far, with but  
few occurrences to interest you. Today, I  
have nothing to do but study, as the school keeps  
in the forenoon only. So I get Wednesday and  
Saturday entire. Mrs. Forté was here the  
other day and wishes to be remembered to  
her Leeds friends. One of her daughters is  
in Brunswick under the care of Dr. Peaslee.  
She has had a tumor taken from her face. I  
believe she is now doing well, although she