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438 3/6/1853

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0413

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 6th 1853

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 Rodelphus Leadbeter, who has been for some time break man on the road over the river, came to see me. After returning from Chemistry at 12, the officer 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 Rodelphus. 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 his 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 Saber & musket exercises. We 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. Rodelphus 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 & I am glad. I had made up my mind, if the term of our stay had been extended as it was rumored, 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 bye & bye.

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? Rodelphus said I look rather thin in the face and as all cadets do excessively 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 is a small thing I suppose, so 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.

We had a strong sermon today 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. We take him all in 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 Judgement.

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 "hived" 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 Ollie got to be a big boy? I would like much to correspond with them all at 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 Dellie think I neglect him - perhaps I do. I will write him now. So good night; from your affectionate Son.

O. O. Howard

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439 3/6/1853

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0414

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 6th 1853

My dear Dear Dellie

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 scrawl. I had an excellent ride on horseback yesterday on a horse called Santa Anna. Do you know from what 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 slate - 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 & cut the "heads of bran", which I told Charlie of in his letter, I drew my saber, 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 headway that I did not have time to rise up & make my second cut after cutting the head on the ground, but I had a splendid ride. Would you like such 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 Murah. Now tell me if you know 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 Marechal) - 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, who 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 fellow sleep in the guard room on the hard benches or seats, so as to be here in the morning. One night a Cadet who was "officer of the day", found one there at 'taps' at ten o'clock at night sound a sleep - he took pity on the little fellow. Got some old guard cloaks, wrapped him up - and he had a 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.

Otis

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440 3/8/1853

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0415a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 8th 1853

Dear Mother

It is Tuesday 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 Lizzie has a bad cold. Lizzie and Mrs W board with Esq Perley who has all of his family with him in Portland. They are not fairly settled. I think that neither enjoy the arrangement as yet very well. I called to see Aunt Martha and staid 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 Barrows but I cannot get ready soon enough and perhaps you will rec 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 ruled.

Aunt Martha is very anxious that you should come to Portland, when Father goes on west. She thinks she shall break up housekeeping if Henry goes away. If she does, she will leave Portland. Henry talks a great deal of going to Australia. I think the bodily fatigue if nothing else will be sufficient to prevent him from going.

There are three young Ladies here making with Charles myself and Mr Adams six boarders. It is half past nine in the evening and the cars are just passing along. They 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 forenoons but evenings I do not feel much like it yet.

I have not had a letter from Otis, 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 Dickeys 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

[This continues on the next letter from Charles on March 9, 1853.]

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441 3/9/1853      *From:* Charl [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0415b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This continues from the previous letter from Rowland on March 8, 1853.]

[Topsham] March 9th 1853

My Dear Mother;

I sit now to write you my first letter after having arrived at Topsham and to confirm what I see Rowland has already written in regard to my reaching here with safety and soundness. I was not sorry when I got to my journey's end, for I began to grow tired, somewhat, of riding when I reached Topsham. When we were just by Mr Gilpatrick'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 Gilpatrick. I had no trouble in finding it. When I rang the Doorbell Mrs Frost 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 some what hungry, so eat a good hearty meal. Soon after supper Rowland went over to Mr Gs 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'. There is no stove in my room, so I shall be obliged to study in Rowland's which I am now in. I have a large closet as large as Dellie's & my bedroom.

Rowland went to Brunswick express office this forenoon & there found my trunk. He (the express officer) is going to bring it over this afternoon. The bill was one dollar, rather more than I expected. My Trunk has just arrived looking just as it did when I shut it. Dellie's apples & all. Tell Dellie that Rowland laughed heartily when I showed him the apples which he put in.

Rowland is now sleeping soundly on a kind of lounge which we have in our room. It is neither a chair nor a lounge, but something 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 watches if he was willing but I forgot it again. Rowland wants one very much & I certainly should like to know what time it is now. I think it <> must be considerably after three o'clock in the afternoon. Rowland keeps up his snoring.

Perhaps you will wonder why we are not both at school. School does not keep Wednesday afternoon.

Saturday P.M.

I find that the school is not as well classed here as at Kents Hill. It seems very much like a town school. I study in the Academy mostly, but I think I shall study in my room. Our windows are right in sight of the cars. I have seen them go past nearby.

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 I have experienced today 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 brightly yesterday, that it made my face pretty red last night & today, and so 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 away.

Thursday morning.  
Dear Mother

I rose this morning about as early as I did when at home, about 4. It is half past now and Rowland and Mr Adams are 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 but 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 me to. I suppose it is of no use to send this today for you will not get it until Saturday. I guess you will think this is my journal that I have 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 was very 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 Topsham. Rowland assists now in the forenoon, and I do not have any recitations so he & I am here all alone. I have concluded to study Physiology, Latin Grammar & Caesar & Algebra.

My letter must go this (Friday) morning & so it must be finished. Give my love to Dellie & tell him to write much in your next letter which 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 school yards were all quite small here especially the boys. This is not like Kents Hill Acad at all.

Give my love to all of the family & Good Bye to them & you Mother.

From you Affectionate Son  
Charl

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442 3/14/1853 *From:* Peleg [Perley]

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0417

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Sunday March 14, 53

Dear Otis,

I have delayed writing to you for sometime 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 events 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 already know nor is there the need of it. Every thing 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 at 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 where 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 Chum, 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 common place platitudes 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 if 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 cant 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 meets the sight the spirit and soul of a woman. A sweet face too is a mighty warder off of scrutiny and are oftentimes 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 as in the last case were unsolicited. In my own mind, I had given up or well nigh given up all expectations if 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 my one in the second letter she wrote me 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 <case> 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 <> 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 <go>  
Dewey lips were mine to kiss

but I was reckoning without my host in <> words not yet grown classical I was "Cussed" sacked. But I am not

ruined yet. Not by a good deal. I do not and could not care for her <till> I know her, I only regret that I have given <> many kind thoughts to one so Je ne sais quoi. I am heart-whole yet - have as strong faith as ever in the faith, truth and purity of some women. In general they maybe good but there are some exceptions I am slightly inclined to believe. Do you honor women so do I. Do men love women so do I. Have you one to be a solace and a comfort and a companion and a blessing through life, a loving, household fireside joy forever, with a smile and a <> and loving words and gentle deeds and <> affection, after the heat and labor of the day are over to greet you? I hope to have <> you hope in times to come to pillow your head on a true breast and feel that you are not as now alone, so still do I. As for the past as far as the women are concerned, I would not have it other altogether than it is. As for false women damn them. No! That savors of resentment - Confound them - No, blast them - No <> wont answer; it don't express my feelings which are those of utter unconcern in 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 else to everything but their own nature 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 the hour 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 could and did sympathize, deeply, heartily with me. You tell me in your letter of to-day that you suppose 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 letter why I do not write you oftener and the real why it is too. I thank you chum for your letter of to-day. It did my heart good and I come nearer shedding tears over it than I have over anything else. It was a most welcome messenger and came to me with <> 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 Liz and all of them scold me for staying so late of the Office and I must hasten though this is a theme on which my pen loves to linger. I will only say Howard that in all the past I can recall no act or word of yours which was not dictated by the purest friendships and most self-forgetful kindness. I shall not allow myself to be snuffed out by a woman & 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.

Howard, may God bless you and prosper you and keep you and many a loves 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  
Peleg



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443 3/15/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O O Howard

OOH-0418

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 15th 1853

My Dear Son,

Saturday evening brought to hand your's of the 6th, which I need not say met with a hearty welcome. I am glad to see you write in such good spirits, although your excitability 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 not 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 I well know, is calculated to destroy the energies, and bring on melancholy feeling, and the sooner they are removed the less havoc will be made with the nervous system.

I am glad Rodelphus [Leadbetter] has visited you. R.B.H. called with me a short time to see [Aunt] Lucretia [Leadbetter] the only time I have called this winter. Your aunt was gone to Winthrop several weeks with Laura who has had a severe sickness. I never learnt Rodelphus' place of labour until then. His mother thought, from what he wrote to Lutia, 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 Davie. They came and spent the day.

Your fathers visit at New York is deferred by reason of the railroad business, <financiering> with them is as brisk as ever. Your father has never made out his yearly report yet on account of his not settling with the officers of the company. Your Uncle E. O. [Ensign Otis] 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.

Arza 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 discharged a quantity daily. He had got quite encouraged about his health before this last abscess took place.

R.B.H. called to see Mrs Sampson, found her quite <> but had not been out this winter. Mr Sampson is gone from home, is at Bidaford, an overseer of a batting factory.

The same mail that brought your letter, one from each of your brothers. Charlie has gone to Topsham to study with R.B.H. I am not certain whether it is a good arrangement or not, but time will show. R.B. has just got underway in his new situation. He says it is 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 husbands relations and Silas is gone to Canada with his father, and Perry is on the Ocean, and Ann is in Brooklin where you saw her awaiting his return, and then will return to Maine, with him. I feel very much to regret, their disappointments.

I do not put any dependance on Charles' health. R.B.H. tells me Esq. Perleys family are in Portland and Mrs Waite and Lizzie board with them and that Uncle Henry talking of a voyage to Australia. I think it mighty 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.

Elder Barrows 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 must calculate my time or I shall fail. Aurrilla Barrows has gone to Topsham to attend that Academy. I hope her improvements will meet her parent's expectations. I really hope R.B.H.'s conduct towards A. will not be such as to create expectations, or give occasion for observations by speculating people, for I think A needs improvement in mind and person. Her mind had better be occupied in that way than any other. I have no reason for saying this, only from general gossip.

Nancy Manwell has returned from Monmouth after a fortnight stay with her older sister whose husband died the 26th of Feb. All the one of the family that was settled, and now a widdow 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 considering 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 hired a store at San Francisco and kept his business a going on, and has done remarkably well. Ensign Stinchfield told me that Uncle Ezekiel Stinchfields son, returned 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 E. O. and wife who have visited Montville this Winter James B. [James Otis Bartlett, son of Jonathan Bartlett and Fanny Otis, Eliza's oldest sister] is doing well in California. My sister Fanny's 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 Lothrop 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 Dellie. 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 ever.  
You will please supply the missing words

Eliza Gilmore

OO Howard

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444 3/15/1853    *From:* Dellie [RH Gilmore]    *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0419                      South Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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South Leeds March 15th /53

Dear Brother Otis

I received your letter last Sat'y night I was much pleas with it. Mother a received letter from Topsham from R.B. & C.H. They are both at Topsham so Charles is not here to correct my letter. R.B. went to Portland a week ago last Friday noon. C.H. went last Wednesday morning with Mr Barrows & Aurilla B.

The Temperance men have been doing some great things here in LEEDS this spring. Mr Caleb Sumner had \$100 to pay for selling liqors and he had to pay the cost of the court which amounted to \$200. Solomon Lothrop Jr has moved up to Leeds again. He is going to trading here this spring. He is going to begin to trade the first of April. R.A. is chopping wood here at the door. Father will go to Massachusetts the last of this month or the first of next month. Nancy 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 Ann's miniature & Sarah's. Mr Davee's wife went down to Hallowell last Thurs'y and got them. Tomorrow Mr Haines, Read and Stubbs 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 and president of the Mexican troops at the Bat of San Jacinto. He was President of Mexico when General Scott 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 that he will be called again president of Mexico. As for Murat I never read much in history about him. He was one of Napoleons 1st commandant in the army he was about the same as our Major General. He was king of Naples and his wife was sister to Napoleon 1st therefore Napoleon made him king of Naples after conquering that nation.

Father is Treasurer of Leeds again this year. He got all but one of the votes. We have got some of the smarter Select men this year. They are 1st Harvey Bates 2nd Stillman L Howard 3rd Isaac True Boothby. We have got a man to work on this great farm. It is Samuel Langley. I suppose you know him. He lives in Greene upon the Mountain as they call it. It is expected that Solomon Lothrop will be P Master and will be licenced to sell Liqor. Amial Jones is here visiting. Mr Barrows is here. William Hallowell was here this morning. He had to make his mark so fashion X. So good by.

Write soon. From your affectionate brother

Dellie

To O O Howard

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445 3/16/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0420 Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 16th 1853

Dear Brother

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 Vacations, 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. Herself and mother had not got settled in their new mode of life when I was there and of course were not enjoying it much, but perhaps they will when they become habituated to boarding.

Aunt Martha and family 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 Treas McKeens 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 "Secundun graden 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 messages! You ask how Lizzie looks? Just about as charming as she did in your Furlough. 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 cold 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. 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 suggest matter enough for me to write over a number of pages and I hardly know where to begin. You like Pres Pierce [President Franklin Pierce] very well you say. I do, rather better than I expected to, but I own I can't discover all of that beauty of style and sentiment 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 if so much of open frankness and unequivocal plain dealing as similar lamentations from Presidents Taylor to Fillmore, The Sec of 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 can not see how there can be, long, Concord between such discordant elements as compose Mr Pierces Cabinet. Extremes have thus truly met, and perhaps they will unite.

You spoke of Father. he has come to one conclusion and that rather prematurely and think, that Gov Crosby is an ass, or Locofoco who with him are synonemous terms. Of course it is rather hard for him to put the second Whig Gov 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 I was at home, at a remark of his. Mother and I were going down to Aunt Lucretia's to make her 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 when we were going? Mother told him. But What's the object said he, Going to make a call, said Mother. But what's the object repeated Father with still more emphasis. And he went away entirely in the dark as to what use it was that she and I should go down to Mr Leadbeters.

Our school numbers 70. I work considerable hard afternoons as I have to take the control of the little wretches for that time. They are a regular rabble. All of the rogues of Topsham and Brunswick combined. Adams is back and I have to put them through. I am studying yet as much as I ought.

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 at it I see it is as bad as the other and so I will give it up.

Yourself and Lizzie both write about my going to West Point this Summer. She evidently deems it a matter of first rate importance that she should go. This is right and does honor in 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 endeavor to go. But this aside, the desire of seeing you and taking you by the hand, and the examination of the place where you have spent four years (or are about to spend) of your life. The sight of West Point with its historical associations, and the Hudson with its romantic beauty and a thousand minor considerations, would be sufficient to do away with all objections of a pecuniary character. In fact I have but a few scruples on that point concerning almost any thing I desire. You recollect I went to Boston with 5.\$ and a clean Shirt and for myself I should have no hesitancy in starting for New York with double that amount of money and of 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 Lizzie 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 Lizzie 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 Harpers and for which he receives \$4000.00 per year. He made out Louis rather a fine fellow, and justified his present position before the world on the same ground that he justifies the murder of the Duc de Eughein 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 (politically speaking) now living. Kossuth would be more so if his efforts were crowned with success.

Write again, and still remember your brother  
Rowland

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446 3/19/1853 *From:* C.H.Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0421a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham Mar 19 [1853, Pages glued at the edges]

My Dear Mother (To Eliza Gilmore)

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 <as I> do that you always are glad to receive letters from your absent boys & sons. Why I have this good opportunity for writing this afternoon is because it is Saturday and Rowland and Mr Adams have walked to Brunswick & left me with myself to enjoy it. My studies are not so hard that I can leave them Saturday afternoons & at most other times during the week too. On Thursday evening, I as also did Rowland, attended a Lyceum lecture at Brunswick, by J.S.C 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 there. 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 same sad unhappy countenance". I wish that father might have heard that Lecture. I do not think he would have gone to sleep even into a "drowse" but I do think that it might (I do not say that he 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 such as the lives of the different Kings & Queens of England. He is writing extensively for the Harpers Magazine. The lecture was interesting to me indeed. You know I never heard any thing of the kind before. The tickets were twelve cts. so much for the lecture.

I get along well in my studies. I now read Latin "like folks" take my reading book & read quite fluently ie that which is in my lesson, which usualy is about 16 lines. I never studied Physiology before this term. I like it pretty well. It tells me many 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 declaim or give a suitable excuse, or if they are not excused by their parents. We have now in school about seventy scholars. There has got to be so many that Mr Adams thinks some, of geting out some catalogues for this spring term. 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 here another term.

It has now got to be so far advanced towards evening that I am obliged to have a light. We burn fluid 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 my lamp filled with oil. Rowland & Mr Adams came back some time ago. We have eaten supper & Adams has walked home. He goes every Saturday night to see his folks. I wish I could be situated so that I could go & see my mother, father & brothers every week. But nine weeks will soon be gone mother. Will they not?

The wind is rattling the windows tonight so that it sounds cold. We have had some very cold days the past week, Unfortunately one cold morning last week just after the fire was built I was sitting as near the stove as I could get, with my feet on the hearth, for we have very much such a hearth as that to our stove in our parlor at home, I burnt those coarsest pants of mine so that a piece half as large as the palm of my hand came out on the inside of one ankle. There was a girl who works for her board & goes to school, here in the room making up the bed & she said that she would mend the place, but when I came to look in the trunk for the pieces, I could find none. I thought I put some in but couldn't find any.

I suppose you would not know that I have made so long a pause in writing if I did not tell you. For just as the last sentence was written, Rowland came up stairs & invited me to go up to Mr Gillpatrick's to a choir meeting, for I sing in church down here & I went with him. It is about half past nine. I tell by the cars, they come it at that time & they have just gone past.

We were very much disappointed last Thursday when we found no letter at the P.O from mother & Dellie, for

that is the day they get here when they are mailed at Leeds on Tuesday. but perhaps you could not get time to write so as to send it Tuesday, but we suppose of course that we shall have one the first of next week. You are not quite so good to write as Mr Barrows folks. Aurilla has had three but I cant tell but you are sick or tired, or something else may prevent so I mustn't blame you.

Rowland will want some room. So Good night, a good sound sleep for you & Dellie always has that.

From yr Affec son  
CH Howard

You will see mother that I began with a poor pen but after writing a little may get a better one. I know why you did not write before Tues. because you could not get my letter read by that time & will be so with this I guess.

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448 3/19/1853      *From:* Rowland [Howard]      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0421c                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Dear Mother

Charles 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.O. Fiske of Bath at the Orthodox 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 not quite so pleasantly situated to receive visitors a formally but your acquaintance with Mrs Perley will make you welcome to all. Aunt Martha also will be very glad to see you. Uncle Henry is at present gone a fishing to Moosehead Lake but is expected home soon.

They are thinking of sending Fred to a family School in New Gloucester. The expense is \$2.50 per year. The school is of the same character as Mr Abbotts at Farmington, except that the no of Scholars is smaller.

I see that my friend Mr Sumner has been found guilty of being a Common Seller of Liquor, and I suppose fined. This will come hard on Caleb but perhaps it will do him good. The Committee of the Legislature has reported a bill making the Liquor Law easier to be enforced, so it will be of no use to try to make up fines by selling more Rum, the usual resource of Rum sellers.

The new County project fared as I expected. <> all of the great <> effects. The fact is that Lewiston like all new places has more activity than influence. Although Hallowell 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 were only men of the day sprung up like weeds suddenly. They are liable to fall as quick. I would not trust their smart men a great way in any great undertaking.

I was talking with Mr Wilde (the Orthodox minister) yesterday about Mr Drummond who writes so much for <Janspaper>. 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 haven't 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 safer 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 <>.

Charles has limited me to three pages. If I keep within the postage and so I must soon stop. Aurilla I think is doing well in her studies, only now and then a little home sick. She is reading French, Drawing and practicing on the piano. Her trustful and and confiding disposition have made her many friends among the young ladies. Remember me to our friends. And you and Dellie 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, Dellie, Lucia and the rest of the family. Remember me as your affectionate Son.

Rowland

Charles health is better than when I was at home. He enjoys himself well.

Charles says, hereafter we will give them six pages a week. I told him I had no objection. I can write four with ease when I feel like it, such as they are. R



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449 3/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0422

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham, 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 Topsham that I received your letter. So I concluded not to write until I got settled in Topsham. 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 Topsham. Now when this time came which was last Thursday eve, I thought I would answer your's. 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 came here, which was in a sleigh with Mr Barrows & Aurilla. 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, everyone 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 his sleigh, so I sent my trunk by express & rode down with him. By this I save 80 cts. (for I was obliged to pay a dollar for the passage of my trunk) and as 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 stoped at Mr Gillpatrick's. I in pursuit of Rowland started, whom by the direction of Mr G 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 fine, viz. Latin grammar & Caesar Algebra Physiology & Arithmetic. I have your old Smyth'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. Puffer hears my class in Algebra. Perhaps you know him. He is a senior 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 rends 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 Jane wants her to come very much too. I have not heard from home for so long that I can not 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 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. Roland 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.

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 stoping since I began. But I have done far different from that. I began this in the intermission between the forenoon & afternoon meeting, after hearing Mr Gillpatrick. This afternoon I went to the Orthodox & heard a Mr Fiske of Bath. 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 French some. I gave him your last letter for him to read your description of "Cutting Heads". He wishes me to remember him to you. Rowland has been and is now sitting down in the sitting room with the ladies.

I finished three pages in a letter for home to mother today & Rowland has written three so 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 should get it Monday or Tues. I really do want to hear from 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 it better than I have on 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 Otis that

I remain Your Affectionate Brother  
C H Howard

Good night.

P.S. I have not brought it to its end very quick, neither, for I see I have scribbled over the whole of a sheet. Excuse the scribble this time. You will get this so to reply next Saturday afternoon. Wont you Otis? Monday morning while Mr Adams & Rowland were sound asleep in bed here I have read my writing over & corrected all the mistakes I see. Please tell me what faults there are left.

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450 3/26/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0423a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Topsham March 26th, 53

My dear mother:

Another Saturday afternoon has arrived and I will write my accustomed letter; although I think after this I must write Wednesday afternoon, which time too I have for such exercises for I think you rather have letters Saturday nights, and I know it always seemed the right time to me to have letters from my brothers. But I don't know but the reason was, because we always or usually did rec them at that time. We rec one letter from you & Dellie the same day that we mailed one for you, which was last Monday. The letter was dated the 15th. When I went to take my walk in the morning early I mailed our letter. When I was going up to my Arithmetic class, I met Rowland with a letter from home. I was glad I tell you mother, for we had been here about a fortnight & had not heard a syllable from Leeds. I was glad to find that you had been enjoying yourself, for I didn't know but you might be a little lonely after Rowland & I both left.

Will Thomas (Bridgham) be at home this spring? Or was he only at home for a day or two? The best & the best educated young men are the first to leave Leeds, are they not? Speaking of Thos playing reminds me, of how I used to play on the Aeolian. Mrs Frost is very sorry she says that I did not bring it with me. Rowland & I sing to her without <> [ink blot] though. She likes singing very much. I guess that she used to be a good singer.

But surely it seems unhealthy up there this spring, for I believe you mentioned three besides Mr Cary (who you say is buried) who are very sick, and I forgot 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 Millett said that is was doubtful whether Nathan Coffin ever recovered from his trouble at the Lungs. 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 Aranda Gilbert, had 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 Ezeikel, tho I suppose (by what you say) that he has gone to his long house. If it is so, we cannot help it.

But Mother: We again were gladened 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 Wednesday 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. Then there is one from the other way at 8. Then a train again to P. at 1 o'clock returns at 30 min after two another at about four and returns at about half past nine in the evening.

I have just returned from a choir meeting up to the Baptist church, having been absent from my 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 too have very pleasant weather, for I think I never saw a pleasanter day than we had here last Tuesday & 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 got 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 my 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 have much if any effect upon me. 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 so I 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 got a letter from Otis since our last. Have you heard from him, mother? You did not mention about going to Portland in your letter.

From your Aff Son  
Charles

Give my love to Dellie & tell him to write me a long letter to put in mother's next. I wish him to tell me of home affairs &c

I think that it must be late for my eyes wink often. Very likely you are looking now to see if all is fast for the night.

So Good night. CHH

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland, March 28, 1853]

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452 3/28/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0423b

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles, March 26, 1853]

Monday Morning [March 28, 1853]

Dear Mother

Charles has as usual left me a page and I will make the best of it. The sun has risen clear bright and beautiful this morning and shines in at our windows very pleasantly. I attended Church all day yesterday and heard Mr Gillpatrick. He does not improve much and I wonder how Topsham people tolerate him. The Snow is now well settled and the walking between here and the Academy is fine. The ice has left the river and I can see it plainly from my window looking as blue as the sky.

On Thursday Mr Adams went to the Wedding of one of his friends and left me with the entire charge of the School. I succeeded very well.

On Saturday I <> the Libraries and took out some books. I do not find time to read myself except <> but Mrs Frost likes to read and I got them for her.

So much sickness and death in Leeds make one feel a little melancholy but He doeth all thinks well?

In my reflections on these matters I can always contemplate my own death with more 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 severing of the ties of love and friendship, the parting with those dear 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 passing some of these moonlight evenings very pleasantly. Strange that Charles has not mentioned them. He has enjoyed them finely. Two evenings our young Ladies have boiled some molasses and invited us down about eight o'cl to help them work it. You may imagine that we had a jolly time. We have attended a party also. One of our scholars made one and invited her schoolmates and teachers. I cared more that Charles should go than myself, that he might begin to understand the usages of Society.

Topsham people are by no means patterns 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 Leeds or in fact many places of a larger population than Topsham. The vicinity of the College serves to raise their standard of conversation and gives them a taste for study and reading that they may associate with educated men and students on more equal terms.

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 on 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. He 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 Delle we like his letters first rate. I have got a letter about half done to Lizzie. Shall send it tomorrow. Horatio Howard [b 1830 Abbot Maine, a second cousin of Rowland] thinks some of going Leeds in his vacation, which occurs about the same time as mine. If he does I shall invite him to our house.

Your affectionate Son  
Rowland.

I made up my mind when I saw Nathan Coffin that there was not at that time much if any direct inflammation on the lungs. I thought that his lungs were either swelled contracted or out of their proper place. Does it not so prove. They became collapsed in the first place from excessive fatigue and afterwards could not regain their elasticity from weakness.

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451 3/27/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0424

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point Mar 27. 1853

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 too 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. Rowland & Charlie have each written me long letters, which lie before me unanswered. Charlie says we have 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 covet the time to correspond with my brothers all I would be glad to.

I am very happy to know that both are upright, 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 mothers 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. Dellie wrote me a very good letter the last time he wrote me. Tell him not to use abbreviations but to write out everything in 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 bye & bye difficulty in correcting habitual errors. I have never been accurate enough. How much better to know a little & 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 fit out in full which is very costly, I cannot afford to leave till I have receive 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 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 am well. Give my love to all. Roland A when he comes to the Worlds 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  
O.O. Howard

Excuse the blot since I have not time to copy.



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453 3/30/1853 *From:* CHHoward

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0485a

Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Wednesday eve, March 30th 53

My dear Mother

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 mother, 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 these were ever much nearer to perfection than they are this evening.

Rowland & I are sitting here all alone in our room with no one to molest or 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 during even weeks. 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 and friends, times past & present. Oh! how much pleasanter it is to be with my brother & friends than among strangers.

When we got back home tonight from our walk Mrs Frost 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. They said that they were going to the prayer meeting tonight. I do not see A. very often. The last time that I saw her to speak with her she said that she was not home sick now. 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 Ann, 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. These I 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 Topsham, what is generally called "rotten traveling" the streets every where being quite dry. And I also observed yesterday that the ice had all left the river. I suppose the Kenebec breaks up as quick or nearly so, as this river. Then the boats soon will begin to run & very likely much business and travel will be taken from the Railroads. The other day Mrs Frost let me take her watch to keep hanging in my room, so as to tell when to go to recitations. She said that as she did not need it, if I would take care of it & wind it up regularly, she had as lief I would have it as not. It is a gold watch, which cost about 30 dollars. Good Night

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. If we find a letter there we shall put in another half sheet. But if not shall mail this as is.

From Your Aff son  
CHHoward

By looking at the before spoken of watch I find it about 10 o'clock which is past my bedtime.

P.S. I find that last night in the dark, I began to write very blackly. Give my love to Dellie & tell him that I guess our next will be to him.  
Charles.

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

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454 3/31/1853    *From:* Rowland [Howard]    *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0485b                      Topsham

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Charles]

Topsham March 31/53

Dear Mother

Charles and I were thinking tonight that it would be pleasanter 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 pleasantest 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 bid fair to make this evening still 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 Foote 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 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 points of age and education, but the Boys are very backward, especially the larger ones.

Otis has written us but one letter yet since we have been here. But we are expecting one every day. We shall look some to have one from you and Dellie, 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 feuds and contemptable quarrells is a little more of the true spirit of the Christian religion. The removal of one man or half a dozen won't help the matter any. Trouble didn't leave with Mr Lawton and won't with Mr Barrows. The fact is things won't be better until the people as a people are radically reformed or <anticipated>, which last remedy, I fear, wouldn't be much of a loss to the world, but "If there are three good men &c". You recollect the quotation.

Love to all.  
Rowland