

Chambers, some who would be pleased to
accompany him — Good Philosophy & good
sound practical doctrine that. But it is not
Every body's Campney that is desirable — A little
discrimination is necessary & to seem I shall
Exercise it to the best of my ability & perhaps
to the exclusion of all particular companionship
Don't know. Can't tell — as the fellow said —

But to Galena I am bound to go! It is
a Western city of about 800 inhabitants and only
about a dozen Savages — & they are mostly young
men — With them I shall take my chance, perhaps
successfully, perhaps not — So if you please to for-
me with a reply to this, you will direct your letter
to Galena, Jo Davis Co., Ill —

In my last letter to Berley I made special inquiry
after you — I shall expect to learn your state & condition therefrom
from him — Townsend is going to Galena with me, & expect
Berley's woman, it seems, has shipped him — What luck
he has — Perchance some misfortune of this kind is
preying upon your spirit tho' I hope not — It does
lower my confidence a little tho' not much; but it
will not do for me to make complaint, for it is a
poor rule that will work both ways —

With assurances of my kind regards

I remain truly Yr Friend &c

S. W. Jewett

Madison Wis. May 4th 1833

Friend Howard

I do not owe you a letter &
I do not wish you to construe the writing of
this into an acknowledgment of any such
indebtedness — But inasmuch as this is a
gloomy & uncomfortable day which has given
me a feeling in some respects kindred to that
which we used to term technically "the Blues"
& I have thereby been led to contemplate partially
at least the things that were, I have been re-
minded of you & your long & persistent silence
& have resolved therefore to give you a little
bit of a schooling for your obstinate negligence
& then perhaps go out & call on the Ladies
as an antidote against the effects of the little
ill feeling, that, at present, pervades my mind —
Well then, Howard, how happens it that for these
six months or more, last past, I have not heard
a word from you? What's the trouble & wherein
lies the cause of the difficulty? I have hith-
erto considered you next to myself in prompt-
ness in all matters of friendly correspondence
& am not aware of having given you any

occasion for offence, wherein you should so unaccountably
withhold from me the pleasure of knowing from
yourself the circumstances of your "Earthly Lot"
Will you now if you please recall the event which
induced you to present towards me so unbroken
a reserve. If any such event there may have been -
What was it & when did it transpire - To what
Epoch of my Life does so unfortunate a period
belong? Strange that it should have passed over
with so slight an impression of the momentous
results to which it was giving birth that my
memory utterly refuses to confess any recognition
of it whatever! I am mortified at my forget-
fulness or my want of perception to detect the
the fault is attributable - Why I can imagine
how the dream for securing "all the hopes of future
years" might now pass by me & I remain utterly
unconscious of its presence or of its flight, save
as subsequent events disclosed it in the long
forgotten past - Really I had given myself
some credit for quickness of apprehension; but
I entirely fail at this time to ascertain the ver-
itable "locality" of the element of dissonance which
has grown up between us, or of what it is in
itself composed - Then give us a touch of
explanation, the why & wherefore of the whole
strange occurrence & I will promise to be satisfied

As for myself I have passed the famous ordeal
& now stand on the other side of the fence - No longer
a student merely, I claim a right within the Bar -
My introduction to professional life was rather
auspicious & the initiatory process not very severe -
What I may do now is altogether another ques-
tion - My arrangements however are all made
& I am about taking up my line of march
for a permanent location - I am going to
leave this State & yet for the present shall be
so near to it that a few hours' ride will bring
me within its boundary - I pass to the South
& west within five miles of the Mississippi
River to the town & city of Galena, Illinois -
When I shall probably be found at my office
on Main St. at all times during business hours,
unless otherwise professionally engaged, for the
coming year. At least, I intend to leave
for that place next week - I am engaged my
office & am going into it to make or break on
my own Expense - "Fortune favors the brave"
you know & as Prof. Bordy told Percy, "a faint
heart never won a fair Lady" This latter branch
of diplomacy I intend to study & practice upon
at the earliest possible date - Yes, Sir, I go
into it on the principle that "it is not good
for man to be alone" whilst there may be by

came. He has now got a class of over sixty
Scholars in writing & Book Keeping. He told me
that he would give me lessons in Book Keeping
at the same rate as the writing, so I concluded
to join his class. I think that I can learn in
writing as well as Book Keeping, for I have had
copies all of the time before me in my Book Keeping.
The terms are usually \$1.00 for twelve lessons in writing
& \$1.50 for ditto in Book Keeping, but he agreed to give
lessons to me in Book Keeping at Mr. Howland & Mr.
Adams too, take Book Keeping. — Our Catalogues
are now out, I have mailed them to Lillie. Don't you
think they are neat ones mother? But mother
Howland says it is time to go to school &
I shall be obliged to close. Please give my love to
all. Tell Lillie to write in yours.

From Your Affectionate

Brother

Chas. Howard

My Eliza Gilmore

May 4th 1883

Charles & Howland

Dorchester May 4th 1883

Dear Mother

After you left we felt a little lonesome
for a short time. But amidst our May Day pleasures
we soon merged all regrets in warmest wishes
for your safe return to your home and family.
It was somewhat windy Saturday, but on the whole
I think that you had rather a pleasant day and
I hope you reached home without any unpleasant
occurrence. The same morning that you left
I received a letter from Lizzie. She seemed overjoyed
at Otis promotion. It is a glorious thing for him,
and I hope, as he says, that he will endure
prosperity as well as adversity. His character and
disposition, I think, fit him admirably for the latter,
and I hope that he will enjoy the former.

Charles and myself went to the May bath and had
a very good time and a very good dinner. It was warm
and pleasant in the woods and I don't think Charles
got any more cold. But Sabbath evening he was
rather poorly and I gave him a sweat and a
dose of pills, with a gruel breakfast Monday morning.
He improved immediately and is now as well as
usual. May 6 Charles has closed up in a hurry and
given up to visitation, and I put this in before eleven, as
you will not see it by Saturday's mail. Monday evening
I attended a Temperance Love in Brunswick in a new
hall over the School House. It is a beautiful hall and we had

a fine time with Speeches, songs and sentiments. Mr Abbott is the best man for such an occasion, that I ever met with. He is always ready and he always amuses and interests. Prof Packard and Dr Adams spoke feelingly and to the point. The colation was prepared by the Ladies Band and served by the Junior Watchman's Club. That Medicines which I got is pretty better but I begin to relish it. As Charles says, we are anxious to hear how you got home. I hope it was safe and sound. Marion says Horatio had the Blues before he left and concluded to postpone visiting his friends. I believe he is subject to nervous depression and melancholy. Sometimes I have feared that he was like his cousin. Charles has just come in and says Puffer is sick and I must have his Clasper. So I must go. Remember me to all —

Your aff. Son

Rentance

Friday May 6. 1853

Dear Mother

We have been waiting in writing you, expecting one from you, thinking that you wrote the next day after you arrived home. (Sunday). But the day has passed away that we should have rec'd it in. But I suppose you was tired, so soon after taking your journey. How did you get home? did you have any trouble in getting from Mr Porter's? What did father say because you stayed a day with us? I guess they got along just as well without you. And what did Delle say? Tell him he will have other chances to visit - Hopsham & Brunswick. for Rowland will be here three years longer if nothing prevents. And Mother did you find the folks as well as you left them? How did Elizabeth & Nancy get along keeping house in your absence. You will answer these questions & tell me all about home when you & Delle write. The day that you left - you remember we were to have a May walk which we did & had a very good time. The girls carried out the dinner in bags & baskets. Mr Merwin went with us, but Horatio did not. He left soon after for Abington Mass. having concluded not to go to Leeds & Livermore this Spring. Marion went home to Wayne yesterday morning. He did not stop here as long as he had been expecting to. The Monday after you left Mr Porter the Writing Master

Coptham May 7/53

Dear Brother

You couldn't have written us more grateful news. We wish to rejoice with you over your good fortune, and as you say I hope you will endure it with as good grace as you did ill fortune. I suppose the thousand little reliefs that you have, are almost invaluable to one who has been closely immured so long. After Lizzie heard the good news she hurried to impart it to us, but we got your letter first. We all wish you joy and bid you God Speed! Mother has made us a very pleasant visit. She stayed a day and a half and two nights and returned home on Saturday morning. Her health is very nearly restored, although she yet has some of Job's comforts like those that you enjoy. She took dinner in Pittman, when she came down, with Aunt Martha, and Lizzie came up to see her. We were expecting the letter with Mother when she came to Coptham, but she couldn't get ready soon enough. Mother says Lizzie is looking well although she was somewhat weary with her long walk. What should send Uncle Henry to Minnesota I can't conjecture. I suppose however that it is a journey of pleasure. Such as gentlemen of his property and leisure are accustomed to take. His family are very well. We had a fine time last Saturday in celebrating May Day. The true day was Sabbath so we took Saturday. Had a pleasant walk, and a good collection. Upped up by the Young Ladies of the School. On Monday

But it was kind enough not to rain until after meeting, so we did not get wet in returning from church. Mr Perley & I went over to the Orthodox, in Brunswick yesterday. I was never in that building before. I suppose I can tell you nothing new about it. Mr Kellogg from Westport preached. You know him I believe, Howard said that you had called on him in his field at the time you were in Westport. J. Perley is the pastor in writing here, you know of him I suppose. He came here from Westport last Monday, he says, that they have had a school of about 200 scholars there this spring. He has got a large class in writing & book-keeping here, there are 60 in all, but they are not all of our school. I take lessons in Book-keeping. I thought that by so doing I could learn to write as well as to keep books, for I have had copies constantly before me in Book-keeping. Oh, I tell you we were glad to find mother here when we came in from school, for as I wrote you we didn't know but she was sick again. She stayed two nights with us. We went to the depot, which is but a step from our boarding place Sunday morning with her & Howard went as far as Brunswick. We have not yet heard how she got home. Have you heard what an accident happened on the R.R. between N. York & Boston last Friday? We have not yet heard the particulars, only that this car of our train fell into a river, the Grand of the bridge being broken up & they have taken out the bodies of 50 persons who had been to a Medical convention at New York. Is this not awful! My father seems to be all consumed, besides it is time to go to

My recitation in Latin, music. I have got some to take root in that perform all the questions between the pages of the faculty here and as for where you

evening. I attended a Temperance Sermon in Brunswick, by which the Hall over the new School House was dedicated. I enjoyed the Speaker, songs and sentiments very much. Mr. Abbott and Prof. Packard spoke well and to the point. The former is just the man for such an occasion. He is always ready with some encouraging sentiment or amusing anecdote. There is a marked difference between the interest with which Mr. Abbott is heard and Dr. Addams. The latter is an old prosa. put him where you will. I mailed a letter for Lizzie yesterday, an one for mother this morning, and Charles has sent me of an Catalogue to you, and beholds and I have sent them to almost everybody else. We have but two weeks after this to stay here, and after that I get a weeks vacation. Then comes the tug of war, viz. making up Greek. But here's go into it. One of my old class told me the other day that he believed that I could catch up with their class if I applied myself. but it is too late to talk of that.

John W. Spaulding delivered a good Oration before the Atholoe, or their Anniversary. You would hardly have thought that great awkward, plump, ignorant of 3 years ago. could have become so much of a Gentleman and a Scholar. So much of a man and orator. His Oration has been universally admired as displaying great research, sound scholarship, depth of thought and strong reasoning powers. His appreciation of Milton was almost poetic, and gave occasional roughness of style, but selection of words. it was one of the best efforts of the kind. His subject was The Sublime. On Saturday (Sunday) comes the Annual, triumphant retrospection of the Boston Militia,

Would we make that a glorious an immortal day? but I forget that I was a Schoolmaster and can't go now but a Spectator. Monday morning. The May training went off in good shape. The Militia did not turn out in as large numbers as usual, but many of the designs were well got up. Oes Page was Commander in chief and Fuller, Chaplain. Yesterday I attended meeting all day at the Baptist Church. heard Mr. Wilde in the forenoon and Mr. Gillpatrick in the afternoon. Anilla sings in the choir but she has one of the sweetest voices I ever heard. Our School continues two weeks longer. Charles thinks it about time that you wrote him, and I will leave space for him to urge his claims for a letter. Your last to me was very short and you promised another soon. but it hasn't arrived. As you say doubtless, your correspondents will have reason to feel thankful for your newly acquired leisure. Remember me as ever

Your affectionate Brother
Caleb Oliver O. Howard.

Dear Brother,

I have not yet rec'd an answer to my last letter to you. But I never have any trouble in finding something to write to you when there is a chance, and I always take pleasure in so doing. It looks as usual. This morning out of doors after a heavy fall of rain, the light of the sun trying to make its way through the clouds to us, It commenced raining last eve about or just before dark, & rained briskly all the night - that I know any thing about, for I don't keep awake in the night to hear it rain.

I have seen a Mr. Seaving to from Feb. 1841. He had been in England for some time. He had been in the United States for some time. He had been in the United States for some time. He had been in the United States for some time.

so good bye till then. I went to drawing at 2 - ^{returning}
at four and went immediately to Artillery drill. We are
drilling with the mounted battery - that is, the pieces
have horses attached. This ~~renders~~ ^{renders} us to run considerably
which makes it rather tiresome, but I suppose it will
pass for good exercise. Did you ever hear of a horse rail-
road accident if accident it can be called on the K. Haven
road; such gross carelessness! By and by, people will
become afraid of rail roads if accidents multiply as they
have for the last few weeks. Have you heard whether
Rodolphus Seabater continues on this road over
the river? He did not like it much & thought
he would not stop long when he came to see
me. I have not seen him since. Warren
sent his respects to me the other day by Bentz - our
bugler - the man who blows the bugle for every recitation
and for call to quarters - Warren wanted to know why
I had not been down to see him. My bright charous
make me so conspicuous that I could be recognize
at any distance, and I do not fancy the idea of
being reduced to ranks till after next encampment,
at least. Give my love to Father & Roland - How
are they getting on with planting? Give my love to
Sillie. Has he begun to work - & left off playing
in the sand with Betsey's children? I suppose he
has & works right hard. I wish I could see you
all - If they write for me to come to take my
second degree at Bowdoin College, I shall try
to get a leave (the last) of next encampment.

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O. Howard

West Point, N.Y. May 11. 33

My dear Mother,

I have been very
anxious, since I received your last letter, to hear from
you again, but nobody seems to write me from any
quarter. My brother Sam let an unusual interval
elapse since they have written me, but I received a
catalogue from Charlie on Monday. I really hope you
are entirely recovered. Our examination is very near - and I
am by no means well prepared to meet it. I was surprised
to see my monthly standing for April - 5th in Philosophy -
I think there must have been some mistake in adding
up the marks, for I had the second mark in the class
nearly every week - but this does not matter, if I do
well on the examination I will not fall in my standing
from second. Neither will I be lower than 4 or 5th in
Chemistry. I am doing admirably in painting, much
to my own surprise. My health is very good this spring
since I became an Officer I get up, and instead of having
to go to Reville I can go & take a bath. I take a
cold bath every morning. At first it was rather
difficult to muster the courage to lie down in cold
spring-water, but now it does not chill me more than
to wash my face & neck. For nearly a fortnight, I
did not have anything to do for the time that the
battalion was at drill, but since I have to go to

As ever your affectionate son

O. Howard

Artillery drill every evening between four & six, immediately after returning from the drawing Academy. I am not certain of being made quartermaster next year, but if I am not I shall be a Cadet Lieutenant; whose duties are rather arduous. I have boarded at the Mises Thompsons or "Mummies" for nearly ~~three~~ five months. All the marching I have to do is to march to the Academy with my class to the place where we ride & to the place where we drill as artillery - a little south of the camp-ground.

I go out to parade every evening & look on, it is good fun compared with being in ranks. I think somebody might come to see me now & am so well situated, capacitated to go to parades without being on duty. They elected me Vice President of our Dialectic Society; & I have been obliged to act as President for the last two meetings. The Society intends to make me President for next year & Orator for a public meeting on the fourth of July, a cumulation of honors, which might be very agreeable, did they not bring with them so much additional labor.

Col Lee's coming here did not do me an injury - it had an influence in his son's favor in some departments but Col Lee himself has taken pains to treat me with attention & respect, and was in all probability the one who caused me to be made an Officer. My position here is rather pleasant than otherwise - I do not get any demerits now & have clothes which are far from being income, besides my studies. I have studied too long & too steadily - but the next

encampment will soon be here. We have to study tactics next encampment, but our standing is unaffected - so it does not matter much if occasionally a lesson is not given so well prepared. All that has hindered me from doing well is Professor Bartlett, a very fine man, but so excitable & nervous, that he can hardly contain himself sometimes. And you know I am not always remarkably cool. He sometimes teases me half to death. He says when he asks a question I am bound to miss it, no matter how simple - & I am afraid it is too true. He has a peculiar way of putting one & then upon that a half dozen more and beginning to lecture you before you have had time to make an answer; unless you happen to recall instantly the exact answer required. If you are able you must write me immediately on the reception of this. I want to hear from you very much, and shall be full of anxiety till I do. The drum for dinner is beating. This is the time when the mail is opened. I hope I will get a letter - I will go & see & tell you ~~the~~ my success. I got a double letter from Howard & Charles, containing the good news that mother had ~~so~~ recovered & paid them a visit. Did you not go to see Lizzie while at Portland? She has written me regularly, etc within a little more than a week. I fear I have said something in one of my letters that has troubled her - Write me about your visit, how you found all at Portland &c. --- I must now go to Drawing I will finish tonight

you were here. April a says Thomas Bridgman is coming for her & Lizzie says that we must certainly go by the way of Westland. But you had not said any horse for us or any thing. The bridge was not built.

The fields here are looking green now, & the Apples are leaving out. Alis writes that the Cherry trees have bloomed at West Point. May's Grout's pease have got to be quite high some of them more than 6 inches. Did you ~~forget~~ that I got for you live! The Daffas are all in bloom here now. It will not be long before before I shall be home & see how every thing at home prospers. If you have had good health since you went back suppose your garden is now flourishing. Do you remain in the brick house right above Mrs Grout's. What a beautiful garden it was! I see that lady out in her garden most every time I go past. Do they keep Lellie flying pretty smartly now! He must write us one more letter to put in your hands before we see him, & tell us about it. He knows without my mentioning it that it is healthy to live & work upon a farm. Still he gets tired often I suppose. He will have his turn of going away to school I guess one of these days, then he can tell which he likes best. I'll bet he'll wish himself at home on the farm with father & mother some times. (Friday Morning) I have not yet eaten my breakfast, but I think I will finish my letter as it will go this morning. As to the manner I intend to go home, I have not fully made up my mind. Rowland says that there might be some trouble or cost in carrying our baggage by the way of Hallowell, you see that is the way I thought of.

Rowland & Charles

May 12 1853

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Ypsam Acad May 12.

My Dear Mother

We shall be with you in a little over a week if nothing happens to prevent. and I suppose this is the last letter we shall write home. The last news we heard from you was through Miss Whitten, who went as far as Newport with you. She returned home two days since. I have written to Alis and Lizzie since I wrote you but have received no answer as yet. My last letter I had to close very suddenly on account of an unexpected recitation. We have had a nice little rain and it has cleared off finely. The Grass grew more yesterday than it had for 3 weeks preceding. and everything this morning looks fresh and green. Both Charles & I are taking lessons in Book Keeping and making good progress. Mr Perley will remain here until next Monday. Perhaps I may have to draw one of these days (when I get through college) as Mr Perley thinks I have a good taste for it. I took only a short lesson of him on Saturday afternoon. What a terrible accident that was at Norwalk. I think no similar one has created so much excitement. A number of the dead bodies went through here yesterday for Gardiner & Richmond. No one from this place was killed. although Dr McKen was about

(Mrs J. W. Brothman) They were in dreadful suspense for a short time. Dr Pease was in the next train and came along about two hours after the accident. I will go to the P.O. now as he if there is not a letter from you as I have just seen the Cars come in. I have been to the P.O. but found no letter from home. I fear that you are unwell or some unfortunate circumstance has prevented your writing. This is one of the most beautiful days of this pleasant Spring. Our windows are up, and the music comes floating in from the House opposite. Miss Pease is playing the piano with doors and windows open and the effect is delightful. The distance is just sufficient for us to hear the tune distinctly. Last Saturday the Students had their Annual May Training. They did not turn out in as large numbers as usual but some of the ~~characters~~ were well got up. They had an Uncle Tom and a Lopsy. A Blower and a Strong minded Woman and all things of the kind fully displayed. We haven't quite concluded yet which way we shall take home. Perhaps Charles will go one way and I another. A very pleasant little Boat Runs up the Kennebec from Bath and as I wish to see some friends there I have about concluded to take that route. The College Term closes next Wednesday. Cars will continue till Saturday and we shall not probably get away before the following morning. I will

now leave room for Charles, to Good By for a short time - with remembrance to all friends. Love

Mrs E. Gilman

Your affectionate Son
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Rosalie

Dear Mother;

I was in hopes to get a letter from home today. When I found that there was none then of course I began to suppose some reason to suspect. Something must have happened unusual to prevent. Do write or get letter to & tell us, whether any one is sick or whether you cannot find time or why it is that we have not heard from home since you left. Perhaps you are busy, that you do not have time weekdays & are time Sundays. We should put it to such reasons as these, did we not know that you had been very sick & were not fully recovered when you were here. We were very glad in other, to get a letter from Otis tonight, he says that he is pretty well, but has not much flesh, has improved his complexion somewhat by taking a cold bath every morning. But most the first thing in his letter is an inquiry about your health, his letter was written Sunday the 8th, very likely he got on the first of the week. He is now very busy in preparing for the Examination, thinks he is not very well prepared. Says it's not easy to retain 2000 pages of Philosophy & Chemistry in his head so as to pass a good examination on it.

more particularly about it - we shall start from here
as the school closes - I shall start from here
the Monday after - I shall start from here
the Monday after - I shall start from here

Portland May 22 1853

Dear Brother

You will see by the date of this that I have left Ipsham. I came down here last night. Charles was in a hurry to get home.. so he went through, directly, yesterday morning. I find Lizzie well, and thought her hear that mother had spent nearly a week in Portland. I have not yet been up to Aunt Martha's. I went to Church with Lizzie this morning - and this afternoon John Perry and myself have been up to Highgate and heard Dr. Chickerling. I was very much pleased with the sermon and singing. Lizzie did not attend Church this afternoon. She is looking in good health and appears in fine spirits. I hope you will see her this summer bright and glowing as ever. Charles sees you, a few days since and will write to you soon. Father's visit must have given you much pleasure. Our kin at Ipsham close

and very happily. We had a Lure on Friday
evening and a very pleasant time.

From what you wrote in your last letter
to me I think there is a strong probability of
your coming on this summer. You ought to
know pretty nearly whether you can get leave
of absence. Of course if you are coming
home we shall give up the idea of coming on.

I really hope that you may get leave of absence.
It would be so much pleasanter to see you
here and you would enjoy it so much
better than you would a visit from us. I
think this would be especially gratifying to
Lizzie. Her mother is quite fearful of
having her go to West Point. Last evening
after writing the above I went with Lizzie
up to Henry's. He got home from the West
Saturday evening. He was in excellent
spirits, is delighted with his journey and
the country he has visited. But has not
quite concluded to move yet. He was
full of stories of his journey. He says
he experienced the emotion of fear very
thoroughly on Niagara Suspension Bridge and
Aunt Martha says it makes her very nervous

to think of it. William is still at Henry's.
He talks now of going up with me, but has not
concluded. I have not heard from home
since you have. My vacation continues till
a week from next Saturday and I shall
expect a letter from you while at home.

Charles and I will both write you
a long letter in reply. Excuse the shortness
of this as you know it is rather difficult
to write away from home.

Your affectionate brother
Rowland

If so you need not doubt my honor & I will not wonder
 what I shall accomplish in this town & yet unknown
 town of course. I came here last Wednesday - I have
 hardly got settled yet. Shall hang out my sign tomorrow
 & be ready for whatever business may come up thereafter -
 This is a rough but rather romantic city of about
 3000 inhabitants on a tributary of the Mississippi, five
 miles from its mouth - It is in the midst of a
 rich mineral region & accessible by the Mississippi
 Steam boats at all rising tides - There are some
 dozen Souders in town, but all of little or no repute
 & scarcely one has to my great extent so far as I
 can learn the confidence of the people - Business in
 my proposed line is said to be rather dull at
 present, but it is admitted by all to be a very good
 opening for a Soudier - Well I've been & shall
 stay here as long as money or credit will keep me here
 if I don't have anything to do - I have been at church
 twice today & am going again - I am quite pleased
 with the place & the people so far as I have been
 acquainted with them - I have a pleasure office re-
 spect to business here in a few weeks - And just
 with us at your service
 Yrs truly J. W. Smith

Galena, Ill. May 22nd 1853
 Friend Howard
 Yours of the 16th inst. came to hand
 this afternoon & if I had not known you intimately before
 I should surmise that you had aimed to the 4th act of the
 play of life as occurrent by Shakespeare after this fashion.
 "Then a Soldier
 "Full of strange oaths & brawled like a bear
 "Deafening of noise, sudden & quick in quarrel
 "Seeking the bubble reputation
 "Even in the cannon's mouth."
 But I know better & therefore let it pass of course -
 I prize the representations made of me & mean in
 Brunswick & Ipswich you are almost disposed to
 account me a regular rascal & called upon me to
 exculpate myself - Under such circumstances fully
 known to me & might have resulted in giving the
 explanation I did so cheerfully, when I thought myself
 encouraged by a friend only - God forbid! that I
 should have a friend to whom I would not grant
 every opportunity of testing the honesty of my intentions
 & the justness of my notions - I trusted all of

even to my former connections in Brunswick omitted
 not to wish to stop the investigations of my
 conduct or screen myself from reproach. All of this
 that rightfully belongs to me I will most cheerfully bear.
 I suggested a silence upon the subject, because it
 is unpleasant to me even now, as every fault either
 divulged or secret must be. But believe me, my
 fault & it will not undo it because it was in the
 beginning & not in the conclusion of that very unfortunate
 engagement. What I could do upon that wrong I would
 do even at this late day & still I protest that there was
 on my part no intentional wrong & I would not know, nor
 how I at any time & by my knowledge, harmed a hair of the
 head of the person most interested - Her reputation and
 her history so far as it was entrusted to my keeping, and
 has been as sacredly kept as though the connection had
 been consummated - The confidence she reposed in me
 and in me particularly, has now been violated by word or
 action & I esteem her as highly as ever I did for the
 many good, superior qualities she possesses - My act and
 the reasons for them are only appreciable by myself - and
 I was not drawn in another direction by the flashing of high
 eyes, the scintillations of a lively wit nor the attractions of
 worldly wealth or honor - Ambition was not my motive

as was greatly charged upon me by the Lady herself -
 But enough of this - I have entirely forgotten what I wrote
 in my last letter but an hour - That I had any intention
 of speaking disrespectfully of our acquaintance or correspondence
 I entirely deny - I might have written some things justly
 but if so the recollection of them has entirely escaped me -
 I thank you much for reminding my language & sent
 the temper of your mind at an unfortunate moment.
 If anything of the sort should occur again, please to
 let me know it immediately - I do not wish any
 real wrong over all the past, no! not for the wealth
 of business would I have the memory of my past life
 blotted from my recollection. There are few things
 in it which I have occasion to regret, & I would not
 for their few loss the pleasure of reviewing the thousands
 of pleasant incidents with which the past is flooded -
 I am glad to learn of your continued prosperity and
 good condition - I hope & presume it will continue -
 Your long four years will soon be ended now and
 you will then doubtless assume the duties of some
 responsible station - May fortune attend you prosperously
 through them all - This I wish most sincerely
 perchance in my thoughts next in the business
 & bustle of the world on a different stage of action

When I was returning from my breakfast, I introduced himself as a gentleman from Boston. He wished me to find a Cadet with whom he was acquainted, I did so. This evening he spoke to me again I introduced ^{me} to several of his party. and I had the pleasure of introducing him into the mysteries of Cadet life. I believe he went away with the idea, that there is no place like this to give a young man a complete education. There is much about this place, that is captivating to the uninitiated, but few young men know what they undertake, when they come here with the resolution to stay & acquire themselves with honor. Rowland & Charlie are again with you. Would that I could be there too, to complete the family circle; and no doubt you would be very glad to see me, while it must be pleasant to ~~have~~ have them home again. I presume you have some fine times singing & playing, since Charlie I understand has been improving his musical talents. Rowland wrote me at Portland - the worst piece of news he could have written, that he had given up the idea of visiting me. There is hardly a probability of my visiting Maine this summer, and if I do it will be merely a journey thither & back, as fast as the steam engines can carry me. Give my love to all. How did father like his visit? What does he say about West Point? Oh that cake was very good. Thank the donors for me. I will ever remember their kindness. From your affectionate son A. C. Howard

A. C. Howard
West Point N. Y. May 30th 1858
My dear mother,

You may think it a very long time since I have written you, and it is true that I ought to have written so that you could have got a letter last Saturday night; you could not have expected father to have taken a very long epistle from me, for he only staid all night & hardly that, and thus you know is a remarkably short time to visit a Cadet, who has to spend a portion of that time in getting a permit, and has to leave his friends at last. I have two excuses for not writing a letter last week. One is the examination, which begins to show its grim visage to frighten no poor youths - even us, who know by experience that the animal will not hurt us. Another is, my speech for the fourth of July. I am President of the Dialectic Society & have to deliver, as orator, a speech ~~to~~ in public on the Glorious Fourth of July. We are expecting a crowd of people here this summer: but for my sake I hope they will stay away till after the fourth. The reason I have begun so soon is that the camp is no place to write in: I am fearing that I will not be made Quartermaster next year, though I hope to be. The Quartermaster's tent is very convenient

to write in, and he can always have a light after taps -
I got to writing Saturday night after getting back from
our Society meeting just before ten - first I copied a
long computation for finding the variation of the Magnetic
needle at West Point, which took till eleven, then I
commenced to write on my oration - I took no account
of time till I began to feel a little sleepy; I went to
bed & had just covered myself with the quilt, when I
heard the Guard room clock strike ~~two~~ - so I
mastered as much as I could to get to sleep, but the
bed bugs had got hungry at having their supper
delayed so long - and would not let me get to
sleep for at least half an hour. I had my revenge
in the morning for I slew several, by ~~beating~~ rolling them
upon the floor & indignantly tramping them under
my feet. I have improved very much in speaking
since I came back from Furlough. I mean in extempore
and debate; though still when I first get on the
floor, I have to be searching for words to express my
ideas, thus occasioning hesitancy - but this quickly
yields to the enthusiasm of my nature. I lack in knowl-
edge more than in other qualifications for a speaker.
My memory as you know is not retentive, I would
rather deal with abstract ideas than attempt to
relate an anecdote - for when I tell any story, if
I do not supply the lost links from my own imagina-
tion, why, the story is good for nothing. I sent my sketch

to Lizzie by Father. I had promised them to her
before. Father & some others did not understand to whom
I sent them or forgot to deliver them. (Sunday May 31)
This is the last day of May, and tomorrow is set apart to
receive the board of visitors in the usual manner, and on
Thursday the examination commences and will continue
till all the classes are examined a week from today your
son will have to pass the usual ordeal. Between this
time & then he must study constantly. He finished
drawing today. I had not quite finished my last piece
in painting, but am permitted to go over to the Academy
at my leisure and complete it. I have succeeded well
in painting far better than I hoped to do. I completed
five large pieces in penciling & am on my fifth in
painting. I can now sit back & paint away with compara-
tive ease. When I first commenced I had to copy marks
by mark & line by line, but I now draw with more
rapidity & with better effect, I like to paint very well,
but I partake of the common joy, that we are are
through. These two years of drawing have been
rather wearisome, especially when I ~~could~~ could
make no head way, but I have worked industri-
ously all the time, and have never been dis-
couraged a moment. I do not mean to be discour-
aged at anything except at impossibilities. A
Gentleman with quite a party composed of several
Ladies and little folks, met me this morning

visit at Portland, in this as the clock has already struck twelve at noon
and we design this letter for the Leonard at one O'clock every thing
is about as usual with us, to day. The 30th of May, is a delightful day
all nature is gay with its most beautiful plumage, showing forth
its promise, Amos is here on a visit ~~and~~ together with his wife, and
babe five months old, he ~~sits~~ up ~~at~~ sits up and lies down
alternately all day, making about half of the time that he
is up, he ~~thence~~ abhors now ~~the~~ changing on his body, ~~and~~
one of his legs is drawn up so that he is quite a cripple,
I could easily fill up this ~~if~~ had time, talking about
our acquaintances but my mind is absorbed wholly in
your examination, that you will sustain your whole self
with that degree of self reliance, that will give you pleasure
when you reflect on it, I hope nothing will befall you
that will a single regret in your mind, from your
dear Mother, always affectionately yours Plinfilmore
C. C. Howard,

Dear Brother
Mr Otis and myself have
just come in from fishing after
having had tolerable luck. Mr Lewis
his respects and congratulates you
upon your promotion. I suppose you
need mine from Portland, and I shall
be looking for an answer soon.

Your aff Brother
R. L. L.

My dear Brother.

Leeds May 30. 1858

I was thinking this afternoon
that I owe you a letter, and you know I am a
great hand to pay my debt. It seems a great
while since I rec'd your letter, but when I con-
sider I find that it is but a little more than
two weeks. I came from Gosport May 21st.
The school finished 20th, when we had a public
Examination. I was examined in Latin in the forenoon
& as I was the first one taken up, in my class
I had nearly finished my recitation before
any of the Supervisors came, so I was not exam-
ined very hard in that & I recited in Physiology
the first thing in the afternoon before any of the
visitors came so I passed easily in that.
But when I recited in Arithmetic & Algebra
many of Ladies & Gentlemen present. I did
not fail in answering every question asked. I was
given a question in Square Root to perform in my
Arithmetic, about 4 men grinding their shins
from a grindstone. After the recitations there were
declamations from five of the boys I was the first
one as my name began with the first
letter in course I spoke "Paul Clifford." I have
declaimed so much this Spring, that I am
or was not at all embarrassed that day when
I declaimed. I felt as calm before the visitors

as I did before the scholars alone. Mr. White
Wild & Smyth made ^{such} short speeches
the school was closed by a prayer from
Rev. Wilde. The scholars were requested
to remain a short time after the visitors
had left. When they had gone, Mr. Adams
thanked the school for a present of a Bible he
found in his desk when he returned to school
that afternoon. It was held together by two
clasp on one of which was marked Mr. Adams
Name & on the other "From his pupils 1853".
It cost about \$6.00 in all. & he & Rowland gave
each & every scholar an invitation to come
to Mrs. Frost's to spend the evening & bid
fare good bye. About every scholar came, went
away about half past ten. Thomas Britton
was then having come down that afternoon
for Aurilla. That night I made up my
mind ^{that night} to start for home the next morning in
the 10 o'clock train. of cars & so packed up
my things. I rose early in the morning & got
all ready. Rowland could not go that morning
on account of business with Adams.
but sent his baggage. I arrived at Brewster
at half past nine. Our folks were at work
on the Rail Road, they brought home my baggage
& I took dinner with Mother, having been gone
about eleven weeks. I found her well, & had
been on a visit to Portland. Father had

returned from West-Point Rowland
went into Portland the same day
that I came home & he came Tuesday.
Father went to Boston last Thursday & came back
Friday. Edwin Gilmore, Uncle Alson's son came
with him & stayed here until last night, when
I carried him to Warren's to stop all night
& go home to-day. He liked Maine better than
he expected, he appears & looks very much
like Arza, Arza is here at our house now
with his wife. He is as well as usual. Mother
wishes to fill this sheet. How do you pass examination?

Ch Howard

From Your Affectionate Brother

My Dear Son,

Ch Howard

I am thinking much about you at this time, it being
about examination time, and feeling your excitability almost myself
& am greatly in fear you will lose some advantage by it. It almost haunts
me, or at least my fears do. I am particularly anxious for you to feel cool
and unconcerned, about the result of the examination, as you know you
have done your best. (and I fear have drawn on your nervous system
too much already, but my dear boy, do not be too anxious, about
anything in this world it is all a grasp, without a shadow which
when attained what we desire is not often any satisfaction, I hope
after the examination is past your duties will be easier than you antici-
pate, still I keep hoping on for you, and always shall, your Mother
wishes you to meet the cares of life as easy as possible, seems as though
I could not have all this pleasant summer pass on not see you
but if it is necessary I can, again I say, keep calm, and support disappoint-
ments with true dignity. I shall not say anything about my