
469 5/4/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0435

Madison Wisc

Source: Bowdoin

Madison Wisc May 4th 1853

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 respect kindred to that which we used to term technically "the Blues" & I have thusly been led to contemplate partially at least the things that were, I have been reminded 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 hitherto considered you next to myself in promptness in all matters of friendly correspondence & were not aware of having given you any occasion for offence, wherefor 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 me 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 forgetfulness or my want of perception to whichever the fault is attributable. Why I can imagine how the season 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 to 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 veritable "locale" 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 <> 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, namely I claim a right within the Bar. My introduction to professional life was rather auspicious & the initiating process not very serene. What I may do now is altogether another question. 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, where 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. Have Engaged my office & am going into it to make or break on my own Expense. "Fourteen favors the brass" you know & as Prof Bordy told Perley, "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 chance, somebody who would be pleased to accompany him. Good philosophy & good sound practical doctrine that. But it is not Everybody's company that is desirable. A little discrimination is necessary & be sure 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 8000 inhabitants and only about a Dozen Lawyers, & thay are mostly young men. With them I shall take my chance, perhaps successfully, perhaps not. So if you please to favor me with a reply to this you will direct your letter to Galena, Jo Daviess Co., Ill.

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

With assurance of my kind regard,
I remain truly Yr. Friend &c
J. N. Jewett

470 5/4/1853

From: Rowland [Howard]

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0436a

Topsham

Source: Bowdoin

Topsham May 4th/53

Dear Mother

After you left we felt a little lonesome for a short time, but amid one May Day pleasure we soon merged all regrets into earnest 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 walk 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 gone up to recitation and I put this in before eleven. You will not rec it by Saturdays mail. Monday evening I attended Temperance Levee 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. Proff Packard and Dr Adams spoke feelingly and to the point. The Colation was prepared by the Ladies Band and served by the Javeline Watchman Club.

That medicine which I got is pretty bitter 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.

Maxim say Horatio had the 'blues' before he left and concluded to postpone visiting his friends. I believe he is subject to seasons of 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 hear his classes. So I must go. Remember me to all.

Your aff Son
Rowland

[This letter continues with the following one from Charles on May 6, 1853]

471 5/6/1853

From: CH Howard

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0436b

Topsham

Source: Bowdoin

[This letter is a continuation of the preceeding one from Rowland on May 4, 1853]

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 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 Fosters? What did father say because you stoped a day with us? I guess they got along, just as well without you. And what did Dellie say? Tell him he will have other chances to visit Topsham & 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 & Chancy get along keeping house in your absence? You will answer these questions & tell me all about home when you & Dellie 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 Maxim went with us, but Horatio did not. He left soon after for Abington Mass having concluded not to go to Leeds & Livermore this Spring. Maxim 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 J Perley the Writing Master 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 his copies all of the time before me in my Book Keeping. The terms are usualy \$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 \$1.00. Rowland & Mr Adams too take Book Keeping. Our Catalogues are now out, I have Mailed one to Dellie. Don't you think they are neat ones mother? But mother Rowland says it is time to go to school & I shall be obliged to close. Please give my love to all. Tell Dellie to write in yours

From Your Affectionate Son
CH Howard

[to] Mrs Eliza Gilmore

472 5/7/1853

From: Rowland [Howard]

To: Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0437a

Topsham

Source: Bowdoin

Topsham 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 innured 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 comforters like those that you enjoy. She took dinner in Portland, when she came down, with Aunt Martha and Lizzie came up to see her. We were expecting the latter with Mother when she came to Topsham 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 Collation served up by the Young Ladies of the School. On Monday evening I attended a Temperance Levee in Brunswick, by which the Hall over the new School House was dedicated. I enjoyed the Speeches, Songs and Sentiments very much. Mr Abbot and Proff Packard spoke well and to the point. The former is just the man for such an occasion. He is always ready with some enlivening 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 proser, put him where you will.

I mailed a letter for Lizzie yesterday an one for mother this morning and Charles has sent one of our Catalogues to you, and Charles 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 heres 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 F Spaulding delivered a good Oration before the Ath Soc at their Anniversary. You would hardly have thought that great awkward, long, ignoramus 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 save occasional roughness of style, bad selections of words, it was one of the best efforts of the kind. His subject was 'The Sublime'.

On Saturday (Tomorrow) comes the 'Annular, triumphant, retrospection of the Bowdoin Militia'. Won't we make that 'a glorius an immortal day'. But I forget that I was a School master and can't go into such a spree.

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. Old 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. Aurilla sings in the Choir but she has one of the worst coughs 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

Rowland

[to] Cadet Oliver O. Howard

473 5/7/1853

From: Charles [Howard]

To: Cadet Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0437b

Topsham

Source: Bowdoin

[Topsham May 7/53] [The date line is copied from the previous letter from Rowland]

Dear Brother,

I have not yet rec 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 it's way through the clouds to us. It commenced raining last eve about or just before dark & rained briskly all the night that I know anything about for I don't keep awake in the night to hear it rain. But it was kind enough not to rain until after meeting, so we did not get wet in returning from church.

I never saw a May Training before Sat. They had some laughable looking objects. An Uncle Tom & Topsey & all kinds of ridiculous looking fellows.

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 Harpswell preached. You know him I believe. Rowland said that you & he went & called on him in his field at the time you were in Harpswell.

J. Perley is the teacher in writing here, you know of him I suppose. He came here from Kents Hill 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 his copies constantly before me in Book-keeping.

Otis, 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 stoped two nights with us. We went to the depot, which is but a step from our boarding place Saturday morning with her & Rowland went as far as Brun in the cars. We have not yet heard how she got home.

Have you heard what an accident happened on the R. Road between N. York & Boston last Friday? We have not yet learned the particulars, only that the cars of one train all went in to a river, the Draw of the bridge being left up & they have taken out the bodies of 50 Drs who had been to a Medical convention at New York. Is this not awful!

My paper seems to be all consumed besides it is time to go to my recitation in Arithmetic. I have got over to Cube Root in that. Can perform all the questions but one (& that none of the faculty here can do) as far as I have gone.

From Your Affectionate Brother
Charles

475 5/11/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0438

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point NY May 11 '53

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 brothers have 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 reveille 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 any thing to do for the time that the battalion was at drill. But since I have to go to 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 Misses Thompson's or "Mammies" for nearly 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 at 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 I 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 demerit now & have duties which are far from being irksome, 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 quite 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 my success.

I got a double letter from Rowland & Charlie, containing the good news that mother had recovered & paid them a visit. Did you not go to see Lizzie while at Portland? She has written me regularly till 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 so good bye till then. I went to drawing at 2, returned at four and

went immediately to Artillery drill & have just returned. We are drilling with the mounted battery. That is, the pieces have horses attached. This causes us to run considerably which makes it rather tiresome, but I suppose it will pass for good exercise.

Did you ever hear of a worse rail road accident if accident it can be called. on the N. 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 Rodelphus Leadbeter 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 chevrons make me so conspicuous that I could be recognized 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 Dellie. 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.

As ever your affectionate son
O. O. Howard

476 5/12/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

To: Mrs E. Gilmore

OOH-0439a

Topsham Acad

Source: Bowdoin

Topsham Acad May 12, 1853

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 Freeport with you. She returned some two days since. I have written to Otis 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 finally. 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 learn to draw one of these days (when I get through College) as Mr Perley thinks I have a good call for it. I took only a short lesson of him on Saturday afternoon.

What a terrible accident that was at Norwalk. I think no simelar 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 McKeen was aboard (Mrs Frosts Brother in law). They were in dreadful suspence for a short time. Dr Peaslee was in the next train and came along about two hours after the accident.

I will go to the P.O. now as see 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 not 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 Read is playing the piano with doors and windows open and the effect is delightful. The distance is just sufficient for us to trace the tune distinctly.

Last Saturday the Studens 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 Topsey. A Bloomer 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 Kenebec 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. Ours will continue till Saturday and we shall not probably get away before the following Monday. I will now leave room for Charles.

So Good Bye for a short time. With remembrance to all Friends, I am

Your affectionate Son
Rowland

Mrs E. Gilmore

477 5/12/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: Mrs E. Gilmore

OOH-0439b

Topsham Acad

Source: Bowdoin

[Topsham Acad May 12, 1853]

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 Dellie 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 tired 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 mother, to get a letter from Otis tonight. He says that he is pretty well "but has not much flesh", has improved his complection 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 one the first of the week. He is now very busy in preparing for the Examination, thinks he is not very well prepared. Says 'tis not easy to retain 2000 pages of Philosophy & Chemistry in his head so as to pass a good examination on it.

The fields here are looking green now, & the Apples trees are leaving out. Otis writes that the Cherry trees have Blossomed at West Point. Maj Frost's pease have got to be quite high some of them more than 6 inches. Did your plant that I got for you live? The Daffas are all in bloom here now. It will not be long before I shall be home & see how every thing at home prospers. If you have had good health since you went back suppose our garden is now flourishing. Do you remember the brick house right above Mrs Frost's. What a beautiful garden it was! I see that lady out in her garden most every time I go past.

Do they keep Dellie flying pretty smartly now? He must write us one more letter to put in yours 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 so 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 no that is the way I thought of when you were here. Aurilla says Thomas Bridgham is coming for her & Lizzie says that we must certainly go by the way of Portland. But you need not send any horse for us or any thing to the Depot, unless we write something. More particularly about it. We shall start from here we think the Monday after the school cises on Friday.

Give my love to Dellie & all.

From your Aff Son
CHHoward

478 5/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0440 Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland May 22 1853

Dear Brother

You will see by the date of this that I have left Topsham. I came down here last night. Charley was in a hurry to get home, so he went through directly yesterday morning. I find Lizzie well, and through her hear that mother has spent nearly a week in Portland. I have not yet been up to Aunt Marthas. I went to Church with Lizzie this morning and this afternoon John Perley and myself have been up to High St and heard Dr Chickering. 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 blooming as ever.

Charley received yours a few days since and will write to you soon. Fathers visit must have given you much pleasure. Our Term at Topsham closed very happily. We had a Levee 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 excelent 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 strongly on Niagra Suspension Bridge and Aunt Martha says it makes her very nervous to think of it.

William is still at Henrys. He talks some 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 affect brother
Rowland

479 5/22/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: Friend [OO] Howard

OOH-0441

Galena, Ill.

Source: Bowdoin

Galena Ill. May 22 1853

Friend Howard

Yours of the 16th inst came to hand this afternoon & if I had not known you intimately before I should image that you had arrived to the 4th act of the play of life as directed by Shakespeare after this fashion

"Then A Soldier

"Full of strange oaths & bearded like a pard

"Jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel,

"Seeking the bubble reputation

"Even in the cannon's mouth."

But I know better & therefore let it pass of course. So firm the representations made of me & mine in Brunswick & Topsham you were almost disposed to admit me a regular rascal & called upon me to exculpate myself, under such circumstances fully known to me I might have hesitated in giving the explanation I did so cheerfully, when I tho't myself interrogated 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 motives.

I wished all of <> to my former connections in Brunswick omitted not because I wished 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 & I will not undertake to excuse it was in the beginning & not in the conclusion of that very unfortunate engagement. What I could do to repair 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 now, nor have I at any time to 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 are & have been as sacredly kept as though the connections had been consummated. The confidence she reposed in me save in one particular has never been violated by word or action & I esteem her as highly as ever. I did for the many good superior qualities she possessed. My acts and the reasons for them are only appreciable by myself and I was not drawn in another direction by the flashing of bright eyes. The scintillations of a lively wit nor the attractions of worldly wealth or honor. Ambition was not my motive as was gravely charged upon me by the Lady herself.

But enough of this - I have entirely forgotten what I wrote in my last letter sent on to you - that I had any intention of speaking seemingly of our acquaintance or correspondence I entirely deny. I might have treated some things jestingly but if so the recollection of them has entirely escaped me. I think you must have studied very long ways to suit 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 a veil drawn over all the past. No! Not for the wealth of Crezus would I have the <memory> of my past life blotted from my remembrance. There are few things in it which I have occasion to regret & I would not for these few lose 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 weary four years will soon be ended now and you will then doubtless assume the duties of some responsible station. May fortune attend you propitiously through them all. This I wish most sincerely. Perchance in my hereafter meet in the business & bustle of the world in a different stage of action.

If so you need not doubt my honor & I will not yours. What I shall accomplish in this Town is yet unknown to me of course.

I came here last Wednesday - I 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 8000 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 Steamboats at all necessary times. There are some Dozen Lawyers in Town, but all of little or no repute & scarcely one has to any very great extent so far as I can learn, the confidence of the people.

Business in my professional line is said to be rather dull at present, but it is admitted by all to be a very good opening for a Lawyer.

Well I'm here & shall stay here as long as money or credit will keep me, even if I don't have anything to do. I have been at church twice to day & am going again. I am quite pleased with the place & the people so far as I have become acquainted with them. I have a pleasant office &c. I expect Townsend here in a few weeks. Now just write us at your earliest convenience

Yr Friend truly
J.N. Jewett

480 5/30/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0442

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. May 30th 1853

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 this 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 atattoo.

I have two excuses for not writing a letter last week. One is the examination which begins to show its grim visage to frighten us 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 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 mustered 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 hurling 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 extemporaneous 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 difficulty yields to the enthusiasm of my nature. I lack in knowledge 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 imagination, why the story is good for nothing.

I sent my etching to Lizzie by father. I had promised them to her before. Father it seems either did not understand to whom I sent them or forgot to deliver them.

(Tuesday 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 to day your son will have to pass the usual ordeal. Between this time & then, he must study constantly. We finished drawing to day. 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 comparative ease. When I first commenced I had to copy mark 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 all through. These two years of drawing have been rather wearisome, especially when I could make no head way, but I have worked industriously all the time, and have never been discouraged a moment. I do not mean to be discouraged at anything except at impossibilities.

A Gentleman with quite a party composed of several Ladies and little folks, met me this morning when I was returning from my breakfast, & 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 & 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 & acquit 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, still it must be pleasant to 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
O.O. Howard

481 5/30/1853 *From:* CH Howard

To: OO Howard

OOH-0443a

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds May 30 1853

My dear Brother

I was thinking this afternoon that I owe you a letter, and you know I am a great hand to pay my debts. It seems a great while since I rec-d your letter, but when I consider I find that it is but a little more than two weeks. I came from Topsham 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 examined 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 <sharp> 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 couze. 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 Whites, Wilde & Smyth made each a short speech & the school was closed by a prayer from Rev Wilde.

All 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 clasps. 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 them Good Bye. About every scholar came, went away about half past ten. Thomas Bridgham was there 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 7 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 Brewsters at half past nine. Our folks were at work on the Rail Road. They brought home my bags & I took dinner with Mother. Having been gone about 11 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 today. 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?

From Your Affectionate Brother
CHHoward

OO Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Eliza Gilmore]

482 5/30/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0443b

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[Continued from the previous letter from Charles Howard]

My Dear Son,

I am thinking much about you at this time, it being about examination time, and feeling your excitability almost myself, I 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 to much already, but my dear boy do not be too anxious, about anything in this world. It is all a grasp 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 anticipate. 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 and not see you but if it is necessary I can. Again I say, keep calm, and support disappointment with the dignity.

I shall not say anything about my visit at Portland in this as the clock has already struck twelve at noon and we design this letter for Mr Leonard at one O'clock. Every thing is about as usual with us. Today the 30th of May is a delightful day. All nature is gay with its most beautiful plumage showing forth its promise.

Arza is here on a visit together with his wife and babe five months old. He sits up and lies down alternately all day making about half of the time that he is up. He has three abscesses now <> discharging on his body. One of his legs is drawn up so he is quite a cripple.

I could easily fill up this sheet 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,
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

483 5/30/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0443c

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[Continued from the previous letter from Eliza Gilmore]

Dear Brother

Wm Otis and myself have just came in from fishing after having had tolerable luck. Wm sends his respects and congratulates you upon your promotion. I suppose you recd mine from Portland, and I shall be looking for an answer soon.

Your aff Brother
Rowland