tents, which are entirely new, have the peculiar property to draw the sun. and I sweat like rain, though perched on a water pail up side down, on the top of a camp stool. I have not got a letter from any of you for an age. I hope indeed you are well. There is no prospect of my getting a leave this summer, but thank my stars this is the last year. I want Rowland or Charlie to visit me if it is possible this summer. Uncle Ward sent his love to you all. Remember me to all my friends, give my love to all those who are around you, who are & ever will be near & dear to me. Tell me if you can read Camp writing. Lizzie told me you wrote her an excellent letter, just such a one as she wishes to receive from you - but she did not say what you wrote. I did well on the examination in Philosophy & pretty well in Chemistry. Prof Bartlett treated me very kindly, as I am happy to say all the officers on West Point have done thus far. I come into Camp with a lighter heart & a more agreeable prospects than I did two years ago. My responsibilities are considerable & my duties many of them unwelcome but I shall try to discharge them conscientiously & trust to the result. Mr Libbett was dropped from the list of officers, which he feels very severely, if the countenance may be considered an exponent of one's feelings. He came out 2d in drawing, second in Chemistry & 6th in Phil. If he is second in general standing I will be third.

Your loving affectionate son O.O. Howard

O.O. Howard.

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West Point N.Y. June 19-53

My dear mother

We are now in Camp - The examination with all its tedium & unpleasantness is over, and our standing was published last evening. I came out 2d in Phil. 5th in Chem. & 9th in Drawing. This will put me 2d or third in general standing. I have through the kindness of Judge Goodenow & his son who came with him, made the acquaintance of many of the board of visitors. Maj Ward of Florida gave us a splendid address, having been chosen to speak before the Dialectic Society. He formerly ran for United States Senator - & afterwards - labored in Florida for General Scott's Election. I never could understand before the merits of those stump speeches which are said to be characterized by so much originality & eloquence which are delivered in the Southern & Western part of our Country. He has great compass of voice & great enthusiasm in his nature. He asked to be introduced to me, to congratulate me on the recitation which I made in Philosophy. I have met him & talked with him several times since. He came into my tent this morning & said he would come again before he left West Point. Mr Rayner of N. Carolina also addressed us, or rather the Graduating Class, Friday evening. His speech was written & was as good a one as I wish to

hear. Mr Davies of N. York was the President of the Board. I went into Ladies society considerably while they were here. Mr Davis gave me the reputation of being the most gentlemanly cadet he had seen. So his innocent little boy told me. When this I had to be introduced to the young ladies the Board brought with them. I get quite well acquainted with three. Miss Florriance of Maryland & Mrs Groome from the same State. Mrs Davies & Miss Baird from Green Bay, Wisconsin the Daughter of a member of the Board from that State. Then, Uncle Ward & his daughter visited me about a week ago, two days after the letter came again & brought her uncle & aunt & a large party of ladies & gentlemen from Cincinnati Ohio & I had to be introduced & to entertain the crowd. Afterwards My room-mate's sister came & spent a day. You can imagine how much opportunity I had to study after the examination commenced. I was & have been for several months afflicted with biles, but I will not get excused from duty. The most troublesome one was one I had on my neck causing it to swell up very large. After the one I have now goes away I do not expect to have any more as we are in Camp & have every means to promote a healthy circulation of the blood. I have been made first Lieut of C Company; have a nice large tent a table & writing desk upon it & another Lieut (Mr Carr of Virginia) of my Comp. to live with — a fine good principled young man. My room mate Mr Townsend was also made Lieutenant, but was put into another Company so that we cannot live together. He is a very good young man indeed & if it is possible we will room together when we return to Barracks in September. Mr Browne has been extremely unfortunate, was found deficient in everything. 8 of my Class mates were found deficient this examination leaving only 18 of the original members of my Class. Some of these were among my best friends, and were very fine young men. We cannot but pity them, especially those who have done the best in their power — & as I think did not in any way deserve the lot awarded them. Some of them it will ruin & some will take a pride in proving that their talents have been grossly mistaken. The first Class have left & the third gone on furlough. My duties will require constant activity & vigilance & judging by yesterday's labor I would think that I had not gained much by my promotion. Yesterday we pitched our tents — moved our goods & chattels a part into camp & a part into the Academic building to be stored there. I have got a space to prepare before the fourth of July — so you must not be surprised if my letters are not very frequent. We will have to study infantry & Artillery tactics, & study & practice Civil Engineering all summer. There will not be many minutes in hour I can say I have nothing to do. But I will not complain as it will be for my advantage physically & mentally to be active. It is very hot here indeed. Our

My dear Brother Leeds Monday June 20, 1853

Though it has been a long time since I or any of us here at home have heard from you, yet we have received a letter since I have sent one, but not an answer to our last. Still I think that brothers ought to write one an other when they have an opportunity, and not be particular about getting answers before they write. I think this especially ought to be the rule between you & me, for you always like to hear from your friends here at home, but cannot always find time to write or answer letters. And I can say the same for myself, though I suppose you think I might well enough find time to write letters being here at home, and it certainly seems so, but always when I have leisure time, that is, that which is not consumed by work on the farm, there is something that some one of the family wishes me to do, some little chore, or perhaps I have set that time for some particular thing I wish to fix, mend, move, look at, transplant, or some particular action I wish to perform for myself. Often I have to harness the horse for father, and also bring some water for Nancy or place some stakes around a plant in the garden for mother or help Nellie bring in his chips & wood before it rains or help him carry potatoes to the cows, or perhaps I thought when I was hoeing that corn that when I had finished

than we were when our father died. O. Chis I was filing yours, Rowlands & my letters yesterday & I found quite a number of letters, which you wrote while at Hallowell, years 1843, 1844, 1845; then were in year 1843 when you were but 12 years, I read them all, & I could not help thinking how much easier has been my lot to what yours was, you went away from your parents at the tender age of 12 years & hardly have you lived with your mother since. It seemed to me while reading your letters, of that time rather hard, sometimes you could not have clothes to go to meeting, sometimes you wished to come home & see your sick brother Rowland but could not. & once you wrote that you wished to go to writing school but now would let you have the money. How much different is this from my easy lot. when I always have had all that I have wished for have been to school when I wished & have then come home to my mother, I don't know as ever I asked for a book, or any clothes, or for any privilege of any consequence but what it was granted me, & I will not grumble at my lot at any time for you did not. having a much worse one. I had a letter from Rowland last Saturday night, in which was enclosed an acct of the examination for the two first days of June & no more, Rowland was well when he wrote, his eyes were very weak when at home, but are quite well now, he says he is very busy "making up" just now. He had not rec. yet this & my long letter, when he wrote & he scolds some about very not writing says every body does him a letter, but he has not rec one since. he was then at Brunswick wrote to Lizzie six weeks ago Frank Gilman 3 months Chis 3 weeks. — Chis I should have written more but father is going to the depot & it will go on any

Leeds

I would play a good long time on my Holian not having played much for some time, and of course I wish & ought to read some if I can get a chance. So you see Otis I do not have so much time to write letters as you might suppose. I am not one of those kind who wish to contrive or find something to do to kill time as they call it, for I have heard this expression. For on the contrary I rather, yes very much would I rather invent some method of making more time, than I think I would find no trouble in using it all. Now the question that would naturaly arise is, why have you the time to write Monday as busy a day with farmers as any & at the time of day that the chores should be done. The reason is I have for two days past had a pain in my side just above my hip & I thought I would not do any thing until I was sure that it was well for fear I should wrench it again for I think I wrenched it last friday & then got cold in it, mother put on a plaster & to day it is well, You do not have any weather to put on a plaster when you have a little pain in your side at West Point, nor even if you have a great one. Which last we begin to think is true or something of the same nature, we have not had a letter for so long, But we do not think so much of it as we should if we had nothing more than usual to lay it to, for now we say to one & other that he is busy with the Examination, but Otis we really did expect a letter on Saturday, Jun 21st. This I suppose you would not know did I not tell you. that I had made quite a pause in writing, just about dark last eve. Uncle Ensign & wife called. so I pound in my letter to see them, I found that their family is well, I dont think that Uncle changes much. I went out with him & Father into the Garden to gather some Cabbage & Lettice plants, the principle topic of conversation with them was business of the Railroad. They did not stay long. Aunt Martha informed us that Mrs Orville Barrows were sick, so they kept their beds all day yesterday. Orville has a cough while at Gofsham & was not very careful of himself, & came home with it, has not recovered from it yet. I am sorry this to inform you that our family are preparing this morning to attend the funeral of one of the good citizens of Leeds & an acquaintance of yours, Perez Jennings, you know he has been sick some time with the Dyspepsia. Poor Orville can never see his own father again, I suppose will not here of his death as soon as you will. Roscoe & Rolla have been at Kentshill this spring Term, Rolla came home he told me in eight weeks, sick. But Roscoe stayed the whole or nearly the whole term. Rodolphus told me that Roscoe became pious while there. I pity those boys in losing their father, though they are older

Cincinnati
Leeds Sunday June 26. 1859

Dear Brother

From your affectionate Brother

Bill - in haste

Silas & Rebecca Alger have been to Mecca to a Backsliding meeting. Lizzie has not - expressed any letter while Johnson was at home. Mother & I spent a week in Madison & Hanover. Mother & I are visiting Bill's kin folks. Write soon & write often. Do pray that you may be converted & see us. Bill - in haste

Return from church I came into the North-room & found mother writing to you. I have been up to the New meeting-house on the Ridge. They have now a preacher new to them having preached here but one Sunday before Elder Hill, you I think must have heard him spoken of, if not heard him speak yourself. For he is the man that lectured on Temperance here in Leeds a few years ago with so much enthusiasm. His sermon this afternoon was somewhat sectional, on account of the approaching 4th of July. He thought that our Condizmen should be very thankful that they lived in such a country, & showed the things in which it is superior to others. He also spoke of the two great evils Slavery & Intemperance. I finished my last letter this in rather a hurry for the time arrived, when I was obliged to carry father, before I expected. I did not direct it but left it for father to do. We got to the depot just as the cars did. I came home after seeing father away & wrote a letter of nearly four pages to Rowland which I sent by mail. Then I went over to the funeral of Perez Jennings the sermon was preached by W. Fox. We have had cloudy as well as you some very warm days this summer but it is now quite cool. You know I suppose, that this is

the time of year when we do our hoeing, Cow corn we have had the second time & shall begin the Potatoes tomorrow for the second time. Our family is not very large now but they are all well though mother has been quite slim on account of a cold. Asa has been here 4 weeks some of the time very slim. I carried him to Wayne yesterday. Have not been to Wayne before since last fall. It does not change much. I called a little while to see Mrs Sampson. She talks all of the time as usual inquiring very particularly about you & Rowland & I have not heard of your first promotion, but she always thought that you would take a high standing in every thing you undertook. Mr Sampson is still at Rideford, Maryland, some fifty miles from Baltimore. Sabbath school celebration at Wayne on the 4th July. I know you wish to know about all Leads folks & affairs but usually I do not tell you much about them in my letters anyway. We had a full meeting today. Perry Mower was there, Louisa quite unwell so she cannot walk, afraid of her mother sore or Abscess. he has got two very pretty little children who attend the S. school. This is quite large, they have it every Lord's day though there is a meeting but half the time. Mr Gilbert's family were there, also Mr Brewster's, Amy is doing quite a business over to the new store. Old Mr B. is 91 years of age as smart as ever, always knows me & shakes hands heartily & always inquires about Chis. he ran down here a little while the other day to see Aunt Lucretia's family often. They always enquire for you. Aurelia is at home now. I just or a few days ago accompanied Pettued Jones down to Capt Farmer's who was on his way home, Mr Jones' family were well, he kept Farmer's, Mrs Farmer has just returned from Bangor been gone a fortnight.

Mr Jones's folks are well or nothing new. When I write I will write more