
488 7/5/1853

From: Rowland [Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0447

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. July 5 1853

Dear Brother

I have returned from Portland today after spending my 4th of July there. I did not care much about going to P but I thought I should like to see Lizzie and perhaps she would like to see me. I did not find her as well as I was in hopes to. She looks a little pale and feels languid, but she thinks she shall be better if the weather grows cooler. We have not decided yet entirely whether we shall go to West Point or not. It looks to me like quite an expense for one who is spending so much money other ways as I am, but I shall think it over some more before I decide. I went with Lizzie to see the Fire Works in the evening. She was pretty tired but stood it better than I expected. The Fire Works were poor and the people noisy but on the whole I think she enjoyed it pretty well. I saw J.G. Goodenow in Portland. He says you are looking pretty well only rather thin, i.e. more so than when he knew you at College. He says he enjoyed his visit very much and that your presence and kindness contributed more to this than anything else.

You delayed some time before you wrote me your last letter and I wrote many first pages giving you a trimming but finally concluded to let you take your own course as you probably would anyhow. The Athanaean has been entirely broken up this term by one of those party rows which I suppose you experienced while in College. The defeated party would not attend the treat and broke up the induction of officers by certainly very unmilitary if not uncivil conduct.

We shall have to get rid of about two Classes before we shall be able to do much. You can now understand fully the folly of Party College politics and without doubt look upon them as rather small business as they certainly are yet it is astonishing how much interest is taken by Students in these Society elections.

We are now reading the Odessey & <DeLenactate>. I had the former mostly to make us but I have accomplished the most of it. The class that I am in is not so pleasant on many accounts as the one I left, but it is as large and has of course some first rate fellows. I could not get a room in College and so I room at Mrs Grows. They all remember you very well. I suppose you boarded with them some time. I recollect taking a number of meals here.

Do you receive papers and pamphlets that I send you? I have sent you a number, first & last and you have acknowledged the rect of none. I sent you last week the Brunswick Telegraph, a new paper published here, but it was partly to remind you that you owed me a letter.

Do you wish me to get your Diploma for you? If so I suppose Prof Clear must know it before the 20 inst that they may have them printed. I can get the money you know, and pay for it, if you desire it.

I have not heard from home for some time, probably not since you have. I sent my Daguerrotype by Esq Haines on the 4th, thinking it would be a grateful Fourth of July present to Mother. I am anxious to hear how your Oration came off. Did it receive much applause. I have no doubt that it was a good thing. The question is, whether it was appreciated by the Audience. The two parts for A.M. are, I believe performed by Everett & Perley. Everett having the Oration and Perley the Salutatory.

I am not going to give you much of a letter this time as I dont feel a bit like writing. Let us not have our correspondence drag as it has done for two months, but let us write once in two weeks, i.e. if you can get time. I can write you a great deal more interesting letters if I write often so do answer this very soon, and I will give you a long one in reply.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

489 7/14/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0448

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. July 14 '53 [certain words very faint]

My dear Mother

I presume it seems odd that I do not write you oftener, but the reason is I cannot. I will give you in detail the duties of each day, and you can see how difficult it must be to write; if I were never tired, and always felt in a mood for writing I could get a few moments every day.

Just as soon as Reveille is over in the morning I take out a large squad of plebes & drill them with muskets till surgeon's call, then I have just time to prepare for breakfast. It takes some time to march from Camp to the mess hall. Get breakfast & return. After we get back we have to prepare for heavy artillery - or light artillery - some of the first class are detailed to act as chief of <officers> as the plebe or third class drill at artillery. The remainder go to the siege or mortar battery - you remember where we told you they throw shells from just by this flag staff. Then we drill for an hour. Then we return & go to the laboratory - where you saw with Langdon the big chain & the guns taken in Mexico. Here we have to make cartridges, rockets, fire balls grape & canister shot &c. Every day till dinner at 1. We go to dinner, return then study artillery tactics till four one day & infantry tactics the next. I usually take my book & go down by the river, get under the shade of a tree & study, since I cannot help going to Sleep in Camp in the afternoon. Then I have nearly an hour to myself, then I go to drill plebes again with muskets & remain a little more than an hour. And some of our work at heavy artillery & at the laboratory is right hard & we are apt to feel tired by parade.

You may wonder why I am writing now. I have another bile on my back & not feeling like going to drill got excused by the Surgeon. Dr Cugler says every one of these things is worth five dollars, but I would willingly give them away & five dollars "to boot".

Rowland complains of my letting so much time elapse between my letters. Last Sunday I had intended to write three letters, but I went on as officer of the day Saturday & had to keep awake all night or nearly all night, so that after I got off I got a foot tub in my tent, washed myself & changed my clothes & lay down and went to sleep. I slept till 6 in the afternoon merely getting up to attend dinner roll-call. Well, instead of three I made out to write one letter. I had a letter from Rowland telling me of his visit on the fourth of July. I did not know till then that Lizzie had been sick. I received a letter at the same time from her. I presume you found the account I gave of the death of Cadet Frank in the Advertiser. I fear it is rather plainly spoken for afflicted parents or relatives, but I wished people to see what is a legitimate result of sending young men here who are not fitted to pursue the courses of study here attended to. Mr Littlefield came here & had to resign. Mr Frank followed him, and his death only prevented him from being found deficient. Now we have plenty of smart sensible young men, who are eager to come to West Point & they should come. It is a grand mistake that some people make who fancy that a young man who is unfit for every thing else is fit for the army. If any man in the wide world wants a clear head and a sound mind it is the army officer. My course at West Point has been alternately unpleasant and pleasant, hard & then comparatively easy. But if I am permitted to judge I would say it has done me no manner of injury and on the contrary a great deal of good. My mind has changed very much relative to the army since I have been here because I have become more enlightened with respect to the material that compose it & its object. Above all things next to our Legislators the officers of our army ought to be good, upright men. Charlie must tell me how he spent the fourth of July. I suppose you are haying now & perhaps all of you are too tired, whenever an opportunity presents itself to write much. I hope all are well. I am thinking of sending my paintings to Portland by express - let Lizzie take a part & give you the remainder. Some of them will look well when they are framed & covered with a glass. I shall send them in a tin Diploma case so that they will not take hurt.

They are firing at the third class artillery battery and also shells at the mortar battery. It is right good music for me. I do not know why but I do like the sound of canon fired one after another with an interval of little less than a minute between each. I like every thing in camp this year but the studying. The lessons are very long & require too much pure memory. Mr Carter the Editor of the Advertiser wrote me a letter and said he had been here two years, went home on furlough & circumstances prevented his returning to complete his course. He asked me to write any thing that occurred of interest & he would publish. I have thought some of publishing my

fourth of July oration but I can hardly make up my mind to do it. If it was the best I could write I would not hesitate to publish it, but though it got so much credit here, I know it is rather insipid.

Give my love to all individually. I will be most happy to see Roland A when he comes. R.B.H I shall not urge to visit me for I know he cannot afford it. How I wish I was able to defray his expenses. But in a little time I will be with you again. Jerry Lothrop Esq called to see me but I was out of camp. It is found that I can do the duties of an officer as well as those of a private. I am well with the slight exception that I named in the beginning. Write as soon as you can. Remember me to all. Warren was well the other day.

Yr affectionate son
O.O. Howard

490 7/20/1853 *From:* CH Howard

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0449

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Wedn July 20, 1853

Dear Brother Otis

It has been so long since I wrote you that I don't know where to begin. I received a letter from you the 9th of July which I have not answered. It was dated 5th. But I think I have written since the Fourth though you have not yet mentioned receiving any letter. And did you get my letter informing you of Mr Jennings' death? It might have miss carried. We were all very glad to hear from you, & to hear how you prospered on the Fourth in delivering your Oration. It must have been very good or you would have had no applause, for I do not imagine that West Point people are very apt to do such things or that the Ladies at Caesar's Hotel would have taken pains to have sent you a Bouquet if you had not given them a talented oration. How you are troubled with biles Otis. You were obliged to write this letter lying on your side & you mention a new one every time you write. There is a Jim in your letter to me I should like to have you explain.

Mother says he must be your waiter because you have become an officer. I see you like to have some sport at the cost of the Plebes. The same as that which used to cause you to feel so badly when a Plebe. Though I suppose you do not use them near as badly as the older classes did you for you certainly can pity them.

But I suppose you would like to know of House affairs. Well, you know we have been Laying farther last three weeks. We mow the same ground that you did when you used the scythe. I have not mowed much though I have had a scythe & snathe of my own. There is always enough to do in Haying besides mowing. We have had very good weather for making hay ever since we began but not good for causing grass & the other crops to grow. It has been so dry that the people of Leeds thought they would have scarcely any crops of grain & Potatoes at all, but today it is mending the matter. We have got into the barn all of our upland hay & have cut some on the medow. Thomas Langley has been at work here by the day now. Amial Jones is here. He Roland & I with father make up our Haying gang. It being a rainy day today I take the opportunity to write my brother a letter, but Amial is playing on the violin up in the South chamber & I being in North room am puzzled to keep my mind upon it. Father & mother started for Hallowell yesterday morning, leaving Nancy Dellie the Boys & I to keep house. They had a good day to go down though rather warm. They thought of coming back today but it has rained so they have not come & it is now most three o'clock. Do you not wish you were at Hallowell as you were 12 years ago, when you used to be so glad when the time came for a visit from Father & mother or Father for I have been reading letters of yours written at that time, when you were wishing for & anticipating with pleasure, such visits. We have a letter from Rowland every week. He says "it is prudence & not economy for I know I am not economical" that keeps me from going with Lizzie to West Point. But Poor Lizzie is not able to go to West Point now. I got your letter to mother last night. I read it, for I know she just as lief I would as not.

It has been just about a week in coming. We shall get your letters sooner when the mail gets to going on the cars & they have now contracted for carrying it. But have not everything ready, such as P.O. &c.

You mentioned hearing that she was unwell, but Aunt Martha Jane wrote us a letter on her arrival in Portland, saying that Lizzie had a slow, Lung Fever. But very likely you have heard about it before this. Aunt Martha came to Uncle Ensign's week ago last Friday & stayed till Sunday when she rode down home with mother & I & stayed till Tuesday, when mother carried her to the depot to take the Noon Train of cars.

We sent some strawberries to Lizzie but she was not allowed to eat them. Have you had anything like Strawberries on your table this summer Otis? We have had a great many from our beds in the Gardens & we have them now. And do you have green peas. We have had some the first were a week ago last Tuesday.

We have preaching every Sunday now Otis. Our new minister is just about your age, and he reminds me of you often. I think he resembles Perley in features.

Friday

Otis, I did not finish my letter Wed you see & could not get a chance to write any Yesterday. But I will write a little while now for I can overtake the boys for I have to spread what they mow.

Father & mother came from Hallowell after it closed raining, arrived about sundown. Grandmother & all of our Friends at Hallowell were well. Uncle John had gone to Dixville.

I had forgotten that you mentioned in your last letter that you would like to have me tell you how I spent the Fourth of July. I went to a sabbath school celebration at Wayne with Mother & Dellie. We had a good time in the forenoon heard a Temperance lecture from Elder Hill & then we had the refreshments which were placed on three Tables in front of the Baptist House. In the afternoon had lectures on different subjects from several & had singing & playing on Aeolean by several little girls & a little boy played on violin. I went in P.M. to Winthrop for Mrs. Sampson to get Mr Sampson who was coming in the cars from Bideford but he did not come till next day. We stayed with Mrs S. till after tea then called to see Arza a little while before we came home. He was as well as usual, has rode out once since he went from home.

Mother just came in & says write Otis that he must not despair of Rowland's coming to West Point yet, for he may come she thinks in September & that she saw Maria & Uncle's family at Hallowell, that Maria said she had not yet seen your letter in the Advertiser yet. But her father has & he said it was a very good letter. I suppose you minded that your letter or some things in it hurt the feelings of Cadet Frank's parents. But Mr Carter excused it well. On one acct, Otis I should like to have you publish your Oration i.e. that I might have a chance to read it.

I think of going to Kents Hill in a fortnight. If I go I hope I shall not be sick in five weeks, & as my health is very good now I think I shall not.

Dellie has gone to school. He wished me to send his love to you & says he has got almost through his Arith & Gram. Otis what do you think of my beginning Greek this Fall. I have read about one book in Caesar & there is a chance for me to go into Roscoe Jennings' class in Virgil who had studied it a part of a term. I talked with him about it & he said he knew I could go into his class because I was so much easier to learn then he, but I don't know what to do about it. What is your advice. I <studied> six secions in Algebra, have studied Nat. Phil. & Astron & Physiol, gone through Greenlief's Arith. If you see mistakes in spelling or Gram, please mention them & I will correct them in my other letters.

From your Affectionate Brother
Charles

P.S. My letter is rather disconnected.

491 7/21/1853 *From:* Maria Otis

To: Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0450

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell July 21st /53
Wednesday Eve'g

I have been intending for a long time to write you a letter my dear Otis, but have put it off from time to time till I felt almost ashamed to write at all, but as I have been talking with your mother a good deal about you today, I determined to write you so that we might sometimes hear from you here. The only way we get any news of you is from Leeds and that rather seldom. Your mother came down with Col. Gilmore yesterday but went home to day, the visit was decidedly a short one, but I spent the morning with her and saw her off this afternoon, so that I made the most of it I could. Father went away on Monday up to his town ship in New Hampshire where he will stay two or three weeks. I trust the gentleman won't be eaten up by the ravenous mosquitoes.

I have not yet seen the letter you wrote to the "Advertiser" as we do not take it, but father said he had it down at the office and had promised to bring it to me but as he has not a remarkably good memory, I am still waiting with patience to read it. It must have been a very, very sad thing to you all and still more terrible to his relations. But if he has gone to a better world where is no weariness of spirit or flesh no one would <call> him to a life which lately at least must have been but a hard struggle.

I suppose you have heard of poor Eugene Thains death this spring and Annie Stevens, a young lady that I believe you use to go to school with, died about the same time. "<Ady>" Thains a young lady a sister of Eugene's died a few months before he did. Eugene had a typhoid fever and was unconscious nearly the whole of his sickness. It has always seemed to me a most terrible thing, the idea of dying without the least consciousness of one's situation. Will says that Dr. Bell has given them some reason to hope that Spenser Wells will get better. I do so trust that he may yet recover.

I have been in Bath a great deal this spring and summer and became great friends with a young gentleman that you may remember in college named Jackson (J.E.B.) I believe are his initials. He spoke of you and enquired about you. I wish you would come on here to commencement this fall. I suppose a good many of your old friends will be there this year. I suppose a good many of them will be unable to come as they have gone so far away. Tom Atherton went out West this spring. Goodwin went last fall so they probably will not return so soon. I suppose you have heard of Tom Smith's marriage. He has married a young Southern lady who seems by all accounts to possess all virtues and the blessing of quite a big dowry besides. They were to be in town this month. Poindexter has got engaged to a young lady but I believe it has not increased his happiness as he finds after a more intimate acquaintance that he does not love her very much, but I cannot imagine why he does not break off with the young lady.

I suppose you heard of the sudden death of Wm Gardiner's father, a few months ago. He went to the druggist's to get some sort of medicine and the boy made a mistake and gave him arsenic, which he took and died in a very short time.

I hear from Addison and Mr Sargent once in a while. Addison thinks of coming home this fall I believe and Mr Sargent will come in the spring. Therefore Sarah will not be under the necessity of going out there.

I have received a note of invitation to your cotillion parties tonight. I was rather disappointed at not finding a letter but nevertheless am glad to see I am not forgotten. It would give me great satisfaction to flourish about with young gentleman in such fine dresses as you have, but I must <can> forgo the pleasure. At present I am much more interested in riding on horseback than in dancing. We have got a famous mexican pony who is a remarkably well trained animal and has always been kept for riding. I go to ride three or four times a week. Will has been in Portland this spring. He saw Lizzie several times. I have not been there since last fall and do not know when I shall go again. My friends the BW are going to move there this next September. I shall miss them very much indeed as Tom is almost my only friend, that I care for him.

I am now taking of going to Philadelphia this winter but do not know whether I shall accomplish it. If I go I shall certainly come to West Point either going or returning.

Will is studying law quite busily this summer. We are all very well here and at Grandmothers. But I find I must be about ending this epistle as I seem to be coming to the end of this sheet and besides it is time all respectable, sedate persons should be thinking of going to their rests as it is after ten o'clock some time. Write me soon as you can find time. As ever

Your affectionate cousin
Maria Otis

492 7/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [R B
Howard]

To: Cadet Oliver O Howard

OOH-0451

Bowd. Coll

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll July 22d 1853

My dear Brother

On the same day which I received your letter I went in to see Jos McKeen, Treas, as he still delights to subscribe himself, and asked about your second degree. He coolly informed me that if I wished one struck off, I must pay for it then. So I pulled out my wallet and found, for a wonder, just the 3.00 required so I paid in, and he entered your name among the list of Applicants for A.M. It will be delivered at Commencement or as soon afterwards as called for, and then you can have it I suppose. When you graduate at West Point, I shall sum up your titles and see how many you have had bestowed upon you.

I received a letter from Charles & Rodolphus yesterday by the way of Hallowell where I suppose Father mailed it. The Family were well, but Loisa (Mrs Mower) was very sick. They have heard from Lizzie that she was no better since I saw her on the Fourth inst. I wrote <her> one of my usual jolly joking letters, last Monday and have not yet received an answer. I really hope that she is able to write, perhaps you hear from her.

We have had fine weather all Summer. The College yard looks finely. There begins to be some talk about Commencement. The Seniors go away in about a week. I suppose this is the last College Class that you are acquainted with as they were Freshman when you Graduated. They are the smallest class in College numbering 25, but they have some very smart fellows and will probably have a better Commencement than last year. They have engaged Dodsworth New York Band - which ensures good music.

Long John Spaulding is behind no one in the class in point of thorough education and real ability. I suppose you would hardly have thought it when he entered College. He has been in no Society since, remaining in College Term time and keeping town Schools vacation. He is as awkward as ever. He is going to Cambridge Divinity School and will make a Unitarian minister. Fuller, as you wrote some time ago has the reputation of being a smart man, but not much of him. He is full of talk and his talk is full of Gas. So all judge him. Foss, Simonton, Dewars & Wheeler, Place &c you probably recollect, they will come out of College with little or no improvement from their College course. Webb, Southgate, Cummings & Drew are their strongest men every way. Page is the handsomest man in College and that is his highest praise. I think Wovel of the Junior Class will take your place at West Point. I think he can have it if he wishes, as Mr Benson, an old neighbor and Friend is the Member having the Appointment. If he does take your place he will follow pretty closely in your footsteps, graduating here in the first place. He is now president of the Athenaeum Society, but is not a great scholar. If he goes to West Point I hope he will do as well as you have and then I shall feel that Old Kenebeck & Old Bodoin had been twice in succession honorably represented at the Military Academy. But right glad am I that it does not fall on me to sustain this reputation.

I suppose you know that Prof Upham is in Asia Minor looking around Jerusalem and the Holy Land. He has been gone nearly a year and will return next month. His letters are published in the Boston Congregationalist. The present Freshman Class has had to do without his protecting care. Prof Hitchcock is more popular in College & in town than ever Prof Stone was. His Seminars are the best I ever heard. You should hear him.

Monday morning July 25th.

Various causes have prevented me from finishing my letter until now. I received a letter from my Chum on Saturday informing me of the death of his Brother. His name is Carlton & he belongs in Monmouth. The circumstances of his brothers death are melancholy. They are two orphan brothers with neither Father or Mother, ages were 19 and 21. The younger one was at Waterville at school and was about ready to enter College, which he would have done next Commencement. My Chum was looking forward with a great deal of pleasure to the time when they would be united and pursue their College course together. Francis came down here and went to Portland with us on the 4th of July and was taken sick immediately on reaching his school. Cyrus was with him in his last few days. He is almost distracted at the loss of his brother and writes me a strange wild letter. It is just like losing a part of himself. Francis had a share in all his plans for future happiness. He was appreciated with all, and Cyrus will need all of his religion to enable him to bear his death.

They were members of the Baptist Church and as far as I know consistent Christians. I dread Carltons return as I know he cannot see us all again without renewing all of his sorrow and repinings. He is naturally melancholy and I fear the worst for him, but I am resolved to do what I can to cheer and encourage him that he may again enjoy life, which has lost one of its principal attractions.

I attended meeting in Topsham yesterday as I usually do. We had good Sermons. I belong to the Choir there and usually pass my Sabbath day very pleasantly for although I eschew wine & women as they are generally used, I have no objection to music and women once a week for recreation.

This is miserable paper and my letter will look worse than ever. But if you can read it I shall be satisfied.

I am anxious to hear from Lizzie and if I do not otherwise think I shall write to Perley this week. I think her illness resembles Anna Bartletts last Summer if Charles writes me correctly. Write soon and tell me if you hear from her.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

Cadet Oliver O Howard

493 7/25/1853 *From:* Rowland [R B
Howard]

To: Dellie [RH Gilmore]

OOH-0452

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. July 25, 53

Dear Dellie

I forgot to answer your question in Mothers letter and now I haven't any book but if I recollect this is the way to do the question and Charles will explain.

[Shows the example of a conversion of time.]

The time was 21 m & 49 $\frac{1}{11}$ sec past 4 ock.

Tell me if this the answer and if you understand.

Yours affectionately
Rowland

P.S. I enclose map of the <A. & K. L. R. R.> which I happen to have.
R

494 7/26/1853 *From:* O O Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0453

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. July 26th 1853

My dear Mother,

I suppose you will be expecting a letter Saturday night. I am officer of the day, to day, but I will try at odd intervals to write you a few lines and let you know I am very well. The last letter I had from Lizzie informed me that she was ill, and I have not heard from her since. You may suspect that I have some anxiety. I am in hopes to get a letter to day noon, then I will know.

I heard some plebe using profane language just now and had to go & see who it was. The officer of the day has to report every violation of the regulations he meets with. He cannot avoid it for he has to sign a certificate to that effect. It is a disagreeable duty. I have been one five times as officer of the day and have not had to report for profanity before. There is not near so much profane language meets my ear as formerly. Somebody gets reported for it every week & oftener. This does not have the effect to regenerate, but it gives us a fairer exterior.

To day we complete our laboratory duty. but we have to go instead to practical engineering, making Gabions, fuscenes, embankments &c in the open sun. I like to be employed but I was in hopes to get some tme to read this encampment, but I find it impossible.

Some people, relatives of my Uncle's family at Peekskill, came here yesterday afternoon and sent for me. Not being relations of mine, I could not have got excused from any duty. I went about with them however and went to recitation at 4 without a lesson. What we study during th Encampment does not in any way effect our rank, but they report for not making a proper recitation, which gives four demerit.

The 4 Capts and 1st 4 Lieutenants go on as officers of the day. The remaining 8 Lieuts go on as officers of the Guard. The former seldom if ever get reported, for their certificate precludes every possibility of it, except an army officer report them for lying, but not so with the latter, for they almost always get 8 demerit or 12 every time they go on, for they are not only held responsible for themselves but for the three corporals and the 24 men who are under their charge. I was very fortunate to have been made as high a Lieut as I am.

I have not seen Roland yet at West Point. I shall be much pleased to meet him - will call him my brother & can thus get excused from duty one day, and after that can be with him when not on duty as long as he will stay.

We have parties Monday, Wednesday & Friday evenings in the Academic Hall. I usually go, but seldom dance. Last evening I spent the evening conversing with Mrs Bliss, the mother of a Classmate. He is her only child. She says she has to be "Bubs" mother, sister, &c all at once. Bub is over six feet tall, finely formed, with a handsome pleasant countenance. Quite a big boy for bub. There has been a beautiful lady here from N. York Mrs James. She was one of those who sent me the Bouquet. I got acquainted with her and amused myself by conversing with her.

I think it better for me to spruce up and go down to the parties. I am usually too tired to write read or think. It helps me to get a little accustomed to Society. I have quite a number of acquaintances now on West Point at Professor Sprole's, Prof Bartlett's & Mrs Berard's &c. Sometimes on Saturday evening I get permission to spend an hour or two with them.

My Speech, whatever be its intrinsic merit, has opened the way to our little society here. I presume you have a register before this time. Ask Charlie if he got an invitation from the Corps of Cadets to attend the cotillion parties this summer. Ask him if he is coming. It seems to me Rowland has not written me for some time. Is he not well? I am almost afraid to get letters for fear of getting bad news. I want to hear that Lizzie is entirely well.

Yes my Mother, there are links between a mother & her son that do not exist elsewhere, and I feel the interest my mother has for me & the affection she bestows upon me. I do not repay it as I ought but I believe that I have an excellent mother and will not be likely to forget the lessons she has taught me. Have there many from our

part of the State been to visit the Crystal Palace?

I wish to go home very much, but I believe I will not try. I do not think I would succeed if I did try in getting a leave, since I have so little pretext for going. My second degree I can have as well without going. And they would not give me a leave to go & see Lizzie, since they recognize no such relations. I wish you & Lizzie could come to West Point again this summer, but it's no use wishing.

Professor Sprule invited me to accompany him & his family on a fishing excursion to a small lake, back five or six miles. I told him I would go if he would ensure my getting a permit signed before I put it in. He said he would do so, but I do not believe Maj Garnett will approve of the same. There has been a rumor that the Maj was going to take us down to New York next month, but as the Superintendent laughed at me the other night when he heard me tell a lady that we were going. I inferred that he did not intend to let us go.

Uncle Ward seems to be having town offices in abundance - Pres of Health association, Supervisor &c. He sends me a paper nearly every week.

Give my love to all. Does Dellie grow any? I expect he will be quite a good sized young man when I come home again. Remember me to all my friends. Warren was well the last time I saw him. I do not visit him now. There is too much danger. I am too well known by everybody. I would be glad to, but it is better that I should not often.

Yr affectionate Son
O.O. Howard

495 7/27/1853 *From:* Epes Sargent

To: Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0454

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York July 27, 1853

Friend Otis

Your kind invitation was duly received for which I am much obliged. It would afford me pleasure to be present at your Cotillion Parties but being very busy at present it would be out of the question. I hope you dance & enjoy yourself enough to answer both of us. It is a pity Portland would not send a female representative for your especial benefit.

Silas I suppose you know has gone to Niagara C.W. with his father. He has been there some months.

Perry leaves here to day mate of the Bark Manil. He has been mate of my brothers Brig Pedraza for some time. I think he will make a smart man, at least I hope so. Sarah has been at Machias several months. She has a fine little girl about a year old. They are both well. Mrs Lee is well, she is keeping house where she boarded. I am boarding with her. Frank has gone into business for himself in Sacramento. They (Frank & a man by the name of Freeborn) bought out Addison. The firm is Freeborn & Co. Add is doing business at San Francisco. I think he will be home this fall and take a better half. Frank will probably be here next Spring,

I suppose you cry quits with West Point next year. I saw Webb when he went through. He was looking finely and I think has improved much since he left home. Let me hear from you soon. In haste,

Yours truly
Epes Sargent

496 7/31/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0455

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. July 31st 1853

Dear Brother

I was in the Presidents room today on business and he took occasion to renew his compliments to you, and recommend me to your illustrious example. He says "Your brother was a young man in whom we placed a great deal of confidence. He maintained a noble character in College and I am happy to hear that he has more than sustained that reputation at West Point. You have something to do, to come up to his standard of excellence, and his course must be an encouraging one to you and an incentive to exertion." Say that over in the Prex's own voice and then you will "take". This, I own, looks very flattering to you, but I think the Prex meant something besides to flatter you.

You told me a number of years ago that you feared I attributed bad or double motives to others because I found them in myself. Perhaps it is so, but the English of the Prex's remarks appeared to me like this. Howard, from what we have known and seen of you, we have reason to think you a little wild and reckless and very careless and therefore we feel it a duty to give you a word of warning. So he gains my attention and esteem by well timed compliments to you, which he knows I love to hear, that he may have an opportunity to give me a little reprimand. This is all right, but I think the President thinks me a little worse than I am. He knows that I am noisy and very careless in my recitations, not having much fear of a "dead" and gradually learning to take a "Screw" without wincing. So he is in hopes to incite me to defer in these particulars - to pay more attention to my "rank" and small College Laws. I think this is what your frequent praises mean, although I do not doubt, that you deserve them all, yet he would not take the trouble to bestow them so liberally did he not look upon them as a kind of rebuke on me. But still I honor him even for these motives. They are for my good and that of the College.

Prof Upham used to talk to me in the same way. He stopped me one morning after Recitation and said, "Howard, I know the structure of your mind and your ability to do well. I feel an interest in you on account of your brother and I hope you will excuse me, if, during your College course, I see any defect in your recitations. I remind you of the same." This was simply saying you make pen 'sails' and you ought to better them.

I thank them for their interest in me but I can't think that it is all on your account. They probably think me (no?) worse than I am and to this gentle way to reprove me. Don't you suppose it is so. I don't suppose you had reason to think when here, or since, that you was any more esteemed than many others of your classmates, and I don't suppose you was. Do you? But however, I think highly of both Pres & Prof and doubtless they mean only my good.

But here am I filling up my sheet with nothing at all. I have been reading Boswells Johnson lately and came across this passage. I thought it peculiarly encouraging to you and as you may not recollect it, I will transcribe. The Dr says "The character of a soldier is high. They have the respect of mankind. An officer is much more respected than any other man who has little money. In a commercial Country money will purchase respect. But you find an officer, who has, properly speaking, no money is everywhere well received and treated with attention. The character of a Soldier always stands him in stead." You know all about Dr Johnson and properly estimate the great worth and weight of the opinions of "the greatest scholar of his age," Assuming these opinions to be correct, as they undoubtedly are, it is certainly no slight pleasure to pass through this world with the respect and esteem paid to Wealth - and not have the trouble of acquiring it - and, after all, "the bubble reputation" consist in a greater measure in the amount of respect, in which we are personally held and the amount of pleasure which we are personally able to convey - more than in anything else. So, as far as you are concerned I feel considerably more reconciled to your devoting yourself to the monotonous duties of an Officer, than I did when you first went to West Point. I believe that as a military man one can be as happy and as useful as in any of the more peaceful pursuits of labor. Haven't you concluded so? Thus much of my letter <> have written without a date and I think I will <> send it until I hear from Lizzie. I expect a letter from Mr Perley this afternoon and he will probably tell me how she is. I have heard nothing since I wrote you last, nor have they at home.

Charles wrote me yesterday that they were all well at home. If Lizzie is able, I think it very probable you will see us at W.P. that is, if she still wishes to go. I have pretty much decided to go if nothing occurs to prevent. Mother writes me that father has given her an invitation to visit the Worlds Fair with him. She says she does not wish to go and shall ask him to give me that money for my journey. I would not have her sacrifice one jot of pleasure on my account, but if she thinks she would not enjoy a visit to New York, <> I have no objection. The proposed diversion of the <>. Still, if possible, I should like to have her go too - and <then> it would make a very pleasant party. The President had his "Levee" last night and the Seniors leave soon. Dodsworths Band is engaged for Commencement and Hon Bellamy Storer of Ohio delivers the Peucinian Society Oration. The Freshman Class bids fair to number 60 <> Bodoin seems on the high road to prosperity. The election of Gen Pierce sends down flocks of N.H. boys. The Granite State Freshman think that every Bodoin grad if Democratic, is president - and every one even if an abolitionist a candidate for that high office. Hale & Pierce have earned College already a number of Students.

Aug 1st 53

I have kept my letter out that I might hear from Lizzie before I wrote. I have just received a letter from her, a part of which was written yesterday and at the same time she says she is going to write you. So I can tell you no news. She says she won't tell me how she has been, but that she is now improving every day and that she is going to Lewiston with her Mother Tomorrow

(Tuesday) You must write me very soon. Tell me how much money I shall want to visit West Point and the Worlds Fair, bearing in mind my habits of expense. You can reckon some of your own journey to and fro, that is, if you recollect anything about it.

I spent the Sabbath in Topsham yesterday and took tea with Mr Adams. He has recently heard from Jewett that he has gone into the Office with Hon Mr Washburn of Galena, Illinois. He is member of Congress for that District. Townsend is in the same town. I've seen some of the Seniors today as happy as they well could be just got through. I tell you, I envy them.

My Chum Carlton has just returned today from the funeral of his brother. They were two only, orphan brothers. <They> belong in Monmouth, had about as much property as we had. Cyrus (my Chum) entered last, and his brother was to enter College this Fall. He came down from Waterville (where he was at school) and went into Portland with us on the 4th. He was taken sick immediately after and is now dead and buried. I don't know but that I wrote you this before but Carltons return, with his grief and tears, and the whole house weeping about me, has recalled it again forcibly to my mind. He will not be comforted.

I shall write to Lizzie while at Lewiston.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland