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497 8/7/1853

*From:* CH Howard

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0456

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Aug 7 1853

My dear Brother:

I seat myself again to write you from Kents Hill, old Kents Hill. I have not rec an answer to my last but I will write you again so you may know where to direct your letters to me. First I will tell you why I am not at meeting it being Sunday, & then how I came here &c. The reason is I have quite a bad Diarhea & am taking Medicine (I had it of Mrs Eaton). I think it will help me. And I am more willing to stay at home today than I should be did I not intend & wish to write my brothers & mother each a letter.

I came to Kents Hill last Wednesday, it being the day of the commencement of the Term. I like to be present the first day & remain till the last for I think I can learn two times the amount that I can when I am absent the first & last Fortnight.

I packed my trunk the day before I came away. Mother mending, making, or fixing any thing for my comfort & good as usual. Mother brought me in our carriage, it was a pleasant day & we had a very pleasant ride. Started at half past seven it being cool then. We called at Arza's, left him some English strawberries. He enjoy's now pretty good health for him, I mean general health, has had no bad spell since he was at our house. We arrived at the Mansion house a little after Ten. Mother did not take off her bonnet & only staid till I had chosen my room, wishing to get back to Wayne to dinner. I room in the West end Attic Room in the Mansion house, perhaps you remember its situation. It is as large as any in the house & has three windows.

Some students do not like it because there are two flights of stairs to ascend & because it is so far out of the way, think they should be lonesome away up here, but I like it for those very reasons. The trouble usually with me is I do not have near enough Flights of stairs to go up. If I had ten or twelve to ascend & descend every time I go out & come in, I think I should enjoy pretty good health. Yes I mean good health when I am away at school. For I think the most I need when away to school is exercise, excepting good <pure> air & having so many windows in my room I can have this & not have the wind blow upon me. & the air is <purer> a little distance from the ground. Is it not Otis? "We must have air & exercise to live & thrive & grow". And it being so far from the crowd of students & being above all the noise makes it a nice chance to study.

The day that I came, there were but few here. I had no room-mate till yesterday, when Roscoe Jennings came. I was glad to get some one that I knew & so good a fellow too. Roscoe, I don't know but that I have written you, experienced Religion last spring when he was here. After dinner the day I came I went up & saw Mr Torsey & Robinson. Mr Torsey said "Well Charles I am glad to see you, I like to have all the steady ones come back". After talking with Mr Robinson I concluded to begin at the beginning of the 2d book of Caesar, then I shall finish Caesar this term. I read one book at Topsham.

I think I shall begin Greek this Term, the class will be formed tomorrow. I shall be obliged to buy me a book. I suppose Rowland has one that he would willingly let me use if I only could get it. I have also got to buy me an Andrews & Stoddards Latin Grammar. When at Topsham I used Rowland's but he needs it himself now. I have also concluded to study Physiology again this term. I did not go much more than half the way through it last Term. You know Otis I have chosen my studies this term with out any advising from any one, for I did not get a letter either from you or from Rowland on the subject, & mother does not know. She says any better now than I do what I ought. to study. It seems to me Otis that you & I do not correspond as regular as we used to. I will wait this time, I mean after sending this till I get an answer before I write again. I have recited two lessons in Caesar & two in Physiology since I have been here, & have got learned my Caesar & Physiology lesson for tomorrow.

I am going to take lessons on Piano or try it again this term. I must not speak of what I shall do this Term so sure, for you know I said the same last fall & was taken sick in five weeks.

I want you Otis if you have heard from Lizzie to write me if she has recovered & if she has become very sick. I have not heard from her since Aunt Martha Jane wrote the second week in July.

Have you sent your Fourth of July oration to be published yet? I should like to read it very much. I suppose you have seen accounts in the Advertiser of the two Democratic conventions in this State that of the Rum & of the Temperance Democrats. Mr Eaton went to Portland. He said Mr Morrel was nominated by a great Majority. He is to Lecture I believe at North Wayne next Saturday & as school does not keep Saturdays I think I shall go & hear him.

Father when I came from home talked of going to N.Y. but did not know as he could go to West Point, for he said he wanted to get home Friday night, so to go to Augusta Saturday. He thought of starting tomorrow. I should think Otis you would like to go to the Exhibition. It would be rather aggravating seems to me to be so near it & not be allowed to see it, but perhaps you may. I shall take pains with my Declamations & compositions this fall I shall speak in public I think & I shall I think join the Caliopean Society. It is now five o'clock P.M. & I began this before meeting this morning, but I was not well when I began so did not write steadily, but the medicine took I think has nearly cured my Diarrhea, so I shall not say anything about it to mother.

I wish you Otis to write me in your next if you see any misspelling or bad grammar so I may correct. Now Otis I hope you will write me soon.

From Your Affec Brother  
CHHoward

Write me Otis how you rank since Examination. Oh I had forgotten but I believe what you study in Camp does not affect your rank.

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498 8/22/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* O O Howard

OOH-0457

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. Aug 22 1853

Dear Brother

You requested me to write immediately yet I don't know as I can give you any farther information in regard to my going to West Point. Nor can I until I see Father and Mother. Our Examination is a week from next Thursday and I shall probably get home on the Saturday following. I can then tell you what I shall do. There is an Excursion to the Worlds Fair advertised from the Kenebec to take place about the first of September. The fare out and back not to exceed eight dollars. If we can avail ourselves of some such arrangement as that it will lessen our expenses materially. The time that I shall start for W.P. will depend entirely on Lizzie, if she goes. We shall start at that time during my Vacation as will best suit her convenience.

I have had no letter from Mother since Lizzie has been with her and therefore do not know how she is now. Maria Otis was down here to a Pic Nic last Wednesday and spent the day and I heard from home through her. Father and Uncle Ensign were at Hallowell attending Court. Father told her of Lizzie's being in Leeds but she did not learn how her health was. Uncle Henry and Aunt Martha are boarding at the Hallowell House. She will remain there while he goes West.

I think the chances of war during the next two years are great. Santa Ana is a belligerent old fellow, and when the two armies are opposite each other on the Rio Grande, it needs but a spark to kindle the flame of war. If there is war in Europe as now seems probable, it will be very difficult to prevent our people from letting off their extra fire somewhere and it is safer for our government to fight Mexico than any other power.

"If I was you" J.E. in your situation I should desire war. Of course it would never do for a man to resign in such a Crisis. In fact, I believe that the declaration of war by our Government furnishes to every officer the stepping stones of Fame - and no man of spirit would hesitate to prosecute that profession with ardor for which he has been educated.

These matters we will talk over when I see you. I don't think either Mother Lizzie or an others of your friends would make any objection to your pursuing your profession of arms whenever your Country and Honor called you. Dangers to life and limb beset us everywhere but all but women and babes hold these lightly. After doing what he considers his duty to himself and others, let a Man leave his life and health to Providence, and he will feel, I believe, just as safe whether his profession be warlike or peaceful.

Maria said she had received a very interesting letter from you. Vaughan & Johnnie were down to the Pic Nic and appeared to have a good time. Charles writes from Kents Hill that he is well and studying pretty hard.

Politics are raging in this State as noisily as last year. There are four candidates for Governor & each has very fierce friends. I'll risk the Maine Law anyhow. Three of the candidates have pledged themselves in its favor and the other don't dare to oppose it and so he is mum. I wish I had more news to tell but I have none and you must make this note suffice until I get matter for and time to write another. You may be pretty sure that I shall come on to West Point as soon as I can get ready after the Close of the Term if nothing occurs to prevent. I shall remain here over ten days longer and you can write if you see fit. I shall be glad to hear from you once more.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

O O Howard

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499 8/27/1853 *From:* Jno N Jewett

*To:* Friend Howard

OOH-0458

Gelena, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Galena Illinois  
Aug 27th 1853

Friend Howard

Your Letter reached me a few days since. I very much regret your unfortunate condition under arrest as you said you there were. But I make no doubt that long before this you are at large again & enjoying all the honor & dignity that your position entitles you to expect. Your military courts I suppose are not quite so galling as a civil or criminal court is, tho' either being a deprivation of personal liberty is not much to be desired. It will scarcely compare with an arrest for debt which the Laws of Illinois still tolerate. This relic of a barbarous age works sometimes peculiar hardship to the unfortunate victims of it & I have now on kind a case of this sort. Whenever a poor fellow was delivered up to the tender mercies of the Law & its minister because he could not pay his Debts. I was out a day or two ago some 14 miles from this city & released his small possessions from an <attainment>, which one of his malicious creditors had said <>.

But this has very little to do your punishment though it was suggested by it. I have therefore thrown it in for its own sake. But now especially that you may know that I am about some of the town. I imagine however that it is much more agreeable to be confined to one of your tents or Barracks than it is to be shut up in an Illinois Jail or even a New York one - tho' generally speaking I suppose the confinement of either position may not be very pleasant. Well we must take the reverses with the favors of fortune & as they intertwine themselves in the progress of Life endeavor to draw out the lessons which each as calculated to teach & improve by the instruction. Thus may we grow wiser as we <journey> onward in our Earthly pilgrimage & to preparing for the sublime developments of another world - when our progress will be unrestricted & our happiness unallayed. Well that is closing up with a moral sentiment worthy of the clerical profession, whereas I make no pretensions to being more than a Lawyer tho' I am not yet & I hope I never may be so thoroughly initiated into the practices of the legal profession (if report speaks correctly of them) as to be incapable of appreciating moral truths or [missing page].

But as it seems, you and your trouble are not wanting of sympathy & consolation I seem to see the interior of your little tent steamed with beauquets the consolatory offerings of fairy heads & tender hearts & you as you gather them up picturing to yourself the force that suits you best & endeavoring to pursue to yourself that she bestowed the fragrant gifts or at least approved the donation. And then you wander far away to muse upon the changing scenes of time or cast forward a look of anxious anticipation that the writers of other days may again return, doubly close & secure from severance. Ah! Howard you are a happy fellow in your prospects - The future is bright before you & without a cloud. Fortune has smiled upon your pathway & its voice is still flattering to your expectations. What care you for the difficulties of us plodders after competence & scarcely ambitions of <>? How can you appreciate the anxieties of one whose only dependence is the confidence & interest of a selfish world, whose only hope of the future lies in the operations of the present! I seldom allow myself to distrust my destiny. But the realities of the present will occasionally disturb the light that is reflected from the distant <[inkstain]>.

Well to leave such topics, our Circuit Court is now in Session & I have an opportunity of estimating my competitors. Few of them are very formidable, whilst others are too insignificant to mention. I think I shall be able to sustain myself amongst them when I have a little more experience at the Bar. It is practice that gives the finish to a Lawyer & if a man has a practice he cannot help knowing something, the feuds at least.

I am enjoying myself as well as I can socially & that is well enough. I have an <> chance of invitations; thousands of opportunities of spending my time screening in social amusements, but it will not do. It is too expensive - too serious a draft upon my attention to books & business. As soon as the evenings get a little longer, I shall confine myself to my office for the most part.

I had a letter from "old Jack" a short time since. He is located at Richmond Me, it seems. Perley wrote me a few days ago. He seems to be getting along about as usual. 'All seems to be right.' I am happy to hear of their prosperity. Write soon & believe me

Truly yr Friend  
Jno. N Jewett

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500 8/28/1853 *From:* CH Howard

*To:* Cadet Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-0459

Kents Hill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kents Hill Sun Aug 28/53

Dear Brother Otis

I was very glad to receive your good letter, (as it seems your letters to me always are good ones) last Thursday. It must have taken the sunkist Route, for it was post-marked 23d which was Tuesday, making the time in coming from West Point two days only. I had really began to think it strange that you did not write. But I was at home Saturday night when mother had one from you, so I found out that you were not sick. It seems so long since I wrote you Otis, that I do not know where to begin, still after thinking I find that it was but three weeks ago today that I wrote. It seems longer because I am away from home.

I have had 3 letters from Rowland & also 2 papers, with a Circular at Topsham Academy. But Otis you must not think because I am writing to you of the no of Rowland's letters &c that I think you do not write as often as you can or that you do not like to write me letters. I did not mean to compare your hesitation in regard to this to Rowland's. My last one from him was written & recd last Friday. He was well, wrote there had been a Pic Nic at Brunswick at which he saw Maria Otis, Vaughan & Johnnie. His vacation is a week from yesterday or at least he will be at home that day. He wishes me to meet him there at home & stay over Sabbath with him, as he thought he should go to West Point the first of the following week. But he did not know as I suppose you do not that I had so recently been at home. (Have procured a better pen, will try & write a little better].

Last week (i.e. week ago) I concluded to go home & stay over Sunday, as I was not very well & wished to get some medicine & I had recd a letter from Lizzie from there, stating that she & her mother were there & still another reason, I wished to get my Aeolean as I could save two dollars & learn more by practicing on it. I started Friday eve at 6 o'clock & walked to Wayne Village getting to Arza's about dark a little before eight. I found Arza as well as usual also Laverna. I tarried through the night there & after breakfast in the morn, a little before seven, I started on foot again, for Leeds.

It was a beautiful morning so I had a pleasant walk getting home about half past nine, found all in good spirits & as glad to see me as though I had been gone a year "for all that I know". I was glad to find that Lizzie & Mrs. Waite were still at our house. Mrs W had been gaining for several days & went out to dinner that day. My walk that is the exercise of it, did me much good & I had not eaten any thing but light food for several days & was careful about eating at home so that my stomach had acquired its usual tone & the Diarrhea also left me, for my stomach had got into a bad state so that I threw from it my food, produced I think by a want of proper exercise & a bad cold.

My cough did not leave me & my stomach was quite soar Monday so mother wished me to stay longer & father went to Augusta with our horse so I concluded after staying over Sunday to stop till Tuesday, when I felt better & mother had prepared something for my cough & I had had a mustard seed poultice on my stomach & also put on a flannel undershirt & got my things entirely in readiness, & I had lost only one days schooling, where if I had stated at Kents Hill all the time I might have been real sick & lost much more than a day.

But it will be interesting to you to know more particularly how I spent my time at home with Mother, Lizzie, Father Dellie & all Sat. We spent in conversation at home. I feeling somewhat tired & not very well otherwise. At night we were all made glad by getting a letter from you & the first thing when I went into the parlor at home I saw two pretty paintings, in gilded frames covered with lace over our mantlepiece. You can guess whose they were, as I did know immediately, for I knew they could be drawn by no one else than you. I think they laying there in our parlor are an ornament not to be found every where & that they are an honor to the Son who drew them.

But to go on. Sabbath day Dellie & I went out to the meeting house to Church meeting with the (my) colt, that a four days before had kicked the front of our Carriage in, & had caused Lizzie to jump from the <front> of the back part of it. And Father Lizzie & Mother went with the other horse & Carriage. After we got home at night & had eaten our dinner Lizzie & I had a pleasant walk down in the field & gather & eat as many blackberries & chokecherries as we wished for. Monday in forenoon I was about home. Oliver Hazard was at our house. His

mother and brother at Uncle Ensign's. I went with Dellie & got some nice chokecherries for mother said they would not last more.

In the P.M. I got Oscars horse & put him in our Carriage & Mrs Waite, Mother Lizzie & I rode up to Francis Lothrop's & stayed till after tea. Mary J I and Lizzie took a walk out in the field, after supper & gathered some blackberries. Returned home about sundown & found father. He had brought home a <lantern> table & mother has a large salon lamp. These with the new Carpet make it as pretty a parlor as there is to be found.

Tuesday Dellie & I came to Kents Hill bringing father to the depot as we came, arrived about noon. Found that Roscoe had engaged to leave for Belfast this week, for a man had come for a fellow to teach the Grammar school of that City & he had accepted the offer of \$40 dollars a month & Board him self the board being from two & a half to 3 dollars per week. He went home yesterday.

But I have moved into the other end attic room with a good & pious fellow in my Caesar Class. Tis as good a room as an other. I will write more about these things in my next letter. I have much more to write you Otis, I wished to write soon in answer to your last letter. I think one cannot judge himself or of himself always rightly. Though you have thought of the subject much & have looked at it fairly, I don't think you are able to judge rightly of yours compared with our ability, but tis dark & my space is confined. I will speak of this in my next letter. I have written a letter of 4 pages to mother today. I must write to Rowl tonight as I must study Greek in morning. I have 3 studies get along well. <>

Good night. From your Affec Brother  
CHHoward

<Dark>

My best wishes Otis!

Cadet Oliver Otis Howard