
505 10/9/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard] *To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0466 Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Oct 9th 1853

Dear Brother

It is now almost three weeks since we bade you good bye at West Point but I do not doubt that the time has seemed shorter with me than with you, for I have been busy most of the time in a great variety of duties, which pleasing variety is denied you, but I really hope that the time which has passed since we left you has passed pleasantly with you.

Lizzie has written no doubt before this giving you all the particulars of our return home and of our stay in New York City. We had an excellent time and I believe she was better when we arrived in Portland than when we left N.Y. I saw L when I came down (a week ago Friday) and although she was not so well as I should have liked, she was better than I expected to see her. I am in hopes that her journey to see you has done her no injury, as I really feared it would.

Mother received your letter the night before I left home and has probably answered it ere this. I was very glad to hear from you so seasonably. You evidently had an excellent time at the Ball or 'Hop' (as I believe I heard them calling it at the Hotel).

Mrs Scott appears very condescending and affable and without doubt seeks to make Cadets happy as possible. I should think from what you said that the General rather disapproved of her party for fear that it might interfere with your disipline. On the whole, I guess you had a good time.

You see that my paper is ruled wrong or something else, but you will make out right after awhile. I am now fairly out of the Freshman year after passing two years in that delightful season.

I suppose the College distinctions are in a great matter humbugs, but there is real satisfaction in being for the first time a Soph and enjoying his general license against all Freshmen and his Friday afternoon 'dignity'. On Friday Prof Boody gave the subject of our first theme and an introductory Lecture to the duties and excedences of his Department displaying his usual vanity and many unhappy 'hits'. He then handed us over to Tutor Packard and for himself he takes a vacation of nearly a year to recruit his health exhausted by his onerous College duties. He will visit Europe and come back no doubt a more finished orator & Rhetorician with a new addition to his vanity and self importance. Now after this, I know I shall get a labored defense of Prof Boody, because your generosity will not allow anyone spoken ill of. But it will be of no use as I do not doubt that our real estimates of the man are quite similar. He told the Senior Class the other day that his rank when in College might be found by refering to the Archives of a certain Society.

All of the Profs have remembered you to me this Term and Prof Upham told me the old story that great exertions were necessary for me to rank as well in his esteem as you did.

We had a good time the other night initiating the Freshmen and also yesterday in holding them in. These things, I will allow, are foolish but they are also very funny. I love to think of the ludicrous figure that some of the Freshmen cut, on their 'initiation' and often enjoy a quiet laugh with myself at their expense. I became a *óí* immediately after my return but it is not known here as yet. If Gilman inquires for me, you may tell him this as he is a Bro. The Society is prosperous and is taking the best men in Freshman Class.

Charles was well the Sabbath before I left home, but I have not heard from him since. Most of the Kents Hill scholars who came here to enter were turned away. Prof Packard having a mortal aversion to Everything that comes from that direction. I don't think Charles had better stay there much longer if he is fitting for College as I suppose he is.

I liked Miss Tupper, who came in as far as Boston with us, very well, but cannot express so much admiration for her as you seemed to feel when you came home on Furlough. I have been to meeting all day and feel rather tired. So I must finish my letter and go to bed. Remember me to your Roommate and others who may

enquire. If you see Warren, tell him I remember very gratefully his kind attentions while I was at West Point. I shall send you a paper and some Catalogues now and then and I am in hopes to hear from you often.

Uncle Ward was very savage in politics, but I never contradicted him a word, but as I knew it was of no possible use to try to contradict his positions. I communicated with him very well. He was very kind to me and told me to come to him when I get through my studies, and as he was well acquainted, he would try to be of some advantage to me. I think his Son in law a very superior man. He will make his mark in the world and get rich. He likes good Brandy, but I think he is too strong minded a man to make a drunkard.

Good night. Yours affectionately
Rowland

O.O. Howard

504 10/7/1853 *From:* R. Gilmore (Dellie) *To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-0467a South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

South Leeds Maine Oct 7th 1853

My Dear Brother

I have not written to you for a considerable time. Charles came home last Friday evening, he is here now. I came home last Night, and he went to Mr Barrows and brought me home. I suppose Rowland told you about the school so I need not tell you much. We speak and write compositions every Wednesday afternoon. I have not written but one composition since I have been up there. Mr Bridgham is a very good teacher. We have from 24 to 30 scholars. Theresa Howard goes to school. In my spelling class there are about 10, and the one that leaves off at the head, the most times is going to have a present. We don't know what it will be, but I guess not much. I study Smyth's Astronomy, Greenlief's Arithmetic, Natural History and Grammar. I board at Mr. Barrow's and go home to dinner every noon.

Roland A and <Amial> Jones work here. R.A. has got a bile on his neck. It is a very bad one. This morning I saw it. Charles is well and says give my love to Otis, and should write if he had not written so short a time since. He and I went out this morning through the orchard and so up to Mr Bate's to see Loyd's family, who are up there. They came yesterday and are to stay about a month. I went up to Warren Howard's last week and staid all night. They inquired about you.

Thomas B. had a husking last week and I went to it. Mr Rackley had a husking and I went to that. I enjoyed it very much, he had ten to it. He had a very good supper.

I have just returned from the sheep Pasture. Father and I went down to find the sheep.

I cant write any more. It is growing dark and I cant see the lines.

Remember me as your affectionate Brother
R. Gilmore
Dellie as you

O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

506 10/9/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0467b

South Leeds Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[Continued from the previous letter from Dellie]

Sun. Oct 9, 1853

Dear brother

I have but little space to fill, but I conclude that I will finish Dellie's paper. I received your very interesting & kind letter last Thursday. You need not consider this as an answer, for I will write a longer one next Sat. Since I wrote to you before, I have determined to become a Christian. Have sought to have my sins forgiven through Jesus our Lord, by prayer & have also asked in meeting the prayers of Christians & expressed my determination to live a pious life & have <obtained>. I have faith to believe the same. I shall if I keep on be saved in Heaven at last. But I will write you all about it in my next letter.

From your Affec brother
Charles

Father & Mother are singing their old tunes.

507 10/11/1853 *From:* Jno N Jewett

To: Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0468

Galena Illinois

Source: Bowdoin

Galena Illinois
Oct. 11th 1853

Friend Howard

Your letter of the 3d inst is received. I must protest against any title of A.M. or others of that sort - as I am not ambitious to wear them just now. The fact is that I did not feel interest enough to such trumpery to forward my 3\$ for my 2d Degree. I allowed the opportunity to slip & unless very favorable circumstances favor the attempt I shall probably never apply for another Parchment from the Faculty at Bowd. I prefer my professional to say literally <>.

But your report of my advancement into another & very different profession is a little the most startling announcement of the age. I am sure you have got the very first intelligence of any professional change on my part, for really your letter contains the very first intention I have received that any such high destiny was before me. If it should happen that I am yet to be a fellow laborer of Rev Antoinette S Brown, I shall expect a sufficient warning to give me a little time to prepare & commit to memory a few discourses with which to start out. I object however to this forcible abduction of one from a profession of his own choice & profess in very great faith in any body's getting me into the Pulpit without my own knowledge. No Sir. I should resist that to the very last. But if I went there wouldn't I give them a blowing up generally. I would like to have the scope of a minister occasionally, but at present I do not care to undertake his office. I am at a loss to account for such a story as you have reported and in the whole don't care how it did originate & circulate. When I think of leaving Law for Divinity as a profession I will give you more than an intimation of that fact & until then you may consider me more familiar with Chiltz Blackstone, Coke, Kent, &c &c than with the Fathers. I apprehend that one profession is as much as I can do justice to and it is rather too late to begin upon a new one. I am satisfied with the one I have chosen as a science, & will be as a practice if I can only get enough of it to do. In this respect I am not overburdened just now & therefore devote a very considerable portion of my time to reading.

I am glad to hear that you were so soon & so easily released from your unpleasant confinement & hope you did not suffer much in your reputation by it. Confound them I would say to shut a fellow up on so slight a pretext & keep him from what few pleasures life affords whilst he might be in a condition to enjoy them. Ah, ha, Military subordination would not do for me.

Yes, What are you going to do after you have finished your course & where are you going to be? Question of serious importance surely. I admit your liability, if you remain in the Service, to be sent off almost anywhere. But can't you get into the Corps of Civil Engineers, which deals in short distances for the most part & always in well attended & well furnished companies. This Service it seems to me could be much more agreeable than the military & equally & perhaps more profitable.

Perhaps you can get an appointment in the Turkish Service where according to present appearances there is to be a present demand of men of your profession and where lots of glory is to be won I have no doubt. Then again the Messilla question is growing darker and more threatening every day & you seeing how an opportunity to try the tactics of the Mexicans, or perchance Austria, trodding on the conduct of Capt Ingraham may imagine the stain can only be washed away in Blood. Any thing to get up a fight & you are in demand. But after all I should hardly like the employment I think would rather see it at a distance, than to be a participator.

Well I guess I'll continue to sit in my office which by the way, is a very comfortable one, & give men advice for 5\$ a piece or write deeds & leases, or prosecute claims in Court. I am comfortable then all of the time tho' perplexed often.

I am sorry to hear that Lizzie's cheek is fading & presume I may attribute your apprehension to anxiety & solicitude. As soon as you get out, get married & take her on a excursion for health & pleasure. I would get married tomorrow, if I could, satisfactorily. I am sick of Living in this way, I assure. Remember me to Lizzie & her mother.

Your Friend truly
Jno. N. Jewett

508 10/15/1853 *From:* C.H.Howard

To: brother Otis [Howard]

OOH-0469

Kents Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill Oct 15, 1853

Dear brother Otis

As I promised you in my note that I put in Dellie's letter, I now take my pen to write you a letter. As I said in that, I now profess to be a Christian. Not that I have much changed from what I always was, not that I am any more or less than your younger brother Charles. But I now endeavor to discharge the duties which our God & Father has enjoined upon all & try to walk in the paths taught us by our Savior while upon earth. I was influenced to reflect & think of the matter by my Chum not exactly to think but to think & reflect more upon it, for being educated as I have, I have thought of the subject & at times quite seriously from childhood. By thinking & conversing & also reading my Bible I came to the conclusion that it is the duty of every one to love & serve his God. Besides this, by the same means, I was lead to believe that I could not be happy hereafter, in Eternity, if I did not do the commands of God while on Earth. On the contrary that I should be miserable if I did not endeavor to do as He requires, & I knew I could not be happy on Earth, because I know my stay here will at most, be short, then I was & should have been unhappy when thinking of Eternity. Then from a sense of my duty to God & for the sake of happiness here & here after, & from a sense of my great sinfulness during the short time I have lived, I went to God repenting & asking through the merits of Christ who died for Sinners, that I might be forgiven my sins & accepted as a Follower of Him, & as our Lord hath said he that asketh believing shall receive. I believe that as I was sincere that I had my sins forgiven. Since this I have endeavored to do my duty. I attend the prayer meeting & speak, and read & pray every morning & night with feeling, now I have to pray & I love God's people much better than I ever did before.

At first it was a great cross to me to speak in meeting before my associates who were not pious & to keel at family prayers. But we are commanded to take up the cross & follow Jesus. It required resolution from me at first to go forward. But I am thankful to God that I had this resolution of character.

Now Otis you may think that I became excited & was frightened into this step but I was not. I know because I believed the Bible that it was my duty. I think your last letter Otis was as good a one as I ever received from you or at least as interesting. If you are sincere in prayers Otis & mean at all times to do right & are not ashamed of religion. I do not know why you do not or cannot enjoy it. All about my Father is very interesting to me.

I was at home last Saturday & Sunday. I found all well. Mother had been sick but was about well again. I had a real pleasant stay at home. I talked more with father than I ever did before with mother & she & I read & keeled together before God. She was very thankful because I had become pious. I went up & brought Dellie home Sat. He is doing well this Fall.

I received a letter from Rowland Thursday. He went to Portland when he went back to Brunswick found Lizzie pretty well. He advises me not to stay here at school only while I am studying English studies for he thinks it is not a good place to study languages & he says that Prof Packard is preduced against Mr Robinson.

There has been a Teachers class formed here this Fall for the benefit of those intending to teach this winter. I have thought some of teaching so I joined it but I hardly think I shall teach. We meet about every evening at quarter after six & remain till half past 7. We have a lesson one night from the Teacher in the form of a Lecture & questioning some, reviewing the next with also another Lesson or Section. There is a Teacher for Arithmetic one for Geography, Perley teaches principles of writing. Mr Torsey of Grammar, the art of Teaching &c. We are supposed to know all these things before, & this is a review. Each night some one is drawn out by taking a name from a box in which he has those of the members of the class, on a review of what was given out the previous one. Do you not think this a fine idea Otis? That it is an excellent place for one wishing to teach? It is attended free from Tuition. I rather think now that I shall stay at home this Winter & go to the town school if we have a good teacher. I should like to study Algebra if we have one who understands it. I don't suppose I had better try to get into College before two years from this Fall (if my life & health is spared) though I shall be prepared before that if I study I shall then be seventeen, I shall have a good lot of time to study English & to get a good fit before that time. Though I suppose I shall have them in College, I should like to study Rhetoric,

Chemistry & Mental and Moral Philosophy.

Write me what you think about my entering College if I go & about my going Otis. And I wish you to ask me any thing about my religion that you wish, as of course you will. I feel badly that you are not doing better this Season in point of rank in studies. I hope that your next letter will say that you are doing well. I wish to write part of a letter if not a whole one to mother to night & also go to class meeting for which the bell will soon ring. I have not written to Rowland yet about this step of mine. What think he will say, he will be glad I think. I hope I shall meet you both in Heaven. I am glad that there is some prospect though slight of my enjoying once in a while an interview with you after next year.

Please tell me my mistakes if you observe any.

Last Wednesday & Thursday were the days for the Cattle Show & Fare. I attended the first day & got me a pair of boots sent up by Melvin Berry. It was at the Corner.

Write me as often as you can. May you be a humble Christian.

From your Affectionate brother
C.H.Howard

When you pray, Otis, pray for me that I may be a good boy & lead a useful life.

509 10/16/1853 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0483

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Oct 16 1853

My dear Brother

Immediately after receiving your letter, on the spur of the moment, I sat down and wrote you three pages, neglecting my recitation for that purpose, but after reading your letter again and rereading my own, I came to the conclusion not to send it but to wait for my sober second thought, which if not so earnest and enthusiastic would perhaps be more sensible. I mention this simply to show you what interest your letter excited in my mind. During the writing of my former letter and ever since I have been in a brown study, and I am now in the same unsatisfactory state of mind and therefore I, of course, shall give you an unsatisfactory letter, but I feel as if I should be unkind to your love if I did not answer your heart revealingings in some way, and in a corresponding spirit.

How selfish I am! The first thing that occurs to me is, to defend myself from the implied imputation in your letter, but after all I don't know but that this should come first that you may feel no kind of distrust in regard your young Counselor if I may borrow your idea of the matter. God knows as I know, Otis, that I have no disposition to laugh at any mans feelings, but his follies and much less your own, which I most heartily sympathize in.

No! I can never make the sincere feelings of an upright and confiding heart, the subject of mirth and humor. I would not speak of this but I suspect in the same way that you do, that I make such subjects (the most sacred of any), the butt of ridicule, and thus much of confidence and heart communion is lost between us thus. I trust to time, if you shall continue associated together, to dispel all doubt of the purity of my motives and the cuity and would be generosity of my disposition. Of this enough!

Concerning the very delicate subject which you have broached in your letter, after all this thinking and writing, I do not feel prepared to speak. Your words have surprised and filled me with wonder and astonishment. In fact, I am utterly confounded at the conclusions which the facts seem to point out, and the suspicions which you seem justly to have formed, not but that these suspicions have crossed my mind before, but that they should take so real and tangible form.

Mother has not liked some things in Lizzie and I have always taken occasion to be her earnest and hearty defender. Is it possible that I have been mistaken? Is she not an aception to rest of her sex? as I have always argued. Would she stoop to deceive anyone? Has she been deceiving a heart like yours? The almost damning evidence which you present almost answers these questions in the affirmative.

Now what can I say in palliation? What do I know that is calculated to inspire and encourage you? Shall I bring forward my preconceived admiration of her character? If these suspicions prove true, I will abandon all pretense to an insight into character, of which I thought I had a little. I have assiduously cultivated a regard and friendship for L. on your account and also on my own, for I have valued her as a personal friend and correspondent, and after what I have heard, seen and believed, I will not yet give up that she is better and purer than appearances seem to indicate.

After what has occurred it is her bounden duty to write you if she has sufficient health to bear the exertion, and explain these things or confess her duplicity. Heavens! Who would have ever thought that I could use that word in regard to Lizzie Waite. I am not going to say the word to encourage or excite in you a false hope. Time and her own pen or lips can make these things straight. Doubtless you have reflected as I now am upon his opportunities and her weakness. Childlike simplicity and sisterly affection.

Remove yourself from the question and let us see how it has been. They have constantly lived together. They have been perfect confidants and have sympathized together in everything. P. has a great passionate and susceptible heart and Otis, I have not for some time doubted but that it was deeply interested in her, and I knew that she loved him, but I did not reflect how dangerous to the young heart is the indulgence of a sisterly affection towards one who bears no nearer relation than that of friend, and I own that I have been deceived in regard to one thing and that may cover many. She has not that manly independence which she first impressed

me as having. It was more in her appearance & in her mind. This I am convinced of, and this may be one reason why I am deceived if I am, in regard to her command over her own heart. I have thought that her reason controlled her affections, and her sense of honor would render your suit safe under any circumstances. I fear that I reckoned her too much like yourself, but these conclusions may be too hasty, and I pray God they are. The great question with you is does she love him? You do not deserve this. Has this affection proceeded so far as to estrange her heart from you.

Have they made any mention avowal of affection? The affection I mean of the lover? Does she love Perley more than she loves you? Would she rather that he than you should be her husband? These are harrowing questions to you both, but they must be answered. Yes! She must answer them. If she does not answer your letters or when she does, she evades these direct questions, then should I not ask them for you? I owe it to you both if matters take this turn to you as my brother, who is so situated that he cannot move, and to her as a near and dear friend, for so I regard her. I know the way Otis to her heart and if once I should demand her confidence I shall not be refused. If she does not write you within a week, write me again, what you think.

This matter has quite stirred up my feelings and as I said before shocked me, and as I have written hurriedly I fear it has been incoherently, but I care nothing for spelling or <[hole in page]> if you understand what I mean and while I am writing this, I am <> you will be dissatisfied with <> is nothing in it to quiet your feelings or to give you satisfaction anyway, but it is the best that I can do now.

Mother writes me that Charles has experienced religion, but I have not heard from him yet. I fear he feels a delicacy about writing.

Remember me to your Chum and write soon.

Yours affectionately,
Rowland

P.S. I substitute the last page of my old letter because I have not time to write more. I wish to tell you in regard to my visit to New York, that I was entirely satisfied with it. Everything in your conduct which you seem to fear that I should construe into neglect, I found good reason for. Lizzie, if you love her, demanded your first attention and I should have come away disappointed if you had directed it elsewhere. You did not tell me hardly enough of your future plans but these you can give me in your letters. It is now after 11 o'clock and I must bid you good night. I shall wait and ask to hear from you if it is but a mere note.

Cadet Oliver O. Howard
West Point, New York

510 10/17/1853 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O O Howard

OOH-0471

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Oct 17th 1853 [edges glued together]

My dear Son,

This is, indeed a beautiful afternoon, and the fourth day, of just the same. This afternoon, no one remains at home but myself, and Nancy, there being an excursion on the cars to Lewiston to view the seven miled Myrror, it has been a long while since I have began to set times to write to Otis, but some common occurrence would prevent. I thought when I received your last letter I would answer it immediately, but you see that eighteen days have passed since the reception of it.

R.B. appeared in good health when at home and wrote me, soon after he got settled at College in good spirits, he says. Now if I can have my health I can do well. He went into Portland, and called on Mrs Waite and Lizzie. I presume Rowland and Lizzie have written you all about themselves ere this.

Charlie has written me, and made me a visit and brought home your letter written four days after mine which I read with much pleasure and tenderness. Too it brought back many trying scenes, which to my sensitive spirit were, indeed trying at that time. Truly I always had a desire to make those around me happy and when I have failed I have always attributed it to a lack of judgment in myself, but of late there seems to be a great change in me I do not, or are not capable of feeling as I did once, I look at my responsibilities very different from what I did even ten years ago, but I forbear I know not where my pen might lead me, I have lived as long with my present husband as I did with your father. I hope I shall deal justly and my friends will look with Charity on my <>.

Charley seems to have a desire to live a Christian life and I hope <he> will, faith in the upholding hand of God sustains us in <Trials> perhaps Otis, you think Mother might write something of Leeds, and Leeds folks but my interest in Leeds people, and the affairs, of Leeds, is not, as it would be if my Children were here. I believe our relation are generally doing well nearly all my family have visited me within a short time, your father was at your Uncle Ensign's this morning on business. Says Ensign's health is poor, he has had a bad cough a long time, and is quite reduced. I fear he may not recover if the cold weather should come before he is better.

Your Cousin Seth Howard has become the father of a pair of twins a son and daughter so your relation are increasing. Nelson Leadbetter and wife have been here, this fall and made me a visit. They were detained at his fathers, sometime. He had a sick turn which lasted, a week or more.

We have no preaching in our house this fall, the Brethren fell out some how with Mr Barrows and he preaches in other places and we do without. I am happy in the thought that you hear the gospel from sabbath to sabbath, and I sincerely hope you hear with an understanding heart. Our heavenly father knows our hearts.

I have not visited Uncle Barney this season. Your fathers business has kept him almost all of the time away on the railroad. With the horses he has built a great many rods of fence by the railroad and carried dinners for his men from home that you will see makes employment for all of us.

I am now reading Doct Payson's Sermons, perhaps you may have read them. This volume which I now have contains sermons. They are very good. They interest me, very. The one that I read yesterday. I thought seems to set the character of God in its true light and us poor frail creatures in our true light. How vain it is for us dependant creatures to fight against the providences of God.

Your father has returned from the excursion is delighted with the idea that the six cars were so full that half of them could not get seats, this is the second excursion within a week on the road. Your father said he saw Uncle Stillman on the train, going to see the seven miles Myrror. I was one of the few who were left at home. But I have engaged myself well, as I have been calling over my domestic cares.

Dellie is still at school in the centre of the town. Thomas Bridgham the teacher. His school is rather small. Your father said he saw Mrs Bridgham on the cars this afternoon. Your father only went as far as the Junction where the directors held a meeting this afternoon. They have an office there where they hold their meetings.

Your father is now seated at the table counting piles and piles, of money, or bank bills. How much financierring a railroad creates how we shall come out is uncertain.

I am anxious to hear from Lizzie, but cannot unless through you, or some one else. I think a great deal about my absent sons, and always hope they will be happy in well doing. I hope you will have your health through the coming winter. I have not heard whether your Aunt Strictland has returned from Brooklyn. Rowland said she spoke of going up to West Point with him and Lizzie but he did not encourage the idea at all. His route was such Rowland was not well pleased with his Uncle Ward. I concluded he took an unfortunate time to visit him as he had just returned from his political conventions, and it did not go to suit him. He was quite well pleased with Mr Henry, his uncles son in law. Arza Gilmore is a cripple, one leg drawn up considerably with three absesses, but strange to say with all these, enjoys tolerable good health. Louisa has been confined to the house since last May, with the exception of a few times she rode out the first of August. Prospect is, that she will be confined all winter if she ever recovers. I go occasionaly to see her but not as often as I should if our horse could be at home more. I have lately visited Deacon Turner's. Mrs T. still living. Sarah her nurse she is a great sufferer. Sometimes think it best to mention some of our troubles, so that you may not be surprised to hear of the death of some of our friends.

I am much obliged to you for giving me an idea of your studies as it is a comfort to me to know how your time is employed and to think you have some rational enjoyments. Your letters always interest me, more than anything. I have got a part of your drawings framed and have bought me new carpet and table for our room which makes quite an improvement. This must be a complicated letter. Write when you can.

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

O O Howard

P.S. The reason why I have my paper in two pieces, I blotted one side of one half sheet and cut it off.

511 10/28/1853 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: brother Otis [Howard]

OOH-0472

Kents Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill Oct 28th 1853

My dear brother Otis

I received with great joy your letter of the 19th on Mon. And I now improve the first opportunity to reply. I was exceedingly glad to find that my last was a welcome & interesting letter for I like in every act of mine to please my brother. He always is & has been so kind to me; yet if this news of which I wrote had not been welcome, notwithstanding my love for my brother, it would not in the least have changed my predetermination; for I even I am Commanded in the Bible to love God with all my heart, might, mind & strength; & this I will endeavor to do, though it may be a cross. But Otis I knew that it would be well received by you, you would be a Christian Otis & you must; yet I cannot say anything that will influence you, it must be the workings of the Spirit & Otis does not some thing whisper to you now, that you should seek & live for your God! I know it is so, your letters speak it though in different language. Your letter was full of excellent thoughts & good advice & I will try & profit by it. I know I shall be subjected to sorrows & disapointments in this life, but when this is the case I will look to God for aid. Temptations beset the path of every one, but in this I have the example of our Savior for he was tempted, & I will watch & guard against them, as much as in my power.

How, Otis, do you think Rowland will or did receive these <writing> of which I have been speaking? For I wrote to him a letter last Saturday mailing it Monday and I have not yet recd an answer, though perhaps I shall get one today. Rowland also has been as good to me as a brother could be. He is sensible & sensitive so I have reason to think he will coincide with you in his judgement of this matter, first because his good sense must show him the necessity & expediency of it, & second his regard for me will prevent his condemning the act of mine.

I was real glad instead of feeling hurt because you corrected my mistake & mentioned my carelessness in writing. I will profit by it & be more careful hereafter, & even with all my caution I am liable to make mistakes in this letter, if you can find any Otis I wish you to tell them all to me. Any defect in expression, or spelling & also in thought, if I entertain any wrong idea whatever, or if, considered so by you, please write me about it. In this way I may improve nearly as much as in writing other Compositions. This reminds me that I have not written but two compositions this Term. I should have written more but I do not get time. I suppose I ought to write a composition instead of letters today but then I like to receive & so I am obliged to write letters, & writing a letter is not so hard a task to me when I have leisure as to some.

My Eolean lessons have taken much time this term, but I only wished to take lessons one term & so I shall not be troubled with them again. Writing about letters brings to mind, that I have been particularly blessed in respect to receiving letters the past week. Monday I recd yours. Wednes. One from Mother of 4 pages & one from Dellie of 3 p. in which was enclosed one of 4 p. of note paper from Aurilla and Thurs I recd one from a schoolmate at Topsham & residing there. He says that Mr Adams has rather a small school there this Fall, now at near the close of the Term there being only 19 scholars. Mother wrote that all were as usual, mentioned receiving a letter from you, says you do not stand as well in your class as usual. You did not mention your standing to me.

Dellie seems to be doing well at his school, but expects it will close soon. Mr Barrows has had an attack of fever lately but was getting better when he wrote. Aurilla congratulates me on having given my heart to God & trusts she has done the same, says she does not enjoy very good health, has a pain in her side often & has a bad cough, thinks she has not long to live in this world, though I hope that she will yet get well & enjoy good health & a happy life here as well as hereafter & do good in the world for there is much to be done.

I have not thought very strongly that I should teach this Winter. I only thought some of it because I did not know as they would have any fit Teacher in our district. But as you do not think best & as Mother is not much in favor of it I will give up the idea entirely. I mentioned the Teacher's class to you I believe in my last letter. I have since been examined by a Committee of three & got a certificate or shall have one at the close of the Term from Mr Torsey for teaching school, although many that were examined with me did not get one, but studied a while longer & then again were examined & even then some did not get one, but this will not hinder their teaching school for they can well enough get one of the Town school. Almost all were older than I that were examined. I

had also about concluded not to enter College next Fall for I thought two years study before entering, will not hurt me, but on the other hand I shall rank better in College & what is of the most importance I shall have a better education and as I shall not have to study hard to enter in two years. My health can be recruited & my body as well as mind prepared for the duties of College life. I have no weighty reasons for entering next year, only I should like to be in the class with Winter & others as well as be in College as long as possible with Rowland. For if I enter next fall I shall be with him two years.

The latest news I have had from Lizzie came through your letter. I really hope she will soon recover. I suppose it is my turn to write her a letter but I do not have only time to answer those letters I receive, & perhaps if she is unwell she would not or could not correspond much. Does Lizzie ever mention the subject of religion in her letters to you Otis?

My sheet is full & I will close.

From your Affec brother,
Charles

I hope Otis you will do as you know, for this is all that is wanting. Continue to pray. I shall practice two hours & then write mother & Dellie & Aurilla a letter & I owe one to Chum Winter.

[The following clipping was glued to the letter.]

We learn that Hon. Orville Jennings formerly of this State, and a graduate of Bowdoin College of the class of 1849, has been recently elected by the people to the office of Attorney General, in the State of Arkansas, by a large majority. The merits of Maine boys and Bowdoin graduates seem to be appreciated wherever they go. [handwritten comment] sent me by Rowland some time ago.