

fellows I fear he has a counterpart in a heavy heart. Smith is a singular
fellow, the creation of a singular combination of circumstances.
I admire him at one time and censure him at ~~the same~~ ^{another}. I always
feel a strong sympathy ^{in his defects, on account of} his misfortune. I pity him for his failings.
But who has not them? If you feel conscious of none, I must say
that you enjoy a greater satisfaction than myself. Let me then quietly
draw a veil over what it avails not to expose. There is a subject
for reflection & sympathy - the wrongs of the daily are not our ways
we may be sure. Then we anchor our hopes for one moment
while the zephyrs play over a sunny & untroubled sea. But the
night may find us struggling on the breakers, with a sky
showing every star in midnight blackness. Poor Smith, mortally
not in case, but harassed with biting poverty, loving and not beloved
yearning for the gentle attractions of quiet peaceful living, and
yet thrown among the rough & rude company of the Indians & the
wild mountaineers, to live when nothing & everything. Cold
nightly converse with the small hours of morning and the
hymn of praise & thanksgiving gives place to the prolonged
roars of bacchanals. Surely he is of adamant firmness who
yields not to the only call which allows him into forgetfulness
of deep seated sorrow. Surely God must keep a heart pure and
formally pious that yields not to despair and dithly down it to
them misanthropy. Life is brief and eternity holds out a charming
prospect for the true Christian. "The alarm, the struggle, the relief. Then sleep on either
side by side." I have been peculiarly favored and it will become
me to be thankful. I hope that if many years are before me
they will not attest a lack of improvement or at least a disin
to avail myself of their passing opportunities. You see I have given
you quite a long talk though much has been about my own imperfect
self. You must make due allowance for all exaggeration. Now for business
I left some sheets at Mr. P. which I shall snatch in need of - I do not

remember whether I gave them away or not. If anyone says
them and says that I gave them to him let him by all means ~~keep~~
them. I am under the impression that I put them with my books in
Clapen's trunk. Please oblige me by making inquiry. Don't post a
line in N-10, that would be going a little. Watsonist Annual
as far as I can my regards to Clapen and
Clapen. I will answer their letters at the
earliest opportunity. Nov. 1853
Yours friend W. Lill

I would have acknowledged
the receipt of your letter at an earlier period were it not that my
numerous correspondents had imposed already so many serious obligations
on my shoulders, as to make it necessary to leave your own call unan
swered though I assure you far from unheeded. I wish that you
might find time amid your multifarious duties to give me frequent
information of your affairs, interesting, as are all the incidents
of the to me now fresh but not forgotten Quaker life. You are gradually
shortening the long road which you have trodden with such varying
success and interruption & wavering steps. I congratulate ^{you} my dear
friend that you have advanced thus far so well. Not complaining
you so much as rejoicing that you have been able with so many
competitors to stand erect, with due consciousness. I know some. Nihil
humani a me alienum puto. With that feeling ^{upmost} not puffed
up by success unreasonably, not cast down by unexpected reverses,
your career will be enabling to ^{yourself} & useful, & glorious. Lean
not too much upon an inward consciousness of desert & ability which
too frequently is the brother of Conceit & vanity. But go forward
trusting in the assistance of God & hoping for a right end to
a right pursuit and a right purpose.

Every day convinces me anew that time well put in if I may use such an
expression, is not without a corresponding ~~useful~~ useful effect afterward.
And you will feel amply rewarded for your present labors when you
get to a resting place when you can make a retrospect while
at the same time your eye can daily take in the outline of the path which
you will tread in company with your coming years. Let us then in
the words of the great poet from your native state, be up and doing, with
a heart for any fate, still achieving still pursuing learn to labor and to
wait. I rejoice that your mind is in a serious mood with reference
to the solemnities of Religion, My dear Sir I do hope you will not be led
any time either now or in your coming days of worldly praise & prosperity
to forget the solemnity of that to which links you to the passing, fleeting
things of time and sense, Sudden death might find you unprepared.
But suppose that happen as the invisible term that solemn visitation
of the Dying, to be far away from your scenes, the steps of life may
show you going more slowly perhaps, but not less surely to the bitter
end of the unbeliever. Such I trust may be neither your or my lot, but
still it becomes us to tread warily when an evening step may
thrust us down a frightful precipice. I wish that you might be
able to join me next year in this delightful situation, I wonder increasingly
that the Ordnance should not be the first choice of those men who stand
any chance of getting into it - I would not exchange my present station
with ~~that~~ any other in the Country. True it is the best Ordnance station
and I can not expect to remain here always. While I am here I expect
to be as contented and happy as ever hereafter, probably more so.

The superior officers are men quite to my taste and as for society
& hostess you are set down into the Garden of the Hesperides. You only have
to put out your hand to pluck your choicest fruits - You will not be
surprised then to hear that I am almost as much of a student as at
West Point, In fact the real necessity of being, & doing something never
impressed me so strongly as now. The Army is not a very fertile field
for greatness or extended usefulness, but there are so many occupations
thrown open to an enterprising and thorough student that a West
Pointier need not fear that he shall ever want bread. I have heard
officers more than once express their regret that they had not when
fresh from the Academy step into a more lucrative & useful position.

Every one must of course be governed by their own feelings & interests -
The polar star of a man's existence should be fixed & defined,
and then if he is a skillful navigator there need be no anxiety
ast to the outcome, he will sail into the wished for haven
with his sails set and his colors floating at the mast head.

You are aware I presume that during the coming week the steamer
San Francisco is to sail away freighted with the 3rd Reg. ^{for California} - If it had been
an English Regiment and greatly distinguished as the English pretend all
of their Regiments to be, I might have prophesied, gallant & invincible to
qualify the designation. But our 3rd is another renowned for gallantry
or invincibility, they fight bravely when the time comes and the officers
are duly honored, but the gallant 3rd would be an anomalous toast
at a Mrs. dinner - our friend Smith sails for the Eldorado of the West
with a heavy purse I imagine ~~with~~ enclosing six months pay. but poor

We shall have business concerns
in New York & elsewhere - & expect
to drive a large & profitable
establishment of commerce - but
not proposing to get rich, at once
I shall probably realize enough
to pay expenses so long as I
remain in single blessedness
of which I have a good prospect
for the present.

Your cousin just having
from Peabody. I have not received
a letter from him since soon
after Commencement. I am
surprised at his not writing
you. I intend to visit Mass.
next May or June, part of the
way at least on business -
shall be most happy to see
if possible - I hope you form in-
tention to visit W. on ground esp. re-
spects to him & others.

Truly Yours

Geo. W. Sewall

Galeo. Illinois
Nov. 1st 1853 -

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 24th
ult. was duly received & it gives me
much pleasure to acknowledge it. You
are indeed becoming quite persnickish, very
respectably so & I suppose that as your
term of confinement is approaching
its conclusion, your duties are less
interminable & perhaps less arduous, &
therefore less you in better humor
with yourself & all the rest of man-
kind." especially your friends. Well
I wish you much joy during this
your last term at last Point,
for I suppose you have entered upon
your last term by this time. I will
remember the sensations & hopes
with which I commenced my
last quarter of College life - It.

began to seem like breathing fire
& clear again, but then I had the
dingy walls of a school room for
a year (finally lengthened into two)
before my vision & this was not very
pleasant prospect as you can testify.
You now go forth with business
all around you, if you choose to
accept of it & my good pay at
that \$65. per month. Well I should
have accepted that with pleasure
tho' about the service I am still
in doubt. Well I have got through
my school days, my days of teaching
& the incipient stages of professional
life. I am in the eyes of the
community an independent man
having an individual responsibility,
& a reputation to establish & sustain.
I shall endeavor to put myself through
according to the principles, which I
judge, should govern a man, of honest
purpose & ambition -

The result of my efforts I shall
leave for future development.
Tommend is here, doing just exactly
for all the world as he did when in
College. He reads when & what he
pleases, goes & comes when & how
he pleases, is a gentleman & a gen-
tleman to any extent he pleases, but
as for business & business qualifications
he has very little inclination that
way, I believe. I then come to the
deliberate conclusion that he can
& will be of very little service to me,
& have already made other & better
arrangements for the future - I
have formed a partnership with
a lawyer of good practice & reputation,
a shrewd business man & practitioner.
The firm name will be Briggs &
Devitt. The arrangements are all
made, the Articles drawn, & nothing
remains but to sign them. This
I think will be for my advantage -

Encl. - Oliver C. Howard
West Point
N.Y.

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Bowel. Coll. Nov. 6. 1853

Dear Brother

I am solicitous to hear from you frequently; for a cause which I am very sorry for. The more I reflect on your affairs, the more I am mistified. How she could ask me to let her accompany me to New York. How she could visit our relations with me, and thus confirm the opinion that she belonged to our family. I can't understand. It is so foreign to the modesty & delicacy which I supposed characterized her. When I think of all these things, I cannot make myself believe your suspicions true - Since you have so deeply interested me in this matter, do write me, on any new development, if these things are so. I should have liked to send your last letter to Percy, that he might see the disposition of the man whom he has injured.

That letter lies quietly in my drawer, but I shall never forget it. Lizzie has written me a letter, recently in her usual pleasant vein, and this morning I thought I would answer it, but when I had got one sentence down, such a feeling came over me as caused me to throw the paper aside, in disgust. But perhaps I shall feel better by & by and finish it.

Charley has written me a letter somewhat similar. I presume to yours, giving me an account

of his conversion and his present convictions,
of duty, with many warm hopes that I should
perme the same course. Charles manifests
feelings in this matter honorable to his heart
and head. I anticipate for him a cheerful
and happy life. From Mother I have not
heard for three weeks. I fear she is sick.
Write me if you have heard from her lately.

I am having a very pleasant
Term in College, and if it was not for the frequent
'sermons' I should enjoy myself well enough,
but those I am getting used to, as the sets get
used to being skinned. My themes cause me
as much solicitude as anything. I have
written two and am now on the third.
It is new work for me and I do not succeed
so well as I could wish. Thanksgiving
comes a week from next Thursday, but I
do not think I shall go home it is rather
a roundabout & expensive road and I
am trying to retrench a little this Term
on account of my New York excursion.

This morning when I awoke I found
it snowing merrily. I should think there
was three inches fell, but it is fast disappearing
before the sun. It will make the street muddy
and uncomfortable. I am my own monitor
and therefore do not have to attend meetings
today as the walking is bad and I am

not in the mood. The Trustees have caused
plans for a hedge to be set out around the
college yard. When it grows up, it must look
fine. Do you have parades on the plain now?
I suppose the visitors have nearly all left
the Hotel even Pinkney and her Aunt; and
the Point begins to look deserted. I should
think from what I hear some of them
say, that the Hotel will be a gloomy place
in the winter. I find it a very easy and
interesting. Demosthenes is rather more difficult
and my Geometry, hard to remember. I
understand the propositions well and
learn them easily, but when I get up to
write, my head is confused and I do
not make a trail. I can commit the demonstration
to memory and in that way make a good
deal, but I would do that if I got reviewed
every day. We are about through the IV. Bk
in Geometry. I am in hopes to get so by
and by, that my memory will serve me
better in mathematics, but I don't know.
I shall look for a letter from you every day
Otis, if it is only a short one. As I have a
letter to Mother to finish I must leave this
here, with memory to Chapman. Think of me
as

Yours very affectionately
Rowland

Friend Otis

New York Nov 26th 1853

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I feel almost ashamed
and in fact I really do that
I havnt answered your letter
befor, I was sick some ten days
after your brother left, and when
he returned from N.Y. I understood
him you would not want the
cigars. When I got about after
my second sickness I found so much
to do that I was obliged to neglect
my friends until now as I am
little more at leisure, I will
send the red face now with pleasure
if you want them. Frank and
Addison returned ten days since
both are well now A. has been
sick, let me hear from you
soon I will try to be more
interesting next time Yours Truly
Elias Sargent

