
518 12/2/1853 *From:* Warren L Lothrop

To: Otis [Howard]

OOH-0477

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point
Dec 2nd [1853]

My dear Otis,

I arrived here last evening, after spending about three weeks with my friends in Leeds. I saw your mother just before I left Leeds, who was in good health & spirits. All were also well in Leeds.

As I came through Portland I saw your Lady who came into the car with your brother. She looked remarkably well. Sent her love & wished me to see you.

Come down some evening if convenient so I can tell you the news. Please send word by <Benjy> so I may be in when you come. I left here very unexpectedly & could not call on you before I left.

Yours Truly
WLL [Warren L Lothrop]

519 12/9/1853 *From:* W. L. Lothrop

To: [O O] Howard

OOH-0479

Source: Bowdoin

Dec 9th [1853] [The year was written in pencil.]

My dear Howard

Ben'y did not tell me you were coming down to see me, until late the same evening you came. For this reason I was absent, at the Falls. Can you come again. If you do send me word so I can be in. You had better send it the day before you come so I can be sure to be in. I should be pleased to have a chat with you, & would come up to see you if I could without being seen. Every thing with me goes smoothly, our school commenced last week & the most of my time is occupied in my studies. I have heard from home twice since my return. All are well. Do come down & see me if you can.

In haste

W. L. Lothrop

520 12/17/1853 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: [O O] Howard

OOH-0480

Galena Illinois

Source: Bowdoin

Galena Illinois
Dec 17th 53

Friend Howard

Your Letter of the 4th inst found me in excellent health & spirits and enjoying myself in both a social & business capacity as well as circumstances would allow. At that time & ever since however I have been very busy. For it is now court time & we have some considerable to attend to which is all very well & exactly in our Line of course. These weeks we have been compelled to be in attendance for the most of the time at the Court House & we have the encouraging prospect of remaining there two weeks longer at least. The novelty of Court practice soon wears & it then becomes a matter of duty which without objecting to, we feel little pleasure in doing. I do not say that this is my case exactly, tho' I must confess that as a matter of pleasure there are many thing much more agreeable but we have been very successful thus far & therefore do not complain.

By the way we came very near burning out about a week ago. I had been out to a little party of young folks & was just returning with "my Lady" as all good citizens are bound to at about 12 o'clock when the alarm of fire was given. We hurried along as fast as the existing condition of things would permit & I soon discovered that the building just across a very narrow street from our office. Leaving the Lady, in a manner rather precipitate I presume, to look out for herself, I rushed to the office & held myself in readiness for the emergency that might arise. The fire was so hot that it caught our window casings & sash and the cornice of the building & quite destroyed them. But by perseverance & the assistance of a very bad fire engine we escaped without further damage. Our Law library worth about \$1500.00 & Notes & papers to the amount of \$10,000.00 or more were in the office & without insurance. We could hardly afford to lose so much as that for the sake of getting rid of the old wooden building, which it was no loss to have destroyed.

By the way we have a little the nicest office in the city & it would be a great pleasure to me to have you step in & take a comfortable smoke with me & chat about old times & doings. I would advise you when your course at West Point is completed to take a trip out West & see what a country we have here. A journey of this kind would do you good I have no doubt. About Aug or Sept. it is delightful to go up the upper Mississippi & well pays the expense as I am informed. I mean to try it by & by when it comes right.

My respects to friends with whom you may have correspondence & believe me

Yours truly
Jno. N. Jewett

521 12/17/1853 *From:* Peleg [Perley]

To: [O O] Howard

OOH-0481

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland, Dec. 17, 1853.

My Dear Howard,

Now I know I ought to have written you a fortnight since and more and I did actually commence a letter to you a week or fortnight ago to morrow but I found Lizzie was writing you and she showed me a letter you had just written her, showing that your heart was so much more at ease than when you wrote me that I neglected to write to try in my poor way to console you or cheer you under such unmerited indignities and so barbarous treatment and I knew you had practiced too long on the maxim of Horace "Quid quid nefas est corvigenes buins fit paticitia" to be easily discouraged by the insolence of officials in any station.

Lizzie is looking very much better and is very much better both in health and spirits. She has improved very much these few weeks past and I have been much happier than for some time past at the thought that you were and she was. You have been happier have you not Chum?

I hope so, I do from my heart I do. You deserve to be happy Howard and I doubt not you will be. You are not going to do me the injustice (for it would be injustice) to think that I don't care for you - don't love you - because I have delayed too long on this. You wont think any such, hard thing of me will you, at least not for a long time for you know I am a terrible fellow to put off things and Jewett gave me a nice blowing up a little while ago because my letter to him was, what might well be charged to some of his epistles, civil and cold- accused me of having forgotten all the friendships of earlier days and the memories of College life and of having come to be regardful only of self and quoted you as having the same impression as himself. I acknowledged to him that perhaps I had grown selfish, had become too neglectful of friends but I did not admit that I had become wholly selfish of had forgotten my friends in College, either him or you. I don't wonder he got the idea, I don't wonder you should have got such a one at all, for well you might. I did not answer your letter of last spring and you spoke of my neglect in writing to him I suppose and well you might think a man might remember his Chum who had so much in common with him better than that.

I should have written you but though I did not I had not forgotten you, nor did I cherish envious or harsh thoughts of you. By no manner of means. The world has its effect on all of us, numbing our hearts, chilling our affections, making us gradually but none the less surely though somewhat imperceptibly, selfish, hard and cold but though I am aware of its effect on me and deplore it I know I shall never become so selfish, my heart so indurated that it shall not beat warm towards some of my classmates and especially towards you. So I feel now, so I think I ever shall.

Sunday evening.

I am thinking strongly of going to Law School. I want to go very much but the wont of funds is a serious objection which stares me in the face as Law schools, all of them, are very expensive. I have been and am reading very busily and one week goes after another almost imperceptibly, stealing off ere I am aware and almost discouraging me by their rapid flight for it seems as though a life time were too short to gain a knowledge of the law though one should live to a good old age and Time himself should lag a little in his course. Every new elementary work opens up a vast field which never before existed to my imagination and makes me feel as if I should add "one more".

"To baffled millions that have gone before". It is really in the present state of professional <reputation> and professional learning a serious not to say hazardous attempt in a young man of but moderate abilities and every day energies to enter into either of the Professions expecting to reap a rich harvest of rewards or honors or professional emoluments.

It requires a great mind to do this and the greatest often fail to attain it. To make a good professional man requires a union of rare qualities such as seldom unite in one - to make a good man requires it in any walk of time. As for me Howard, you know my hopes were never so high as those of some and I don't see as even these bid fair to be realized very soon. However, I do not despair nor feel very blue though I have felt

sufficiently so at times and expect to in times to come. I shall try and keep steadily on and try what the future has in store for me. I am not at all impatient to see for I have learned that our fate unravels itself fast enough.

As for you Howard I think really you will enter on your Profession with good auguries of success. You will be well fitted and will know whether you are or not which is not so easily to be told in the case of us Lawyers. It is hard for us to tell whether we know anything about law or not til we try it and then I opine some of us will find the not with a vengeance. I hope you are much happier than you were. I am Howard as in days of yore

Truly your friend
Peleg.

522 12/27/1853 *From:* N. T. Manwell

To: Friend [O O Howard]

OOH-0482

Monmouth

Source: Bowdoin

Monmouth Dec 27th 1853

Dear friend

I take this opportunity to inform you how we get along. My health is not very good <the> could [cold?] that I had when I left your house troubles me yet. When I got home I did not find Benjamin as well as I expected to was very sick with the Lung Fever. Mother Phebe and I took care of him every night for two weeks. After I come here we got pretty well beat out. I thought when I come home that I should have some help of about my work but instead of that, I had to help the rest and I have not got my work more than half done. I should like to stay here till the 12th of January if you could get along, any way Janes Boy is quite sick. She does not know what the matter is with him. That sore has healed up. Write me as soon as you get this.

From
N. T. Manwell

[This is probably Nancy Manwell, a house worker for Eliza Gilmore.]