

West Point N.Y. Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1854. 130

My dear Fannie,

I have already written two lengthy epistles tonight one to Lizzie & one to Mother. but as I fancied your disappointed looks that will spread itself over your countenance every time Mother breaks the seal of a letter from West Point with nothing enclosed for you, I began to have a pressing sense of my unpardonable neglect I could not resist the temptation of stealing another half hour from sleep, in order to pen a few thoughts to you if they are not so bright as you might expect from a young gentleman who has had a double dose of Education. But the very awkward, disconnected sentences that have their birth on the disputed territory, situated between the country of Wakedow & dream-land, are often the most entertaining by far. You see, we have so many common sense matters to deal with in ordinary every-day-life that we get surfeited with them. so we say "anything for variety." We can laugh at a fool for his folly & at the odd man for his eccentricity. While the wise remarks of a rail-road man are too dry & stale to possess a spark of interest. My room-mate has gone to the Hospital & I am all alone. He poor boy is afflicted after the manner of Job. only not to such a degree. since he has but one thorn in the flesh. He has been lying on his bed for two <sup>days</sup> looking pale & disconsolate. I took the part of Job's comforters. Only I did not try to convince him that it was for the sin of self-righteousness, that he was



afflicted. But I laughed at him & after gave him the admin-  
prescription - "patience-patience my boy"! I told him of  
my six months experience - then at a time; & of the rich times  
I had in purlough where these grievous afflictions were  
particularly calculated to render the spirit sore, and by an  
equal reaction make the body sorer. I am glad you are  
going to be such a nice boy this winter and learn  
so much. You must, as you undoubtedly have done, get  
Rowland to tell you what you had better study as he  
can tell better than I can. Our class chose horses by lot  
while I was at Duxskill - so that we now have each a horse  
that we call our own. They chose for me one called Nitchie  
a very good horse. He is smart & has one good quality, he  
never stumbles or falls. I shall ride him & him alone till I  
graduate next June. A week ago last Wednesday I rode a  
horse named Dike. After riding all together awhile our  
platoon was halted & each one required to ride his horse  
by himself twice or three times round the riding hall.  
My beast was contrary at first I said he wouldn't go. After  
getting a decent whipping from our instructor & a good spurring  
from myself, he started at a rapid rate but with  
the wrong foot foremost. Mr Sackett said; "don't ride him  
so fast," just as I was passing the corner - at that instant  
all four of his clumsy legs went from under him & he came on  
his side with me in the saddle as a consequence my foot  
was under him & I got slightly jumbled, but the ten bark was  
soft & it did not hurt me much. I got up before the horse  
but could not ride any more that day. I am well now. So you  
perceive I am slightly prejudiced against horses that cannot keep  
their feet under them. Good night - a happy New Year!  
your affectionate brother  
Otis



perfectly horrible. Our kind wishes are all with  
you during your coming Examination.

Charles will answer his good long letter  
before long and Dottie will send a note  
in this. Mother will write a word or so.  
Let us hear from you frequently

Your affectionate Brother

My Dear Son, the new year has commenced. Rowland  
and with it have brought forward all of mother's anxieties  
this week will probably commence again semiannual  
examination your Mother's hope is that you will have  
patience and long suffering if necessary, and self  
command all these must necessarily to your advantage  
I wish I could be any benefit to you, we have many blessings  
which I hope I am not wholly incapable, but some  
how labor comes hard to me, but hope to endure a  
while longer I heard today that the remains of Walter Bishop  
remains were brought into town to be laid away with  
his friends, it came very near my heart, as I feel that  
I am liable to meet the same stead news, Mr. Edwin  
Lane died last night he has been in a low state of health  
for some time. Alvin has always moved in the same  
circle of acquaintance, and I feel his death very  
much perhaps my turn will be next to be called  
away. Your father called at Big Bayley's the other day  
and learned the whole family had left Mrs. White  
I should like to hear how Mrs. White and Lizzie are  
getting on, this winter Rowland is hurrying me, as he  
is in haste to go bed, in haste your ever affectionate  
Mother Eliza Gilmore

Leeds Sunday Jan 1. 1854

Dear Brother

I wish you a happy new Year! and  
several more of the same sort. We have all exchanged  
the new year greeting this morning, and would  
be much pleased to make it verbally to you.  
But wait a little while, and I am in hopes we  
shall all be united again at home.

We are literally buried in snow. Two  
storms of eighteen inches each accompanied by  
gales of wind, have piled the snow mountains  
high. The road between this and the School  
House is filled from wall to wall, as you used  
to see it. But if possible, worse than ever!

The drifts are ten and fifteen feet  
deep. The change is sudden. For when I came  
home a little more than a week since the  
ground was bare and people were earnestly  
wishing for a little snow. Now they have it  
in abundance. The drifts prevent all traveling  
and they must content themselves to stay at  
home and count themselves happy if they have  
warm houses and a plenty of fuel. The cars do  
not make their regular trips and we have no  
mail for four days, and Saturday night has  
come and passed without any letter or newspaper.  
This is something that seldom happens to us.



I left Brunswick the next morning after our Examination. (Wednesday) The Examination passed with as much credit to me as I deserved. I took a little screw in Greek & French and got off pretty well in Latin and Mathematics.

That Geometry is very easy, but I expect to bring up against something in that branch before long. I have kept school now for one week but have not had a full attendance of scholars since the first day, on account of the storm.

The scholars all appear kind and obliging. They call me Rowland, out of school and are very familiar, but they appear to like me and try hard to please me. The school is not like the one that Townsend undertook to keep in the same place. All those great boys have left except Silas Bates and two or three others of his age. The School-House is new and comfortable and I see nothing to prevent my having a pleasant winter if my cold gets better.

My cough is very bad now, but I have considerable faith in Mother's doctoring. Lizzie has not answered that long letter, that I wrote her before I left Brunswick. Charles wrote her a few days since and I addressed a note. I fear she is sick. Perhaps she is offended that I did not write her before, but I did not feel a bit like it till after the reconciliation.

I have not been about in Leeds any yet and have not learned their affairs. They have

three singing schools, a dancing school and a debating club in town. Solomon Sathrop has been mulct in the sum of two hundred dollars for selling Rum. This decision has almost killed the old man and has created considerable excitement in certain quarters. Grammer is at Uncle Ensign's but will return to Hallowell as soon as the traveling is suitable. I have not seen her yet.

Monday Evening. I have kept school all day and am now seated at home, tired enough helping Father about his books. The boys have a Juvenile Temperance Society, and I have scribbled down a slight oration for Dell to deliver at the next meeting. I told him & and Charles not to trouble me any more about it, and they have spent most of the evening in getting it out as I would a Greek Lipon. Some of the words bother them dreadfully. Our old Neighbor Alvin Lane died last night after the long illness which has afflicted him for years. Walter Bishop, John's youngest son was brought home on the cars yesterday a corpse. He has been working in Ohio lately. He died suddenly and the first morning of his fate that his friends received was his coffin.

Father keeps the worst kind of pens, paper and ink. So this letter is as you see



Leeds Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 1854

426

Dear Brother

As it has been but a short time since I have written to you, I shall write a short letter. It is the first day of the Week first day of the Month and <sup>the</sup> Year. Our School has begun with a stormy week. It has snowed every other day. Our house is well banked up for the rest part of the winter. Mr Berry is in here. he says there <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ three feet deep where it has not blown off, & we have a hard time of it, going to school, they did not beat out the roads until yesterday in the afternoon, one night when we were coming home we froze our ~~feet~~ ears most all of us. George Bates froze both of his feet the same night. After all to me the trouble we have had, ~~it snows~~ <sup>hard</sup> now, the snow that came this morning is 4 inches deep, (all I say) I have got most tired of such weather. Charles Rowland & Mr Berry are singing, Charles is playing on the ~~Acolian~~ <sup>Acolian</sup>. Mother & Catharine are getting <sup>dinner</sup> ~~dinner~~. Mother says it is ready now. --- I have just eat ~~dinner~~ <sup>dinner</sup>. We had some soup and ~~Ref-stake~~ <sup>Ref-stake</sup>. Charles says he shall write a letter to you soon in answer to your long one that you wrote him last. I am well and all of the rest of ~~the rest~~ us are the same. Answer Soon

I hope you are well and will get through your examination well

C. C. Howard

Your Affectionate Brother  
R. W. Gilmore.



Dear Brother.

"new Year"

I wish you a happy

Charles H. Howard

Your Brother

Jan. 1st 1854



Brunswick Jan 6, '54

427

My dear fellow

At a meeting  
of the class of '50, held the 27<sup>th</sup>  
day of Sept<sup>r</sup> last, it was voted  
that a testimonial be presented  
to the first of the class who should  
become a father. Our esteemed  
class mate William P. Frye hav-  
ing sent in his proposals therefor  
claiming to be the father of a young  
lady of some weeks; and no con-  
-petitor having appeared against  
him; the testimonial aforesaid  
has been awarded to him, &  
You will please, therefore, for-  
ward to me, as soon as possible



The sum of \$2,000, or in  
default thereof, such less sum  
as may seem to you convenient  
to be expended for the above  
purpose: D

At the request of T. Nye the present  
will be a - Cradle - instead of  
the - Baby - jumper - originally  
contemplated: D

In accordance with another vote  
taken at the same time, you  
will please inform me of any  
change in your residence &c  
and at any rate report yourself  
every year at commencement  
time.

Yours truly  
your friend & class mate  
(Signed) E. C. Everett  
Secretary



455  
New York 27 Nassau St. Jan 14/52.

Friend Howard,

I think you graduate this week, if my calendar is correct.

I am settled in business here, board at Metropolitan Hotel, am at home from 6 P.M. to 8 1/2 A.M.

If your duties allow you to come down to the city, make me a call. Shall be happy to talk over old times with you. I returned from Europe last August came here in Sept. opened an office first of Jan'y.

Yours truly  
Dezler A. Hawkins



Dear Mother  
I have just received  
your letter of the 10th inst.  
and am glad to hear from  
you. I am well and hope  
this finds you the same.  
I have not much news to  
write at present. I am  
still in the hospital and  
am not allowed to go out.  
I am getting better, however,  
and hope to be home soon.  
I will write again when I  
hear from you. I am  
ever your affectionate son,  
John Smith



West Point N. H. Jan 13<sup>th</sup> '59

My dear Mother & brother

I received your very long & kind letter in good time - but as I have been busy in preparing for the examination I have not yet replied to it. I will only now write you a few lines to let you know of my health & prosperity. - I have been examined in Engineering & in International Law & Logic. I did very well indeed on my demonstration in Engineering & did not fail on but one question "on questions" & that was incompartment. I came out fifth. In logic I did well too - got slightly confused once - and as others did remarkably well I came out 6 in law & logic. We will be examined in Mineralogy & Geology tomorrow. I will soon give you a detailed history of the whole affair. After my explanation to Professor Mather - He & Capt G. W. Smith have treated me very kindly & behaved towards me after the same gentle manner on the examination. I have my ups & downs, but on the whole am quite happy. I fight away when in hot water & enjoy the cool breezes when I get out. Mr Abbott & I have made up - & I have the good will of all my classmates shall graduate finally as high as third. Give my love to all - I will write soon -

Yours affectionately  
O. B. Howard



Oliver O. Howard

West Point

New York

New York P. O.

185-24

O. O. Howard  
Jan. 15. 1854



of us next summer laugh at the  
fears of a loving Mother.

We will all be very glad to see  
you Mr Howard, at any time.

Mr Breble joins me in many  
good wishes for your future welfare,  
and Loui with kind regards wishes  
to be remembered to her loved brother's  
friend. When did you last hear  
from Pinkie? How does the Major  
succeed in his courtship? How  
often I think of him, and just as  
often feel provoked to think that he  
pushed things so far last summer.  
I have often thought that he saw  
that we were all too happy, and that  
made him break up the harmony  
of our feelings. With sentiments of esteem I  
am my dear Mr Howard Yours truly  
this one to Breble

P.S.  
Loui is  
now writing  
to her brother  
and our  
letters will  
be coming  
this  
your  
D.C.B.

Philadelphia Jan 23d 1854

My dear Mr Howard

After remaining silent  
for so long a time I feel now to address  
you least. you will say that selfish motive  
impelled me to write to you, and yet  
I would not have you think for one  
moment that we have forgotten the  
pleasant hours which we passed at  
West Point last summer. my reluctance  
to write to a stranger must plead  
my excuse for so long delaying to  
write to you, and now that I am so  
very anxious about my dear by loved son  
I can not suffer my pen to remain  
longer idle, but must seek for the



cause of John's silence from you. It has been six long weeks since I have received one line from one who is so dear to me. I have feared that John must be ill or that he may have a broken leg, or an arm, from having fallen from his horse. Last week to make me more anxious, Major Croppman's son informed me that there was a Court Martial being held on some Cadets for disorderly conduct, now at any other time I should not have thought of my dear sons being involved in any thing of the kind. But not having heard from him, I have been induced to think that he may have suffered himself to be led into

temptation. On Tuesday last I wrote to him, and then told him, that he must write immediately, and have been looking anxiously for a letter every day since Thursday, and as there is yet no news from him. I thought it best to write to you, No matter my dear Mr Howard what has been the cause of my dear John's silence I look to you to tell me all, if sickness we will be with him, as soon as the news reaches us, if from any other cause, who so able as his parents and home friends, to soothe his wounded feelings. If nothing is the matter with him, which God in his Mercy grant, we will



Jan 25<sup>th</sup>

430

Dear Atis:-

I received your note, with the money enclosed, - I am pleased to hear you have recovered from your accident - I heard of it the day it happened & went to the Dept to see you, but the Dr. was absent & I could not get in. I also met with an accident about two weeks ago, - while riding out the horse fell over my right leg tearing off the skin & bruising it in a horrible manner, - I was off duty about a week on account of it. I returned from M.S. yesterday - went down to meet Jane (Eliase's wife) who has gone on to New Orleans to spend the winter with her brother Peggles. I did not see her as she stopped at the St. Nicholas. I wrote to her to stop at the Astor House, & expected to meet her, but I suppose the getting on with her preferred stopping at the St. Nicholas. We were both in M.S. about 24 hours at the same time I was greatly disappointed - She sent a note to me at the Astor, but I got it a few moments too late. I met Emory. or Amory. I don't know



how he spells his name) at the St Nicholas  
I had quite a chat with him, & satisfied  
myself that he is a "bad boy" I also  
met your Uncle John Otis at the  
St. Nicholas, & had a long chat with  
him. I told him of the accident  
you met with, & he seemed to think  
you would get killed yet, - he had  
been on to Philadelphia. - Every  
thing with me goes smooth

In haste &

Truly Yours

W. L. L.