
533 2/12/1854 *From:* J. N. Jewett

To: Friend Howard

OOH-0495

Galena Ill.

Source: Bowdoin

Galena Ill. Feb 12/54

Friend Howard

Your favor of the 19th ult came to hand in due season & I must excuse myself on the plea of business, that I have not replied to it sooner. I was sorry to learn of your misfortune. You are certainly of the recklessly ones & I fear that it is owing somewhat to a sort of daring recklessness in the composition of your genius. Pray consider the accidents to which you expose yourself by an effort to gratify your vanity - I mean physical effort. You would without doubt make a brave soldier, but I must suggest that you are a dangerous sportsman & practitioner - dangerous to yourself as well as to others. Don't kill yourself before you graduate for there may be need of just such men as you in actual service.

You ask me what you shall apply yourself to when you have finished at West Point. I am hardly in a condition to advise - Civil Engineering I am aware is a profitable employment & one in which genius & industry will want their due reward. In the present condition of this portion of our country, it is also one, which will furnish steady occupation for many years to come. I have no doubt that you would find it a pleasant & profitable business as long as you might choose to pursue it. Rail Road projects are all about us here, & I am certain that practical engineers cannot fail of employment for a long time to come and at good prices.

You ask also my opinion of the Legal Profession. I cannot express myself fully enough to <> within this brief space of an epistle. I am satisfied with my profession, but this of course is no guaranty that you would like it as well. It may be presumed as a science or as an accumulation of isolated facts & arbitrary decisions. Many Lawyers know nothing beyond reported cases, but then are principles which govern cases & on which precedents are founded which reduce the study of Law to a scientific pursuit. There is a reason for every fact, if one will take the trouble to go behind the fact to discern it. I would hardly wish to advise any one as to the <profession> he should adopt. If your inclinations are for the study & practice of Law, go into it. Otherwise, by no means!!

We are now doing a very promising business. In the course of a year or two I think, that with ordinary good fortune we shall come out at the right end of the heap.

One thing has come over me recently, which I did not like. I was obliged to change our boarding house & go to a Tavern. This is abominable. I want to live in peace with all men except Rum sellers, counterfeiters Horse thieves & others of like character but at this rate I shall hardly be able to - boarding is a nuisance any how & I mean to get out of it as soon as practicable. Our weather is now quite warm. We have not had more than 4 or 5 inches of snow for the Winter. I have had but one sleigh ride. Let me hear from you often.

Truly Yours
J. N. Jewett

534 2/14/1854 *From:* R H Gilmore

To: Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0496a

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Feb 14th 1854

Dear Brother:

As Rowland is going to write I thought I would; as you have been waiting for some time. I am well, and hope you are. I go to school yet. I have got a considerable way in my arithmetic; I began to cipher in fractions and I have got most to Proportion which is more than one half way through. I have got through my Astronemy, and have began to review. In my Grammar I have got to Syntax. Reading I have got most through my Fourth Reader. Spelling, I have left off at the head 9 times. Charles, 10, Harriet Fross 8, Catharine 8. You see that I have left off the most times (except Charles. he left off the most times last winter). Rowland said he would give the one that left off at the head the most times a prize. One day Charles said he would resign his claim, so I have left off the most, and I am to the head today. I will leave school as it closes next Saturday. It is the day to-day to receive Pictures which are some times very good ones i.e. Valentines.

From your affectionate brother
Dellie

N.B. In your next to mother write me a little. RH Gilmore

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

535 2/14/1854 *From:* Rowland B. Howard *To:* Brother [O O Howard]

OOH-0496b

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[Continuation of the previous letter from Dellie]

Leeds Feb. 14, 1854

My dear Brother

I haven't much time this morning but as none of us have written in weeks, I thought I would send you my Valentine, if it was short.

Sabbath evening I carried Perry Lee up to Uncle Ensigns. He was here two or three days. Perry has changed in his general appearance some, but I think he is the same old boy after all. I believe you saw him in New York. He will not sail again till April.

Our family are all well. My School continues through this week and then three days into the following one. Then I shall return to Brunswick as soon as possible as my Term will commence before that.

I shall take Portland on my way to Brunswick and of course see Lizzie. Perry was quite desirous of making her acquaintance. He is now just of the age and temperament and profession to be on the lookout for every pretty girl. He will make his own choice before long if he has not already. At Uncle Ensigns all are well. Hellen is "enciente" and the time of her delivery is near at hand. John of course grows prouder of himself and wife every day. It must be interesting thus to look upon the growing fruits of your own efforts and your wife's amiability.

I have lately shook the hands of some happy Whigs. They have been down so long in Maine, it seems like a resurrection to come so suddenly into power. We have all the offices in the State Administration, with but one or two exceptions from the Governor down to deputy Sheriff and best of all we have selected Pitt Fessenden U.S. Senator for five years.

Mother will not have time to write. As you conjectured, we heard of your mishap from Perry, and hope you have fully recovered, for a lame knee is an awkward affair.

I will write you a longer letter soon. I have many things to say but it is now time to go to School.

Your affectionate Bro
Rowland B. Howard

537 2/19/1854 *From:* C H Howard

To: Brother [O. O. Howard]

OOH-0497a

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Feby. 19th 1854

My dear brother,

I have delayed writing you, for the sake of a good opportunity, that I might write as good a letter as possible, in answer to the one you last wrote me dated Dec. 18th, 53. It is two months yesterday since it was written & I received it in due season, yet I have not yet found that desired reason, when I could sit down & write you a good long letter in return for yours, equally interesting & long. But am now obliged to write & make the best of it in order to get another from you.

I have plenty of time to day & it is quiet here at home but I have a bad cold in my head (& on my Lungs somewhat) so I am unfit to write a good letter on this account. It is Sunday you perceive, & Father, Rowland & Catherine have gone to the Center to Church. Mother, Dellie & myself are sitting in the middle room at home by a good green wood fire. Dellie is writing & mother reading & conversing at intervals. Mother is unwell so she did not go up to meeting as usual. Silas is here. He & Roland have been talking in the back room about dancing school scenes, I suppose, for their dancing school furnishes & has furnished a theme for conversation & for thought for them this Winter. And two evenings of each week are occupied at the hall at Leeds Corner. Now you know how we are situated here at home today.

I wish I knew how you are occupying yourself just now. I suppose you are at Church if well, listening to an excellent sermon from a good man, a privilege denied to many. You judged rightly as to what subject would suit me best to have you write upon, and in fact by what I wrote, I meant to convey to you that I wished some advice & would like to know your religious tenets. I think your ideas as to creeds correspond with mine, although I don't think I could have defined mine nearly as well. My ideas have been formed from the observations that perhaps I have made unwittingly in the short time that I have been in the world of understanding. And from the books which I have chanced to read, often perhaps not thinking that I was forming opinions & my belief from them. For I never till lately tried in earnest to know of the beliefs of different Christian churches & if I had it would not have been of use for I could not have well understood them had I known them all. And much of my doctrine is what has been taught me by my mother & brothers & nothing, more nor less. And had I not wished to have a little deeper foundation than those you spoke of who believe or else do not know, but concur with the tenets of their fathers & unite themselves with the same church I should have done likewise. But I thought I should like to know the tenets of a church before I united myself with it so that I might not be sorry for it when I found out. Still as you say I find so far, & always thought from what I have seen & heard & mother has always told me when I have asked that they do not differ materially.

But I have begun I think at the wrong end to answer your letter. First I am & have been sure that it was best for me to unite with some church for <> many reasons, which I will not mention. And as you supposed have been thinking of the subject considerable, but I will assure you I have not decided which one to join. And if I were to stop everything till I should decide it would be bad. But as it is I think perhaps it is not essential that I should at present push the matter. I think I might serve God & do no [see note 1] harm, and be constantly on the watch to learn any thing which is permitted me & take time to decide & so if possible not take a step that I may regret. I have no hesitation how to occupy myself for a few years to come but shall if possible pursue steadily the course on which I have started & always intended to pursue, i.e. I will first get a thorough education. The profession or occupation I shall then follow is an after consideration, though I confess it would be better to decide upon that as soon as may be.

I have some objection to the Methodist as well as the Baptist church & others I do not know much about. The Language I would use about the Methodist belief as to Sanctification or Christian perfection in this world is this, "I have not been brought up" to believe in it & I do not yet understand my Bible thoroughly enough to judge for myself & I am not acquainted with the reasons alleged for & against this by men well enough to decide for myself. I know enough about it to know that the Methodist people hold it as one of their tenets, & is it not peculiar to them? As to Close Communion I do not think so much stress should be laid upon it as is sometimes the case. I do not think it very wrong, but think open Communion better.

As to Baptism I do not think it necessary to salvation, but should be observed as well as communion in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Savior, who sent his disciples to preach the Gospel to all men that they should repent & be baptised. And it is an evidence to the world that you intend to follow the example of Christ, who himself was baptised.

But Otis I <must> right to a close as mother will write some, by asking you if you can get time to write the very belief of the four churches - Congregationalist, Methodist, Presbyterian & Baptist.

Rowland's school finishes in three days more & he will then go to Brunswick & I think I shall go to Kents Hill. Term commences 14 of March. Mr Torsey is in the state Senate. Mr Waltch will teach Languages this Spring. I recd a letter from Lizzie a short time since. She is well complains of not having letters from you often, is afraid you are sick.

The sun shines pleasantly to day but the Wind blows cold.

From your Affec Brother
Charles H. Howard

P.S. You did not mention receiving RB's letter & the death of Almina but you must have had it.

[Note 1. From this point the pages were included as part of one written by Rodelphus on Feb 19, 1854, but the first page(s) of Charles' letter was missing and follow on the first part letter written by Charles on Feb 19. Almina Augusta Howard died on Jan 25, 1854. These dates are consistent].

[Continued on the next letter from Eliza Gilmore]