
539 3/1/1854 *From:* Epes [Sargent]

To: Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0498

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Mch 1, 1854

Friend Otis

Yours came to hand yesterday. I have bought and sent you twenty pounds of Waltons best Va Cavendish which cost (wholesale) 50c and comes to the amt you wished. You will find it an extra article. I can vouch for it as I use the weed myself.

I have wondered what had become of you as I had not heard from you for a long time. The folks are all well & send love. I have directed Wm H Huestis Pacific Hotel Cold Springs. Let me hear from you soon again. In haste

Yours Truly
Epes

540 3/7/1854

From: W [Warren L
Lothrop]

To: Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0499

West Point NY

Source: Bowdoin

Mar 7, 1854

Dear Otis:

On my return last evening I found your note, informing me that you had made me a call. I was up to your barracks soon after retreat, in hopes to see you & tell you not to call down as I had to be absent, but I could not see you. The truth is a Lady sent for me & nothing but my presence would do; no excuse would answer. Women never listen to reason. On the other hand I knew you to be a very reasonable man & would take a reasonable excuse. I am very sorry I could not be at home, it is so seldom you call. I should like very much to have a chat with you.

Reed was here last evening. He said he had been spoken to about the bundle & would send it to me as soon as he received it. It may be some days before he can get across the river. As soon as I receive it, I will take it to you.

Truly Yours

W.

[Envelope]

Cadet O. O. Howard

West Point NY (Present)

541 3/8/1854

From: Rowland [Howard]

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0500

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Mch. 8, 1854

My dear Brother

I write you as soon as I can see any chance. I had about a fortnight 'to make up' and I have been pretty busy since my return to College. Owing to the state of the track, the Cars did not run about the time I came to Brunswick. So I took your old way. i.e. gave Warren 2.50 to bring myself and baggage in his Pung. I haven't taken such a ride before since the times I used to drive you & Perley to and from Brunswick. I meant to have gone by the way of Portland and seen Lizzie as I know she was expecting me, but for the cause I mentioned I was unable to do so. It is a great while now since I saw her, not since a few weeks after our return from New York. Mrs Waite is unwell now, up in Turner, but Mr Hicks said this must not be told Lizzie for fear it would trouble her needlessly. I saw Mr H at Lewiston when I came down. How much consideration all her family seem to have for her feelings. I wrote her the other day and made my excuses for not visiting her.

I left our folks well. Dellie is a very pale looking boy, but tolerably healthy. He has rather a disagreeable disposition, one that needs a great deal of care and study to get along well with. He has some of those Roland Alger traits which are peculiarly distasteful to me but I have striven pretty hard this winter to correct his ideas of right & wrong, the honorable & dishonorable. He has as active an ambition as any of his brothers, but he lacks in sense of honor and uprightness in regard to means by which he may gain his ends. If it were convenient I should like to have him with me for some time. Dellie is a good scholar, a quick learner, and has a boundless spirit of inquiry, which will be of great advantage to him, if properly encouraged and directed. He is now getting pretty old and I am anxious to see him do well to get over his little jealousies and envyings and be more different from some of his half brothers.

Charles' religious interest still continues though perhaps not quite so active as it was. I thought it best for him to return to Kents Hill, that the strong religious interest there might aid him in the strife which he is trying to wage with the various sins which easily beset us. He has got a hard work to do, and all foreign assistance he can gain, will be of advantage. There is hardly a school in the state where religious influence, real piety is predominant, except at Kents Hill. He talked some of coming to Topsham to be near me, but I did not advise it, for the reason I have mentioned. He will remain at Readfield one more Term, and in the meantime I shall look up a School for him. I shall get what information I can of the Andover Mass School. I think it the most suitable one for his purpose. Charles will enter College one year from next Commencement if his health permits.

I am more and more convinced of the wisdom your decision to remain in the Army after you graduate. Our Army will fill a much larger portion of history for ten years to come than it has for ten years back.

The news by the Steamer last night settles in my mind the question of Peace or War in Europe. When a Bonaparte writes an autograph letter, it means something. Napoleon 1st wrote one, you recollect, to George III, and the consequence of its rejection was the most terrible war the world has experienced. Nap. III has written one to the Czar, and been answered in the same way, and I shall expect the same consequences.

The insurrection of the Greeks makes the question more complicated and more liable to excite a general war, for it divides Christians from each other, uniting the whole Greek Church in a common cause and compelling Catholics and Protestants to make a common cause with Mohamedans. This war, if it occurs, between such gigantic powers, will thoroughly arouse the military spirit, all over the world and our people, excitable as they are, will not be the last to feel its influence.

The result must be favorable to all men whose "fortunes lie in their words" or more sensibly, who belong to the American Army.

These things must occur, even if (which I doubt) our Country is able to maintain a strict neutrality. But then, Whats a man going to do who has a wife? Please answer that in your next, and tell me whether you think my reasoning is correct in regard to Army interests. Do you not remain in the Army with an eye to active Service, if any be required?

Out next "Theme" is the Missouri Compromise and after thinking and reading on the Subject pretty thoroughly, I think I am about prepared now to give Uncle Ward "a piece of my mind" on Douglas and his crew and all such as advocate and vote for its <[hole in paper]> Rhetoric, I like first rate. It is <[hole in paper]> I have made a "sail" on yet <[hole in paper]> entered College.

We have Prof Smyths new Trigonometry this Term, and the Old Prof. flies about as if this was the most important Text Book of the course. You know all about the science of course. We have just begun and I have got me a scale and dividers and am constructing triangles to order.

Write me as soon as you can and constantly remember me as

Your very affectionate Brother
Rowland

O. O. Howard

[Note: This is Bowdoin letters 435 and 436 combined.]

544 3/19/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O. O. Howard

OOH-0502

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, March 19th, 1854

My dear Son,

I have this morning tried to draw my whole self away from home cares, sufficiently to address a letter to my distant son. It is more than three months since I have written a whole letter to anyone and I could fill a whole letter with reasons and appologies, but I will leave them all, and write to you as tho it was our every day occurrence, and I had attended to that duty, as punctually as to my house hold duties.

Your last letter directed to me, which I intended particularly to have answered I cannot find, it is probably mixed in with R.B.H. Books and papers and gone to Bowdoin. I will endeavor to answer it is as far as I can recollect. I am always desirous for your general benefit in all things, but I know so little of your calculations, and your requirements that I am unable to say much to your advantage, your shirts and stockings, I am making arrangements to prepare for you, I would like to have you tell me in your next letter whether you are wishing apart of them with linnen bossoms, summer drawers. I will prepare, with regard to your graduating suit, you must be guided by your own judgement, your other clothes you ask my advice in your next letter as I have lost the other.

We have had a very severe winter and I have been mostly shut up at home doing all in my power to make my family comfortable with but little satisfaction to myself or others. R.B.H. and Charles are now returned to their studies, and I hope are doing well. It has been a comfort to me to have them about me, and when my nervous system was sufficiently settled I have had such views - two good boys with me, both pleasant and and intelligent. I have lately been to visit Mother, saw your Uncle John, went there and spent the evening, your uncle has a very fine woman for his wife and two fine Children by his second maraying. Vaughn, John and Fanny, appeared well. I found Mother in good health enjoying the good news from her children and grand Children.

I heard a week ago today by Laura, that Lizzie passed up in the Cars through their town to go to Turner, where her Mother was sick I should be very glad to hear whether they are detained there or not, or what was the matter with her mother. I fear some anxiety, and not a little about your future destiny, and for you to save as much as possible of your little all to commence with, because I know money gives a man advantages after you have bought what is actually needed to make all right at West Point, would it not be better to delay the rest of your purchases, untill you come to Portland and be guided by your friends that is for your own consideration. We received your part in your discussion, and I have read it with pleasure, as I ever do any of your writings.

Your father brought home the report of the war department of your standing for Feb a few days ago. Your demerits were 9 and 54 or 7 since the commencement of the Academic year.

I frequently have a Wakefull time in the night when my imagination to W.P. and B. and Kents Hill in no time at all. If you should wish any particular favor from home or from your mother write just what you would like to have your mother do. Because your manner of life is so different from mine, that I cannot forestall your desires as I once could. I shall of course expect you and Lizzie to spend a good part of your furlough at home, or with me. I shall do all in my power to make you comfortable. Your Watch I have never purchased. I have looked at quite a number but not feelind a confidence in my own judgement & put it off for another time, untill the two years has almost expired. If I could get it I would present it to Lizzie before your return.

Addison has been in Maine twice. I did not see him, I was told at Mothers that he is about returning to California, and that his health is not sound. I fear very much this is his last voyge. He is not married as was talked before his return. Hallowel does not look much as it did seven years ago, very little doing. All the trade goes to Augusta. I presume you have heard of Mr Grants death, your Uncle John father in law his property has been prized at four hundred 1000 dollars without encumbrance. We did not have our mails yesterday. The traveling is so bad we should have had letters from some of you. Your father is suppoanied to Augusta as a witness to be there at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. The snow is very deep and has been very soft for a week untill <now it is season>.

Dellie is at the table with me writing. That is his favorite amusement, since the close of the school. Charles has been trying to give him some lessons in music, but his progress does not seem to amount to much. How much I wish he was more capable of Closer application. Rowland leads the same life he always did. Louisa has not borne her Weight only on one foot since last May.

Your father went to visit Arza last Wednesday, said A. had failed considerable since he saw him last (a few weeks since), had lost flesh, looked poor. I suppose the boys have written to you of John H Otis, little daughter. Clark Leadbetter has a son a few days old. Your father has just rode up to the door. I am in hopes has brought letters. I wish I felt a more Cheerful spirit. Your father has brought no letters, nor papers, the trains are all stoped by the storm, which has been the case a number of times the past winter. Your Aunt Lucretia's sons have bought a farm for their father, to live on in Monmouth three miles from the depot towards Monmouth ridge paid two thousand dollars. They will move in a few days. I am sorry to have them go. They are such good company and take Warren Mitcheal instead. Charles and your mother made your Aunt Aurelia and Thomas a visit and took Aunt Lucretia with us. It was both painful and pleasant. It was painful to see those helpless ones, and pleasure because Aunt enjoyed the visit.

Yours with much affection
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

Write soon and I will answer you immediately.

545 3/19/1854 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: Cadet O. O. Howard

OOH-0503

Kents Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill March 19th 1854

My dear brother

You observe I am away from home again to school, and that I have again taken up my quarters at Kents Hill. Dellie brought me here last Tuesday, my clothes being all fixed up as usual by mother; whom by the way I left in good health, as well as the rest of the family at home.

I board at the Mansion house & room with Bartlett Frost, whom I suppose you remember. He is Porter Frost's son, is fitting himself for College. He was at Yarmouth a while when Rowland & I were there and has been at Kents Hill when I have been here. He first earns some money then goes to school. He is a pleasant & studious fellow. I think I shall like him for a chum,. The only objection is that he is not pious and this need not interfere with me, although it would be pleasanter if he were religious. We room in the North West corner room in the Second Story, the same room that I occupied with Hewitt the first term I was at Kent's Hill.

I study Greek & Latin. Began the first book of the Aeneid of Virgil, and am reading in the Greek Reader. My Teacher is Mr Waltch. I like him as a teacher much. He is thorough & also gives pretty long lessons. I have 28 lines of Virgil for tomorrow's lesson and 12 of Greek. Do you think I better take up any more studies this Term? If so, what shall I take? Mr Torsey is in the Legislature you know, a Senator, so he will not be here till that rises, in the course of three or four weeks. Mr Robinson is here to take charge of the English department of the school.

I have been to church to day both in the forenoon & afternoon. Heard Elder Prince in the forenoon & Elder Eaton in the afternoon. I enjoyed the Sermons much. I like to hear Elder Eaton speak a little better & he preaches a rather more connected & interesting discourse.

I thank you Otis for your kind letter of Feb. 26th which I received in due season & should have answered before, but thought I would wait till I was settled at school. I don't think I am any better than you, although you do not seem to be very proud (if that is the right word) of your religious conduct & appearance, at least it does not seem to me as a matter of course. But I hope that I am better, for then I should not be too good, should I? But the idea entered my mind when I read your letter that you perhaps knew yourself better than I do myself, & that perhaps I am more self conceited, or perhaps that you were deceived, in not thinking highly enough of your Moral & Religious works, although it is an unusual thing to be deceived in this manner. I think there is a little of both. I am some self conceited & you in the sense which I have taken, are a little wanting in self conceit. You say "All expenditure of breath in convincing me that I ought to serve my God &c is useless." Well, I hope you will do no harm & will continue to pray to the Great God, & will read the Bible regularly, & that I shall do the same. I asked Elder Hill what were the conditions of joining the Class & he said, "that you do no harm." But adieu to this subject for a while.

I wish you to write me about West Point affairs this spring. What are you now studying? & do you have to study hard? Are you quarter master now? We received your speech before I left home, & are you prospering in your society this spring? I should like to have you give me a condensed order of exercises in your next letter if you please. We had a very pleasant Temperance Society at South Leeds this Winter. There were 37 members when I left home.

Father & mother went to Hallowell & were gone from home four days, a short time before I left home. They left all well there & brought home with them Grandmother's Dagu'type & they each had theirs taken & are to have them encased in one case. the man did not have such an one as they wished so they did not bring them home & I did not see them. He was going to send to Portland & get a case such as they wanted.

I had a letter from Lizzie mailed March 3d. She wrote in good spirits. She has since gone to Livermore for she went through Leeds in the Cars. She says, Otis says, March, April, May & then June, Hurah! I shall I suppose get through school here about the 20th of June this is the time you will be free from West Point, is it not?

I have written a letter to Rowland since I have been here for him if he can get them cheaper to buy for me a Virgil & Lexicon. I wrote Mother a letter last night of four pages. Thomas Langley was sick with the Measles when I left home & none at Mr L's family except himself have ever had them, so I expect they will have a hard time, but our family have all had them, excepting you. Have you ever had them? And Otis what kind of weather are you having at West Point now? It has been quite a cold & windy day here today, as it also was yesterday. Before this we have had very pleasant weather most of the time this Spring. Write soon & remember

Your Affectionate Brother
Charles

Cadet O. O. Howard

P.S. It is now about sunset and I shall attend prayer meeting this evening. My health is now pretty good Otis. How is yours?

546 3/26/1854 *From:* Charles [Howard]

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0504a

Kents Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Kents Hill March 26 '54

My dear Mother

My second Sabbath has arrived and as we have no meeting this forenoon, I purpose to write you a letter, knowing as I do the pleasure that letters from an absent one give. I received with great pleasure yours & Dellie's letter the next day after it was mailed. I was pleased to have you write although but a few lines. And glad to find that all were well as when I left. I suppose you had not received my letter when you wrote, for you did not mention it, & did not answer my many questions, although you gratified me with some pieces of information which I wished to know. Dellie I find has improved in writing letters & he will continue so to do by practice, so he must write me often.

I am glad that you have written to Otis for you had not for some time previous. I have written to him but have not yet received an answer. I was glad you sent Rowlands letter, although I received a short one from him the same day directly from Brunswick, for I had written to him about some books, so that he only wrote a short business letter, as he wished to get an answer to me as soon as possible. But he wrote more news &c in the one which you sent to me.

Have you heard from Lizzie & her mother lately? If you have you must tell me about them. When Lizzie gets back to Portland, I intend to write her a letter.

I have been doing very well since I last wrote you in my studies. Like my chum well, whom you know I have changed if you have received my letters. He is not pious but studious. I also like my teacher Mr Walsh better than I expected perhaps. I hardly ever have a class or at least am in a class that wish to get as long lessons as I do but I have some this Spring, that are obliged to get as long lessons, as I wish to, for Mr Walsh thinks every one can learn as well as himself. But still he has them go through. I have had forty-two lines in Virgil and twenty lines in Greek & the class that has studied one term more than I has but 45 & 30.

I attend the class & prayer meetings here and enjoy them much. It certainly can do no one any injury to attend these <two> & must on the other hand do them much good. I thought perhaps you & the rest of the family would like to see some of the Letter paper with the engraving of Kents Hill or the Maine Wesleyan Seminary & Mansion house upon it. So I have procured three sheets of this paper & send you these lines on one, you observe. And I will send one to Lizzie & Grandmother to whom I will write on her birth-day if you will tell me when it is. You observe that the form of the buildings & the ground looks natural, but the trees are not near as large in the original.

Perhaps I better address Dellie a few lines to close the sheet, & Mother write again as soon as you can. And remember me as

Yr Affec Son
Charles

P.S. Father doubtless has returned ere this, and what news has he brought from the West? And How is his cough? Seems to me that it holds on a long time. My health is good, my cough most left me.

[continued on the next letter to Dellie]

548 3/28/1854 *From:* Epes Sargent

To: Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0505

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Mch 28 1854

Friend Otis

I sent you some time since a package directed to care Pacific Hotel Cold Spring and have not heard if you have received it or not. You will please inform me of the fact. Add has gone back to Cal to remain about a year. The folks here are all well. Frank & I caught a burglar in the house last month & sent him to Sing-Sing for life. Perhaps you would like to call on him. If so I will give you a letter of introduction. Perry has shipped 2d mate of the Clipper Ship Defiance bound to Liverpool & Calcutta probably. She will sail soon. In haste

Your truly
Epes Sargent

549 3/29/1854 *From:* Jno. N. Jewett

To: Friend Otis [O O Howard]

OOH-0506

Galena, Ill

Source: Bowdoin

[Letterhead]

WEIGLEY & JEWETT

Attorneys at Law and Solicitors in Chancery

No. 134 Main Street, Galena, Ill

[end letterhead]

Galena March 29/54

Friend Howard

Yours of the 28th inst was received yesterday morning. You will excuse brevity when I tell you that it is now Court time & we are tolerably busy. In fact for the last three weeks I have scarcely thought of anything but Pleas, Demesnes & Motions, Jurors & Judges, with all the various paraphernalia of Court duty & responsibility. But it drags hard. The most tiresome business in the world of which I have any experience, (except teaching school) is attending upon Court, waiting for your own cases to be called and disposed of & compelled to be always there lest some rule of Court may be taken upon you in your absence, greatly to your own & your client's disadvantage.

Ah I fear it will hardly suit your quick & compulsive temperament, & yet you seem determined to make the trial. Well come on! There is nothing like trying, you know & perchance you may be pleased with the profession, in spite of its more uninteresting features. I am not dissatisfied nor disappointed. It is on the whole neither more nor less wearisome than I had anticipated and I hope by years of patient study & practice to arrive at a fair understanding of its mysteries. That then is labor in at there can be in question.

In all other respects I move on about as usual. Feel about as I used to & would be as pleased to see you as ever. I assure you. It would not be amiss for you to take a trip out west after you get through at West Point for recreation & pleasure. You could find a trip up the Mississippi very interesting & agreeable in the month of July or August I have no doubt. I intend to avail myself of the first opportunity I have, to see that noble stream somewhat <near> its beginning. It is said to be a delightful <> when I am less "engaged", I will give you further Information, & in the meantime, I remain

Yours truly
Jno N. Jewett

P.S. This is our business paper & allow me to introduce you to the Firm & its business card.

550 4/7/1854

From: Mrs [Mary] Lee

To: Cadet Howard

OOH-0290

Source: Bowdoin

Mrs Lee will be happy to see Cadet Howard tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock.
Friday, 7th

[Envelope]
Cadet Howard

[July 7, 1851. This was written in pencil, but the only Friday the 7th in 1851 are the months of February, March and November. Gen Robert E Lee was superintendent of West Point from 1852-1855. This invitation may have been in that time period. In 1852, the only Friday the 7th was May 7, and in 1853, Friday the 7th occurred in January and October. In 1854, Friday the 7th occurred in April, which is consistent with Otis' letter of April 30, 1854.]