
561 6/6/1854

From: Maria [Otis]

To: Cousin [O O Howard]

OOH-0517

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell June 6th / 54

My dear Cousin

I was very glad to receive a letter from you and intended to have answered it long ago but various reasons have caused me to put it off till this late day. But I hope you will forgive the delay and give this late reply a welcome.

I suppose you are feeling very anxious & excited just now as I believe your last examination will very shortly take place. You have my best wishes for your good success and we all feel quite sure you will get one of the first, if not the first part, or I do not suppose you have parts as in College but I forgot that it was not like College.

But I suppose your mind is more taken up just now with a pleasanter subject and one probably more important to your own happiness. For I hear & not before I see you again I shall see you with a wife. You gentlemen book no delay in these matters. I hope we shall see you both down here very soon.

I suppose all is mystery before you as to your future home. I trust for Lizzie's sake it will be a pleasant one but I suppose she has made up her mind to be contented wherever it is your duty to go. I think a soldier's wife has some trials to expect and to bear. But for that matter I do not think one life has many more difficulties than another. Think of poor Addison! There seem to be a great many slips for him just as he thinks he has got all drink to drink a little pleasure. I hope he will be able to come home this fall and be married. There will be quite a series of such affairs in this family if he does. I think you have decidedly the pleasanter month for it. I should certainly choose that month myself if it was equally convenient.

I have regretted very much that I have not been able to visit West Point while you were there, but it has been quite impossible. I do not suppose I shall ever have so near a friend there again so that I shall not enjoy it as much as if I had gone before you left.

I came directly home from Philadelphia. I saw Sarah and Frank for an hour or two in New York. The both looked very well and happy. He has just gone into business.

We had two or three hours in Boston Saturday & went out to Summerville to see Martha Jane. She was very well indeed. We left Phila on Tuesday morning May 16th and arrived home the next night.

We had a visit from Will. the week before I left P and he did not leave til the day we came away. He likes Baltimore very much. He receive a fee of five dollars a few days after he was admitted to the bar. He seemed in very good spirits. When he went on there in March he called to see me and I thought he looked rather low of spirits but as soon as he wrote me I found that he liked it better than he expected.

I hope you will be able to read this letter but I really have not time now to write very slowly. I have a great many letters to write but not much time for it so I have to impose a little on the good nature of my friends sometimes. You must give my love to Lizzie when you see her with my best wishes.

I shall try and go out to Leeds this summer as I do not expect to have many more opportunities. I hope I shall find you and your wife there whenever I go.

Good bye with hopes for your realization of your fondest wishes.

I remain your most affectionate cousin,
Maria

562 6/13/1854 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0519

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, June, 13th 1854.

My dear Son,

Notwithstanding we have received no intelligence, yet, of our last letter which was mailed the seventh with two fifty dollar bills inclosed, neither is it time your father think it best, to mail the other hundred to day in two fifty dollar bills we shall expect news of the other to day or tomorrow.

The country was never more beautiful, with us, than at the present day. I thought this morning I wished some of my most beautiful flowers would retain their freshness until you reached home, but I fear they will not. The air is perfumed with the sweetness of the early flowers.

I hope Lizzie will come home with you, when you come. I will wait to hear & think, soon and see if she will come. We have a prospect of abundance of English strawberrys this season, and everything else although we had such a long tedious Winter extended almost to summer, yet we have summer, in all it beauties just the same as ever.

In haste your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver O. Howard

P.S. You had better drop a line to us on receiving this, and let us know how your getting on. E. Gilmore.

564 6/15/1854 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0518

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. June 15th '54.

My dear Mother,

I received your last letter enclosing the last 100 dollars. I was happily disappointed for in my previous letter I wrote for you to send no more as I could not remain long enough to receive it. I am glad because it enables me to square up every thing. I completed my course in the mental department this morning. Tomorrow the medical Board will determine upon our physical qualifications. In this department I expect to stand moderately high, since all my bumps & knocks have left me in all my strength of mind & body. The final standing will come tomorrow, that is we will know where we come out in the class, but cannot yet determine into what Corps they will put us. The officers of my acquaintance and some of the Professors are anxious for me to go into the Engineer Corps, but I fear they will not be able to recommend me. I will graduate among the fives and had it not been for my excitability of temperament I should have <>. Custis Lee graduates 1st in Eng, 1st in Ethics, 1st in Mineralogy & Geology, 1st in Artillery, 1st in Infantry, 1st in Cavalry. I did badly in Infantry & not very well in Cavalry

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in the <Chapel> by Mr Clemens of Virginia. We expect a treat. I have been to every house on West Point almost to invite people to the <same>. Mrs Cuyler offered me some wine. I told her of my pledge, and she said it was "beautiful" to find a young man who would refuse &c. She is a beauty and an excellent lady. I never have been at her house without the warmest of welcomes, and she always sends me nice things at the Hospital. So also Mrs Berard & Mrs Boynton & Mrs Spole. You would think I was a lady's (or a Ladies' man rather) to see me going about here, but I don't believe I am. I do love West Point now, almost as much as I used to hate it. You perceive a picture may appear differently when regarded in different lights. I saw everything once through an unfavorable medium. The Professors are without exception my fast friends, and I wish I was half as good a man as I have the reputation of being here. But I have said enough of myself.

I got a beautiful bouquet this morning in my periginations this morning, but I know that they would have been sweeter to me if they had been gathered in our front yard. I shall leave West Point on Monday next, for New York, shall reach Portland by Saturday following, will be home pretty soon.

Good bye for the present. My love to all. Yrs affectionately
O. O. Howard

565 6/17/1854 *From:* C C Everett

To: Friend [O O] Howard

OOH-0520

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College June 17 1854

Friend Howard

I was pleased to receive your letter to which I have not I believe yet replied.

Your brother handed me the money as you said. The funds have come in slowly however, & it was only yesterday that I dispatched my order for the cradle.

I have not time to say more now, indeed I shall see you so soon that it is hardly worth while. My object in writing is to say that I hope when you come you will come directly to our house & make that your head quarters while here. We shall all be pleased to see you & no one more than your

Friend & Classmate
C C Everett