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598 2/8/1856

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. E. Gilmore

OOH-0550

Vassalboro

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Vassalboro, Feb 8 1856

Mrs. E. Gilmore

Dear Mother

I am today kept at home from meeting by the bad roads & weather for the wind blows hard. I have penned a few lines to Otis. He & Dellie wrote me a letter a day or two ago. Now I think I'll tell you that I'm prospering & that my school closes next Friday night. I should like to go to Leeds to see the folks. Besides I have lots of mending to be done. If I do not go home Sat. or Friday night, I shall get them mended somehow at Brunswick. I suppose Rowland has gone ere this.

I saw Dellie last Sat. & Sun. Mr Wiggin's young folks carried me down & I came back with them Sunday afternoon. It was a pleasant day & I had a pleasant ride. Dellie enjoys his visit at Augusta very much. He attends the lectures, & sees all the sights there are to be seen. My school is very pleasant still & I feel sad to have it close. I am quite attached to my scholars & their parents. It has been some time since I wrote. It is because I have been down to Augusta most every Sunday.

I wonder how you like the name Guy. I like it well. It is convenient too. How is Roland & his wife? Has Mr Longley moved away yet? I long to see the new house mount up on the old place. Dellie is studying some at Augusta. He is very well advanced in his Algebra & will finish it in a week or two. How is your health now & how do you like your new girl & is she contented to stay with you. I have not had more than one letter from you this winter, if one. You must write me a letter to Brun. if I do not come home.

When my debts are paid I shall have no money left of this Winter's wages, tho' I shall earn 62 ½ dollars. King of Monmouth in my class has the school at Yarmouth. He came over to Leeds you know when I was at home. He has 37 dollars per month. Merrill has written to engage me next Winter to teach in Falmouth. But I shall make no engagements yet. I hope I shall enjoy school teaching as well as I do this Winter. I hear Mr Wiggin is not going to teach any more after the close of this term, but is going to study law. I doubt his making a first class lawyer. He has always desired to be a lawyer.

Remember me to my friends & neighbors at home. I would like very much to see them especially Melvin Berry for I want my boots mended. Write me soon & remember me as  
Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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597 2/6/1856

*From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0551

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
February 6th 1856

Dear Mother

I received your letter to Dellie & myself last night. Rowland wrote me from Brunswick that he would like to have Dellie visit him, so I let him go to B yesterday. He will return today or tomorrow. The cheapest and best way for him to go home will be to take the stage for Winthrop, which meets the down train at ½ past eleven. I have a bad cold myself and could'nt leave very well to take him out.

Lizzie is weak and low but in no apparent danger. Her fever, if she has any, is very slight. She looks bright and cheerful this morning. It will take some time for her to get back where she was before this ill turn. It was occasioned entirely by a cold we think. The baby is perfectly well. I feed him myself sometimes. His mother has a little nourishment still but not enough. He is very good and does not worry at all as grow poor, eats his dinner from a spoon, winds up with a little dessert from his mother and then goes to sleep.

I had a letter from Charlie this morning. He is well, finishes his school Friday. I think I shall go after him myself. Maybe he and Dellie will go out together. We are not in want of anything. Mrs Clark came back and has been with us for a week.

Mrs Waite is quite well. Mrs Clark asks for her daughter. How does she - & how do you like each other?

My love to all. My colt was not injured. He is waiting at the door getting a little impatient as his master does sometimes from waiting.

Your affectionate son  
Otis

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599 2/8/1856

*From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

OOH-0552

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Feb 8, 1856

My dear brother

My school closed last night and here I am at the Arsenal where I intend to remain till Monday when you may expect me at Brunswick.

I left off one day sooner than I intended, thinking I would go to Leeds. My school also appeared sorry the last day had arrived. The girls seemed to feel it incumbent upon them to shed a tear or two. Wm. A. Morrill won both prizes. Some tho't it too bad that one person should receive both, but no great dissatisfaction. I received my pay for 10 weeks minus two days, one of them being the Monday I spent at Augusta. It was very hard to part from my friends there this morning. Edward Wiggin bro't me down this morning & just before I came to the gate of the Arsenal I met Otis with his colt starting for Vassalboro. I got into his sleigh & rode back to town to see the colt travel. He is now well trained & travels steadily and prettily. Dellie had just arrived and almost as soon as I had shaken hands, who should drive up to the door but father? He looks natural and left mother well. I have concluded not to go to Leeds as I could not well return to take the cars to Brun. Mon forenoon I was very glad indeed to receive your letter from Br. I should start to return very much did I not know that I must study very hard especially on the Algebra.

I have had a long relaxation tho' now I should be ready to begin with renewed energy. Dellie don't want to go to Leeds but will be obliged to go with father. Otis & father went to Hallowell this afternoon.

I should like to meet you at the depot next Mond. forenoon.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Chas. H. Howard

Rowland B. Howard.

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600 2/20/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0553

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta  
February 20th 1856

Dear Mother,

I fear you may be unnecessarily anxious about us if I neglect to write you longer. Lizzie is very comfortable - her system has been completely prostrated, but, though all her flesh or a great portion of it has left her, and consequently very much of her strength, she is gaining gradually. She does not sit up much longer than to have her bed made, but her pulse is getting stronger and more regular and I am in hopes to see her on her feet soon. Poor Girl she has been perfectly courageous all the time. Little Guy grows, is well, fat as he can be. He is now nine weeks old. He laughs and plays with us all.

What could we have done, if father had not sent us that new milch cow. We have milk in plenty. Guy has the strippings. Mother Waite thinks there is great virtue in strippings. We have had two grand churnings, but have brought no butter; one before Dellie left & one since. Every expedient has been tried but to no avail.

How does Dellie prosper since his return. I couldn't be with him or show him so much attention as I should if he had visited me when Lizzie was well.

I have not heard from Charlie since he went to Brunswick, heard through Dellie that Rowland had sore eyes. His friend Wing said he had written him & asked if it was a fact that he had caught sore eyes. How do you all at home. Is Mary less homesick than she was. Her Mother is still with us & likely to remain some time longer. It troubled her considerably to think Mary was so poorly contented at Leeds. Now that she has got acquainted she can't help liking. Are Laverna & her little boy still with you? How is Roland & his wife. Has she moved to the other house?

Lizzie wanted me when I wrote to give her love & say that she wanted you to put a piece of the cloth of your cloak in a letter and send it to her. Mrs W is in perfect health. I still hope we will be able to visit you.

Affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

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601 2/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0554a

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal August Maine  
February 26th 1856

Dear Mother,

Since I wrote you I have received two letters from you. Lizzie gains every day. She now sits up nearly all day and Guy continues well.

As soon as Mrs Clark heard that Mary had returned, she wished to go home to spend the day. She had been before. She was getting a little careless & forgetful thinking about her family perhaps. I told her she could go & when she got ready I paid her & told her she need not come back. The next day we sent to Windsor & got a girl for the kitchen. Katy tends the baby days & I take care of him nights. He sleeps in his cradle, wakes up once or twice in the night to have his bottle or nurse and then goes to sleep. This girl that we got has been a tailoress & dressmaker & makes us a most excellent servant. I think we get on better since Mrs Clark left, for the kitchen work is done without Lizzies taking any care about it & she has better sleep nights because she knows the baby will not be neglected.

A gentleman in this town wishes to buy my colt if he will make a saddle horse. I am training him for such now. I ride him nearly every day. He is now well worth all I ask for him. I think if I could get my other horse here I could dispose of him to good advantage for Augusta is quite a place, for good horses to be appreciated.

I have heard from Rowland & Charly lately. As soon as Lizzie gets well I shall go down & see them if I do not stop more than over one train. I think some of going to Troy & returning, shall if I decide to bring Maloch, my horse on. He is now an expense again. Here the expense would be so little that if I remained three months it would refund all my travelling expenses on and back. I have not decided yet.

My love to all at home. Our folks had begun to scald the milk, but think it will be better to follow out your suggestions. Lizzie & mother send their love.

Your affectionate son  
O. O. Howard

[continued on the next letter to Dellie]

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602 2/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dellie [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

OOH-0554b

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[continued from the previous letter to Mother, Feb 25, 1856]

Dear Dellie,

I solved your problem as soon as I got your letter & have the honor herewith to enclose the solution.

$$(1) x^2 + y^2 = 10^2$$

$$(2) xy/2 = 24$$

[In equation (1)] Square the 10 as indicated & the equation becomes  $x^2 + y^2 = 100$   
Multiply equation (2) by 4. Both members & it becomes  $2xy = 96$

Add these [latter two] eqns [to get]  $x^2 + 2xy + y^2 = 196$

$$\text{hence } (x+y)^2 = 196$$

$$x+y = \sqrt{196} = 14$$

$$x=14-y$$

Deduce the value of x from eqn (2)

$$xy/2 = 24$$

$$xy = 48$$

$$x = 48/y$$

Hence

$$48/y = 14-y$$

$$48 = 14y - y^2$$

Transpose & obtain  $y^2 - 14y = -48$

Complete the square  $y = \sqrt{(49-48)} \pm 7$

$$\text{hence } y = 1 \pm 7$$

$$\text{or } y = 8 \text{ or } -6$$

$$x = 48/y \quad \text{Substitute the value of } y$$

$$x = 48/8 = 6 \text{ or } x = -48/6 = -8$$

The answers then are  $y=8, x=6$  or  $y=-6, x=-8$

This solution depends on the principal that the square of a binomial is equal to the square of the first term plus twice the 1st by the 2nd plus the square of the second - for example  $(x+y)^2 = x^2 + 2xy + y^2$   
The second step is to deduce the value of x from two different equations & place their values equal to each other.

Affectionately your brother

O. O. Howard

Rule for solving an equation of the 2nd degree involving but one unknown quantity.

1st reduce the equation to the form  $x^2 + 2px = q$  in which x is the unknown quantity; 2p any known coefficient of x and q the known term.

2nd write out the value of x. It is equal to the square root of the sum of the known term & the square of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the coefficient of x  $\pm \frac{1}{2}$  the coefficient of x.

N.B. 2p may be positive or negative, a whole number or a fraction, so also q

Then if you had this equation  $x^2 - 4x = 5$  & you perceive  $2p$  would be represented by  $-4$ . Follow your rule.

$$x = \sqrt{(5 + (-2)^2)} \pm 2$$

$$x = \sqrt{(5 + 4)} \pm 2$$

$$x = \pm 3 \pm 2$$

$$x = -1 \text{ or } 5$$