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604 4/26/1856      *From:* Charles H Howard      *To:* Brother [R.H. Gilmore]

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*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Apr 26th 1856

My dear brother

I must commence my letter with an appology that I have not written before for certainly I ought to have done so. It is because I have been so busy with I can hardly at this time mention what but you know how swiftly the time of vacation flows away.

There has been so much to occupy my mind & my hands that though we got both your letters all safe & the money & the paper yet none of us have written. I have myself spent a part of every day or almost every day in copying some chemical lectures I brought home, and have spent every evening in studying French.

Spent the part of the day in going to Mill to the "city" where I found the mill-dam washed away so brought back my grist unground. Came back by Mrs Mann's & got two chances. Another day I was a good part of the time at Sanford's & Mr Wing's. Roscoe has a pretty nice Melodeon now. I gave him a piece of music calle "What is home without a mother". Another forenoon hoped in getting my brits mended. Roscoe did this Frid.

I went to Monmouth to Mill. Met Mr. Norcross on the Wed. He inquired about you & said he thought Andover just the place for you. Said he preached at Monmouth last Sunday & would preach there to-day. Rowland & I talked some of going to hear him but the going is not very good yet & we have so suitable waggon.

Martha Dennin has died since you went away. Rowland was at the funeral. He came back from Hallowell & Bath Monday. Mrs. Waite went down to Portland the same day & returned last Thursday. Lizzie & Guy meantime were taken with the Mumps. Lizzie has not got over them yet.

Rowland believe now that he has had a change of heart. He never had "a hope" before such as he has now - though you know how much interested he was one Spring. He says he is willing all the world should know. He expects to study Law with Stinchfield at Hallowell & board with Henry Wingate. He meant to have written you a little last week & so did I.

That paper was part of a different kind but I don't care. I have not had it yet but I believe Rowland has. I don't write any letters now-a-days. I don't believe in your going to Exeter if you are going to continue your studies. It was only if you was going to change your course that I ever thought it admisable to go to Exeter.

There is no place in the world so good to enter Bowdoin College from as Andover. Besides it is far better not to change. You would lose <number> while getting used to the manner of teaching &c at Exeter. If you go to College you better stay at Andover & make the most of the great advantages you have there. Make it your business as you say you are now doing to study & get every lesson perfect if possible. My Roommate Abbott went there, & entered the second class when he had not had the training they had had & had not read near as much but by dint of very close application to his studies he came off one of the very best in his class & in fact took a very high rank soon after he went there which he kept throughout. I am perfectly satisfied with what you have done thus far & if you should continue the course I know you will do well, for you are conscious at what an expence you are that to school. I am not sure as it is best for you to go to College. I am very sure that it would be utterly useless unless you made up you mind to study very hard.

I hope you have some fine class-mates & that you will cultivate acquaintance with such. Are you acquainted with Smyth of Brunswick yet? I fear you do not try hard to make yourself agreeable. Your <sucess> in life, as you must see, depends immensely on this ability of making yourself agreeable. You will oftentimes have to indulge what seems to you very foolish whims & overlook faults & quite frequently sacrifice self-interest to the interest of another but this the only chance of getting along well. The grand aim of life is or should be to be useful to the world & we must take into consideration always our relations to the individuals about us & not think of self alone.

How does Merrill get along this term? I owe him a letter. There is no meeting today & we are all at home.

Rowland & I worked in the garden yesterday. We have worked considerably splitting wood & it is almost all split. George as usual went home last night. Mrs S & Sarah went to Wayne Friday & called here when they came back. Mary brought up lots of smelts which we finished this morning. I am going back to B. Friday & I hope you will write me as soon as that if not before I go away. Otis is at the same, tho' we see by the paper that Gen. Kearney has been removed to Ft. Leavenworth Kansas. Warren Lothrop has received no orders yet.

I hope you are enjoying the privilege of hearing the gospel preached today. It costs vast sums of money & much labor & suffering of <> to send the Bible to the Heathens & shall we disregard it who live in this Christian Bible land. I hope you will, if you have not give your heart to Christ & thus be a pietus blessing to the world, an honor to God & comfort to your friends.

Your Affectionate Brother  
Charles H Howard