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605 5/4/1856

*From:* Rowland [Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0557a

Bowd Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd Coll. May 4, 1856

My dear Mother

Hearing that you might be a little lonesome since Charles left & Betsey & her family went to Lewiston I told Charles just now that we had better write you today even if the time is so short since he left home. I came down Friday Afternoon & am all straight on my Recitations. I left Otis & his family very well. Guy had not begun to feel his vaccination.

I talked with Murphy, the gardener, about your "Hips" and he thought you had not better have them put in Earth, but says he will take them up at any time, when he can send them out. I went thru the yard with him & he pointed out many things which you have not got & which I should think would be very desirable for you. The best way will be for you to go down, go into the garden with him & tell him what you have not, & desire to have.

I did not go to Hallowell again before I left. Otis thinks he will be down here before a great while. I am right glad to hear that Cynthia & "John Francis" [born May 30, 1856 to Cynthia Lothrop and Roland Alger Gilmore] are <bottom edge of page 1 torn> felt very much concerned for them that day I saw them & found them in such a miserable condition. Charles thought that they were doing very well when he came away. I found my Clothes in good shape. I am glad that you didn't mend those old Pants. I have enough without them.

Charles & I have gone to board at Mrs. Grow's. I wished to have him with me & I asked her before I left last Term if she wouldn't take us. I thought it would be better for her & Lucy Ann to have somebody & not reflect so much on Lizzie's death. They had a good crying spell when they first saw me this Term, and I hope they will grow more cheerful now. I shan't say anything about the price of our board but leave it to her at the end of the Term. She will not charge any more than she can afford it for & you know how kind she was to us all when Charles was sick. I would rather pay her a high price, even, than any one else in Brunswick.

I went to the Episcopal meeting this forenoon. I have got a Prayer Book - I believe I told you - & have not got so as to keep the run of the prayers & responses & chants very well. This afternoon Charles went to Topsham to the Baptist. Mr. Robbins baptized 11 this morn & gave them the hand of fellowship. After service this P.M. among the number were his own wife & only daughter. Charles & I spent the evening at their house last night, but they did not tell us they were to be baptised today.

Tell Dellie I shall write him before a great while. I was much amused at those anecdotes of Rev Mr Bills which he cut from an old paper. Two of my class are finally expelled & 4 Sophmores are dismissed. I shall miss Johnny Stanton a good deal. He roomed directly opposite and was as kind & obliging neighbor as I ever expect to find. I must leave the rest for Charles & bid you a very good night.  
Rowland

[Continued on the next letter from Charles]

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606 5/4/1856

*From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0557b

Bowd Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter from Rowland]

Dear Mother

You see I arrived all safe, all sound. Stayed two or three hours in Yarmouth. Saw there James H.H. Hewitt, Obediah's brother. I took dinner with him. Everybody seemed glad to see me so it was not so unpleasant after all. Mr Wiggin seems to have a flourishing school.

I learned when I got there that those of my own class had been sent away. One dismissed another suspended. I hardly know what I think <[torn bottom edge page 3]> with whom I was as intimate as I am with any of my class. One sat next to me in recitation. One of the pleasantest & kindest fellows I ever knew. The other was Mitchell. You have heard me speak of him often. Probably it was for drinking. Hayes too, had never drunk a drop of Liquor before he came here.

Tho' I came in such a hurry from home, yet I have not missed anything. I need <tyst> & if you are not made sick by it I am glad I came. Rowland has told you what an excellent place we have to board at. I had rather pay Mrs Grow board than any one else I know of. Rowland made many inquiries about Cynthia & her babe. The boys may tell Betsy Bates I am ever so much obliged for the May-basket, having thought it over <> if ever another May-day comes when I am at home I shall feel it encumbant upon me to buy her one.

I must get up early tomorrow morning & get my lesson, which I have not looked at. I wish I had thought to take some of the medicine you made with me. If you have a chance you can send some. Otis said he should be down here. But I do not need it much. Only 4 of my class are here & three of them came yesterday. Good night! Give my <> to Dellie & George & the rest.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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607 5/8/1856

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0558

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me  
May 8th 1856

Dear Mother,

I have ascertained to day that Mr Dalton has left that farmers place vacant. Our people want to pasture their cows there as usual. I want father to say to whom I shall apply. I have sold the old cow for thirty dollars with the reservation that I shall have what milk we need as long as we stay. I sold her to one of the men. Ask father if the price is satisfactory. She continues swollen. I think the drain last winter at that time occasioned it.

I had a letter from Rowland yesterday. All things seem to be going straight at Brunswick. I found his daguerreotype out at Manchester this forenoon. Went out purposely in search. A man in the north part of that town had picked it up after breaking the case by running over it. I am glad to hear through him that Cynthia & the baby are doing well. I hope both will soon be entirely well. Mr Pease has him at Hallowell, wants Uncle to assure the debts in this state & give him the demands that Uncle has in possession. I was at Henry Wingate's day before yesterday, but ascertained nothing new.

McGregor is making a picture frame for your painting of Watervliet Arsenal. It will soon be done. Murphy says he can send you a great variety of plants but it is not worth while to transplant them into a box, for they will remain good long enough to carry them to Leeds & transplant them after you get them. If you can come down so as to pick out those that you have not got, it would be well. If father comes without you, I will send you a variety & label them so that you may know them.

Give my love to all. We are all well. Guy & myself have just been vaccinated or rather are just getting over the effects of vaccination. Neither of us have been much troubled with it. I went hunting about nine miles on <East> yesterday. We did'nt have very good luck, had enough for breakfast however.

I hope you will be down again soon. How is Dellie?

Your affectionate son  
Otis

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608 5/11/1856 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Dellie [R.H. Gilmore]

OOH-0559

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll. May 11th 1856

Dear Brother Dellie:

It is now Sunday evening at eight o'clock. I am alone in my room. Rowland just left in Mrs. Grows' sitting room. There is no meeting this evening, I suppose on account of the inclemency of the weather. But I think it now looks like fair weather. It has been raining most of two days with us and I hope it will be a benefit to farmers in two ways: first that it will moisten the earth which had begun to need rain & thereby cause the grass & grain to start up with new energy & but secondly, because I expect the temperature of the atmosphere will now be warmer, for I have feared that with the dry cold of the last week father's wheat would hardly get its head above ground. When you write you must tell me how the farming goes on; for you know I got quite an interest in it when at home.

How is your health now? I was very sorry to see you as unwell and thought much about it, though I said but little, thinking it better for you to keep up good courage and make the best of it. The best way to preserve health & strength is to take habitual exercises in the open air, to keep the skin clean and the clothes dry & to sleep undisturbed in a well ventilated room. But sometimes when one is already out of health other means must be resorted to to restore it. This seems to me a good rule for you while at home: if your eyes are good, to read rather than sit perfectly idle; and when the weather is fair to work rather than read.

I was very glad I came back in so good season, as I had very little to make up. My Latin this term is very pretty to translate. The sentiment is good & the style very smooth having no such long and difficult sentences as are met with in Cicero's Orations. It is "Cicero de senectute et amicitia", Cicero on old age and friendship. I have to study most of the time but I get a little leisure to read & play some most every day, say an hour. Yesterday afternoon I wrote an hour on my oration. Commenced it. Then after the lecture in the evening at 9 o'clock I wrote again & wrote till half past twelve. I wrote about 5 in all of these pages. By another week I shall get it pretty well along. I have gone to bed, about every night before last, since I returned, at ten o'clock. I get up at 5 o'clock when, you know, the sun rises & I can see without a lamp.

Most of my class have now returned. They have been coming along every day of last week. Manwell from Jay is here. He had never been here until this term. I have got acquainted with him to some degree. I like him very well as far as I have seen. I have been at church all day, and I attended a meeting of the "Praying Circle" this morning. Prof. Egbert Smyth preached an excellent lecture to the Circle & other students who were present last night. Students and young men generally are apt to neglect their moral and religious culture if not the intellectual. I hope you will be more judicious & wiser than others and commence that culture young for it is easier to pluck up the tender weeds than when they have become rank & strong. No man in these enlightened days argues for moral neglect more than intellectual, but some foolish boys think life is less delightful to the moral & religious, which is a sad mistake. I wish you would learn to love the Bible more, Dellie.

I have made inquiries & find the year, Academic year at Andover, commences in August. You will probably see Rowland & me before that time. Rowland can also talk with father about you. But remember Dellie, that it would be useless to go away if your health is not good & your body strong.

We had a letter from Otis a day or two ago. His family was well. He had found Rowland's miniature. How? Have you ceased hanging May-baskets? Give my love to George & when you write, which will be soon I hope, tell me all you think I want to know. Have you heard how Betsey gets along in her new home? How does Roscoe like Lewiston? Is your sowing all done? And did father set out any more trees?

The Sophomores went & got their tree the other day. Every Sophomore class set out a tree - an old custom. Many of them die but I do not know as it presages the premature decay of the members of the class & I don't know but it does. At any rate I should hope the tree of my class would live for the labor's sake and for an ornament to the ground. There is one, an oak tree here, the acorn from which it sprang, as it is said, having been planted by the first class that graduated at the College, and now every class that graduates goes out after the final examination & hand in hand, form a circle about the tree & walk around it.

Give my love to mother & to Cynthia and to Father. I expect we shall have a letter from mother tomorrow. Tell Cynthia I expect John Francis will grow out of my knowledge before August. I hope he will not get so big that I cannot lift him, for he will then be old enough for me to tend. Now, Dellie, I want you to write me a good long letter as soon as you get time and meanwhile remember me as

Your Affectionate Brother  
Chas. H. Howard

To R. H. Gilmore

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609 5/18/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0560

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. May 18 '56

My dear mother:

It is Sunday evening. Since supper I have been to walk with Moody, of my class, who boards with us at Mrs. Grows', on the plains towards Bath. I have been in my room a few minutes and built a fire and lighted my lamp. I thought you would be very glad to hear from us again, tho' we have not heard from home since I left. We should be very glad to have Dellie write often, if you cannot for we well know how hard it is for you. Dellie I suppose is engaged days in work on the farm, but I hope he will take some evening to write us a letter often. I want him to do this both because we wish to hear from home and because it will be beneficial to him.

I have heard members of my class say if they could be good writers i.e. composers, they would willingly give up their other learning such as of Mathematics, Languages, &c. But to be a good writer needs a great amount of practice. Letters are better than anything else to begin with. They give an ease to the style & flowing manner of expression very pleasing.

Rowland, I think, has gone to meeting. I have been three times today. I like these privileges of attending church, mother, very much. We have a Bible class, as I have told you, taught by Tutor Chamberlain, which is very interesting & meets in the Tutor's room, at 5 o'clock P.M. I intend to go down to the Sabbath school on the plains to the "Forest Church" again this Summer. Rowland thinks he will not go and Mr Savage, a Sophomore will go with me.

Today has been a beautiful day. This will make the grain start. It has been the pleasantest day of the season I think. The grass has grown green, the trees are leaving out, the flowers, many of them, are in bloom, violets, dandelions &c. The birds are beginning to sing boldly & sweetly, the air is refreshing, neither too warm nor too cold and the sun shines out in all his splendor.

I saw at church Judith Gilbert rather Hall & spoke with her for the first time since I entered College. After the last meeting, walking along I overtook her alone. Her husband had gone to his mothers. So I walked along with her & when she came to turn off for the street to go home she asked me to go with her so I went. I had seen her every Sunday nearly, but had never spoken with her. She though it strange Rowland & I had not called before. She lives on a pleasant street in the West part of the town, in a cottage house. Going into the house a little curly headed boy of two years, I should judge, met us. I did not know before, she had a child. He is bright & active. Has a white head. He resembles his mother, but is quite pretty. He had been left asleep but had arisen himself & tho' all alone did not cry. I stayed about half an hour & then returned to the Bible class.

Our May Training came off yesterday. We made a fine display, it was said, but you think a horrible one. But as the object is to look as bad as possible, fineness in this is horribleness. We had the whole of Bath Brass Band dressed in the most beautiful uniform I ever saw. We paid them \$42,00. Among other things too numerous to mention was a company of Artillery with a gun weighing 1100 lbs. Towards the last they put in two cartridges at a time, which made it roar as though it would shake down the old College.

We had a letter from Otis not long ago. He sent Rowland, (who was Col. & aid of the General & Com. in Chief Thompson), his epaulettes & sash. Rowland rode on a handsome horse with an elegant bridle & saddle & had a new uniform so he presented a beautiful appearance. We had a daguerreotype of our forces taken at the request of the Artist. I trained in disguise.

Give my love to Father, Dellie, Cynthia & all. I believe I asked Dellie some questions which I suppose he will answer in his next. I am

Your Affec. Son,  
C. H. Howard

Mond. Morn. It is cold & foggy here this morning. I arose at 5 o'clock. Have now just returned from recitation.

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610 5/20/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0561

Augusta Me

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta Me  
May 20th 1856

Dear Mother,

We are going to Brunswick tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. All well. I have had an offer for the Dalton farm - 1200 dolls cash. A man by the name of Gilbert is to return to this place in about ten days. His wife is here now, says she likes the place & wants her husband to buy it. If he takes it he will pay cash down. I think I can get 1600 for it. It has been advertized, so uncle said, in the Kennebec Journal.

Uncle has offered to settle with his creditors at 50 cts on a dollar, so Stinchfield told me last week.

Nothing new from Washington. My love to all. I am writing in town. Lizzie is shopping.

Affectionately your son  
Otis