
613 7/7/1856

From: Chas. H. Howard

To: Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0565

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. July 7 '56

My dear mother

I have a half hour at this time, 12 o'clock, & I have concluded to spend it in writing to you. Rowland was intending to go from Bath to Augusta today. Ella I think will go with him to see Otis and Lizzie before they leave as Otis writes he expects to go pretty soon. I went with Rowland to Bath on the 4th and remained till the 2 o'clock train of cars came up to Brun when I again returned & got my lesson for Saturday morning. Rowland came up Sat. Afternoon & went back in the evening. I don't know as he will be able to go to Leeds now that Ella is with him at Augusta. He will return to College to write his oration I believe. We had a not very favorable day for the 4th of July, but most of the students went mackerel fishing. They are very plenty down in the Bay now. They could draw them out as fast as they pleased. Moody of my class who boards at Mrs. Grows' with me got about 50 which he brought home & tho' they tired his arm yet they were worth the labor as they are not all gone yet & have furnished two or three good meals.

We are now reviewing. The Term is drawing to a close. There are a thousand little expenses which I had not imagined and which I cannot get rid of paying and therefore shall be obliged to call for ten dollars more.

My class decided to have a cap which, (as I was in need of some kind of a one), I was not strenuously opposed to. This will have to be paid for this term \$2.22. The Republicans have a reading room or rather the "Fremont Club" & also the "Keystone Club" and as I am a member of the former I was obliged to pay a dollar for their reading room. My class supper comes off soon and I shall be compelled to pay \$1.50 or 2.00 for this. As I have about finished my Freshman year, I must get my society pin \$4.50. I have warded off as many of such expenses as I could & yet there are many left. I succeeded in my opposition to a "Bonfire", which would have been another large bill. I hope after I have settled with Rowland for his half of the furniture, that my expenses will be less than they have been but I don't know how it will be.

I went to my S. school as usual yesterday. There were 20 present. My term will close in three weeks from tomorrow. Do you think I better come home to stay the week before Commencement? I suppose it will be more expensive to go home if I go in the cars or stage. There is a Stage which runs between Searstown & this place. Leaving Br. Mond. Wed. & Friday. It is quite pleasant today for Rowland to go up on the boat. I hope some one will write soon and send me the money & that this will be the last I shall need for some time.

How does Dellie get along with the farming? Give my love to him. He ought to write me some longer letters, he writes so few. Otis is soon going. Well, He has made us a pleasant visit & longer than he or we expected. We will cheerfully bid him "Good Bye". Remember me to Roland & Cynthia & to George. Also give my love to Father & I remain

Yr Affectionate Son
Chas. H. Howard

614 7/12/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0566

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Maine
July 12th 1856

Dear Mother,

Since Father and Dellie were here I have been to Montville. I went a fortnight ago to day and returned the Monday following. I had a very pleasant visit, found Aunt Fanny's family well. I will tell you more about my visit when I see you. Tell Father that Mr Gilbert backed out of his bargain. Ask him if I had better advertise and sell the farm at Pub. auction.

Gorgas will be here the first of next week he writes. He is now on his way. I shall be here about a week after his arrival. I think Lizzie may leave sooner. I sold Malach to Lieut Gilman of Rockland, who has just graduated at West Point and is now at home. Dellie's saddle is ready for him.

I shall leave Lizzie here for a time, and hope Rowland will come on with her and stay to study law with me. It will be of advantage to me and keep him out of the coming political excitements, which I fear would absorb his entire time and attention if he remained in this state. Rowland spent the 4th at Bath and came up here on the following Monday bringing Ella with him. They staid with us till Wednesday. We had a very pleasant visit from them. Ella is a quiet girl, very unpretending and unaffected in her manners. I like her very much.

I saw uncle John a day or two since, but not long enough to have any conversation with him. I am now very busy preparing my papers to turn over. I thought I should have gone to Leeds before this, but will not be able to now, till I am relieved.

Guy grows & changes every day. He jumps after me every time I come in. He still continues fat & clever. Give my love to all. Father must write me immediately about the farm, for if I sell at Auction I must be about it. I have advertised again in the Journal.

Rowland thought a little of going home for a day or two. He has got considerable to do before commencement. How is Cynthia, Roland & their baby? Remember me to them.

Affectionately your son
O. O. Howard

615 7/17/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0567

Kennebec Arsenal
Augusta Maine

Source: Bowdoin

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me
July 17th 1856

Dear Mother,

I got a letter from Rowland yesterday saying he had been to Leeds and found you all well. He adds that Amanda has got the small pox. I am very anxious on your account, lest some of you may have been exposed.

Capt Gorgas has been expected every day since last Monday, but has not made his appearance yet. I was thinking of bringing Lizzie and Guy out the last of this week or the first of next if he came. My papers are nearly ready to turn over the property &c. I can finish everything in two days, but it will take some time to pack. I don't want to be exposed to the small pox for I never have had a vaccination take properly within my recollection. Lizzie will be vaccinated again. Guy has been & it took nicely. I want to hear from you all about the matter.

I sold Malach, but there were three Army officers (West Point instructors) passed through here on their way back from Montreal and had a horse a piece. I bought one of them. A French pony. He is fast & tough. If Roland A or father wants a smart one I can sell him.

Tell father there are a couple of men who want to buy the farm, paying part cash & for a part give me a nice span of horses with a double carriage, and harness. This offer I shall not take up with, I don't think, unless I can find a market for the team prior to buying it. If I can sell my horse to advantage I might go with my two horses &c to Boston by Steam Boat & drive them through to Troy in four days, to dispose of them there. I have merely thought of this. Joshua Turner offers me his house & place in town, that he values at \$1600 for mine & says he will rent the house of me. I am bound to sell if I can for I don't like to be balked. Ask Father if he has got the Bond signed by Wm Smith, making him (Smith) responsible for rent on the Dalton farm. Mr Bradbury wants to find it. He tells me that Wm Smith is going to try to force uncle to pay the balance over & above the price of the place. Some of that old scamp Dalton's maneuvering.

Joshua, Charles, wives & Miss Emma were here last night & staid quite a little time in the evening. They are very anxious about their friends at Leeds. Write soon.

Yrs affectionately
Otis

616 7/19/1856 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0568

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds July 19th 1856

My dear Brother

We received your letter last night. Mother thinks that there is no danger from Capt Turner's on account of the "small pox" and that Lizzie and the baby can come any time just the same as if they were not sick. Mrs Turner takes great pains so that no one will take it. The Doctor says that Mrs Berry's symptoms are very favorable. There are a number of cases of the Small pox in Auburn and in Lewiston where Amanda took it. We think that there is not so much danger here as at Lewiston.

Father says that the farm is more desirable than Joshua Turner's house, but you had better give him (Mr Turner) any pay day which he might wish if he wishes to buy it.

Is Mrs Waite at Augusta or has she gone some where on account of the small pox. Is she coming to Leeds with Lizzie & Guy. I cannot come to get my Saddle, but I would like to have it very much if you can get it here with out much inconvenience.

Give my love to Lizzie, Guy & the rest of the family.

In haste your
Affectionate Brother
R. H. Gilmore

Lieut. O. O. Howard

617 7/20/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0569

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. July 20, 1856

My dear Mother:

It is only nine o'clock, and as Rowland has not come in I will devote an hour to writing you a letter. I have this minute returned from prayer-meeting or rather from hearing a lecture from Prof. Packard, for instead of the usual prayer-meeting, Prof Packard was present tonight & gave us a very interesting sermon without any notes. It tended to prove that if any purpose or providence of God seemed unaccountable or even wrong to us, it was no evidence in truth of its being so, for God's thoughts are above our thoughts & his ways above our ways. I have been at church all day. An acquaintance came up this morning to get me to go down & play on the Melodeon at the Baptist. You know I never played any in church but they urged hard so I went down. I played for them in the forenoon & then they must have me in the afternoon. So I procured some one to go to my Sabbath-School & played also this afternoon. They say they will furnish me with a horse to go to my Sabbath School if I will play for them.

There is considerable excitement here today on acct. of a man missing. Mr. Fields, rather an old man, has not been seen since last Tuesday. Today most all of the College Students & many of the townsmen have been searching the woods for him. His family is very respectable, consisting of a wife & several children, young ladies & Gentlemen. The man has been intemperate in years past & destroyed his health. He was seen walking towards Freeport last, facing Brunswick. Many of the students will go to search tomorrow. One if not more than one of the Seniors is engaged to a daughter of his. There are three daughters. They must all feel very sad.

Rowland returned in safety from Leeds. I was glad enough to hear from you all I assure you, but I was sorry to learn the "Small Pox" was so near you, and it was no welcome news to know one of my old friends & neighbors was sick with such a disease. I hope it will not spread about the town. We had a short letter from Otis a day or two ago. He hardly dares send Lizzie & Guy up home for fear of the "Small Pox". He had seen nothing of Capt Gorgas as yet, said he was looking for him in every train of cars & every boat. I was greatly obliged for so long a letter from you & from Dellie. Dellie's was one of the best he ever wrote me. I was pleased too that you were so prompt to send me the money. It seems very strange to me to call for so much money.

I guess Rowland has called on Miss Cornelia Patten, who lives in this place, (a cousin of Ella's), who is very sick. She went to Bath & stayed a week about the 4th of July. She is of a weak constitution & was taken with the Cholera morbus a few days ago. The Doctor thinks it doubtful if she ever recovers. Rowland has been with her much & seems to feel badly. He has commenced to write some on his Yarmouth oration.

Mother, I did not know what you meant by saying I should do all I could to make you happy. I'm sure if I desire any one thing more than all others, it is that you may be happy. And if there is any one thing I would labor for or endure troubles & trials for it is that. And if there is any person I honor & love & would lay down my life for it is you, mother. Yet you need no such professions to assure you. If I neglect any duty I owe you, or any opportunity of doing a kindness, it is not intentional neglect. No person claims or shares my attention to & regard for you. And no one is half so near & dear as my brothers, mother & father. I suppose I shall not be home till I see you all down here. Till then Adieu

Your Affec. Son
C. H. Howard