
842 9/5/1857

From: OO Howard
1st Lt Ordnance
Corps
U.S. Army
Leeds Maine

To: Rev S. H. Taylor

OOH-0782

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Maine
September 5th 1857

To: The Rev S. H. Taylor

Sir

I am a stranger to you, but take the liberty to write you, in order to make inquiries concerning my half-brother R.H. Gilmore. He does not desire neither do any of his friends ask for his return to Andover. He is a good & pious boy & if I understand him rightly stood fair in point of class rank.

We cannot imagine for what reason you speak in such a manner of "his progress in study & general deportment". It grieves him & his parents to receive such an unflattering epistle concerning him. He is my youngest brother & has been always a good boy & well disposed towards his instructors & now that he can unite with us in love to the Saviour & in strife to do his will it is exceedingly strange that he should have fallen into disrepute with his teacher, who is also a brother in Christ. He has tried to tell us every instance in which he can remember any distinction with reference to duty.

Your letter would imply a dismissal from the Academy on account of bad conduct. It is general in relation to the method though when "an entire change" is required we would look for some specific. I cannot think a boy who loves his God, who at your very institution put in a change of heart, can be deserving of the cold dismissal you have given him.

If you would like to answer me I shall in a few weeks be at West Point N.Y. However if you would direct here it would be forwarded to me.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Srvnt
OO Howard
1st Lt Ordnance Corps
U.S. Army

844 9/11/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0783

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Sept. 11. 1857

Dear Brother

If you remain next week, I believe I must forego the "expense" & take Ella up to see you & Lizzie before you go away - I want to see Lizzie so much myself too! If Aunt gets home tomorrow or Sunday, I could go to Bath the following day & get up to Leeds towards Evening. If you are not there I don't want to go now. No matter if Lizzie is "getting ready", Ella won't hinder her.

Uncle Ensign will now receive "Association Company" & that will relieve mother, who must have a kiss for Ella when she comes, because she is "afraid" to go, but still wants to dreadfully. If you must go away before Thurs, send me word if you possibly can.

I went with Uncle Ensign to Augusta this morning and we left Aunt Martha very much improved.

Pray God that she may so continue.

Your Brother
Rowland

P.S. We had a good, good, good Prayer meeting Wednesday night. If Aunt Ellen should'nt come till the first of the week, my leaving would be put off, of course, and you have time to inform me of your whereabouts.

845 9/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-0784

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point
Sept 22nd /57

Dear Mother

I have but a minute before recitation. We arrived in safety. Got a good girl in Brooklyn, thro' Sarah. Lizzie & children are well, would send love if here.

We left one Band box, either at Leeds or Auburn. Ask Dellie to inquire.

Will write as soon as possible all particulars.

Your very affectionate son.
Otis

846 9/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother & Sister
[OO & Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0785

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Sept. 22, 1857

Dear Brother & Sister

I write now because I was afraid that you would forget to drop me a line this week telling me of your arrival at West Point.

I won't trouble you for much but I do feel anxious for just a few words. Speak particularly about Guy. He seemed so different from "Uncles" Guy that I shall feel anxious till I hear.

We had a pleasant ride to Bath Friday & I came up Saturday, attended my meetings Sunday as usual, and am now in my old School duties. I saw Dellie at Auburn & Charles at Brunswick. Have had a letter from Mr Taylor of the same <import> as yours. I have sent it to Dellie via Charles.

I went up to see Aunt Martha yesterday afternoon – found her much as you described at Leeds. She has a room by herself & a person who seems to be a faithful attendant. Uncle Ensign was down to see her Saturday.

Ella was delighted with her visit to Leeds & I think we both shall feel better satisfied now that she has seen my home & family. She found Sat Evening another young friend of hers who is "seeking" & she feels sanguine that she will be enabled to point her to the Lamb of God who taketh away the Sin of the world.

The little girls have the whooping cough badly, but all the rest of our friends here are well. Aunt Ellen got home the same day I came to Leeds.

Kiss the dear babies for me & always remember me in your prayers.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

P.S. I saw Sam Hicks at Lewiston & he seemed much disappointed that you did not stop as did Dellie.

I saw no others of Lizzie's friends.

847 9/24/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0787

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

Hallowell Sept 24, 1857

Dear Otis

Don't be frightened at my writing so often but Ella sent me the enclosed Rx for Guy & I wanted him to have it right away as I have considerable confidence in "Mamma's" remedies. Ella send a great deal of love to you & Lizzie & the children.

I have not heard from Aunt Martha since I wrote.

Our prayer meeting last evening was deeply interesting. My soul is burdened for this Church & this people among whom, in the Providence of God I have been cast.

I shall go home about the 1st of Oct & stay till I go to Bangor. I have written to Johnathan Adams who is down there to secure me a room in the Sem. Building. I have to furnish my own room, saw & carry up my wood. I hope I may be able to keep warm by that process during Dec & Jan.

I hope there is no trouble about the irregular manner in which you have changed from Tampa to West Point.

A whole bushel of love to Lizzie. Tell her this gives me unspeakable satisfaction "Everything is Providential". We are in the hands of a merciful Father & "He doeth all things well".

I can't bear not to see Guy for so long very well. You must'nt be jealous for he was Uncle's boy a long while.

The "Infant's Progress" was just suited to Ella & I thought Lizzie might feel the same, seeking as she is the same Kingdom with the same childlike spirit & subject to the same temptations.

You did not like the name "<Jubel>" but I think you will recognize the nature & exploits of that individual, as Mr. Sherwood depicts him.

Your aff Bro.
Rowland

848 9/25/1857 *From:* Charles C Lee *To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0786 Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. West Point
N. York

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.
Sept. 25th 1857

Dear Howard;

Your kind little note came to hand day before yesterday evening. I am much obliged to you for writing. I had heard a day or two before that you were at the Point, but I did not know Mrs. Howard had yet gone there. I sent your 5 boxes yesterday by the H.R.R. Road; should have preferred sending them by water but did not know when I could find another vessel at Troy which would stop at West Point, and thinking probable you needed them I sent them as per enclosed Bill of Lading. I had all the larger boxes hooped, as they are usually roughly handled on the Rail Roads.

How do you like West Point as a station? I heard from your Brother a short time ago, and was much gratified to hear that he has determined to fit himself for the ministry instead of for the law. Not that I love law less, but that I love the ministry more.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the birth of your little daughter, though it is rather late, still it is the first opportunity I have had for doing so. The loss of Mrs. Waite must go quite hard with you all. She was such a help, and at any time the loss of a kind friend and devoted Mother is a severe affliction, but we must hope for the best, a joyful reunion, beyond the grave, where friends will never be separated more.

Death ought not to be regarded with gloom, but as simply a necessary step to be taken on the road to eternity. It should not be regarded as the end of life, but merely as one of the events (a very important one tis true) of life which itself never ends.

What do you wish done with your carriage? Shall I send it to you, by the first vessel which sails for the Point? I have found no opportunity of selling it.

Mrs Lee, and the Watervlieters generally send their love to you & yours. May Heaven grant you that blessing which you bestow upon others.

Believe me ever
Your Affec friend
Charles C Lee

Lieut O.O. Howard
West Point
N. York

850 9/29/1857 *From:* H. Carter

To: Lieut O. Howard

OOH-0788

Bradford

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

Bradford, Sept 29, 1857

Lieut O. Howard,

Dear Sir:-

Having been favored with a brief but very pleasant acquaintance with you some years ago, I take the liberty of introducing to you my son, Eugene Carter, the bearer of this note, and now one of the West Point "Plebes." Any kindness you may be able to render him, especially by an occasional good word of advice or encouragement, will be gratefully received and <>.

You will remember me as the editor of the Portland Advertiser at the time of your marriage in Portland, in remembrance of which event, the card which you politely sent me on the occasion, is now before me.

I know, dear Sir, the volume of good examples, precepts and associations at West Point. You may be sure, from this note, that in my short acquaintance with you, I received an impression as to your character which makes me desire that my son should profit by your example, and if at the same time, you can, consistently with the position which you now occupy, give him the benefit of an occasional precept, you will very much oblige.

Yours very truly,
H. Carter

Lieut O. Howard
West Point
By Cadet Carter

851 9/29/1857 *From:* [Henry] Closson

To: O.O. [Howard]

OOH-0789a

Fort Adams R.I.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Adams R.I.
September 29th 1857

My Dear O.O.

“It was in the month of October
“Of my most immemorial year
“It was down by the dank tarn of Aubor
“In the ghoul - haunted woodland of Weir

In other words - I-am-going-to-get-married. The event will transpire on or about the 26th of next month as nearly as by the formulae of matrimonial astronomy it can be calculated when I shall come into the field of view and take my place in the social system somewhat like Saturn with his rings - or like Mars and the Moon.

It is highly desirable that you be present at the initiation of a Brother Benedict. Of course I do not care anything about it but the fair lady herself has singularly enough written me to know where you were and why you could not stand by to receive in your arms the bride or the groom whoever should faint first.

Your first question naturally is “who is she”. Come, my dear fellow and see, from my association this summer it might be inferred that some match-making mother had at last trapped a luckless Lieutenant and paired him off with one of these perpetual belles of the ball room, whose painted breasts have been the foci of hundreds of eyes night after night through season after season. Newport truly was thronged with very many specimens of vivified mummies from Cupid’s museums this summer, during the winter season they will hibernate in the parlors of the Fifth avenue and wait for the warmth and fragrance of June to galvanize them into animation.

As for myself I have made no investments in that kind of stock. I had rather buy the Harlem railroad or the paper of the Ohio Life & Trust Company. In my surfeited itch relative to woman-kind of this sort, drinking champaign at the Tea house with Miss Smith or pouring nonsense by moonlight in the ear of Miss Jones, I did not rush to the other extreme and seek an alliance with the first-blooming fresh milk-maid I saw with the good sense I usually show I sought to combine what then was of good in both antipodes and then marry that. Of my success I have you to judge. Suffice it to say that the worst possible enemy of the future Mrs Closson could only say that we married each other because we had been mutually known long & well.

What her reasons for marrying me are I do not know. They are at least satisfactory to herself. Mine are as numerous as babies in poor families and strong as the most favorite “saur kraut” of Dutch-land. If the popular doctrine of New England is true as I am inclined to believe that in the Hereafter that comes mistily to view down thro’ a long vista of tombs and marble slabs and cypress not only can be seen the glitter of golden harps in angel hands but also lurid gleams from that huge Incubator where the Devil ranges the sinners of earth like eggs in rows and piles the flaming brimstone underneath until he hatches them out into horned and hooped images of his hideous self. If this is so it is high time I had laid an anchor to windward - high time I was forging the links of that chain by which I can hold on fast to Heaven. I know of no better blacksmith for this species of ironmonger than a wife - a droll mixture this, but it is a droll step I am soon to take.

By the way, I had almost forgotten to disclose one aspect of my writing. Would you not be pleased to be present at my wedding with Mrs H. They are very anxious at Home to see you there. Gilman will be married at the same time and Lt. Eddy of this company will attend me. After my marriage I proceed to Gardiner Maine where Gilman loses his individuality also and then we return to Fort Adams. I will send you cards soon.

I congratulate you too on the recent change in your station. How does it please you.

My love to Mrs. Howard

Yrs.
Closson [Henry W Closson, USMA Class of 1854]

853 9/30/1857 *From:* G. Loomis

To: Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-0790

Fort Brooke

Source: Bowdoin

Wednesday Morning
Fort Brooke Sept 30 1857

D'r Lieut.

I think I am beginning to <> this because I do not hear from you. What has become? I knew you had a wife & dear children & friends but I was not prepared to have you forget us in Ft B & Tampa, but not yet one line. Do let us hear from you. Nobody has yet appeared to take your place as Ord. Off. & you know the 4 Arty are ordered out & are gone so I have not one available officer to supply your place. I shall have to tell your chief so.

I am about to leave for Fort Myers & Dallas perhaps. I need footmen to go to the everglades, but have none save the 1st arty - no Regular troops at this Post or Myers or Meade or Kissimmee or Fort Dulaney or any where save Capron, Fort Dallas & Key West. The yellow fever has driven Col Winder & his men to Indian Key. I have ordered 1 Off & 30 men to Fort Myers by the Schooner Washington. I must go & see to all this. I need you.

I was at the prayer meeting last eve, not a full attendance. I trust a true spirit of prayer pervaded the hearts of many. Mr Sine desired to be remembered to you & to hear from you. Do not forget us in your prayers if you do to write to us.

The last time I was at Myers Cap Hardie was mourning the loss of his feelings of joy & rejoicing. Said he did not feel right. Pray for us all. Pray for yourself. I do not expect you have escaped the temptations that the faithful followers of Christ may always expect but I know that Jesus is mighty to save able to save to the uttermost all who come to him. Take all your difficulties, of whatever kind, to Him & tell him here are all these troubles & perplexities. I am encouraged to cast them all upon Thee Blessed God. Do so you will find blessing. Beware of prosperity too. The Robber assaults a man leaving the bank with his pockets filled with money. The devil does not like to see Christians happy & rejoicing.

Please present me kindly & with respect to your dear companion & to all who love our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

Yours truly
G. Loomis
Col Infy

Lt. O. O. Howard
Ord.

Pardon haste & defects for I have not time to read this over.