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863 11/1/1857 *From:* Blanche Berard

*To:* Lt OO Howard

OOH-0805

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Undated. Assume 11/1/1857]

Dear Mr Howard

I was so much delighted with your article in the Military Gazette that I sat up a full half hour, last night to read it. The highest compliment which I could pay to any production, with my strong morphean proclivities. A writing must interest me exceedingly, if I can enjoy it after tattoo.

I return the other one, & beg you will look at it, to appreciate how sorely puzzled I was to find anything to read in it.

Very hastily & affectionately

Yr friend

Blanche [Berard]

Before breakfast

Lt OO Howard

[Written in another hand]

Miss Berard

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862 11/1/1857 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0804

Auburn  
Danville

West Point N.Y.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Danville Nov 1st 1857

Brother Otis

This is the fourth letter that I have commenced to you and whether I shall finish this or not remains to be seen. I had four pages of "Quarto Post" written when I received your last letter but what I at that time wrote was worth nothing to you when you received the band-box.

I have not heard from home very recently as I have not heard from you. Please write me in what circumstances you are in there at West Point as I know now but little about it. I heard when I was at home in the middle of the term that you had engaged a Cottage but don't know any thing more.

The prospect is now that I shall come back here next term. And I am glad of it as I like the place the best of any I was ever in. We are to have a man by the name of Fuller a graduate of the last class at Bow Coll and also other assistants which will depend on the size of the school.

Rowland has gone to Bangor, which you doubtless knew long ago. I was at Leeds about three weeks ago and found Rowland, Charles & Ella there. Charles & Ella came the same day that I did and we all came without her knowing anything about it. Rowland came the day before. I am now getting along finely in my studies. I read about 100 lines per day in my Virgil and am doing well in my Greek. I shall not board here next term although it is a fine place but I don't like to pay so much for what I eat. I am glad that I did not remain any longer in Andover. If I had come here last spring instead of going there I should have done the best thing possible.

I do not have as good religious privileges here as at Andover but I find that I can serve my God just as well if I only have a heart to do so. There are only two or three pious persons in the school besides myself and I feel as though consequently that I ought to work harder in order to make up the deficiency if possible. Mr Record is a pious man, a thing rarely seen in men of his profession (Law). He is one of the most active men in the Baptist Church on the other side of the river. I like him very much, his wife is also pious; so you see that I have a fine place, but I cannot pay so much for board in any place. I like Mr Parker my teacher very much, he is pious and is at the present time a member of the Theological Seminary at Bangor, where he will go at the end of the term. Mr Luce is a fine man but not a Christian. I wish he was for he has great influence in the Village.

I saw Mrs Jones today and Eva, but did not speak with them. I suppose you heard about that scrape of Mr Jones a few weeks ago and I will not write about it, but if you havn't please write.

How do you enjoy yourself there? Do you have much chance to do anything for our God? How is sister Lizzie? I hope she is getting well. How is the boy Guy and baby? Please write all you can think of, as indeed I have. I never get so hard up for wanting something to write. So good night with my love to "all hands".

Your affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Auburn

Lieut O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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864 11/6/1857 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0801

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Nov'r 6th 1857

My dear Mother

I have much correspondence on my hands & find it hard to get time to write anything. Now that we have got settled & nearly finished returning official & formal visits I think I will have more time to spare.

It is a good deal of work to start out a house-keeping, all new or almost all new. We have now got our chambers carpeted & the little cottage seems very comfortable. The rooms are exceedingly small, but we have a plenty - one for parlor & sitting rooms, one for dining room, one chamber for our sleeping room, one for the girl, a spare room & a room for my books, papers &c, which I shall denominate my study.

Nov. 8.

I will resume my letter again this morning. Twenty seven years have shut down upon me. It hardly seems possible that I am approaching thirty so rapidly. [Otis was born Nov 8, 1830.] During the past year I have been drawn to recognize the gifts & mercies of God & it is therefore a year especially to be remembered by me. How delightful is the service of God & with what abundance of reward for which we can find no offsets in our own doings or deservings.

Last Sunday we took the little children to the chapel at evening prayers ( $\frac{1}{2}$  past 4 p.m.). We had to wait some twenty minutes before they were called for. Then we took them forward. Lt Huse, Lizzie & myself were the Sponsors for Guy. Lizzie, Miss Blanch Berard & myself for Grace. We took them to the fount. The Baby was laughing & springing during the whole ceremony. When Mr French with his white robe on took her in his arms, she looked up in his face & smiled. She looked so bright & happy, that she seemed almost a spirit of light. Guy watched the proceeding dubiously, bore the water the first & second times without making any remark, only he would put up his hand to wipe it off. The last time he began to cry & say "no more water". But as soon as it was over & he had regained his feet he kept quiet.

The question might be asked what good it did these children. Water don't wash away sin, but it is the correspondent spiritual cleansing that is needed. We come forward and present our children to the Lord, our Saviour, & take vows upon ourselves to instruct them & if possible bring them early into the church. They are already members of the visible church by Baptism, and if parents, sponsors & Christs people are faithful, they will become lively members of the same, for God Giveth not sparingly good gifts to his children. Men are in the providence of God, restrained, & constrained to close with the offers of mercy, by influences. Our children are consecrated to God by the Ordinance of baptism. Our hearts are earnest for their salvation. Christ will be near us & direct their education, by the influence of his Spirit and they will be saved through his Mercy & love. If they should not so regard things & should desire to be baptized thinking that our renunciation of wickedness & sin in their behalf was insufficient for an accompaniment to the Ordinance of Baptism, they could be rebaptized.

Lizzie is now pretty well, but has had to work too hard. In a few days we will have a girl to assist in taking care of the children.

How much misery there is now in the city of N. York, so many thousands out of employment. I hope something will be done speedily by the Authorities for their relief, else we shall have want, riots, bloodshed & all their concomitant evils.

Mrs Woodman has come out with a statement which shows what a miserable creature, what an unhappy object of pity she has become through her fall. She has been held up before the world in no very desirable manner. Oh! That Oliver had the love of Christ to help him & she too to relieve her from her weight of sin, shame & other wretchedness.

How is Aunt Martha? How is Uncle Ensign? Give my love to father. I write to the boys as often as I can. I

lecture at the little Methodist Church, Wednesday evenings. Lizzie says how can I say anything, when I want to say so much and you come to me for a message. She says give my love to them all. I hope you are very well & enjoying much of the presence & fellowship of the Spirit of Christ.

The children are well. Guy grows heavy & strong, eats, sleeps & plays like a stout boy. He talks much & imitates his father in everything.

Yrs affectionately  
O. O. Howard

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865 11/6/1857 *From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0802

Bowd. Coll.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd. Coll.  
Nov. 6, 1857

My dear Brother

I was happy to receive a letter from you at last. It came since I returned from Leeds. I had a very pleasant visit home with Ella. We went up Saturday and came back the Friday following. I went to Bath & stayed till the Monday after. I thought I would go up while Rowland was there in as much as my school for the Winter is in Brunswick and I need not go home at the close of the term.

Mother was very busy getting ready my winter underclothes and fixing up Rowland for Bangor. Ella seemed perfectly at home and enjoyed herself I know. We sang considerably evenings. She could play the Aeolian. On Sunday and Wed Eves we had prayer meetings on the Ridge. Rowland is very interesting in a prayer meeting. Ella fitted a black silk basgar for Mother, sewed for Rowland a good deal & some for me. She and I had just as much honey as we wanted. Father had plenty and was pleased to have the company enjoy it. As when you were there we continued to have prayers each night and a blessing asked at each meal.

I returned nearly two weeks ago. I suppose you have heard from Rowland at Bangor. He says he is every way pleasantly situated. Had a class of 8 when he wrote. Ella was up here at B yesterday but I did not see her. She left a package to be sent by Palmer to R. He has been teaching here in B but is going back into his class at Bangor. Will be one class ahead of R. Was in his class in College. I shall see him tomorrow.

I received a letter from Mother a day or two ago. Mrs James Wing is dead also Charles Lane. John is low - Mary Jane's husband. Mother says he gave no evidence that Religion had gound a place "in his heart".

Our term closes the day before Thanksgiving which is the 19 of this month. 6 Juniors out of my class are to perform at the Senior Exhibition this fall. We are studying Calculus now. I have been poring over it all the Evening. It don't seem any harder than other Mathematics we have had. The German is interesting but we have pretty long lessons. Today we had the Diver of Schiller which you will perhaps remember. We are reviewing Juvenal to Prof Packard.

I was very glad you gave me so particular an account of your present Circumstances - this is what I always like best to have from you. I always like to hear about Lizzie and the little ones. Please give my love to them. I don't see why you need be otherwise than happy now. You have the one thing needful. Don't forget to pray for me - that I may be kept near to Christ. Write me as often as you can, wont your?

Your affectionate Brother  
Charles H Howard

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866 11/23/1857 *From:* Ella [Patten]

*To:* My dear Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0803

Bath

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bath Nov. 23rd 1857.

My dear Otis

I am just going to punish you for neglecting me so long, by answering your letter as soon as it is received, and I am going to write on big pages too, and I know it will take you a long time to read my letter, because I never can write plain.

I expect you'll have another sister to write to soon, for you must know Charlie is very attentive to a certain "Miss Nettie" in Brunswick! I saw Charles, yesterday. I spent the last Sabbath at Topsham, and he came over and went to church with me, in the afternoon. We heard my minister, too.

Rowland is mistaken about my health. I am very well indeed, now, much better than when he was at home, and very happy too. Rowland seems both well and happy, at Bangor. I am glad now, that he did not go to Andover, though I was at first in favor of Andover, because I had been there at school myself, and had acquired too many of the prejudices of the place. But Rowland would never have been so happy there, as at Bangor. The Andover people are too "stiff" and "formal" to suit him. O I'm glad he is going to be a minister! When I hear every body talking of "hard times", and it seems as if money was the all engrossing subject of thought and conversation, I thank my God that money is not every thing, that it is not to be the object for which we live! O it is a glorious work, that of winning souls to Christ!

My brother Albert, who comes next to me in the order of our little family, is going away to sea this week. He had been at Mr Abbott's school, in Farmington, the past year, and only came home a fortnight ago. He doesn't care to go to sea, but there seems nothing else for him to do at present, and Papa won't let him "loaf", neither does he want to. He hopes to find Uncle Lincoln, at New Orleans, and go the rest of the voyage with him. I do hope he will meet him there. I should feel so much better, to have him with Uncle Lincoln. Albert is going from here to New Orleans with Capt Otis, of Brunswick (a relative of yours, I wonder?) I feel a great deal of anxiety for him, as he leaves home for the first time. He will be exposed to many temptations, yet I know God's spirit is on the waters, as well as on the Land, and I will, and do pray to Him, that he will watch over my sailor brother, and make him a christian.

Mr Fiske came in this afternoon, and brought some little books and tracts, for Albert to take to sea with him. I thought it was very kind and thoughtful in him, and he invited me to go over with Albert, and take tea at his house tomorrow evening. I will then deliver your "regards". Mr Fiske has lectures every Tuesday evening, which are exceedingly interesting, but I am sorry they are not more fully attended. One of my young friends, who however is considerably younger than I, has found a hope in Christ lately. I have had a good deal of conversation with her, both before and since she had a hope, and I wish there were many more, as earnest and sincere as she.

Evening. I have just put Horace [Ella's youngest brother, Horace Reed Patton b 1854] in bed, and he is singing to me now. He has a little stack of baby songs, of which "Ding-dong-bell" seems to be the favorite. He's a great fellow for stories, and almost every night, he has to have a story told him. I have told him about Joseph, and his coat of many colors, and he almost always when I put him to bed wants me to "sing him the story about Jovis". He calls it singing. He's the pet of the house, and an awful mischief. Papa says he's afraid he'll be a "spoiled child", but I have more hope of him.

I forgot, when I mentioned spending the Sabbath at Topsham, that you knew Aunt Jane. She is very well, and very smart, sews all her own work, and has one boarder all the time, and a part of the time, two. Her girls have grown to be quite large, and a good deal of help to their Mother. Octavia is almost a young lady. Aunt Jane complains very much of Charles, that he doesn't go to see her any. Charlie's school doesn't commence until next Monday, and he has this week with nothing to do. The lady with whom he has been boarding can't keep him, and he has concluded to board with his school agent. I asked him to come down here, and wanted him to very much, but he didn't seem inclined. I believe he feels the hard times a little, says he has only seventy five

cents in the world! No, in his pocket, I believe it was.

Please remember me with much love to Lizzie, and kiss the little ones for me. You didn't speak of Lizzie's health. I hope it is better than when you were at Leeds.

As I have a knife to take the place of the one you ran away with. I don't think it will be worth while, to send that back. It is not a very valuable one, and I guess it wont "cut friendship", since I didn't give it to you.

I am always glad to hear from you. I do, by the way of Rowland and Charles, quite frequently, but I much prefer a more direct communication.

With much love to yourself and family, I remain

Your friend  
Ella