

conclusions with regard to me and my religion than tell her, I am  
fully aware of the pain it would give her and that is my reason  
for not approaching the subject or evading it when with or writing to her,  
I believe my mother to be sincere in her belief and that she lives  
up to it, therefore I consider her a true Christian. It matters little to  
me what a person believes, so that they live accordingly. one great  
reason for my believing as I do, is, seeing so much of believing and  
professing one thing and living another, there can be but little  
Christianity in living a lie - but what a multitude I see daily who do.

My dear Otis, Your letter has carried me way back to days  
almost gone out of mind, of times when we were little boys, of  
the old farm, the old school house with its sides stripped of shingles,  
the old orchards, with the glorious Apples, and the woods when  
we have gathered beech nuts and acorns for winter evenings; and  
re-call to mind many of our school mates, not thought of for years.  
Now everything is changed, and you and I more than almost  
any other, our family - which used to be huddled so closely, is now  
dreadfully scattered. I far off in the west, Perry in another part  
of the world, and Sarah in still another. Not a vestige of any  
of us is left in Leeds. I sometimes wonder if I shall ever see  
the old place again. I hope I may, but I intend to get rich  
first, then go down there & have a rest from the weary toils of this  
world for a while. I thank you again for your letter also for  
your kindness to mother - and with my love to your wife and  
good wishes for the little ones am as ever and always  
Your affectionate cousin,  
Silas J. Lee

A Happy New Year to yourself and family.  
I am not much of a letter-writer - so hope you will excuse sparingly.

Chicago January 7th 1858,  
My Dear Cousin,  
Your very kind note of the 31st with mother's came  
to me yesterday. I heartily thank you for the interest your letter shows  
me, you feel for my welfare, temporal and spiritual. That I am a Christian  
is a matter of much doubt even with myself. - I do not profess to be a prayer  
loving or scripture searching Christian, my views of religion differ from  
yours or my mother's materially. Mine is a religion of conscience, founded entirely  
within man himself, and has been fixed in, and proved to me by reading  
and observation. - I cannot comprehend how there can be a future existence,  
and therefore do not believe there is one. I believe that man receives  
his full reward or punishment here in the body, his conscience his accuser  
and in his conscience he finds his reward or punishment, according as he lives.  
I believe it acts with man mentally as it does physically. A man eats  
too much, and he has disobeyed a physical law and suffers accordingly,  
he drinks too much or otherwise too greatly indulges - he suffers physically,  
and mentally, so, I believe it is in all matters concerning man, as a  
man eats and drinks so he is in health or otherwise, so I believe it  
is spiritually with him, he sins against his conscience, and how  
quickly his conscience judges and condemns him. He is honest in all  
things, and generous and good to all mankind, and his conscience  
again judges and approves, then he is happy he feels well towards  
himself and the world, which is his reward, and is not that reward



sufficient? I am satisfied with it; and on the other hand what is more severe than the punishment of the conscience? I believe all that is required of man, is to live to do all in his power for the good of his fellowman, to live honestly and with a hand ready at all times to assist and willing to then he carries with him through life a glad heart and a clear conscience and I think and believe a life so led, is a life of constant prayer, and should there be a future (which I question) is more acceptable than any form of Church prayer. Honesty and sincerity, are the foundation of all religion, or, of true Christianity, and I believe a man who is honest and sincere, to be a true Christian and that he receives his reward.

Look upon the Bible as a history of the creation of men and things in the earlier years of the world, but that it is a work of inspiration. I do not believe, any more than Josephus's Works, Bunyans Pilgrims Progress or even the history of more modern times and men. Had the Bible been written by ~~an~~ a hand inspired by God, and intended to show us the way to Heaven, (?) I believe it would have been more plain, not so allegorical - and then again, there are many parts of that great book which are really profane, and totally unfit for many children or even young people to read. I have read the Bible a good deal, and have been unable to find any portions which prove to me anything of an existence after this life. I believe in a God, in this wise. That there is a supreme power which governs and controls us, and produces life. that is incontestable, it shows itself in everything, in the vegetable kingdom the Mineral and Animal, also in the disposition and government of

the seasons and the planetary system, that power is called God and as such I accept it by that name, and believe that there is as much consistency, in the Indian's addressing their prayers and offerings to the Sun, as of in one talking to that power. That power is everywhere it is within and around us, is in our thoughts, is allied to our vital parts, and is consequently within us, and if it is conscious, it must know our thoughts and intentions; then why is the use of prayer by word of mouth, of more benefit than, correct life and action? We every day see professors of Christianity & Clergymen, who we know devote stated times each <sup>day</sup> to long prayers and loud, yet whose lives are quite the reverse of their professions. These men think themselves Christians because they have uttered a loud and long prayer on their knees, to that spirit that is giving them life, <sup>and in</sup> but after the praying they have done all that is required, and go forth among the world, to see where they can take an advantage of another and fill their pockets, perhaps they do not use profane language, drink or gamble, yet they live a selfish, ungenerous, life, and expect to go to Heaven because they pray - Once in a great while we see a person who we have every reason to believe is sincere and live up to their professions. Truly if there is, a future state, this World is in a sad condition! Heaven will not receive a very large deligation from it, but Hell will be filled even to overflowing. I have been more open and frank to you in regard to my religious opinion than ever before to any of my relations. I have never referred to it to Mother, because I know well what she would think - and had rather she would draw her own



He says one of his scholars, a young lady,  
is beginning to be interested in religion  
and he has had a good many con-  
versations with her. What a land of  
sympathy exists between a Christian  
and one who is trying to see Jesus!

Rowland is coming to Bath in a  
fortnight. He has a little vacation  
then. We hear some about Glen - He  
is in New Orleans now, on board Uncle  
Lincoln's ship. I don't know how long  
they will remain there. They are somewhat  
discouraged, themselves, I guess.

I don't want you to make me any promise  
then is perfectly convenient. I know  
you have an awful cold upon your throat,  
and I don't wish you to think that  
I expect letters from Glen - although I do  
love very much to hear from you and  
Lizzie and the children. With much  
love and a kiss all round. Yrs truly,  
Ellen.

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Bath Jan. 7th 1858  
Thurs. Eve.

My dear Mrs.

Is it too late to wish  
you a "Happy New Year"? Indeed I do wish  
you many happy ones. This last year has  
been peculiarly blessed to many of us -  
hasn't it. You and Lizzie - Rowland and  
I, all together have begun to live the  
Christian life. May such New Years see  
us growing in grace, and in the knowl-  
edge of Jesus Christ, until the end -  
I have been in to the Vestry tonight, to our  
Thursday evening meeting - I was very sorry  
to see Mr. Fiske there - sorry, because he  
is sick, and I think it very imprudent  
for him to go out this cold night, and  
sit in that close, badly ventilated Vestry.  
Mr. Fiske has not been well for some weeks.



for three Sundays, he has not preached. His lungs are weak, and he has a cough, and is so hoarse that he speaks with difficulty. I am very fearful that it will end in something worse than "I love you" - although he has had a little peace with his three daughters. O may his life be spared to us, yet many years!

Mr. Fiske is very much beloved by all his church, and congregation, and he desires to be - And it seems as if he never was so prized, as now. He looks so sick! The younger (female) members of the church have a little weekly meeting, by ourselves. We meet every Saturday evening, from seven to eight, at a private house.

There have never been more than nine, sometimes less. But I have found it the most precious hour of the week. We each take part - there is no back-wardness in the part of any - we feel

perfectly free with each other, and try to do each other all the good we can. It has been very profitable to me, and I trust all the others find it so.

Sun. eve. I thought my letter would have reached you before this. But I was obliged to leave it Thursday night, and I have been so busy, since, that I have found but little time to write. We have been enjoying another lovely Sabbath. Mr. Fiske preached this morning, but was not able to speak again this afternoon. So we had no meeting at our church. I have not been very well for a few days past, and thought I had better spend the afternoon at home, in reading. Hannah Lizzie has been quite lame for some weeks past, and does not go out, except to ride. She and Horace were my companions at home, this afternoon. I had a letter from Charles. Last week, he seems very happy



Mrs Howard last week all friends are well at the  
east I hear from Sarah often all her family are  
well - With much love to yourself and Otis  
and kisses to the children I am as ever your  
affectionate Aunt.

Mrs E. W. Howard

Ann Otis Lee

My Dear Sister

No 5. 4 Harrison St Brooklyn  
Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 1859

My Dear Sister  
You have not answered my last  
letter to you - or at least I have not received  
an answer - I got a letter from Silas yesterday written  
New year - and he said he wrote to me a Merry Christ-  
mas - I did not get his Christmas letter and  
I have been thinking perhaps you have written  
and the letter has not reached me - I  
have been expecting a long letter from Perry  
as in his last. He wrote a short letter and  
said he should write me a long letter soon  
since I know Silas' letter is delayed. I am thinking  
more and in the same delay - I need your note  
to Mrs Dwight who said she would go and  
see Mrs Moor and see what could be done  
but the storm prevented Mrs Dwight from going  
and Sarah Dwight went Mrs Moor was sorry  
your fans did not suit you but was con-  
fident they could not be done better by  
any one - but she would make any altera-  
tions you might wish - I have been to  
see her and she said she would write you



and send her note to me to inclose  
to you - I have been expecting her written  
note to you - in which she will say whatever  
she wishes to say - I think you would do  
better to write to her yourself and then you  
could say any thing you think proper -  
I sent you her receipt for the \$5.00 dollars,  
I paid her for the making the fur did  
you get the receipt? she said she could  
not refund any part of the money as her  
work people would not refund their wages  
and she had to pay her people very high  
wages but either way one they had employed  
a long time and no complaint was ever  
made before - they work for wholesale stores  
in New York and they have very nice furs to  
make from Brooklyn people - Cornelia Clark  
said you was expecting a letter from me -  
I wrote you a letter before I was able to  
see Mrs Moor - but after the weather became  
warmer I went to her myself and requested  
her to write to you - she said she would  
go to the work room and see if she could  
find any pieces of fur among the sweepings of

the room - I told you I would like to have  
her send any pieces there might be left  
but she said the under part of the topknot  
was used and nothing would be left but the  
trimmings which could not be of the value  
of a sixpence - I told you would like to  
have all the pieces sent - however small -  
Mr Kingsbury called New Year but as Mrs Moor  
had not sent her letter to you I thought  
I would not send the letter I had written  
but write another and now an entire week  
has passed - I am suffering very much  
from my Gout the heat and pain is all  
I can bear - I saw Maria Dupper a few days  
ago she asked me - when you would make  
her a visit - did you get my letter in which  
she invited you to come and spend a Sunday  
with them - Mr Kingsbury offered to take my mes-  
sage or letter to you - I had a letter but  
thought I should write in a day or two -  
Perry in his last letter expected to sail for N York  
about Christmas and expected he had come from the  
10<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month I shall begin  
to look for him next week I had a letter from



Am. Sec



Miss G. D. Howard

West-Point

W. P.

Brooklyn Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 1858

Dear Otis & Lizzie,

I got along nicely the morning I left you got to Hasting at on received a kind and cordial welcome from Mrs. Mathison got nicely nested, and at four P.M. her mother Mrs. Waip and her sister Augusta, arrived from Brooklyn they had a letter from Perry and another from Silas I spent a pleasant day Friday at their house & it is one of those palace houses overlooking the Hudson, their grounds are beautifully laid out and their house furnished in elegant style every window from the house presents a fine view of beautiful scenery. but they say I must see Hasting in summer to appreciate its beauty I left there Saturday. came off from the cars without my trunk having left it with the Mercat expressman, and it came on to rain that evening, and then we had a rainy day Monday which prevented me from getting my trunk until Tuesday - and then it was too late to go



over to see about the lamp until yesterday  
(Wednesday) I purchased four copies of  
Capt. Trickers life & five of Charles scripture  
promises - I had one copy of Capt Trickers sent  
to Siles (by mail), the other three with Charles  
scripture promises - I carried, to be sent, to you by  
the man of whom I was to purchase the lamp  
as he said he could put the books in the box  
and it would save expense - please to accept  
the books from me to do with them as you  
desire - and now as to the lamp, the clerk  
at the store said he would write to you &  
tell you about the lamps. Mrs Mattison has  
one of those with the glass shades and likes  
it very much. she has no trouble at all with  
it. it has a round wick like the old-fashioned  
"astoral" lamp - and she cuts the wick evenly and trims it  
as we did the "astoral" - lets it burn slowly at first  
until the wick is lighted completely - I want  
you to have the one with the glass shade but  
did not like to order it until I knew your  
mind I hope you will order ~~that~~. I shall  
have my old "astoral" lamp prepared for the  
canoe oil for I like that so much -

I got a letter from Sarah yesterday  
Frank is in tolerable health but does not feel  
as strong as before he left. They have no  
plans for the future. but will write me  
when they decide. Mary was to leave England  
for Hosen (by way of St Thomas) on the 14th  
of Nov. his letter to me, was dated the 13rd Nov.  
Siles letter was written previous to the one I got  
at West Point Sarah & the children are well  
and they seem very happy. say the weather  
is delightful - Tell my darling Guy Frankie's  
mother writes to me. "Frankie every evening  
when he prays his evening prayer asks God to  
bless his grand-mamma" - "and writes letters to me  
every day." and says Dear Grand-mamma, has gone  
to New York in the steam boat, please keep the  
dear children for me and accept my  
thanks for all your kindness to me and  
believe me your affectionate Aunt

Ann, (let's see -

Mr & Mrs Howard)



Graham

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West Point N. Y.

January 27<sup>th</sup> 58

Sir: Howard

U. S. Army.

Sir:

Knowing the deep interest you take in the service of our Lord and Shaker. I am constrained to let you know how I felt after the interview I had with you.

On my return home, I prayed without ceasing that God, in his mercy, would enable me to forget by what I had heard from you, and I never so fully felt my wretched condition, as on that night; soon after I had retired to rest, I could not sleep, for that awful warning, "This night, thy soul may be required of thee." Came vividly to my recollection, and I reflected, with bitter sorrow on my mispent life, and thought on the fate, that awaited me, if I were called, to render an account of my stewardship: but when I thought on the blessed promise, held out in Isa. 55: 7. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man, his thought, and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he



will abundantly Pardon."

I can scarcely describe the Comfort I felt from this word: it seemed as if a heavy load was immediately lifted off my heart; that I had only to cast my doubts, and fears, and sins, behind me, and enter into a new life, full of hope, in the atoning blood of my Saviour.

But when I reflect on the mediocrity of my sins, against my God; the remainder of my life, (even if spared to old age) seems far too short, to atone for my manifold transgressions. May God grant me grace, to continue in my good resolution, to serve him, and I humbly pray, that his Holy Spirit, may abide with me.

I look forward, with feelings, of pleasure and happiness, to the nights of our religious meetings. I wish they were more frequent: and Oh! how sincerely, do I wish, that our, and all of my poor misguided, companions, might be brought to the foot of the Cross. Enquiring, "what they might do to be saved?"

Oh! Sir, let me beseech you, to persevere, in the good Cause, you have entered into; You have been the instrument, in the hands

of God, of awakening, me to a sense, of my danger.

Do not be discouraged, that more do not respond to your Call: the good Seed, may soon now be springing, up in the hearts of many, and you, may yet be gladdened, by seeing a glorious harvest in the Vineyard of Christ. (I speak this, because you told me, you thought you had labored, in vain.)

In reading the life of that good Christian, (Captain Pears) I was much struck, with the similarity, of his feelings with mine;—Particularly, where he speaks of his Mother. I could almost fancy this was my own. I fervently hope, I may endeavour, to imitate his example, by serving faithfully, under the banner, of him, who died for us.

I earnestly beseech you, to remember, me in your prayers, that I may hold fast, to that which is God; and that I may set a good example, to my fellow Soldiers, and never Cause Shame, to fall on the holy Cause, in which I have enlisted.

May God in his mercy, bless you, and spare you long, to your family, and friends, is the prayer of your

Humble friend in Christ  
Wm. S. Graham



My dear wife I have forgotten to tell you that Grace says Deke meaning Gay.

that we received mutual profit from our consideration  
 of the Scriptures. The young Doctor, Graham, was there,  
 I saw him this morning & advised him to go & hear  
 Mr French. I saw him in the gallery & was glad  
 for I think, since he was baptized in youth that  
 the sooner he can come to the Lord's table the  
 better for him. After Sizzie & I got back from Sunday  
 school we thought we would stay at home &  
 only go to prayers from 1/2 past 3 P.M. till after four  
 & in the evening & go to our Soldiers Church under  
 the bell (where we have the S. School) to hear the Methodist  
 Minister Mr. Edwards. You must pray for us for  
 we are hard at work here. Howland asked me  
 to pray with him at 1/2 past 8 on Saturday nights for  
 Sids. I remember you are in my prayers & have  
 particularly done so Saturdays, but through my  
 want of watchfulness, I have not thought of it at 1/2 past  
 six, for that is not our hour of prayer. We have  
 prayers after breakfast, & before retiring besides the asking  
 our Father to bless the bounty of his providence to our use  
 & to forgive us our sins, at each meal. In the school,  
 the lecture, when I am by class & individuals I shall make it  
 a point to ask the blessing & direction of the Holy Spirit.  
 Guy is a greatly fat boy full of life & activity he uses quite long  
 sentences & talks pretty well. The baby, Grace, is fat, pretty  
 pretty & good. She is quite active, springing very much as  
 you would see & delighted with the Guy & his plays. Sizzie  
 is pretty well, looks well, but is troubled with an aching back  
 quite often - She says Give my love. I think Sizzie rejoices  
 in the Lord. She will get much attached to the Episcopal  
 Church here. Our privileges are great here. Give my love to

father & sister. I presume Ellen & Charlie are making that it is necessary to have a large party for  
them writing. I want to make my whole time tell by the operation of the spirit - always -  
I will tell them, who are not professing Christianity, very much hoping to persuade them  
to embrace the truth. I have written over to Mrs. Lee  
our society to Rev. Mr. Rogers to write to L.  
Loring in Ohio again -  
I know I should write to my old friends  
Col. Lewis & Mr. Byrd at Tampa. Gently  
I thought I should write to Mr. Lee in Florida since  
I was there. Truly  
Col. Lewis still remains in  
Cincinnati -  
Given my lady love to Emma - Anna Howard -  
tell her not to be sad there is no need in  
the coming fall. I shall write always  
back to you.  
My love to Margaret &  
William & Benjamin -  
any news from you all. Mr. Lee, Emma  
Grandpa & Uncle Paul &  
Charlie, Ellen, Arthur &  
George. His memory is  
excellent & your aff.  
J. M. Ward



Blanch Bevard has a Mixed Class of Boys & Girls. Sergeant Owens with two daughters, Mr Merker, Commissary Clerk Miss Clark, Miss Steward & Miss Turner comprise the rest of my teachers. We have been enabled to purchase a nice melodion. Our first Wednesday evening lecture or prayer meeting was poorly attended, but now the men's side is filled with soldiers & citizens who are employed here in one capacity or another & I think all the protestant wives & other women, excepting the Professors' & Officers families attend. I write an introductory portion of some seven or eight pages & fill out by extemporizing. The other nights (Sunday nights), as I was returning home from the Church a man overtook me & told me he would like to have some conversation with me. I walked & talked with him.

He was a manly, straight forward soldier of the Oregon detachment. He had been some little time under strong conviction. He said he was a dreadful sinner, utterly unworthy. I talked with him till his "tutor" which was near at hand when he came to me. He agreed to come to my room on the following day or evening. He did so - told me a little of his life, we read & talked & prayed together. His heart was burdened, but he pressed by the help of God to find a new life. I gave him a little Book containing Clarke's Selection of Bible promises. & <sup>sent him</sup> the Life of Capt. Vrears.

He went to his room, & read & prayed & before he went to sleep had found peace. He wrote me a beautiful letter giving me an account of this & urging me to keep on in my work, for he said I had been in the hands of God the means of awakening him. I have reason to thank

my Lord & Master for putting it into my heart to work here in his corner & for giving me richly of his grace. I met six of my <sup>Belle</sup> class yesterday evening at the Hospital for considering the Scriptures. I think they all knelt at prayer & were exceedingly interested. The young Oregonian, whose name is Mr Graham was one of the number. He hasn't yet met with us at the Sunday school, but will next Sunday (tomorrow). Sunday evening. I was called away yesterday immediately after dinner for the examination of a Cadet, who was sick & dumb, while his class were being examined. I did not get time to finish my letter. In the afternoon St. Mack, who used to live with us at Tumpu & whom I left there visited us yesterday & he & Cadet Carter from Portland took tea with us last evening. I was surprised to meet St. Mack & very glad to see him. This morning we had a sermon from Mr French that you ought to have heard. It was <sup>on</sup> St. John 6: 56. "Whoso eateth my body & drinketh my blood, he dwelleth in me & I in him." He dwelt upon the outward signs & also upon the inward corresponding grace. It was an appropriate & excellent sermon preparatory to the partaking of Our Lord's Supper. I think Christians often put the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper too much in the back ground. It is of great benefit to me, I trust you find it so when you go, in faith, putting your whole trust in Christ! Two of my teachers were absent today & Lizzie went to the Sunday school with me. She taught the young ladies Bible Class. My class seemed very glad to meet me & I