

West Point N. Y.
March 4th 1858

Dear Howard
U. S. A. Sir;

I wished very much to speak to you last night, but could not find an opportunity - I am going to New York for a few days, and during my absence, I wish you to remember me in your prayers; that I may be enabled to resist all temptation.

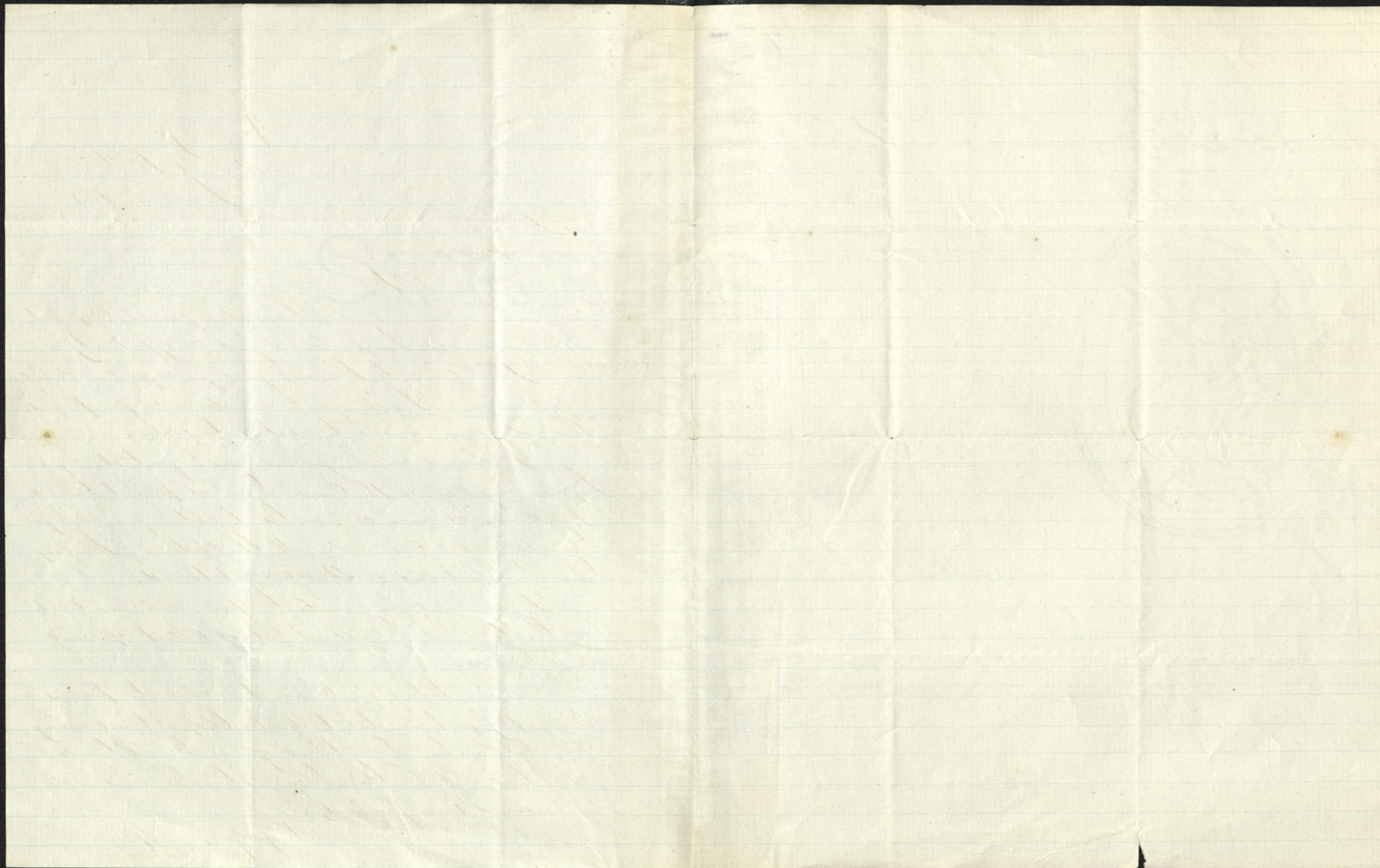
I know it will be joyful news to you that, I feel happier every day, in the course I am at present taking. I endeavor as much as in me lies, to abstain from all sinful thoughts and actions, and with the assistance of Almighty God I hope to continue steadfast unto the end.

I have but a few minutes to spare, and cannot write at length - but I could not go away without expressing my feelings.

Taking into consideration, our relative positions, in Society, perhaps I may take too great a liberty, in thus addressing you - but somehow I feel towards you as I would towards a much loved brother - therefore I beg you to excuse, what might be considered undue familiarity -

Respectfully
W. L. Chatham

Chatham



In the Gospels we have gone as far as the
sending out of the Twelve - have advanced
a few chapters in Romans (very hard) & in
Hebrews we are just beginning job. In theol-
ogy - we have gone through with the "Distance
& Unity of God" & are next to have the Eviden-
ces of Christianity - Every step in these studies
is big with eternal interests & my prayer
is that the Spirit may guide me into
the truth as it is in Jesus - My sickness
has put me back some - I would like to speak
of some the good books which I have read -
Among practical works - I have admired
Leighton's Prayer, Richer's Test & Roman -

You ought to read the "Spiritual letters" by
the first & the "Saints Rest" - There is a thing
I have learned my dear brother - impatience
for results is wrong - it is distrust of God -

We have no right to be impatient as
anything but our own faithfulness. We
must work steadily - inwardly or outwardly -
or to be more philosophic - subjectively or objec-
tively - Not to fill our own garments or to dispense
to others. But in both - God gives the increase
in his own way - at his own time. Verily, He
doeth all things well - Monday Evening

I have made my "report" & they
all seemed very much interested

Bangor March 6th 1858

My dear Mother

I received your letter a day
too late for our Annual Fast. but it will
serve me a very good purpose - We have in
the Seminary a "Soc. of Inquiry" where business
it is to obtain & disseminate information of
the religious state & needs of the unrel. portions
of which are assigned to each student &
he makes a verbal or written report on
the part assigned. I will give some account
of the religious state of the Army Monday
night & read your letter as a part of
my statement - We understand the object
of this Soc. to direct the sympathy & prayers
of Christian ministers in this particular
province of God's Kingdom. I wish I knew
more of the system of Chaplaincy in the
Army - its spirit & effects -

I have been confined to my room
by an influenza for a week & unable to
study for two - but I now feel quite well
again & am in hopes that I will be
able to perform my Sunday labors for
Tomorrow, which I have now missed
for two Sabbaths - Ella wrote me a very
kind but by no means inspiring letter

yesterday - Her Aunt Rachel. Father's wife.
whom you may have seen & who seems
almost like a Mother to her - having had
the care of her while her Mother was at sea
a good deal. lies at the point of death. You
would admire the spirit in which Ellen
wrote - it was, "Not me, will be - thine
O Lord be done". Aunt Rachel is in joyful
expectation of the "Rest which remaineth for
the people of God" - & our prayer is that this
visitation may be blessed to her Mother.
Ellen Father - We have prayed much for him
& we will continue, abiding God's own time.

Mother wrote me an excellent letter last
Sunday - She speaks of Father's disappointment
& chagrin at my change of profession. I
feel so completely in the hands of my
Heavenly Father that those regrets which I
often bear, seem to me childish feelings
against the immutable will of our great

Father - I may have been precipitate in
my decision - but God will overrule
even that precipitation to His own glory.

It seems to me now - that with His
blessed assistance, I would try to preach
His Gospel though every friend opposed;
But - blessed be His name, the way has

been prepared & the path strewn with roses
before me - God will do it. Alas - but you &
Lizzie. Mother Ella Cleaveland & Aunt Rachel.
Here all bidden me Godspeed & if I have
any fear or any trouble it is - that the trials
have not sufficiently come to test & make me
sure of my faith - my personal faith in the
Lord Jesus Christ. I have stepped off from
the hills of vanity, or it were, on to the Mount
of Religion - without having sufficiently tried
the valley of humiliation & purification.

O I long for holiness - self renunciation. It
is not much to renounce the world - but
it is hard to wholly & always to renounce
self - & live only for God. When self-lust seems
least - there will often something occur - some little
prick that will make it start up again & then
its distance & power in the heart. It is my
prayer to have "Christ formed within me" - to
have my life hid with Christ in God.

Now I wish you could share my reading & study.
The world is full of blessed books besides the
glorious word of God. I had known nothing
of them - & to me new fields of inquiry - of
information - & truth are opening up each
day & none of them seem trivial or unimportant
for they all have to do with Heaven.

up the hillside into the Celestial City
to the very presence of Him in whom
now I trust he has found rest.

I am nearly thro with my
studies. In July our class graduates
& we shall be sent out to the work. I
hope we shall all find places in our
Masters vineyard where our Masters smile
will reward our labors. Need I say that
it wld give me sincere pleasure to see
you down here at our anniversary? You have
a brother here - can't that induce you? I
shld be heartily glad to grasp your hand
once more - & be introduced to the one whose
sagacity you once showed me - in No 27. M.H.
& whose companionship has made you happy
since. Whenever my home may be in the future,
I trust one of its enjoyments will be visits
from you - & you may be sure you will always
find my latchet hanging outside the door - & a seat for
you at my table - Will you come?

If ever you see any of our Classmates
please give them my kindest regards -
My best respects to Mrs. Howard & so
my dear classmate remember me always as
Your friend J. S. Sewall

Bangor. Mar. 13 1858

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My dear Howard

It is a long time
since your good letter came - &
I feel many twinges of conscience
when I think I have not yet
replied to it. But if you cld
see the vast variety of duties that
press upon me this year you wld
see the reasons why I have not
written before, & why I must write
hastily now. I read & re-read your
letter with hearty gratitude to God
who has call'd you from darkness
to light - & has I trust commissioned
you to do good in our Army where
Christian labor is so much needed.

I am glad you have decided to
remain in your present position
instead of leaving it for the ^(perhaps) more
inviting duties of the Ministry.

for I do believe that our Saviour
wants witnesses there for His cause;
& I have a great deal of faith that
He will make you such a witness -
a soldier in His ranks as well as
in the Army of the Country - "a workman
that needeth not to be ashamed". I
wish you every facility in carrying
on His work, & every success you
can desire or He may please.
Oh that God would "bless the whole
lump" with His Spirit, by the toil
& self-denying efforts of His earthly
followers! You see by the papers how
many places He is visiting in mercy -
if He would only visit all places
& never more leave them! I long
for the millennium of true holiness
& the reign of Emmanuel on earth.
It seems as if "the smog of
iniquity" had ruled in our hearts

& among the nations long enough.
Let us pray that we may be all
delivered from that desperate bondage
& brought under the happy & complete
sovereignty of our Lord Jesus.

I hear indirectly from Geo. Sull
that he is "almost gone" - but, thank
God, he hopes "he has found peace
in the Saviour". I trust he has.
He was always more or less a
thinking man - & recently I fully
believe has been a sincere inquirer
after the way of salvation. I have
written him several times - wrote
him this morning. Probably he cannot
last much longer. His feet may
even now be slowly wading the cold
waters of that "Jordan" wh. divides
the heavenly land from ours. I pray
that the "shining ones" may meet him
on the other bank & lead him safely

well & happy. & Jamie is a little
treasure which we will show
you next summer, God permitting.

I hope father is well. Sippie sends
love & says wants to send a kiss. which
he has just presented in form.
Grace is in some other room
playing. Remember me
affectionately to all our friends &
neighbors. I hope Mr Chapman's
labors will be blessed. but he must
remember that one Sowell & another
reapeth often, very affectionately
Yr Son - Otis

West Point N.Y.

15 March 1858

My dear Mother,

I have often spoken
of Mr Gray's family in my letters & Rowland,
Ellen & Charles, know them. Since I wrote
Mr Gray has died & left them in
great affliction. Yesterday, I received
news by telegraph from Syracuse
that he was dead & then I went
on the sad mission to the Hall
of imparting the message to
Mrs Gray & her daughter. Mrs Gray
is weak & sick & this new grief
seemed almost to take her life, but
I think she has found strength in God.
The worst trial is perhaps to come
when they bring his body home tomorrow
to be buried. I have been supplying Mr
Gray's pulpit for some time. The people
are so poor that I don't know when

They will get a clergyman. Mr Gray worked himself to death, by doing the duties of his office & undertaking to practice medicine among his people at the same time. My has had an attack of influenza or Quinzy. He has not been sick abroad but his breathing has been so bad that it has occasioned us some anxiety. He seems better this morning. I think he will soon be completely well if he does not take fresh cold. We had a snow storm yesterday. so that winter seems to return upon us. Sizzie is pretty well but takes too little rest & I am afraid is working too hard. My own health is good. Mrs Wing is under great anxiety on account of her husband. He arrived in New Orleans long enough ago, so that she could have heard from him by mail twice. & she has not heard a word. She says he always writes immediately. She feels

a dreadful anxiety, worse I believe than if she knew he was sick. We had another cadet, baptized last Sunday - and more people still of our post have become followers of Christ. Mr Irving, our Architect Mr Stewart & his daughter & the man that drives his Omnibusses & another member of our Sunday School.

The Officers seem ~~almost~~ unaware of the work the Lord is doing around them. & the Cadets generally manifest no special interest. Thus we see, that "God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" ---- "That no flesh should glory in his presence". I hear good news of the City of Newbury of this kind, that men are turning to the Lord. I hope to very soon see a great ingathering here before I leave - but the will of God be done. Grace is

especially in cities such times never was
known before in this country, we are having
revivals all around us still we seem to be
asleep, Elder Nutter preaches here now they
talk some of hiring him a year they are
going to have the meeting house repaired
this Spring. Charles Lane has bought the
Mitchell farm they move the first of
April Doctor Loring is going to move in the
house. give my love to Lizzie tell her to write
some in your letter. I shall not answer
my letter to P till I get one from you
I want to know what time you are
coming what you think about the
plan, I feel that it is asking a great
deal of you, if you have to go to any
extra expense I will pay you for it
when I see you write soon

your true friend Laura

P.S. I will give you her address
Isabella Brewster No 755 Fourth
St below German



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Leeds, Mass 17th 1858

Dear Cousins

I have been thinking of writing
for some time, now having a favor to ask of
you. I received a letter last week from my
Cousin Isabella she thinks of visiting me
this summer, in my last letter to her I
mentioned that you were coming ^{home} on a visit
and that if she should could come I would
try to plan it so she could come in com-
pany with you, she wants to know when
she shall get ready and before I answer
her letter I want to hear from you I
want you to write what you think about
it I don't dare to have her come alone
for you know how little she knows of
the ways of the world, if it will not be
asking too much I should like to have
you write to her a week or two before you
start naming the day and where she shall
meet you in New York I do want her to

to come with you, & shall feel safe knowing
she will be well taken care of. but as things
are now I fear I cannot make her visit
a happy one. I pray God there will be
some change for the better before that time
poor Aunt Martha is growing worse every day
so that I cannot manage her alone. it is
very difficult to get her to eat or keep her
from destroying things. Oh it would make
your heart ache to see her; what I have
passed through since I saw you none but
my God knows, but blessed be his holy
name he has ever been round about me
for good, I think I have enjoyed more
of his presence than for many years past
before I was afflicted & went astray I
think sometimes how can I stay here
any longer, but when I think how kind
they have been to me I will not leave
them now in their deep affliction, poor
Uncle Ensign it is wearing him out fast he
never had anything like this, she is much
worse than when they carried her to Dayton

last fall, but we live in hopes there will
be some change in her this Spring, April
was the time that her health began to fail
Oh pray dear Cousin if it is his holy will she may be
restored to her reason and to her family
but we would say not our will but his be
done, Johns family moved yesterday are
setting up their things to day I shall not
be quite so lonely now. Uncle E. was down
to your Mothers last Friday they are well
Bowland has been sick with a cold but
has got better, how I do want to see
your dear little children tell Lizzie
I often think of her, she was an example
to me with how much courage and fortitude
she bore her troubles last summer I did
feel so glad that she found her Saviour
when most she needed his help Oh what a
blessed thing it is that we have Jesus for our
friend that we can go to him and tell all
our troubles. Oh we have reason to rejoice
to hear such good news from all parts of
the Union souls are being converted

Portland March 17 / 58
 Lieut O O Howland

Dear Sir

I recd your
 Esteemed favor of 25th Ult by due
 course of Mail - and should have
 answered before but have waited
 to see if I could get hold of one
 or two Shares of Bank Stock -

I have not yet succeeded in getting
 hold of any but shall get some
 in April if not before - our
 Banks declare their dividends
 in April - and no one will
 sell now without they can get
 as much or more than it will
 be worth then. if I can get it
 right - will buy you two Shares

I consider our Banks here
safe & sound - Especially the
the Canal & Casco investment
in such Stock can always be
turned into Cash when you wish
Shall I take the Stock in the
Name of your Wife;

We were glad to learn
that you self and Family were
well and so pleasantly situated
May the best ^{Heaven's} Blessings
ever be the portion of you self
and dear Family -

The Subject of Religion
has been a Subject of great interest
here for a week or two past
prayer ^{meetings} are being held ^{every}
in different parts of the City
and ^{it} may truly be said as of
old, there is great joy in this City

we expect quite a Number to
be added to our little Church
on St Lawrence St - on the first
Sabbath in April our Meetings
are full interest for the Lord;
is doing his own work -

May we all be faithful to
do our work that the Lord;
may still abide with us -

Wife and Lizzy join in
Sending much Love to you all

Your Affectionate

Uncle

E Waite

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One week ago today was set by Dr Whipple for
a surgical operation in the removal of
my tumor in my breast - it has already
extended to the axilla and is a dangerous
tumor and must be removed by the knife
as no medicine can do any good - except
is prevailing here so the Dr advises me to
delay the operation a few weeks longer
I am in as good health as when I was at
your house & my physician at Brooklyn
said it had increased one half whilst
I was away and he said I must have it
removed by the knife - These operations
are always attended with danger - more or
less - mine is not more so than any other
I have been in consultation with physicians
for the last month and have been preparing
for the operation I felt quite alarmed at
first but now I am anxious to have it performed
was disappointed that it could not have been
done the day appointed - I have written to
but not to my Brothers & Sisters about this operation
forget not to pray for me I need the presence
of the Spirit at all times I am comforted - Charles
Sargent went to Maine last week will go back to
New York next week I may go on with him and
return here again before my surgical operation
the furniture will be sold before the first of
May my tumor is quite trouble some about my writ-
ing and I am tired - write to me often and accept
my love to both of you and your dear little ones -
with kind regards to any who may remember me at your
place - I hear from Frank, Sarah and Perry often they were
all together that of Feb. my last letter all well and good
spirits. Help my mother for Auntie Lee and tell her you
affectionately attached aunt - Ann Otis Lee

Ann Lee

East Cambridge March 19th/58

My Dear Otis & Annie,

I have been here 4 weeks and
have put off writing to you from time to time, but
not because I have not very often spoken and
thought of you, and all the kind Christian
friends I met at West Point. yesterday was a
day set apart for prayer and conference by
the church here. I attended the meeting in the
afternoon and evening - I was reminded of my
feeling at West Point in respect to the hope of
a revival of Religion there. This is a time of
"the out pouring of the spirit of God upon his
people. It is important that the children of
God should to the utmost of their ability work
the work of God. It should be the passion of
every one who has named the name Christ. "What
wouldst thou have me to do?" This is a time of
refreshing from the presence of God. my heart is
drawn towards you I trust God will make you
my Dear Brother in Christ an instrument ⁱⁿ of turning
many to the Saviour, work while it is called to-day

and I rejoice to feel that Silas prays with you
and is truly a help meet in this good work -
write to absent friends be faithful to those
at hand God has called you into his vineyard
at a most blessed period, the fields are
truly ripe for the harvest. I trust neither
you or your fellow labourers are faint
or discouraged. "for in due time you shall
reap if you faint not." My letter from Silas
give me hope he is truly an awakened
sinner his letters are marked with ^a spirit
of humility and penitence which gives me
hope and there have been marked and to a
striking providences, which have led him to an
examination of himself he has a pious friend
who is deeply interested for his conversion and
has long known my desire for his conversion
my dear Ales who can say that my visit
to you was not ordered for the express pur-
pose of interesting you in this to me most
important work of turning a soul from the
errors of its ways and thus sending the life
of Capt. Bickers to Silas opened the way for an
awakening of the best feelings of Mother Ales
which needs but the blessing of God for the

incoming of that holy spirit the comforter to con-
vince ^{him} of all this wants and enable him to apply
for the sealing of the Spirit. cease not to pray and
labour for the conversion of sinners for it is
God that worketh in you to will and to do
of his good pleasure - Write to Dear Silas for
he says he is convinced of his own inability
to save himself - I am sorry he is seeking after
doctrines of men. or looking for the religion
of the world. but fear not to warn sinners
night and day - for God has much people
yet to be converted - and aims to ^{be} blessing
the praying souls in all the families of our
land who know but he will pour us out
a blessing and awaken and convert all and
every one who are dear to us. write again
to our Dear Ales Woodman God has broken up
his strong hold upon Ales. he has broken up
his heart. now is the time. for oil and wine is
not the way open to you? his letter was inco-
hering - cease not to warn day & night. for the soul
is precious remember he that saveth ~~a~~ souls shall
shine as the stars of the firmament forever -
be a collaborer with the blessed Saviour to turn our
my to righteous ways - again I say cease not to pray -

is rejoicing ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ "hope" again, & how much
I do hope it will be a lasting joy one
that will accompany him through the
journey of life, seems to me he must
retrace his steps a good way back and
begin the Christian's course anew, God is
truly a God of mercy, and "his mercy
~~endureth~~ ^{endureth} forever" some of our
neighbors have been called to be here
no more, Caleb Sumner very suddenly
with a lung fever, Wilson Gilbert, he
had a lingering, and severe sickness
but through the merits of the Savior
he found peace in believing, which
greatly soften'd the sting of death, he
gave away his two little boys and settled
his little worldly affairs as nearly as possible
Our neighbors are about as usual, the farmers
are securing their help for the season
and preparing their wood for the year,
Charles Lane, (the husband of Sarah Turner
that was) has bought ~~the~~ ^{the} Perry. Hitchcock's
farm, and is about moving there, I anticipate

When I left my letter I expected your father to write immediately & give you a good long letter from Charles and
 "Redmond" in health and have heard from him.
 That this is a quarter the
 "I always hope to hear of you." I am
 Perhaps you know me one or two by name & do tell of my little
 The women are all happy & I have just seen them in the north room. Your father is quite as usual.
 Lizzie has been at school since she got out of school.
 Gladly yours,
 1858.

It is now just two months since the date of your last letter directed to me, which was received with much pleasure and has been read and reread a number of times, and always with the same comfort to my heart. I have heard from you once through Mr Howland. Since, I was happy to hear you say in your letter that Lizzie's health was better and that the little ones were healthy and joyous, and still hope the same blessing attends you. Your father and myself have had good health as usual through the winter, and our winter has been unusually mild. I have had letters from Howland until the two weeks past, & you probably hear often from him. I had one from Charles one week since, and from Nellie this week he was confined to his room when he wrote had been threaten'd with fever. Warren Abner was here Monday. We had not seen

him for nearly five months. Emma Mower
has become pious, there have been a great
number converted in Green, it is more than
five months since the enquiring meetings
commenced there, and they have been blessed
in their efforts, William Longely is one
of the converts, I could not tell you anything
of the kind in Leeds, I don't know of any
establish'd prayer meeting in town but there
may be in some parts of it, I met with Laura
last week, she said she had written lately to
you, so of course you know how she is
situated, Aunt Martha's Malady increases
this spring I have never heard anything from
my sister Lize since you went on, last fall
untill lately, I have heard she was in a
hospital some where near Mrs Hassard's
I should like see her but do not expect it
I shall, when I have read in the newspapers
of the reformation, in and around Boston
I thought Ann would enjoy it, if she
was with Mrs Hassard, but it seem'd
sudden to hear that her life is at stake

I have heard from Ella through Rowland
and Charles quite often she feels it a great
affliction the death, of dear Aunt Rachel
who had car'd for so many years, there are
many aching hearts, for lost ones, at all
times, It is now about a year since Mrs
White and Lizzie and Jory got here
and I hoped were resting themselves
but the weather is so mild and the fields
so dry you can walk anywhere, it is a
year since Henry Strickland's family were
here, I have been very lonely in respect to
my friends through the winter but have
some resources of comfort that were precious
I have felt as though you and Lizzie were
beside and happy, and Rowland seem'd
happy in pursuit, of true knowledge, Mahala
has lived with me through the winter your
father and I, have lived alone a week at
times, when Mahala has been home to make
a visit Rowland and family are well Johnnie
is active and strong, but does not articulate
any words yet, I hear of late that George

Rev. J. B. Lyman
those who met in Lane Class the
members of the Methodist or
any particular Church so
that they become members of
the Class. bound to its rules
of purity and attendance and
a work you could be leader
your wife and a few others
would doubtless like it
I think it would be well
for you to inform her often
what peculiar blessings attend
your public efforts. to your
own soul. then she would
love to promote your interest
in continuing these means of
your happiness I thank her
sincerely for the kind word of
prayer. Keep the little ones for
me as unknown ones to them
God bless you abundantly -
yours in love J. B. Lyman

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Brunswick Ga March 31st 1838
My Dear bro Howard

I recd your welcome letter
some days since to which
I would then reply but I was
deeply engaged. preparing an
article for the press. on the
subject of Class meetings it
was intended to call the attention
of our next Gen Conference
to the subject. it spread out
before me so much that I had
to put it in apportioned form
and adduce no arguments
let I defeat my object by having
the article unreadably long -
your letter cheered me much
Providence doubtless has directed
your appointment to West Point
you are doing much very much
good. the bread thus cast upon
the waters will be gathered up
in part soon & largely hereafter

After reading your letter I went
to the throne of grace with your
Case & for your respecting doubts
as to uniting with some Church
I said on my knees in the fulness
of my heart. Lord direct Bro
H. to unite with that Church
in which he may be most
useful and happy I said
Lord I ask not that it may
be any in my preference, or
in his own eye, when I thought
of or weighed in any earthly
considerations. Oh God
direct him to unite with that
Church in which he will do
the most good and bring
most glory to thy name
This I pray a gain while I am
penning these words & will
pray continually until
God in his wisdom will
place you out of reach of

this troublesome doubting on
this all important question
But your eternal interest
and happiness depend on your
having the mind of the Spirit
of God in making this decision
and should it be contrary to the
inclination of your charming
wife God will overrule it to
her personal good -

I think it would be well for
you to form a class meeting
with the names of all names
in which to talk often one
with another about the mercy
& goodness of God to your souls
This is a grand spiritual dipping
rod, that teaches the depth of
the soul, and produces the
great good of a name in the
book of Gods remembrance
Read Malachias 11 Chapter
It is not necessary that