
890 3/4/1858

From: W. S. Graham

To: Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-0830

West Point N.Y.

U.S.A.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
March 4th 1858

Lieut 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 joyfull news to you that, I feel happier every day, in the course I am at present taking. I endeavour as much as in me lies, to abstain from all sinfull 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. S. Graham

891 3/6/1858 *From:* [RB Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0831

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor March 6th 1858

My dear Brother

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", whose business it is to obtain & disseminate information of the religious state & needs of the world, 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. You understand the object of this - viz. to enlist the sympathy & prayers of Christian ministers in this particular province of Gods 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 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 sad but by no means desponding letter yesterday. Her Aunt Rachel, Father's sister, 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 Ella wrote. It was "not my will but 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 brother, Ellas Father. We have prayed much for him, & we will continue, abiding Gods own time.

Mother wrote me an excellent letter last Sunday. She speaks of Fathers 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 frettings 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 did it, Otis, but you & Lizzie, Mother, Ella, Charley & Aunt Rachel, have all bidden me God speed & 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, as it were, on to the mounts 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-love seems least, then will often something occur, some little prick that will make it start up again & then its existence & power in the heart. It is my prayer to have "Christ found within me" to have my life bid with Christ in God.

How 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 the Highest.

In the Gospels we have gone as far as the sending out of the twelve, have advanced a few Chaps in Romans (very hard) & in Hebrews we are just beginning Job. In Theology we have gone through with the "Existence & Unity of God" & are next to have the Evidencies 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 Fenelon, Baxter, Bickersteth & Bonar. You ought to read the "Spiritual Letters" by the first & the "Saints Rest". Here 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 at anything but our own faithlessness. We must work steadily inwardly or

outwardly so to be more philosophic, subjectively or objectively, work to fill our own granary 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. [See Note 1] I know your heart would have joined in the closing prayer. It was an earnest supplication for the Army & particularly in answer to the request of your letter for an outpouring of the Spirit upon your Institution.

I have just received a letter from dear Ella telling me of the death of her loved Aunt. She died this morning at two o'clock. She suffered dreadfully till a day since. Since then she has been enjoying "sweet sleeps" & waking every now and then almost surprised that she was not in Heaven. She would say "The Lord calls me". She seemed to bear it distinctly. I wish you could see Ellas letter, but I have not time to write it. She was singularly modest. She requested that she shouldn't be mentioned at her funeral & that they should not change their dresses. Ella says - "She said yesterday. "The Lord called me last night & I thought I was going right off. O I am going, bless the Lord." - continues - "Ever since she said that I have felt an awe upon me, as if Angels were around & as if Jesus himself had come among us. Yes, He is here! & holy angels are waiting to bear the blessed Spirit home. How can any one look with indifference on a death bed like this?"

O my dear Father! I will be the means of bringing him to Christ! O it seems as if it would kill him almost. He'll stay there & watch her & the great tears will roll over his cheeks, dear Papa!" That was written yesterday, & as I said, she entered into her Rest this morning. O our prayer is for him, can't you help us a little Otis? I know you & especially, dear Lizzie, who has just tasted the cup, melt in sympathy with dear Ella. A few words from either or both would be very sweet to her. Blessed be Jesus, she don't need consolation much but she does love sympathy, the communion of the saints.

Yesterday was a sweet Sabbath to me. We had a sweet season at the table of our Lord, & I in my Sunday Schools. My prayers are with you dear Brother & Sister & so, thank God is their precious Saviour.

A kiss for the little ones each & much love from

Your Brother
Rowland

[Note 1. The remainder of this letter was taken from ooh_0918, which was missing the opening pages. The reference to the death of Ella's aunt and the report Rowland had delivered make it fit very well to this letter, which was missing the closure.

892 3/13/1858 *From:* J.S. Sewall

To: My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0832

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor. Mar. 13 1858

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 c'd see the vast variety of duties tht press upon me this year you w'd see the reason why I have not written before, & why I must write hastily now.

I read & reread 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 thou 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 tht He will make you such a witness, a soldier in His ranks as well as in the Army of the country. "A workman tht 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 tht God w'd "leaven 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 w'd only visit all places & never more leave them! I long for the millennium of true holiness & the reign of Immanuel on earth. It seems as if "the mystery of iniquity" had ruled in our hearts & among the nations long enough.

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

I hear indirectly from Geo. Suell tht 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 believed has been a sincere inquirer after the way of Salvation. I have written him several times - wrote him this morn'g. 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 tht the 'shining ones' may meet him on the other bank & lead him safely 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 Master's vineyard where our master's smile will reward our labors. Need I say tht it w'd give me sincere pleasure to see you down here at our anniversary? You have a brother here - cant that induce you? I sh'd be heartily glad to grasp your hand once more, & be introduced to the one whose Daguerreotype you once showed me in No 27 M.H. & whose companionship has made you happy since. Wherever my value 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 latch string 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 [Bowdoin COLlege class of 1850]

893 3/17/1858 *From:* Laura [Howard]

To: Dear Cousins [OO
Howard]

OOH-0834

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Mar 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 by her she 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 company 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 to 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 come with you. I 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 I 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 <Bayside> 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. Rowland 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 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 Nurttter 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 their house.

Give my love to Lizzie. Tell her to write some in your letter. I shall not answer my letter to I 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 [B. Howard]

PS I will give you her address
Isabella Brewster No 755 fourth St below German

894 3/17/1858 *From:* Uncle E. Waite

To: Lieut OO Howard

OOH-0835

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland March 17 / 58

Lieut OO Howard

Dear Sir

I recvd 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 Aprill if not before. Our banks declare their dividends in Aprill, 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 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 your self and family were well and so pleasantly situated. May the best of Heavens Blessings, ever be the portion of your 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 daily 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 Aprill. Our Meetings are full interest for the Lord, is doing his own work.

May we all be faithfull to do our work that the Lord may still abide with us.

Wife and Lizzie join in sending much love to you all.

Your affectionate Uncle
E. Waite

895 3/19/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

To: My Dear Otis & Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-0836

East Cambridge

Source: Bowdoin

East Cambridge March 19th /58

My Dear Otis & Lizzie,

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 churches here. I attended the meeting in the afternoon and evening. I was reminded of my feelings 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 question 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 turning many to the Saviour's work, while it is called to-day and I rejoice to feel that Lizzie 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 letters 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 me 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 Otis who can say that my visit to you was not ordered for the express purpose of interesting you in this to me most important work of turning a soul from the errors of its ways and then sending the life of Capt. Vickers to Silas opened the way for an awakening of the past feelings of Mother & son which needs but the blessing of God for the incoming of that holy spirit the comforter to convince him of all his wants and enable him to apply for receiving 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 sinners to be blessing the praying souls in all the families of our land. Who knows 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 Otis Woodman. God has broken up his strong hold upon earth. He has broken up his heart. Now is the time for oil and wine is not the way open to you & his letter was encouraging <sure> not to warn day & night for the soul is precious remember he that saveth souls shall thrive as the stars of the firmament forever as ever be a co-laborer with the blessed Saviour to turn many to righteousness. Again I say cease not to pray.

One week ago to-day was set by Dr Warren for a surgical operation in the removal of my Tumor in my breast. It has already extended to the armpit and is a dangerous tumor and must be removed by the knife as no medicine can do any good. Erreripeles 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 phisician at Brooklyn said it had increased one half while 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 consultations with phisicians for the last month, and have been preparing for the operation. I felt quite allarmed at first but now I am anxious to have it past and was disappointed that it could not have been done the day appointed. I have written to Silas but not to my brother & sisters about this operation. Forget not to pray for me. I need the preparation of the spirit at all times but I am contented.

Charles Sargent [Note 1] 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 troublesome about my writing 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 third of Feb. My last letters all well and in good spirits. Kiss Guy and Grace for Auntie Lee and believe me your affectionately attached aunt.

Ann Otis Lee

[Note 1: Charles Sargent (1835-1916) was the brother of Frank Sargent, Ann's son-in-law.]

897 3/31/1858 *From:* Rev. D.B. Synde

To: My Dear bro [OO]
Howard

OOH-0838

Brunswick Ga

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick Ga, March 31st 1858

My Dear bro Howard

I recd your welcome letter some days since to which I would then reply but as 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 aphoristic form and adduce no arguments but 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 sown & largely hereafter.

After reading your letter I went to the throne of grace with your case & for you 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 even, when 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 again 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. Bro 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 inclinations 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 pious of all names in which to talk often our wish and the other about the mercy & goodness of good to your souls.

This is a grand spiritual divining rod, that teaches the depth of the soul, and produces the great good of a name in the book of Gods remembrance. Read Malachias III chapter. It is not necessary that those who meet in said class the numbers of the Methodist or any particular church so that they become members of the class, bound to its rules of piety and attendance once a week. 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 those means of your happiness.

I thank her sincerely for the kind word of prayer. Kiss the little ones for me an unknown one to them. God bless you abundantly

Yours in love
D.B. Lyne

Rev. D.B. Lynde [written in another hand]