
898 4/3/1858 *From:* John Gilmore

To: Dear Otis & Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-0839

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 3 1858

Dear Otis & Lizzie

As your mother has written you I shall merely write you a few lines on business. I herewith send you a copy of the Inventory on your mothers estate. Is it your wish that any of the notes should be collected. The note against S.S. Whitman does not read on Interest but was appraised as though it were. He will not be obliged to pay Interest unless it is demanded. Shall I make a demand of him or shall I try to collect that or any other notes. I received \$28 for the dividend on Bank shares last October & there will probably be another due the first of this month - also \$93 in February of the <Precursor> of the Atlantic & St Lawrence R R Co.

Yours affectionately
John Gilmore

31 shares in the Atlantic & St Lawrence R R Co at \$70 per share	2170
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7 Shares Canal Bank	700
Note Noth S Perley June 3 /57 \$275.00	282
Note S S Whitman Aug 27 /55 42.42	48
Note Alden Whitman Sep 9 /55 40.00	45
Note Everett H Jones Oct 10 /55 308.52	347

\$3592

Dated Nov 9 1857, Appraisers:
Nathan W Coffin
Melvin Bury
William Pusser

899 4/7/1858 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0840

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
April 7th 1858.

My dear Mother

I could often write you a few lines, but I have been accustomed to write long letters and don't like to sit down unless I see at least one hour before me. I received your affectionate letter today and was glad to hear from you. I have often of late thought of writing, but now will set about it if I do not fill more than a page.

Since I wrote you I have found much to engage my attention. It occurred to me some two weeks ago that I might open a prayer meeting among the Cadets. I started for the Commandant to get a room, but stopped on the way at the Chaplains quarters, to ask his approval. He was in favor of the project, if I could bring it about. Knowing Mr Tannatt & Mr Wright of the first class, I consulted with them (they are teachers in the Sabbath School) and we decided to try. Col. Harder gave me a room which was vacant in the barracks, and we met on the following Thursday evening during the half hour's release from quarters after supper. We had seven at the first meeting all professors of religion, at the next on the following Monday there were three new faces and three more at the last. One young man was seeking religion and came to talk with me. He prayed in the meeting for mercy and on Sunday last sought Mr French to get encouragement. On last Monday evening I noticed that his face was very bright as though joy was in his heart.

The young men who have come, have manifested a good deal of gladness that the meeting was organized and I think many more will come when they learn that it is open to all.

I hope Dellie's fever ended in symptoms. I don't hear a word from Charlie. Is his school done - I presume it is before this time.

Lizzie says tell father that it isn't best to collect or demand Mr Whitman's note nor try to collect any of the others. She wishes him to keep what he has collected, till we go on in the summer.

Why don't the Christians in Leeds emulate their brethren else where? Have'nt you any preaching at Leeds now? It will not be long before we will be on our way to Maine. The Examination commences the first of June & will probably end by the 20th. After that we shall go as soon as possible. Give my love to Rowland & Cynthia, & Johnnie. Lizzie sends her love.

Very affectionately your Son,
O.O. Howard

Give my love to Uncle Ensign's family. I have been in hopes Aunt Martha would be better this spring. Aunt Ann wrote us that she was having a surgical operation or going to have one to remove the cancer that has been troubling her. I don't think she is in much danger but she may be as it has got to be pretty large. It is rather a large tumor then or cancer. She didn't call it a cancer when here I don't think. I hope she is well through with it by this time. She didn't say anything about going to a Hospital.

I am glad that George Lothrop, Wm Longley & Emma Turner have found peace in the mercy & love of Christ. May God keep them by his Grace.

Sixty-four of the Supper Company to which Warren belonged when you & father were here left for Utah a week ago last Tuesday. I addressed them before they left as well as I could by the help of God & pointed them to Christ. They seemed much interested and I trust many of them will learn to turn directly to Christ the author of Salvation to all that <close> with his offers of mercy.

900 4/10/1858 *From:* G. T. Bedell

To: Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0841

West Point Hotel

Source: Bowdoin

West Point Hotel

April 10 1858

My dear Sir

I had hoped to have had the pleasure of an introduction to you during my visit, but have been disappointed. I will make no apology, for these few lines, accompanying some tracts, feeling that you will appreciate the motive which dictates them.

Your interest in the religious well being of the Cadets & men upon the Point has excited my warmest sympathy; and I cannot but offer to add to the efficient assistance which your faithful & excellent chaplain gives, any aid which my position in the city may enable me to give in furtherance of your plans & efforts. If I can send or procure for you any books, tracts, or information which will be serviceable, I beg you will not hesitate to command me in any way. From frequent visits to the Point, I am impressed both with a sense of the great spiritual need developed here, & of the peculiar obstacles which lie in the path. It needs a vicar. I trust that God has raised you up to imitate that noble man. And if either Mr French or yourself will indicate any method by which an outsider can facilitate your labors, I assure you that nothing will afford me greater pleasure.

Mrs Bedell & I brought up some tracts hoping for an opportunity of distributing them, but it has not occurred. It is possible they may fall in with your plans, and I therefore beg permission to leave them with you. At Mrs French's request part have been placed in her hand.

With paternal regard

Yours

G. T. Bedell

Lieut. Howard

901 4/12/1858 *From:* Geo. Jas. Campbell *To:* O.O. Howard Esqr

OOH-0842

Fort Leavenworth K.T.

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Leavenworth K.T.
April 12th 1858

Lt. Howard
Dear Sir:

We are now staying at this place patiently awaiting for some further orders. The men of the Co. are all well but very much disgusted with this Post from the fact that one cannot possibly keep clean, this being decidedly the dirtiest spot that ever I saw, both Officers and men that we see here are so different from the neat and cleanly persons that one meets on the Point being always covered with mud from head to foot. The men of the different Corps that are here staying waiting for orders are the most miserable set that I ever saw.

Yesterday being the Sabbath a number of us started to find the Chapel which after some trouble we succeeded in finding it, but also found it closed. We were told by some of Arty. That there would be service at 2 & 6 p.m. but there was none during the day that we could discern. In the evening Artifes, Ayres, Seville, Prescott and a number of the rest of the party enjoyed ourselves in singing Sacred Music. I assure you my dear Mr Howard that more than one of our party miss our Sunday & Wednesday evening services at the point.

On the Boat coming up here from Jefferson City we had service on Board, sermon by the President of Liberty College, but Lt Duane would not allow the men to go up to the Upper Cabin to attend it from the fact that they had a Bar room there and he did not wish to have any of the men drunk on the boat, but I think the precaution was unnecessary for men that wanted to drink I observed done so.

Many of the men have spoken often of you and the address that you delivered to us the evening before we started from the Point.

Seville, Fouse, Slayter, and Fallon join me in their regards to you and best wishes for the welfare and happiness yourself and family, hoping that God may ever bless and protect you, and that you still remember us in your prayers.

I am Sir most repecty
Your obt
Geo. Jas. Campbell

O.O. Howard Esqr
West Point

902 4/12/1858

From: G. Loomis

To: O.O Howard

OOH-0843

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Brooke Tampa Fla

Apr 12, 1858

Dr Lieut

I received your letter of March 7th so long since that I feel a little ashamed that I have not answered it before this, but the fact is I am getting old & have a disinclination to write letters or certainly more than some 20 years ago. It is more of a labor now than then. You may find it so perhaps, if you live to my age. I was born in 1789 Sep 23.

Yesterday was the holy Sabbath. Mr Meredith has closed his labor of preaching in the Court House for us. Yesterday he preached for Mr Timberlake the Methodist pastor & gave us a good sermon. In the evening Mr Timberlake preached from Ruth's words to Naomi "Entreat me not to leave thee" &c. he gave us a very good sermon. I think he is a good man, perhaps I do not think him as spiritual (in the pulpit) as Mr Lind.

Mr T. is perhaps a man of prayer. Has a female class meeting on Thursday afternoon, I believe, a male class meeting on Friday as usual. Is now trying to get the young Gentlemen & Ladies to attend a Bible class. So that he is working silently but perhaps surely for the Lord. The prayer meeting that I attended last Tuesday was but thinly attended. There was a ball at Post which might have drawn away some. I trust the Lord will hear prayer for a revival of his work in this city, Tampa, & this region & country, that his name may be exalted in this sinful place.

Tampa has become a "fast" place. Has a vigilant committee & they have sent away some men & some lewd women I understand & could hardly be persuaded not to hang some of them. This, I have by hearsay, you know.

Col Rector the Sup. Ind. Affairs has requested of me to have the S.B. Gray Cloud at Fort Myers by the 26 Inst in condition to carry the Delegations, & such Seminoles as choose to go, West. He has decided to leave by the 1st May. I have decided to let him have the Boat as far as New Orleans only unless by authority from War Dept. Rector is confident of Billy Bowlegs & many others the prospect looks fair for more than half going. Sam Jones says he wont go. The Tallahasseees have not yet been found so it is uncertain if they go or not. So of the "Boat party".

I pray that they may all be inclined to emigrate peaceably. Will you not join in this prayer? & get your friends & the friends of Christ & the Indians & the Govt., the friends of peace to unite in it also? May God in great mercy hear and send an answer of peace.

May the Lord bless you & yours. May you grow in grace & in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ to Him be glory both now & forever, amen.

Yesterday the portion of scripture read was where Zacheus being desirous of serving Christ did climb up into a tree. Where Christ was at the place he stopt & called to him to come down &c. The thought passed thro' my mind something like this - Christ is now traveling thro' the length & breadth of our land. How many will take such pains to see him as Zacheus did. Have any among you, are there any at West Point who are enquiring being desirous of loving him. Let your souls be bowed in prayer that he will visit West Point in mercy & call sinners to repent. There are many there who feel themselves wise in this world, but, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. I pray that his name may be exalted thro' out the whole world.

Yours truly
G. Loomis

O. O. Howard

903 4/22/1858 *From:* Brother Rowland
[Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0844

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Apr 22, 1858

Dear Brother

I ought to be writing an Essay "on Miracles" in preference to this but I have got real letter hungry as far as you are concerned and I suppose I won't hear a word unless I stir you up by way of remembrance. I am anxious to hear from you & Lizzie & Guy & Grace - every one. I believe if I should see Guy I would eat him up. Does he grow hourly? I expect that will vex his mother.

Our friends are all well as far as I know. It is some time since I have heard. Do you understand that the operation on Aunt Ann to be a difficult or dangerous one? My vacation is in about four weeks. I am in hopes my health will be better then. My throat troubles me some. During the great revival with which we have been blessed I have spoken almost every day & did with out difficulty - till last Sat. I took cold & when I had got through my Sunday duties & ever since till this morning I have been silent & stayed away from meetings to avoid the temptation to speak.

The revival has been extensive in Bath & many of Ellas friends have found their Saviour. Her father seems to remain among the "almost persuaded" yet, but, He will come. O that I could tell you some of the wonderful answers to prayer that have fallen under my own observation. Albert Rice writes me that there is a glorious work in Augusta. He has found the "pearl of great price".

Do you hear from Charley Mulliken? In Hallowell the work has also been glorious. Many of my last Summer friends have yielded. O that Henry & Laura Ann should still hold out. At Linden Hill Mr Butterfield (the minister) writes me, they go from house to house carrying the ark of God with them. It seems to me that I have offered some prayers of faith for that people. Emma Mower, Laura's eldest daughter, is one of the converts in Greene. Geo. Lathrop has closed his bar, destroyed his liquors & came with tears & confessed his sins. O may this the true conversion.

I have written to Louisa & thro' her to Kenedab to ask them to unite with me in praying for Father. I cannot bear to think that he should live these few years of his old age contented without his Saviour, and at last be lost. O God have mercy & soften his heart. Leeds has not be yet visited by the special influence of the Spirit, but sooner or later it must come & many of our early friends, Father & Roland among the rest will be the fruits. God will answer prayer. I suppose Charles is at home and I will write him & Mother tonight. I usually write her once a fortnight or oftener. Why Otis, the Spirit of the most High is covering over the whole land. I wish I could tell you of some of the cases of conversion in this city. I will not speak of my own efforts but I have felt for two months most of the time better than I did when first converted. It seems as if I had humbled myself before God & whenever I have done so I have been exalted. I have had many distressing moments by reason of my sins, but the greater my sin, the greater seems my blessed Saviour. I haven't written Mr Lee since he wrote me that he had found his Saviour. My mind has been full of those who have not. The wish is very quiet - seems more powerful, constant & effectual among the unconverted than among professors of religion. Nineteen were confirmed at the Episcopal Church by Bishop Burgess the other day. One certainly - James B Fiske, Rev Mr Fisher Bro gave me no evidence that he was a Christian.

It does not seem right to me for one to enter Gods holy <noble> Church with a burden of unforgiven sin, with a proud rebellious heart. What are your ministers <view> "high" or "low"? We take the "Protestant Chur"<claim> & that seems to possess an Evangelical Spirit. On the contrary the "N.Y. Chur<claim>" seems possessed of the Devil.

The Union of all denominations in this area is complete, leaving out Universalist Unitarians (many of those attend and take part in the meetings) & Episcopalians. Between the other denominations all seems harmony & love. O that all who truly love our Lord Jesus Christ could be one Church. But God has caused these divisions for his own good purpose. I have Brock's Life of Havelock & I am a little disappointed in the little I have read. The tone seemed apologetical. As if a man must make an apology for being a whole-souled Christian wherein

he is.

Your classmate Snell died four or five weeks ago. A week before, or at least a short time before he died, he expressed a "hope". O that any should wait so long. <Le?> is away now. There are three daily morning prayer meetings in the City. This is now their fifth week & I enjoyed the <one this> morning as well as ever & I still have faith that we have not seen the best of the work. Indeed my hopes are strong that a permanent & abiding change has come over the whole community & that the present serious attention of all classes to religious subjects is the omen of better times, better years & ages than the world has yet known. In England & Germany it is beginning & it will spread to all the missions, for the multiplication of prayers of faith & deeds of faith will have their reward. How are we blessed to see this day. How blessed am I - a poor unworthy faltering, falling sinner, to work directly in the vineyard of the Lord. Pray for me that God would give me health & grace. With these, it seems as if I must do something for the glory and honor of my divine Master.

Our studies suffer some interruption from our engagement in actual work, but even this is study, humbling and exalting, Elevated & profound. Even the wondrous weeks of God among the children of men.

Father seems to be not overstocked with money but I have got along nicely with what I had in the bank so far. The greatest want I feel is that I cannot buy books. O you don't know what a world of sacred literature is open to the student - precious books - that minister to both moral & intellectual life. But the Bible - O the Bible how sweet it is to my heart. Has your Saviour received <> you of late? How is dear sister Lizzie - her health, her spirits, her faith. O Lizzie, in all your distractions & cares, your perplexities & failures, think a good deal of Jesus. In our own depraved hearts there is little satisfaction, but in the ocean-like fullness of Christs love.

"There is a balm for weary souls". O how miserable we should be without Him, discouraged as we often are with Him.

Don't you love sometimes to think of the saints rest? I do. I often repeat to myself or sing (I'm a famous singer in prayer meeting!)

"O land of rest for which I sigh
When shall thine exiles come
When shall I lay my armor by
And dwell with Christ at home"

but I don't want to shirk. The battle is hard but the victory sure.

"Fight on my soul till death
We think the victory won
He'll take thee at thy parting breath
Up to thy heavenly home."

Kiss the little ones and remember me always as I try to <you> all at the throne of Grace.

Yr Bro Rowland

904 4/29/1858 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0845

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Apr 29 1858
Thurs Eve

My dear brother

I am at length seated to write you a letter. Mother is in front of me reading the Kennebec Journal. Mahala is at my right sewing on my shirt. Father is at my left reading today's Advertiser and we are all in the old dining room with a cheerful fire in the open fire-place and every thing else, as it seems to me, just as it used to be when I was not a visitor, and almost a stranger.

Mother and I returned about 5 o'clock from the Center of the town. Mrs Davie [See Note 1] is dead. She died at about 3 o'clock this morning. For about three weeks she had been sick but not so much so as to alarm any one or lead us to suppose it was her last sickness. Mother did not know but that she was as well as common until last Sabbath. She heard then that she was quite sick, at times in great distress but that she had no new troubles and they were in hopes she would recover from this sickness as she had from many when ill turns of the same kind.

Last night at sunset she was taken much worse and continued in great agony till eleven o'clock. She then went to sleep it seemed, but soon very difficult breathing and expired about 3 o'clock. Uncle Ensign was there most of the night. The Dr. was there. Her last words I think were spoken to Mr Davie and were if I remember rightly "You must think this is death. He replied he thought not, so she would be better. She made great efforts to speak afterwards but could not. These words were spoken the very first of the evening.

Rolla Jennings came down this forenoon and informed us of her death. He lives where Dr Bridgham used to. Mother wished to go up immediately so we got ready as soon as we could, leaving home about 10 o'clock. We stopped at the house till about 12 then went up to Uncle Ensign. Mr Davie was not at home however and so mother called again to speak with him, when we came back. We found Laura & Uncle & a Mrs Warren who takes care of Aunt Martha just finishing their dinner. They seemed glad to see us. I had not spoken with Laura before since I came home. We sat down to dinner in a few minutes. Afterwards Mother went to the other room, the North room, to see Aunt Martha. Laura went up stairs & got your last letter to her, and one of eight pages from Silas Lee. I could hear Aunt Martha crying out while mother was in there. Uncle said she did so about a third of the time and remainder of the time was quiet & slept for the most part.

I read Silas' letter with a good deal of interest. It seems he has been brought to reflect a little at last. The letter was written to John and in it he confessed a life of about 12 years until very lately - within about a year - worse than run to waste.

It seems that a lady acquaintance first checked him in his career. I said he had been brought to reflect, Otis. He does think but still thinks all wrong - takes the wrong side - starts wrong and yet may not go on so entirely on the downward road as he has done. I am in hopes not so ruinously to himself. He studies the Bible Sundays instead of going to Church but yet is quite sure it is a "book of fables." Wants its "contradictions & inconsistencies" cleared up before he can follow any of its directions or put any confidence in its teachings, &c, &c, &c like many, many other young and vain young men of far less exceptionable lives. He said "Otis Howard, Sarah & Mother all wrote him Christian letters but he could give them no "encouragement" as long as "these things" were unexplained satisfactory to his reason. Oh it is strange he cannot see that doing right and doing well and getting his past wickedness which he confesses he is guilty of, forgiven and living a man - a man to please his Maker & God - do good to the world & benefit himself - that all this has nothing to do with satisfying his funny reason about this or that "contradiction" or absurdity of the Bible. If he could look at it in this way and get started, bye & bye, he would I think come out bright and on the right side of the other things. The Spirit of the Lord, however, can move & melt his heart. Nothing else will do.

I came home week ago yesterday (Wednesday). I return to College next week, Thursday. I was back at College 7 weeks after my school closed. In that time I made up the six weeks I was absent excepting a review

of the Analytics which they went over the first of the Term & Prof. Smyth said I might if I pleased have ready for him on his return from Kansas, where he has gone to spend two or three weeks. He has two sons in Kansas & he & his wife went away just at the close of the term to visit them & see the country. I found mother about as well as usual. All are rejoiced to think you & your family will come on here the last of June.

You asked if I was offended at your plainness and manner of writing in the letter this winter. It was the last thing I should have thought. I think you must have forgotten that I answered your letter directly and have been waiting all the spring for another. I should have written many times, however, had not my time been all taken up as you must know by my studies & College affairs.

I see Nettie almost every night, generally right after supper. It was my walk of late & perhaps as good recreation as I could have too. I made it a point to be in my room in time to begin the mornings lesson with the rest as most frequently either I was in the room next to mine or they were in mine getting the mathematical lesson in company. Two young men, brothers by name of Howe & others of my classmates room on the same floor with me & we generally study in company.

We have had prayer-meetings in the Senior Rec. Room from 12 to 12 ½ three times in the week nearly every week since I got back. They have held likewise a union prayer-meeting at the vestry from 1 ¼ P.M. till 1/4 before two - sometimes prolonged. Our class meetings were unusually well attended & interesting. Some have been converted in every class. Moody an intimate friend of mine of my own class. Several will unite with Dr Adams' Church next Sabbath & others in June.

Have you heard anything about the death of Wilbur Savage of the Senior Class? He died with the Consumption during this last term. Left a brother in the same class. They were both always much beloved by Profs & students. I will write much more of them at another time if you like.

I have much very much I would like to write my dear brother but perhaps this is enough for one letter. All have been in bed for half an hour & I have been I find scratching away very fast & perhaps rather blindly for the last page and a half. Don't give up faithful prayers for old Leeds yet or for any one of its good people. The Lord is not afar off. The hearts of Christians are melting again. They are waking up. Mother is in a better state of mind.

I see more reason to respect & love my mother every time I come back to my home. We both went to Methodist class meeting Sat P.M. at 4 o'clock. They have a prayer-meeting at the Center at 9 ½ A.M. Sabbath days. "Hellen is hoping in Christ" ! John told me in a whisper & with joy beaming from his whole countenance as I took my seat beside him Sunday morning. Laura said today, "Hellen is happy." They had gone to Lewiston for Mr. Davie today. Mr D. poor man, refuses to be comforted. How I wish he might go to the right source for comfort. Virgil told me he wanted to be a Christian. God help him. Rowland is not well in body, but in a glorious state of mind. He will be home the last of May & then part of July then to stay till October.

I may add more to this but this will do now. God be with you & yours.

Your very affectionate brother
Chas. H. Howard

P.S. Mrs Davie's funeral will be Sunday [May 2] at 10 ½ o'clock - sermon by Elder Nutter.

[Note 1. Alice (Stinchfield) Davee died Apr 29, 1858, Aet 54, born Jan 29, 1804. She was a first cousin of Eliza Gilmore. She married Barnabas Davee on Feb 10, 1840. He died in 1877.]