
905 5/9/1858

From: F.T. Sargent

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0846

Nassau NP

Source: Bowdoin

Nassau NP May 9th 1858

Dear Otis

I was very glad to hear from you some time ago, and should have long since replied to your letter, but Sarah let Perry have it just before he went to the Isaacs, and I waited for him to bring it back again, and at the time he came back I was very much engaged and have been ever since & particularly so for the last few weeks for I have been making preparations for settling my affairs with Mr Bacon, and since he has been here I have been engaged all the time and am not near through yet.

Poor Perry has met with a double, or rather second disaster, and has each time had a narrow chance of saving his life - truly the Lord has dealt with him in great mercy and kindness, and I trust it may be the means of turning his heart to those "living waters," from which he may drink until his thirsty soul may know the way to everlasting life through the mediation of a crucified Redeemer. I wrote him a few lines on hearing of his disaster, and misfortune, and Sarah is writing him this evening. His loss pecuniarily is rather a heavy one, and he must need soon get into some good employment at once, for he has lost everything he had in the world. But there is one thing about it, he has his health and is able to go to work again.

Poor Mother I fear has before her as much as she can go through with, and I am inclined to think that sooner or later it will cost her, her life. I speak of the cancer or tumor in her breast. We feel anxious to know the result of the operation that is to be performed and hope some of the facts will unto us if she is not able.

Silas, Sarah hears from once in a while, but his letters are most unsatisfactory, pride & vanity, together with absurd stories is about all we get from him; poor mother has had little comfort in him. He has always been an expense to her and even now, he would be glad to spend in idleness all the money he could get from her, thinking or caring little how she fairs. I wish he was more like Perry or Sarah, and hope the time may come when he may feel and act differently, when he may have a more correct idea of moral principle. This will not be until the Lord sees fit to change his heart, which I trust & pray that He may do. I hope your correspondence with him may benefit him, but there is one thing of which he is possessed to a great extent, and of which he must rid himself - reliance upon his own merits. He thinks he is growing better because he has tried to be steadier, in some of his habits.

I rejoice that the work of the Lord is going on so gloriously in our land. It seems to pervade all sections, and affect all classes of men. Truly this must be the genuine work of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of men, and I trust that the work of grace may go on & become a harvest of souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. How refreshing must be the sight in that wicked city. Men of all classes, the moral man, & the most abandoned wretch, going together to the place of prayer, and with united heart & voice calling upon the name of the Lord. How often have I sighed for the privilege & pleasure of being in the midst of this great revival, and to hold some communion with those whose hearts are also to the good work that is going on, and how often I have wished that it might be my privilege to listen to the words of impressive truth from the lips of my own beloved Pastor; how much I have longed for this. But the lord has seen fit to order it otherwise, and cast my lot among this people, and for some wise end, I will not doubt, and whatever he has appointed for me to do I trust I may be willing to embark in it. I feel that I am shut out from a great many privileges here. Our Minister is a very good & also a talented man, but he is behind the age, many years, & has but little idea of spirituality in a church. However he has labored faithfully (in his way) but the fruits have been few, to be sure many have joined the church, but there is a coldness in it all, that chill ones blood.

I am getting to the end of my sheet, and must close, but not without a word regarding self. I am in a grand state of uncertainty at present, but shall probably remain here for some time to come, and try & get a living in some way. Mr Bacon leaves this week and I shall probably come to some conclusion soon after. Sarah is in tolerable health, my own is improved somewhat, & the children are each well. <Gumilla> is still at home. He often speaks of you.

I am glad to know that you are so comfortable at the Point & trust you may find it always pleasant wherever you

may go. Sarah joins in love to you, Lizzie & the chicks & believe me

Yr aff Cuz
F. T. Sargent

I am going to give a friend of Mr. Darling's, a Presbyterian clergiman in Jamaica, a letter of introduction to you. He goes north on a wedding tour & will no doubt the point, some time in July or August, and I need not ask you to show him any better attention that may be convenient. His name is "Milne".

906 5/10/1858 *From:* Gidias Thompson *To:* [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0847 Fort Independence

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Independence
May 10th, 1858

Many, many times, you have been in my thoughts, my dear friend, & I have almost seated myself to write to you, when I would be called in another direction. You too are anchored in the holy antics of a family and know the many engrossing cares.

Mr Thompson was under the impression that he had written to Mr Howard, acknowledging the receipt of the Indian Pictures &c until I reminded him, & begged that the agreeable task might be mine. Please give our many thanks to your kind husband for his trouble & tell him that the little tract he so kindly enclosed, was appropriately beautiful, and that we appreciate it, and the friendly interest that prompted him to send it. I feel daily a strong & increasing desire for the love of Christ, for I know it is that alone than can sustain us in the trials we must contend with while on earth.

We are perfectly contented in our new home, and have already spoken of the pleasure we will derive from your promised visit. You will not, must not disappoint us.

How are the dear little ones? Fannie has grown astonishingly, all the baby has morpheosed. She is big, fat, Fannie Thompson. I have had her in short dresses some time.

Mrs Arnold arrived to-day, bringing six children. T'will make quite an agreeable change for me, having been so long behind the pleasure of female society. You must let me know about what time you will come, so we will be on the "qui-vive" and meet you on the other side with the boat.

I must say good bye. Mr Thompson joins me in love to yourself & husband & a kiss for babies.

Believe me affectionately
Your friend
Gidias Thompson

907 5/13/1858 *From:* F. T. Sargent

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0848

Nassau NP

West Point
New York

Source: Bowdoin

Nassau NP May 13, 1858

My dear Cousin

I take much pleasure in introducing to you the Rev'd A I Milne of Jamaica, who with his lady contemplates visiting our country and spending a few months in travel, and should they visit your beautiful spot (which I very much hope they will) I commend them to your kind attention, and am sure you will do all you can to make them feel that they are not altogether "strangers in a strange land".

I have not the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr Milne, but know of him through Mr Darling, at whose request I give this letter, and on his account as well as my own, I again take pleasure in introducing him to your kindness and am

Very truly
Your Cousin,
F. T. Sargent

Lieut O. O. Howard
West Point
New York

908 5/15/1858 *From:* C. H. Mulliken

To: Dear Friend Oliver [OO
Howard]

OOH-0849

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

Augusta May 15th 1858

Dear Friend Oliver

Your letter of April 17th came duly to hand and with much pleasure I noted contents. Though you have neglected to write me for a long time still judging from your letter I imagine you have had your time well occupied since your removal to West Point and that the occupation has been both pleasant and agreeable to you. Upon receipt of your letter my intention was to have written you at once but many things have taken up my time and attention to the neglect of my friends since then, and as an apology let me say to you I have not forgotten you but on the contrary have wished many times that you was here to talk with me.

I commenced attending the morning prayer meetings this spring and my mind and heart became interested in the subject of religion the more I thought of the matter, the more convinced I became that this Life is but a preparation for a Life to Come and that it was my duty to live differently, that I was young, strong and well with many more blessings than lots of men are enjoying and in the full enjoyment of all these things I felt and did pray to God to pardon all my numerous sins, giving up all to Jesus to take him as my redeemer and Saviour - to bow my stubborn heart and say from this time forward I would do as near as I could what would be pleasing in His sight. I feel happier than ever before in my life and now I think I have more to live for than ever. It seems like commencing anew, but I can and will by the cheering presence of my God who is ever near me and who I feel will give me strength to steadily move forward in the christian course.

Oliver it is very pleasant to gather my family about me morning and evening and quietly sit down to read a chapter in the Bible and then for all to kneel and pray to God to keep me aright from morning till evening and from my lying down until my rising again and feeling sure he will do so. "That all who come in meekness and sincerity he will in no wise cast out." Sarah is very happy to have me do as I do and I think is greatly interested in the subject. Still I am praying daily that she may feel as I do - that she can truly say she loves Christ.

This is what I wish for, but as my time is limited I must hasten to close this. Oliver pray for me and mine and I will tell you more when I see you which I hope to do this summer. You & Mrs Howard & the children my kindest regards to them with love to Mrs H from Sarah. My family are all well and there's but little news to tell you except this. Gap't Gorgas has been ordered to Charleston S.C. and will leave next Wednesday. Lieut Todd from Watervliet relieves him temporarily. Why don't you apply for the position at once. I was talking with Gorgas this morning. He says he thinks you could get the appointment if you applied for it. I wish you might come here again. Mrs Gorgas will probably board at the Stanley House this summer with the children.

Think of it on receipt of this, and write me soon.

Very Truly Yours
C. H. Mulliken

909 5/16/1858 *From:* S G Jones

To: My dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0850

Auburn

Source: Bowdoin

Auburn May 16 1858

My dear Lizzie

After returning from prayer meeting this morning, I will spend a few moments in writing you, in answer to your last. I am very happy to hear you are all a coming to Maine so soon. I am anticipating a pleasant time, may it be so.

Sunday May 28. One week has passed away since I commenced this letter. To-day I must finish it so you can know what I can do, in regard to getting you a girl. There is a girl a sewing for Mrs Harriman would like the chance. She is called a very sociable girl. I have seen her more or less four years never <lower> no hint of her, her folks poor, widowed mother, last summer she learnt her trade of Miss Chandler business so dull she cannot have work now, perhaps you have seen her here. Her name is Marthy Nash. I should judge she is 18 or 20. I ask her what would be her price providing you hired her. She said she would work for one dollar fifty per week. I think she will suit you. She loves children. I would write you more particularly if I had time, if you understand what I mean. It will do till I see you. I hope soon, for Lewiston people are enjoying a happy season (those that are in the place). May these times ever last, reach the hearts of those. This passage came to me fret not thy self of evil-doers. How many comments worthy.

There is to be a baptism today the Methodist. Orestes is one of the number. Oh Lizzie I have a great deal to say to you. I must wait until I see you. I never experience such a reborn. Many of our worst men in the place here come out and oh what confessions I have heard. Sheriff Clark is one of them. We have morning prayer meetings, held at Auburn hall. It has been about three months since they commenced. It is called a union meeting. I think you and Otis will enjoy them much, but it is mostly Mr Drumonds church. I only have time to touch on a subject before I leave it.

Delly Gilmore was at Auburn last week thinks of going to school here this term. Something was said about his boarding here. I have had no boarders for the year just myself and children live alone. Novellia & Rose at home, Olive & Oskar over to the shop. Sam pays Olive two dollars per week. She does the waiting and tending. Brother Samuel Whitman and son Orem is here on a visit on the way to Turner. His daughter Jane died last March. Marthy his youngest child is not expected to live long. The girl that Mrs Gilmore had last summer, Lucy Whitman has this season done what Minnie's <>. I rather you would not get her one. Her hat is a good one for this year. Eve & I had new ones last year. They will do well this year. I have bought Orestes a hat & his pants is a pair of Otis old ones.

Adams is a building us a front yard fence. I was happy to see he & his wife to meeting this morning. Minnie is much pleased with her sheet of command. She reads it to all the little girls. You cannot imagine my darlings, when writing to my friends not speaking of poor Everett as I once could, many a time have I shed for him, but that will not save him. There is a chance if his sins are as scarlet. I received a letter from him last night with a ten dollar bill in it. He is in Dubuque Iowa. I have felt as though I would like to have Otis write him, for I know he is capable of writing to a poor wicked man, or father. I shall let you and Otis see the letters he has written me since he left home. <You> can judge for your selves. Whether you think there is a <> in him for the better.

Minnie has written Guy two letters. They are so large I will not send them. I want to see the children very much. Write me soon. Let me know if Marthy will answer. She would like to know this week before she leaves Mrs Herren. She sews for her this week. Her home is seven miles out of the village. I would be glad to write one hour more but I close by wishing you all the blessings this world offers.

S G Jones

910 5/18/1858 *From:* G. T. Bedell

To: Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-0851

61 10th Str New York

Source: Bowdoin

61 10th Str New York

May 18 1858

My dear Sir

Your note afforded me great satisfaction. It will be my pleasure to cooperate with you in any possible way for the good of a Point which seems to me, strategically in view of the interests of the church militant, one of the most important. You will oblige me by saying what seems to you ought to be provided in the way of books tracts &c for the Point. I will provide them if I can.

Do not be too modest in your requests; or I shall not know what is really needed. If I can order any thing for you it will give me pleasure so to do. A.D.F. Randolph Bookseller cor Broadway & Amity is one of the best agents for all such purposes.

The publications of the Evangelical Knowledge Society No 11. Bible House, you will find both practical & valuable. I trust you received the packages we sent last week. We shall be very happy to see you, if you have time on any of your visits to New York.

Remember me sincerely to Prof French. Give my kindest regards to my friend Lieut Webb, & tell him he ought to be working with you, hand & heart.

Believe me Yrs truly
G. T. Bedell

Lieut. Howard

911 5/20/1858 *From:* Ann Otis Lee

To: My dear Otis & Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-0852

No. 54 Harrison St
Brooklyn L.I.

Source: Bowdoin

No. 54 Harrison St Brooklyn L.I.
May 20th 1858

My dear Otis & Lizzie

I have just got a letter from Silas in which he tells me Perry has not written to him and perhaps he has not written to you either, and Silas said he had a letter from you saying you expected Perry at West Point the next week. Perry left here for Boston Monday after you left us, the very day he expected to go to your house. He started off in a hurry to send papers to Nassau by a vessel going from Boston. I had a letter from him yesterday from Leeds. His letter was written on Monday. He had a bad cold and had seen none of our friends except Ensigns family - expected to see your mother that day. He found all his uncles family well except his aunt Martha who is quiet and comfortable but feeble mostly confined to the bed.

Mrs Davie our cousin Alice died suddenly two weeks ago with affections of the heart. She was well in the evening and died before morning.

John Harrison and Hellen are well and happy - have got the dear old mansion "repaired and made comfortable and handsome." How I should like to be there and see the dear old trees put forth their blossoms once more and hear the voices of the dear "Bobolink" in that dear orchard, the trees of which were planted by our good and ever to be revered parents, your dear namesake and grand father. I truly love those rocks and rills and cloud topped hills. When I think of that dear spot, I seem to feel that my mothers' form is before me as she was years ago and fathers too. What tender welcomes we had from those dear united parents spared to us so long - a united head. I am so glad this dear old house is again fitted up and occupied by our own kindred and name. I do hope I shall be spared to go there again.

My dear cousin Alice was a constant and kind friend to me. I feel that I have lost a personal friend in her, and a near relative. She was a member of fathers family for many years before my marriage and I formed a strong attachment for her. She always met me kindly as regards my difference of opinions in my religious views. I have no recollections of her but of the kindest sympathy both in temporal and spiritual converse. Dear friend. She knew from what source I looked for salvation. I trust she was among the redeemed. Tho she believed some doctrines that I cannot think as she did.

My Dr Riesar says he would like to have me go to West Point when the weather is clear a little, only he must see me once a week. When Dear Perry comes I will come too. I am very comfortable.

I went to Greenwood last Thursday. Mary Dwight went with me. Nature is in its beauty, it seemed like enchantment. Every thing seemed too lovely for reality. And my Dear sweet "Etta's" grave! You can not conceive how dear the spot is to me. I had a rose tree set at the head of the grave, Deutzia at the foot and pinks on the earth that covers the coffin that contains those precious remains, to me so very, very precious. Her dear spirit has for some time seemed more dear and warmer to me than any ones. It seems a reality to me that her spirit will meet mine in the spirit world. How unspeakably beautiful the idea. "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

Dear Silas speaks of your letter and says "It was a real good letter" and I esteem it very highly. I have not answered it yet, I do not know what to say to him." He then goes on and tells what his difficulties are, in coming to a decision. I do desire to be found in the spirit that I may be able to pray without ceasing and in every thing give thanks. I do yet hope in God, and trust Dear Silas will soon be able to know by experience the hope of a believer.

An interesting lady called to see me yesterday to enquire about Dr Riesar, and she was surprised to find me cheerful and so happy. That lady is seeking to know the Saviour but is in just such a state of mind as Silas.

Dear Otis & Lizzie we do know it must be the Spirit, the gift of Grace. Truly the spirit quickeneth the flesh

proffiteth nothing. Unite with me in prayer that the "Spirit may be quick and powerful as a two edged sword" in the hearts of inquirers - my heart was at once interested for this lady. She is coming to see me to-morrow. How truly we should adorn that Spirit that has given us hearts to believe. Truly God has laid help on one highly able to save. All that come unto Him. But it is the work of the spirit that takes the things of Christ and shows them unto us. And this Spirit is the purpose of our risen Saviour, how Christ who has died that we may live Amen & Amen.

I was able to attend communion at our church last Sunday. It was our communion season (40) forty persons united with us (15) fifteen were baptized. I wish you could have been with us, to see such a company come forward to avow the Lord to be their god. How delightful the thought that all shall know the Lord from the least to the greatest. None shall say to his Neighbour know ye the Lord. O! That all flesh would turn to the Lord and be saved that all would seek to be quickened by the spirit. Let us unite to seek the Lord that the promise of the spirit may be as at the day of Pentecost, when men spoke with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. This is the work from the first. There is no other way whereby we can be saved.

Perry will be back Saturday. I think I will come to West Point next Monday. I go to my Dr Monday and if I can I will come from there direct but don't expect me until you see me. God in his Providence will order it all just right. I do feel entirely his now. I trust he has reviewed his covenant with me, and I am enabled to feel that I am his and he is mine. I do think he enableth me to cease from my own works and enter into his rest - even the rest he has preferred for his own people.

Dear Otis I do rejoice that yourself and your dear dear wife understand by experamental knowledge what I mean when I write to you, from whence all, my happiness for time and eternity springs. I wrote to Dear Maria since you was here and told her you prayed for all of us your kindred in the flesh. Truly God has made us families in the earth he accepts our sanctified, purified affections for those he has united us with in family bonds. I hope and do trust you have made a covenant with him for yourself and your family.

Dear Guy how often I think of him and the sweet beautiful "Grace". I love your children dearly. I had a short letter from Frank dated the 28th of April since you was here. They were all as well as usual. I expect letters by way of Boston soon as there is a vessel in from Nassau. Oliver thinks I did the best thing not to return and have the surgical operation. I am nicely, am quite comfortable. I was able to sit up all day yesterday, and can sew a little. Kiss the dear children for Aunt Lee and accept my love - this is to both of you - Otis & Lizzie. My love to Miss Berard and all friends.

Ann Otis Lee

912 5/24/1858 *From:* Silas [J Lee]

To: My Dear Cousin [OO
Howard]

OOH-0853

Chicago

Source: Bowdoin

Chicago May 24th 1858.

My Dear Cousin,

Your highly esteemed letter of the 6th inst was duly received. I have penned three letters to you since each of which have not suited me and after carying them in my pocket two or three days have burned them. I had made up my mind that in your many duties you had no time to throw away upon so unprofitable and uninteresting a correspondence as mine, and being rather modest and a little sensitive upon those things the fancy kept me from writing to you, for on several occasions I was on the point of writing, and knowing too that I could give you no encouragement for myself, thought that it was just as well. I am very much obliged to you for the kindness, and concern your letters shew me you feel for my good and wish I was more worthy of your sentiments and esteem.

I am fully aware that I have lived in sin nearly all my days, and am still, yet I hope there may be found some redeeming qualities and acts in my ill spent life. And yet knowing all this I cannot bring myself to look upon things pertaining to the future as you do. I believe that we are placed upon this Earth by a supreme power, for some direct purpose that we are to fulfil that purpose and then return to that state from which man originated, one body to dust, or vegetable matter and our mind (or soul) to nothing or if there is anything more I have always been content to trust all to the disposition of the power which rules our destinies, for if God is just and generous, why need we fear to throw ourselves upon his generosity to do with us as he likes? Which I consider he will do at any rate. I believe that the Bible points out to us the way in which we ought to live, and that by following its teachings we should all be at peace, and universal love would soon follow.

But I cannot see that it points to or refers to an existence or state after the present, or that it was written by divine authority or by divine inspiration. The Old Testament is mostly historical. The new cannot be considered an inspired work more than the sermons and letters of eminent divines of the present day, and the book of Revelations, I consider wholly imaginary.

You sent me some of the "slips" of the "Am Tract Society". I rec'd and read them. I noticed you marked the opinion of John Locke on the Bible. I fully concur with Mr Locke except when he says that the New Testament "has God for its Author." Why it carries a contradiction to that sentiment throughout in itself. It does not pretend to be edited by any but the preachers of the religion which was founded by Jesus Christ, when he lived and for a few years after his crucifixion.

The paper entitled "A Strange Thing", I have no respect at all for. It is the most inconsistent thing I ever saw issued as a religious sentiment. It amounts to nothing but a foolish harangue against Universalism. Did Christ or other of his apostles preach dissensions and discord among their followers? Or did they malign the followers of one another? Does not Christianity consist in sincerity and honesty of purpose, rather than form or opinion? I think it does. Has not such things been the greatest curse which has ever visited mankind? One sect sits itself up against another and where does it end?

I have not heard from Mother for nearly two weeks. The last news was rather cheering and I sincerely hope the next will be as good. I wish I could give my dear Mother that one pleasure she so much desires, but I cannot consistently do so now, for what I don't understand I cannot believe, and I won't profess 'till I do. I have not heard from Perry for a long time, nor have I any recent news from any body.

Give much love to Lizzie and with a kiss to the children, believe me your

affectionate cousin
Silas