
1004 2/2/1859

From: Thomas Edwards

To: Lieut O. [O.] Howard

OOH-0940

Cold Spring

Source: Bowdoin

Cold Spring, Feb. 2d '59.

Lieut O. Howard

Dear Sir.

We intend with permission of Providence to commence a meeting at the Falls next Sab consequently I shall be there in the Aft & Evening. Will you supply at the Point? If you cannot please have the appointment recall'd. I would be pleas'd to have you speak to us some evening next week at the Falls if you can do so. Come if possible Tuesday evening. Let me know on Sab. day.

Yours truly
Thomas Edwards

N.B. Give us your prayers that God may bless the effort

P.S. I shall depend on you for the Point every Sab evening during the meeting at the Falls, as it will be necessary for me to continue there nearly all the time until the close.

T.E.

1005 2/4/1859

From: A. Mordecai

To: Lt. [OO] Howard

OOH-0941

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal

Feb 4 / 59

Dear Sir

A discharged soldier named Henry Geary presented himself this morning as a candidate for enlistment in my detachment. He says he was a hospital attendant at Tampa when you were there, & he thinks you will remember him & will give him a good character. If you do recollect him, please let me know what sort of a man he is; whether sober & well disposed.

I have not forgotten the man at Governor's Isld whom you spoke to me about, & shall be glad to see him when his time there expires, if he is a single man.

Yrs truly

A. Mordecai

Lt. Howard

1006 2/7/1859

From: RB Howard

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0942

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Feb 7, 1859

Dear Brother

I found yours of the 29th ult on my table when I returned Sat night. I was well enough to go over to Bath two weeks ago last Sat. My hoarseness kept me from preaching the following Sabbath but a week ago yesterday (Sunday) I spent in Harpswell. I did not go home at all, but saw Charles a no. of times in Brunswick. I think my health improved every day while I was gone & I hope that I will be able now to go to work. I found Ella well, & we were very happy together - of course.

Charles recv'd a letter from Mother while I was there & I was very much pleased with its spirit of cheerfulness & faith. She has prayers in the family every evening. Dellie is at home now, & he will help her. Charles does not enjoy very good health & sometimes I fear he never will, but if he can have more active habits & out-door exercise he will be much better, I think. Nettie seems to have improved.

I found things very encouraging, on the whole in Harpswell. The Young Converts generally appeared well, & gave signs of growth & expansion in the Christian life, but alas, there were some exceptions. There have been two or three new cases very lately, & I felt a great desire to stay longer & would if I could. All gave me a most hearty & cordial greeting & many made me little presents of small sums of money & other things which I value far beyond their intrinsic worth.

I got stuck in a snow drift on the K. & P. R.R. on my return so as not to make the connection to Bangor & went into Portland & staid all night with Frank. I called to see Capt Edw Waite & family. I found them mourning Lizzie's probable loss but they seemed very submissive to the will of God. Susan was at home & seems like a lovely girl. I never saw her before.

I was rejoiced to hear of the good work at the "Falls" & only pray that it may extend to the "Point" & the Academy. Of course, you love your Saviour - nobody ever truly saw him & felt him without loving Him - & to you He seems to have revealed himself with more clearness than to many & I can no more conceive of your love's abating towards him than I can towards your wife. We would never think it necessary to say much about that to prove that it existed in our hearts. So our love for Jesus is our second nature - more permanent & abiding than earthly love as it is the work of God in the higher & holier compartment of our Soul.

Both loves are the works of God. The one of providence & the other of Grace. O how we ought always to be full of thanksgiving & praise for that [See Note] great mercy that chose us to serve Him on Earth & in Heaven. Blessed work! Glorious occupation! O that I might forget myself in my Saviour & his work.

I am glad to hear that you are all recovering from your colds. Always say something about Guy & Grace. Uncle Rowland loves them. Ella sends her love to you & Lizzie. She is thinking of going to N.Y. City in the Spring (I don't know what time) & also of going to a wedding somewhere in the Center of N.Y. State. A cousin of hers is to be married, I believe. I should be delighted & I know she would to visit you then.

I have grown somewhat familiar with the Episcopalian arguments, but I have not informed myself sufficiently to reply to them. All matters of Church Government belong to our next year & my time is now fully occupied in doctrinal & exegetical studies. We have just finished the perplexing subject of the will, but owing to my Sickness I have not done it half justice. I found my little S. School flourishing on my return to it yesterday.

There is a revival in progress in the next town above here - Vezie. Gen Stevens inquired for you this morning.

Love to Lizzie & the children.

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

Lieut. O. O. Howard

[Note: The remainder of this letter was filed at the end of another letter from Rowland to Otis, dated 4/30/1859.]

1007 2/8/1859

From: E Waite

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-0943

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Feby 8 1859

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

This to inform you that the interest on the A St L R.R. is now due. Shall I collect and forward you the amt due on your Wife's Shares.

Your Brother made us a friendly call last Saturday on his way from Harpswell to Bangor.

We are all quite well at home, hope you and your dear family are all enjoying the same blessing.

We have heard nothing from our dear Lizzie & Husband since they sailed from England. We fear they are all lost. May the Lord give us Grace to be resigned to his will.

From your Affectionate Uncle
E Waite

1008 2/8/1859

From: Joseph C. Stevens

To: My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-0944

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Feby 8, 1859

My Dear Sir,

I was very happy to receive your letter a short time since, and learn of your prosperity temporal and spiritual. It seemed to me upon the perusal of its contents, that God has raised you up to be the honored instrument in his hands for great good at W.P. Oh my dear Sir, just think for a moment that if the officers in the Army could only become Christians, what heralds of salvation would they prove to the benighted portions of our Country, as they unfurled the banner of the cross? Persevere my dear brother, and may God in his infinite may strengthen you for the glorious work, and may you have the happiness of seeing that "you are not laboring in vain, or spending your strength for nought" but rather may the good seed you are now sowing, "take root and bear fruit, one hundred fold." And is there not much satisfaction to be desired in the reflection that should God be pleased to accept our services and pardon our sins for Christs sake, we may hereafter be permitted while standing upon the battlements of that glorious City in company with other redeemed spirits to point down and in the contemplation of reminiscences say then and there God enabled me to present the truth to such and such redeemed souls, there I suffered such and such conflicts, but God in his great mercy sustained me and has brought me safely home?

Think what is going on in our Navy, the daily prayer meeting, on board the missionary ship N. Carolina at Brooklyn shipyard, and the constant concessions among ten to twelve hundred men who must all be more or less affected by such views, and think that these men are being distributed on board of our several ships of war destined to all parts of the world, and many to meet their own nation and kin. What efficient missionaries is God preparing to convert the world, and how puny will all the efforts heretofore put forth by more officers. Truly it may be said as in the day of Pentecost "How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians and Medes, and Elamites and the dwellers in Mesopotamia" &c &c. There the daily prayer meetings established on board of the U.S. Ship & this with some sixty or seventy converts, the Wabash with about as many more, the St Louis just sailed with one hundred and fifty men taken from the North Carolina some twelve or fifteen of whom are recent converts, and pledged to continue the daily prayer meetings. Is not God truly preparing the world for some new, and yet more glorious display of his sovereign grace? It really seems to me so. And who would wish to be a silent observer of such scenes? Or rather may I not ask, who would not wish to be a humble coworker in such astounding exhibitions of Gods mercy, and the fulfillment of his worded prophecy? We continue our 8 ock daily am prayer meeting, and recently a daily four oclk P.M. prayer meeting has been established, each of which are pretty well attended, and we hope and trust, that more religious interest is now being felt.

I see your brother frequently, he is quite well, and we are anticipating the pleasure of seeing Mrs H with yourself and family, at our house. When you visit our City again come directly to our home. Let my name be upon your list of correspondents, and write me at your convenience, and when you bow at the throne of grace do not forget me my dear brother. Oh how much I need your prayer that God will strengthen and establish me in my good word and work. My kindest regards to Mrs H in which request Mrs S sincerely unites.

May God preserve you and make you eminently useful in winning souls, and at last arrive you in his heavenly Kingdom, will be the prayer of

Your sincere friend

Joseph C. Stevens

To

Lt. O.O. Howard

U.S.A.

West Point

N. York

1009 2/10/1859

From: Wm. C. Mayer
Compy "B" 1st
Artillery
Fort Columbus, N.Y.C.

To: 1st Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0945

Ordnance Dept.
West Point, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Columbus, N.Y.C. Febr 10, 1859

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your worthy communication of the 20th Decbr 1858 and tell you my heartfelt thanks for the kindness you showed to me.

Lieut Ingraham, who arrived yesterday at this post from West Point informs me that Major Mordecai requested him to tell me that there is vacancy for me at Watervliet Arsenal. I should be greatly obliged to you, if you would please to find out from Lieut Lee, in what capacity I will be employed and in what grade likely I will be mustered and inform me of it.

If Major Mordecai should need my services soon, I could be easily transferred from the Artillery to the Ordnance Dept.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,
Your Obedt. Servt.
Wm. C. Mayer
Compy "B" 1st Artillery

1st Lieut O.O. Howard
Ordnance Dept.
West Point, N.Y.

1010 2/12/1859 *From:* S.P. Lee

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0946

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Feby 12th 1859

Dear Otis

I sent you yesterday a Box of Oranges by Express. I have had them ready to send the last week but could not get an expressman to come after them and I sent them up by a car man to the express office. I wrote you last week acquainting you of my safe arrival &c &c, and have been trying to get a chance to run up and stop one night with you but am afraid I shall not have time now as I shall sail next Wednesday again for Cumberland harbour, the same port I came from. Tell Mr Kingsley if he is going to come down Tuesday that he need not bring any thing with him but what he wants to wear or if he likes a few apples would be very good and exceptable so he might buy a few.

I got Miss Jennys letter yesterday about that boy. I should like very much to take him but I shipped a boy a few days ago and I do not know how I can take another as they are very little use on short voyages. When I come back I will take him if he wants to go then.

Mothers health is failing fast she is not near as well as when I left her last voyage. If it is possible for you to come down I should like to see you before I sail as I shall not have time to go up to the Point.

I am in a great hurry to day so I will close and will write you again fully before I sail. This voyage is not yet settled up and cannot be for some time as my Charter have failed and it will be some time before we get the whole amt of charter although I have got most of it.

With much love to Lizzie & the children and all friends, I remain your affectionate Cousin,
S.P. Lee

1011 2/14/1859 *From:* Dudley T. Morton

To: Otis Howard Esqr

OOH-0947

Baltimore

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

Baltimore Febry 14 1859

Otis Howard Esqr
West Point

Dear Sir

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to your favorable notice my friend J. Henry Counselman [USMA class of 1863] who will present this and who intends going through the course of studies at your Institution. He is a very worthy young man and one whom we esteem, and any kindnesses you may show him will be duly appreciated by your old schoolmate.

Dudley T. Morton
formerly of Hallowell Me

1011 2/14/1859 *From:* Dudley T. Morton

To: Otis Howard Esqr

OOH-0947

Baltimore

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

Baltimore Febry 14 1859

Otis Howard Esqr
West Point

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Dudley T. Morton
formerly of Hallowell Me

1012 2/16/1859 *From:* [Charles C Lee] *To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-0948 Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y. Feb 16th, 1859

Dear Howard,

Peace be to you & yours. I am sorry your time is so very much occupied that you are unable to enter into the discussion which we were to have carried on, and I am still more sorry that you acknowledge you can't prove that which you state you most surely believe for St Paul says "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good" 1 Thes V.21; and St Peter, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear." 1 Pe.iii-15 if the doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of the Bible, then most certainly you have all the data to substantiate that doctrine in that book itself. I feel that the Bible contains enough to enable me to maintain my position, and I thank God that his word is as clear as it is, and that we can fully understand all our duties to our Maker and our fellow-men. On points, where we cannot agree, we will agree to differ in christian love and brotherhood. I am glad you are enabled to accomplish some good at West Point, and I desire that a great door and effectual may be opened unto you, and that you may soon see of the fruit of your labor in that place.

If the fact that the blind, lame, dumb, &c asked and received blessings of the Savior would justify us in prayer to him, then the same proof would give us the right to pray to the apostles of our Lord, to Moses &, to many of the prophets who existed in Old-Testament times, which would at once take us further than the Catholics have ever gone, who pray to the apostles. I do not say, that there are near so many examples of requests answered by any other finite being, as by the Savior, but I say that the argument is just as conclusive in the one case as in the other. I cannot think there is an authenticated instance of prayer to the Savior in the Bible.

You state that you are rooted & grounded in Christ Jesus - so am I. I believe that Jesus is the mediator between God & men, and how can one of the parties to a difference be the mediator between those parties? As Christ must be if your belief is founded on truth. I think there is no third person ever spoken of in the Bible.

You say that the great portion of the Christian world in ancient as well as modern times accepted the Trinity on faith. Now, while I do not in matters of faith, regard numbers as of any authority, still I think your remark unjust, for Athenasius, the great explainer of your faith was banished by a council of 90 bishops in the year 341 at Antioch for holding false views; afterwards recalled 349, but again banished by two councils held 353 and 355 at Arles and Milan. Thus you see, there was no very great majority in ancient times held the doctrine as you hold it. I do not mean to say that Arius held the doctrine just as I do, but that he did not believe in the Trinity as you and the majority of Christians hold it. We do not desire to replace that theory, but we think it endeavoring to substitute itself, for the simplicity of the Bible.

We should not take anything on faith because the great majority of christians do, if this were the proper method we would all be Roman Catholics; for when Luther separated himself from the Roman Catholic Church were not 99/100 believers in all its dogmas? The theory of the Trinity, has nothing to do with the atonement, with an all-sufficient sacrifice for sin; and so far from its giving the sinner anything sure to go to, it tends to destroy all

[missing closure]

[From Charles C. Lee]

1013 2/25/1859 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0949

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Feb 25, 1859

My Dear Brother

I did not receive the letter which I was in hopes to from you, but Gen Stevens, in the Fast Day Meeting, which occurred yesterday, alluded to West Point & your labors & requested prayer, & Dr Shepard offered a prayer. When he came to mention "that instructor who is trying to teach the knowledge of Jesus Christ," I could not restrain my tears. It seemed so good to have all those hearts going up in prayer for one I love! & I felt then that the prayer would be answered & now I expect it.

I write today while this impression is vivid on my mind.

Mrs Stevens has a son in Bowd. Coll. who joined the Church last Summer, but from what Charles says, I fear that he is falling into bad company. He has some false "liberal" notions which will be in danger of shipwrecking his hope in Christ. I have tried to converse with him & pray for him & have talked with some of the faculty about him. I pity his mother. I will expect to hear of some good effects following this Concert of Prayer for Colleges.

I notice in the papers two marriages in Leeds - B. Dane to Hannah Knapp, & Judson Foss (Walter's Son) to Theresa Howard (Uncle Franks oldest daughter) [Benjamin Franklin Howard]. By the way I met that last named fat, comfortable looking individual down street here the other day. He is driving about with his own horse as usual. Was in Leeds three weeks ago & left Laura, Aunt Lucretia & family all well. I was real glad to meet the old fellow & I wish that I could make a better man of him. If I could have seen him long enough, I would have introduced the subject of religion.

Feb 25th.

I conducted a prayer meeting this evening & introduced the subject of praying for old friends & acquaintances, who are impenitent. We had a real good meeting & a no. of earnest prayers. I wish you could have our prayer meetings at West Point.

Ella writes me that Mr Merriman (Nettie's father) is said to have "failed". I do pity them, if this is so. Her engagement to Charles has I fear led them to struggle too much for a 'position &c' but I don't know positively that such is the fact, but that home he built was too big for his means. Still he must have been unfortunate some other way. I will ask Charles about it. Nettie has just graduated very creditably to herself at the Bruns. High School.

Charles wrote me an excellent letter the other day full of good sense & deep piety. I hope his health will permit him to study for the ministry. I think he hesitates now on that & other accts about entering it. Pray for him.

Love to Lizzie & the children.

Egbert Smyth was to go to Harpswell next Sabbath to administer the Lords Supper & receive four into the Church. I correspond with Thos Eaton, when I told him what you said about being a minister. He said, "he'll make a good one".

Your aff Bro
Rowland

I have recently read the Biographies of Bishop Leighton & R.M. McCague. You can't afford to live without reading them. What a blessed thing is Christian Biography!

1014 2/28/1859 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-0950

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
February 28th 1859

My dear Mother

It is so tempting to sit down of an evening when one gets the leisure & spend the time in reading, that I keep putting off a letter from day to day, till a month or more has gone by without my writing even to my dearest friends. This evening is most gone for it is already nearly ½ past nine. I have just come in from making a couple of calls; I go immediately to my desk, & say to Lizzie who is making a Lounge-cover to whom shall I write first? She says to you.

We went to New York last week. Lizzie went in company of Lt Reed's young widow who went to make her first sorrowful visit to Governor's Island where she & her husband spent the few months of their married life. Lizzie went on Wednesday with her & her friends, and I followed early Thursday morning.

We found Aunt Ann Lee suffering pains of the most excruciating nature - not every day. She says she has her bad days & her well days. Her breast is more than double its natural size & a portion of the cancer near her arm protrudes & is much discolored. She says the pain is like living fire bound up in her flesh & that it sometimes makes her faint. She expects this soon to open & become an offensive sore. Her appetite is still good, as is her general health. She goes out to ride, & to walk often; but she cannot live long. She may die suddenly if the cancer does not open, & if it does her life cannot be prolonged I fear, for any great length of time. She thinks she had better stay where she is, where she has so many privileges for one in such a terrible condition. None of her friends can have much hope of her ultimate recovery, though all things are possible with God. Her mind is calm & cheerful & she loves to hear about Heaven & wonders if it is really possible that so much joy is in store for her. I read a little to her Thursday & Friday morning. She was able to sit up while I read 2 chapters in the Bible & knelt with us in prayer.

Perry has gone to the same harbor again. St Iago de Cuba. He had some difficulty in getting the proceeds of his first voyage but finally got the most of it. I hope the next Charter is safer. He was sick while away & quite unwell while at home. He could hardly tear himself from his mother, but believed it his duty to go. I had no particular anxiety about the vessel while it was away. I put my interest into the Hands of God. He doeth all things well.

We returned from N. York Friday evening, but as we took a train that stopped only at Cold Spring in this vicinity & as the River was full of ice we did not get home till Saturday morning when we found the children well & happy waiting for their parents. Guy is fleshy & hearty. He has learned all his letters himself, delights in listening to stories, says he loves the Saviour now, and asks if God will let him gather roses in Heaven. He learns with great readiness. I do not push him at all. Grace is very interesting in her little ways. She too is fat & hearty. She talks everything & so that we understand her. Her temper is excessive, but when good she is as affectionate as you would wish. She runs & puts up her little mouth for a kiss when I leave the house. You would rejoice to see her dear shining little face & big wide awake eyes. I hope God will enable Lizzie & me to discharge our duty faithfully in bringing up these little charges.

Lizzie is the same good & affectionate wife & affectionate & faithful mother as ever. Truly God has ever greatly blessed me. I hope the boys are well. Much love to Father.

Affectionately your Son
O.O. Howard

Lizzie sends love to all & says, ask Cynthia to answer my letter. We have quite a revival near us at the Falls. I conducted the meeting there one week ago for the Rev Mr Gray who was ill, & last Sunday I lectured in the evening. I continue to lecture & the prayer meetings with the cadets are kept up twice a week. I shall be glad of the Summer's rest from active duty.

Dellie must be at home. My love to him. Tell him I would like to hear from him.

Remember me affectionately to the neighbors.