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1016 3/5/1859

*From:* R.D. Lynde  
Asst. Surg. U.S.A.  
Camp Hudson, Tex.

*To:* Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1047a

*Source:* Bowdoin

Ord. Dept. U.S.A.  
A. Asst. Prof. Math.  
Military Academy  
West Point

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Camp Hudson, Tex.  
March 5th, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I take the liberty of introducing to you Jacob H. Counselman, a connection of mine, who has recently been appointed a Cadet, and hope you will extend to him the good office of adviser upon his entering on his new life.

I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken upon a few hours' acquaintance in the wilds of Florida.

The young man is of excellent habits, and very apt in his studies, &, unless led off by bad associations, will prove a credit to himself & all connected with him.

Hoping I have not taken too great a liberty.

I remain, Sir,  
Very Sincerely Yours  
R.D. Lynde  
Asst. Surg. U.S.A.

Lt. O.O. Howard  
Ord. Dept. U.S.A.  
A. Asst. Prof. Math.  
Military Academy  
West Point

[The following letter from Wesley Owens was appended to this letter.]

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1017 3/5/1859

*From:* Wesley Owens

*To:* Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1047b

Camp Hudson, Tex.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Appended to the previous letter from R.D. Lynde]

Camp Hudson, Tex.  
March 5th, 1859.

Dear Howard,

I hope you hav'ent forgotten me, at all events, I take this opportunity to bring myself to mind. As the Doctor endorsed his young friend, I take great pleasure in endorsing him, & your recollection & kindness to him will be reciprocated by

Yours very truly  
Wesley Owens [USMA Class of 1856]

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1018 3/7/1859

*From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut. O.O. Howard

OOH-0952

North Yarmouth Acad.  
Yarmouth, Me

West Point N.Y.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

North Yarmouth Acad.  
Yarmouth March 7, 1859

My Dear Brother:-

I think you are my debtor in regard to letters but I would like to hear from you so I thought I would remind you that I was in the land of the living. You may be some surprised to know that I am here, if you have not already learned that fact.

I came here last Monday and have had a week of pretty hard study. Mr Randall gives me long lessons and is continually talking about getting every thing well so that I shall not be obliged to go over it again before I go to College. He likes to have me read my lessons over perhaps a dozen times after I have translated it once. I like his way of teaching very much but I can't say I like him as a man very well. Perhaps I may like him better after I get acquainted with him more. He has many very accentric ways that do not please me at first. The scholars all like him who have been here before.

Why I came from Lewiston Falls Acad. was because there will be no school there in the summer term & as I would like to go to one school all the time before I go to Bowdoin, I have concluded that this was the place to go. I am very glad I have come here as I shall get a much better "fit" than I should have done if I had remained under the tuition of Mr Pulsifer. Mr Carlton left the Academy at the end of the Fall term. We were all very sorry to have him go, as he had made us all like him. He was a very good man, I think. He went to Bangor to study for the ministry. I think he would do more good teaching than he would preaching as he is a very poor speaker.

We had a good prayer meeting all the time he was there, especially during the fall term. They all attended the prayer meeting regularly, and most of them seemed to take quite an interest in them.

You have not written me, or I you, for so long I hardly know what you know of my affairs & I do not know what to write that would be of interest.

Charles, probably, has written you what a pleasant time he & I had at home this winter. After Charles went to Brunswick I continued my studies till the end of the term at L.F. Academy. The three weeks previous to last week I spent at Leeds & I had the most agreeable time during the vacation I ever had in Leeds with-out a single exception. My vacation was a long one (three weeks) and I had a chance to do a great deal except studying. But I have my share of the latter now.

I rise at six or a little before that time, & study till after ten in the evening all the time except an hour about supper time & a little time at noon. I have as yet become acquainted with but a very few of the students and as I am only in at recitations, I think I shall be long in becoming acquainted.

The other day the members of the Philologian society had a meeting & among other things they did was to choose your humble servant President for the term. I though it very peculiar that they should do so as only about half a dozen know me, & I was not present either. I don't think I shall retain it as I hardly like the idea very much, being so unacquainted with the customs of the society.

I have not heard from Rowland for two or three months. I don't know but he has let me slip his memory; if that is the case I think I shall be reminding him before long that his brothers are all in existence including my humble self. I do not feel myself very highly flattered by these neglects of my two older brothers. Charles, however, answers my letters & I don't know but he does more than that. I think he keeps himself my creditor a great deal of the time.

Mr Allen my boarding master is a Christian and I should judge a very fine man. He is one of the leading members of the church in this place. He has prayer in his family every morning & evening. He has two daughters here at home - one about 20 & the other, perhaps 12. The youngest one is a very fine little girl.

Yesterday was "communion." Mr Aikin I like very much. I think him a very fine preacher. We have now no prayer meetings in the Academy, but I am in hopes that one may be commenced here soon. I shall endeavor to do some thing about it immediately. While Charles was here they had quite a revival among the students. I wish it could be so again. The Saviours cause is just as dear now as then and souls are just as valuable and it is just as important that each one of those who entertain a "hope" should act now as it was then. The state of morals here are not upon so high a standard as they are in Lewiston but I think that does not effectually oppose the work of Grace in a place. It is a draw back to commence with, but at Farmington last spring it was those who were called the worst citizens of the place that were among the first to come out openly and acknowledge the Saviour.

Mr Randall is a pious man, but does not belong to any church. He has prayers in the Academy morning and evening. He seems to be a pretty good man, but I cannot say I like his eccentricities. But I don't know but he is calculated to do much good. He says he was in College two years while you were there, and that he was some acquainted with you at that time. He knows Rowland & Charles. Rowland does not like him very much. He belonged to the XΨ society while in College, perhaps that may have some thing to do with it. I think he would lend his aid to any thing that might be commenced to have a prayer meeting, in the Academy. I think that is some thing that has not been in the Academy since Charles was here. I do wish that I might see my schoolmates here as at Farmington & Auburn coming to Christ. O that God's Holy Spirit might be poured out here. But I think it may be ere long. Dear Otis pray for the members of the Acad. & for me individually that I may do my duty here & that nothing may be untried which will conduce to spreading the Gospel here.

Give my love to Lizzie & Guy & kiss little Grace for me. I am well and happy and I think I shall study hard this & next term that I may get a good "fit" for College. Please write soon. I am anxious to hear from you & your family.

Your very affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Yarmouth, Me

Lieut. O.O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

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1019 3/11/1859 *From:* L. Deane

*To:* [OO] Howard

OOH-0953

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Portland March 11 1859

My dear Howard,

I want to find the whereabouts of a man by name of George Marchant, who is, or was, as I am informed, an officer in the service; and to the end that I may be put in the way of finding him, or his family or him, I solicit your friendly help.

This Marchant was stationed here some twenty years ago, more or less. I am not able by any means at hand to get the information above asked of you, and really don't know from what source to seek information. If in your power, without much trouble to yourself, will you answer my inquiries, or can you tell me the proper place to seek for information.

Bill Packard was just in to see me. He has this morning arrived here in the steamer from England, after an absence of some two years in Germany. He goes to Brunswick to assume the duties of Prof of Modern Languages &c.

Our common friends & acquaintances in this vicinity, Jackson, Fessenden, Hobson, &c are all in health & comfort, daily increasing in substance, reputation & children - as to the last item you must allow a little scope for the figure, or imagination, and understand me to say, that their families are regularly growing larger & larger.

Please present my kind regards to Mrs Howard.

And believe me  
very truly yours  
L. Deane

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1020 3/11/1859    *From:* Silas J Lee

*To:* My Dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0954

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago March 11th 1859

My Dear Cousin

Your very kind letter of the 4th inst has just reached me. What you tell me about mother, is what I have suspected for some time, tho her letters are written rather encouragingly than otherwise, I fear that anxiety for us tends to increase her disease or the intensity of her suffering. I had intended visiting her early this spring & to have spent some time with her, but as my arrangements have all been changed very recently, it is at present impossible for me to say what I can do, or when I can visit her. I shall, however, try & make such arrangements as will allow me to go on as early as possible, for a short time. Just now I am placed in a difficult position. Some of my friends here, have helped me to go into business, and having placed myself under very great obligations to them, I am of course obliged to be governed somewhat by their feelings, tho I do not suppose they would object to my leaving my business upon such an errand. Yet as I shall be obliged to borrow the money to defray my expenses, they may think I might have put off my visit 'till I could afford it better. I have bought a Drug Store, & borrowed of my friends \$900, to assist in the purchase besides getting them to endorse my notes for several hundred more, all of which is to be paid by the 1st of March 1860, and as it is a stand which altho good, has been badly managed it will require my constant personal attention to fulfil these engagements.

I want to go & see mother & feel it my duty to do so, & shall do so at whatever sacrifice it may require, as soon as possible. You probably understand how I am situated. It is a confliction of duty, with duty. I know she cannot live many months in so great suffering, but I had hoped - from her letters - that with the opening of the Spring she might revive somewhat & that her system would strengthen sufficiently to keep back the disease till another winter perhaps. Yet, I know that the slightest cause may at any day produce a speedy & fatal termination. Now, from what you tell me, I am certain that her disease has increased far more rapidly than she allowed me to believe, and that I must hasten my preparations, or never again see my mother. It is terrible to think upon, and almost impossible to realize. I grieve to think that I cannot conscientiously give her what to her would be the greatest of all consolation - that I was such a Christian & accepted the Bible as she does - but I cannot honestly do so, & will not deceive her. I have sought, but not found "the pearl of great price." Perhaps I did not seek in the right spirit, but I can safely say that I was sincere, candid & tried to allow no prejudices to influence my mind on the other side.

I am very glad that Sarah will so soon be on. Her coming will be a great relief to mother, & will comfort her more than the presence of either Perry or myself tho it would be a great comfort to have us all aroving her, in her great trials.

With much love to Lizzie & the children  
believe me very affectionately your cousin  
Silas J Lee

My health is not very good - not having entirely recovered from a severe attack of inflammation of the lungs. I am daily looking for Uncle Henry. I last night wrote to Oliver Woodman. Mr Robb frequently inquires about you. He makes my place his headquarters when in town. Last week I had the pleasure of seeing Mrs Robb & find her an excellent person.

Silas

March 22d

Dear Otis.

Looking through my pockets just now I found this letter which I thought had been mailed 11 days. I enclose my card & with an apology (understood) & love to Lizzie & the children.

I am still your afft coz  
Silas

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1021 3/11/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0955

Bangor Theol. Sem'ry

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theol. Sem'ry  
March 11 1859

My dear Brother

I take 3/4ths of an hour before prayers to reply to your delightful letter which I received in due time. All the details about Guy & Grace were exceedingly pleasant to me. So also the sweet little lock. It was like "Mamma" to send that. I will preserve it carefully. I thank you too most cordially for the other remembrances - how can I ever repay your kindness. My dear Brother & Sister - May God bless & repay you ten thousand times.

My books are the most expensive. Religious works come high, but I must have them. Mr Fiske of Bath said the way he got his library was by postponing getting married awhile! He did not advise that in my case however - seeming to think that it was a peculiar one. I am in hopes to accumulate some useful books during the next year & a half tho' I often wish I could visit, as you can, the 2d hand bookstores of New York &, when I feel the need of a book, secure it at a reasonable rate. I shan't care to buy hardly any miscellaneous books, but I do want the lives & works of all the more distinguished divines. Christian Biography & the Earnest writings of good men are only additional pages to that history of the triumphs of Peace which the Bible began.

What is Aunt Anns address? I will try to write her. O her condition would be deplorable indeed if it were not for the Grace - the sustaining & comforting grace of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Is she able to write?

Dellie went to Yarmouth the 1st inst & I have not heard from him since. I feel great anxiety that he should be fully given up to Christ as I fear he is not. I lately received a long & excellent letter from Charles the other day. If God will grant him physical strength he will be an able & useful minister of the New Testament & if not, it will be eight - blessed be his name who doeth all things well.

I had also a letter from Mother this week (how much I have been blest this week!). She is well & seems anxiously waiting for the coming of a good work in Leeds. May God grant it.

Yesterday was the Anniversary of starting the Union prayer meetings, in this City of last year - by whose means apparently nearly 400 have been bro't into the visible Church of Christ. A meeting of blessed reminiscences & thanksgiving was held - a delightful meeting - where God's Spirit was. When we came <> a man came to me & called me by name & inquired for you. He said that your relation of your experience the last summer was greatly blessed to him. He remembers all you said. He is a business man & his name is Willey. Gen. Stevens says he never can be on his knees without remembering you, & he expects a revival at West Point. O how it would shake down the barriers of Society's exclusiveness & Church formalism & make you feel free in Christ.

I had another dear letter from M. Storer last evening. I can't be too thankful that God has given me such a friend & counselor. He is the ripest <Clergy> I ever knew. Our morning meetings have lately doubled in size. I conducted this morning & we had a pleasant & refreshing Season. My own soul has been nurtured this week & I feel like doing anything for Him - my Lord & Master.

It is now time for our general prayer meeting & I must close.

Give very great care to Sister Lizzie (I'm glad she looked so sweet, pretty "smiling" across the table that day!) & kisses for the dear children.

When God plucks them, whether as buds or flowers, or as old ripe fruit, may it be to place them in the paradise above - transplanted into a more grateful Soil in a sweeter vineyard - Jesus the Master & joy the portion of us all.

Yours in Love forever  
Rowland



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1022 3/11/1859     *From:* C.H. Mulliken

*To:* Dear Oliver [OO Howard]

OOH-0956

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Augusta March 11th 1859

Dear Oliver

Your letter of the 4th inst came duly to hand and was very glad to hear from you and of your family that you all were well and happy. My impression is that this letter was my due justly still I am not positive and it would not make the slightest difference to me with you which way the balance was.

My health has been good all winter and is now. I have been in prime condition for business since early in the fall, but it is dull - there is no extension of business of any description and but little speculation except in merchandise sound - staple - goods - so that things go on their real merits more than formerly and as long as things continue as they are now every body moves cautiously and prudently as the inevitable result of this course but little can or will be done. I am rather blue at times and having met with some losses feel as though I would like to give up business at Augusta and go away and probably shall whenever a favorable opportunity occurs but this is a matter which I tell you but not to go farther as I make no talk here with any one outside of my family. I have had a vague idea of going to Boston - yes in fact have talked considerably of it, but as yet nothing definite has taken place and there may not. It is quite an undertaking situated as I am, however I am good for a big load and have always drawn it all alone.

Aside from my business I am very happy never more so. God has been very kind and gracious towards me and my faith and love for Christ daily increases & I feel how dependent I am upon him and in our family prayers I derive renewed strength and hope to go on. I feel that prayer does me more good and opens my eyes to the truth more than any thing I do. Mrs M, Henry & Jonny are very well and have been all winter and we have passed the happiest winter I ever did. They all send their kindest regards to you and yours. Guy & Grace are both remembered by our little Boys and occasionally spoken of by them.

We attend the Wednesday evening meeting in our Vestry very regularly and my wife feels deeply interested in them. Mr Webb the first of the Winter commenced explaining Romans beginning at the first chapter and I have derived much information of Paul and his ideas of living the life of the Christian. Mr Webb is very plain - he preaches now and has for several weeks (on the Sabbath) from the commandments. I delivered your message to him and he wished me to ask you if you had received a Book which he sent you some time ago - that one which you expressed a desire to see on Congregationalism I believe. Mr W and family are well. It has been quite gay here this winter a number of parties, Dances &c but I nor Sarah have not been to any thing of this sort not once and we feel happier for it. I usually read evenings and I enjoy it much, so does Sarah.

A Mr Baldwin is Military Store Keeper at the Arsenal. He succeeded Todd. I do not know Baldwin but just enough to speak, but he is spoken of very well where he is known. He goes in for using all the appropriations. He keeps Bachelor quarters and has sold all three of the Horses on the post and bought a new one.

My Brother George is in Texas and it is to be his home for the future. His family will join him this spring or next fall. His health is good. My mother's health is poor. She is suffering with her Teeth, and almost loss of speech. She is very miserable. My sister can understand her quite well but a stranger could not at all. I can with considerable difficulty only. All of my Fathers family are well beside. Every thing about Town has not changed in the least with few exceptions.

The morning prayer meetings commenced again yesterday morning down street in Darby Hall. When I go to New York you may be sure I shall come to West Point but there's no prospect at present. I am not sufficiently settled to visit except for business.

Brown and family are well and the same as ever. Doct Briggs and family are well. Write soon, and I will try not to have such a blank space again.

Truly your friend  
C.H. Mulliken

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1023 3/13/1859    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0958

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 13, 1859

My dear Children, & grandchildren for as such I feel, to address you, your's of the first Inst, was duely received, and a grateful heart, in your mother it met. I am happy to hear that your health's is so good. I am particularly happy when you tell me of Guy, and Grace, and their preciously interesting ways. I have long thought, that the developments of nature in our little, (if our hearts are right) ones gave us true pleasure, that nothing in this world can compare.

Then again where our warmest affections are, there can be our keenest afflictions. I feel Ann's situation very keenly. I have read her letters to Ensign, Laura, and John Otis, the past winter, and sometimes have thought I would write her and have even taken my pen up to write, but I would lay it down again, and take a second view of her and myself and conclude not to call up her thoughts to a letter of mine.

You are deceived if you are thinking that I have any particular anxiety about property. I have none. I make it my daily practice to do all I can to earn my living and that is all that I can do.

The evening I received your last letter one came from Charles and one from Rodelphus. Charles had just heard from Rowland by letter, and I was much gratified, not because I am over anxious about any of you in any way, but neither am I any way wean'd from my son,. But I have been enabl'd by their grace to commit my all, all that in any way concerns me, into the Hands of God, and in thus doing there is peace.

I visited John Otis's last week for the first time. His family were well. There I read a letter from Mrs Frank Sargent. It was an able letter, written to Ensign. She will sail for Newyork as soon as her children recover from the whooping cough, and her husband is well of a severe cough similar to her children's. She says she shall never leave her Mother again, while she lives. Hellen said John had lately received a letter from William Otis, from Austin, Texas, where he has been a long time and in the same business and John was with him. Said John was a noble fellow. He was very proud of him. I was truly happy to hear such good news from them.

Your father has just said that he talk'd with Mr Spalding about Addison who told him A. Was in Sacramento and, has another daughter perhaps I am writing nothing new to you, but it is news to me.

Our Meetings continue on the ridge. I have not attended them constantly, but a good degree of religious feeling prevails with those who have been engaged in the work. Salmon Wing is one of the converts. He set up prayers in his family New years day, 1859. I am looking forward to him as an example to others in the religious walk of life. I attended a Class meeting not long ago. Mr S Gilbert enquired after you and ask your address. Said he intended to write you. If he has, he has told you about the state of religion on the ridge. We have had good preaching at the Centre through the winter and I have had the privilege of attending. A fine understanding man, by the name of Fulton, a man that has had great advantages, in fiting and in fitness for standing up for Jesus. I trust it has not been lost on me. I know that I felt an increase of faith, a more fervent leaning on Jesus than formerly. He is now gone and we are without any preaching there now. We have had a circle, a Ladies circle, in town, throughout it has taken well. It has promoted social feelings and gathered a small sum of money for benevolent purposes. I hope we shall see good result from this source. Hellen and Laura have seemed to enjoy it much.

Mr Benson Caswell has had two daughters die, one 18, and the other 20 years and a son eight years within a few weeks. Otherwise Leeds has been healthy. My health never was better. My sheet is full. From your affectionate Mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

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1024 3/13/1859    *From:* John Gilmore

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-0959

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds, March 13, 1859

Dear Otis,

As your mother has written you a long letter I shall write you or Lizzie a few lines on business. I called a while since on Mr Alden Whitman about the note you hold against him. (by the way I cannot find it. I suppose you never gave it back to me.) In the first place he plead poverty & when I spoke about having it changed to run to Lizzie he said that Mrs Waite made a receipt for forty Dollars in full of all demands in his favor & left it with Everett Jones which Jones was to deliver to him if Lizzie was willing. I afterwards saw him in the street. He shew me a receipt made to him for forty Dollars in full of all demands, signed Lucretia S Waite, dated October 10 1856.

You <named> that you thought there was a Mortgage to secure the note you hold against Mr Jones. I examined the Records. I found that Everett H Jones conveyed to Lucretia S Waite Jany 6 1856 the house & lot where your Aunt lives & that in July 16 1856 your Mother conveyed to Sarah G Jones the same premises by a Warrantee deed - consideration "in cash deed" \$1000. I understood that Mr Jones was at Auburn when I was there about the first of Feby but I did not see him. I shall take such course with the notes that I have here as you may direct. I cannot find the note against you. Uncle Alden thinks you did not leave it with me.

We have had good sleighing all winter, snow about level with the fences in the roads & nowhere less than about three feet in the roads or elsewhere.

Your affectionate father  
John Gilmore

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1025 3/19/1859    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-0960

[West Point]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Evening 19 March 1859

Dear Mother,

I have written a letter to Father and will add a few words to you. I have not heard a word from Aunt Ann since I last wrote. The people where she boards promised to write me and Mr Bacon said he would let me know if there was anything unusual or any particular immediate danger. I wrote Silas a true account of her state & danger, but whether he can come now I do not know. Silas is doing well at Chicago, I think, trying hard to establish him and regain amongst his friends the confidence he has lost. We have not heard from Perry since he sailed. His voyage this time, if nothing hinders, will be only two months. He has a good charter and I hope will clear a handsome amount this time.

We have been thinking of getting a dining room carpet, but if we leave this house we will not want it after June and we shall undoubtedly move from here after our return from Maine. Lizzie proposes to make you a present of one for the North room. We will buy one and use it this Spring and bring it to you when we go. We first wish to know if you have a new one already, next what is the size of the room on the floor in feet & inches and then if the present would be acceptable.

Our Minister Professor French is quite unwell and unable to perform his duties of Chaplain, but we have had prayers every day this week (it being lent) by the clergyman from the parish below. We have recently lost a good Christian woman after a short & painful illness - her name was Mrs Morrison, the wife of the tailor. She was buried yesterday. I have visited her & prayed with her often during her sickness. She gave the clearest testimonials of an undoubting faith in Jesus. I wish Sanford would write me. I am glad to hear that Salmon Wing perseveres. If the Spirit of God is with them, they will bear fruit.

Remember me kindly to them all on the ridge. I hope there will be many accessions to the house-hold of Faith before I get there again. It will do me good to shake forgiven Sinners by the hand.

Lizzie joins with me in love to you all. We are to have gas put in the house, and as soon as it is done we wish to put down the carpet. Please write the dimensions of the room &c just as soon as you get this.. We will delay buying till we hear from you. I have lately heard from & written to the boys. Remember us affectionately Rolands family.

Yr affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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1026 3/19/1859     *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Father [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0961

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y. Mar 19, '59

Dear Father,

We received Mother's good long letter accompanied by a note from you on business day before yesterday. I find that I recorded in pencil on an invoice that you gave me of notes &c, that Alden Whitman's note was left in your hands and also entered the same on my Cash Book. So I think you must have it as I cannot find it here. Lizzie says she did not know that her mother had left a receipt for forty dollars in full of all demands in the hands of Everett Jones for her Uncle Alden & that she did not & does not authorize such a receipt being given without payment. Lizzie says, the mortgage was given a short time after her father's death. She does not know anything about the conveyance of the property to her mother in January 6, 1856 nor of the reconveyance by Warrantee deed to Everett Jones, July 16th 1856. Lizzie's Mother's papers are in a chest at her Aunt's & she thinks the Mortgage must be there. She says a man bought a portion of the land & a house north of Aunt Sarah's. This man came to Portland after he had purchased to get the mortgage off the part he had bought, for he had been assured that there was no incumbrance on it. She released that portion but retained her claim on the rest.

Everett Jones had purchased considerably more than his present house & lot with an old house on the same. He built one house & sold that with a part of the land & afterwards built the present house on the rest of the land. I hav'nt much confidence in his former maneuvering, receipts &c. That 1856 business may have been a contrivance on his part to get his property into his wife's hands. If those deeds are genuine does it not make Mother Waite assume all incumbrances on that property? Would her deed be good for anything (except given as administratrix) to relieve that property from the mortgage in question?

Lizzie says you need not be at the trouble of doing anything with them till we go down in June. She prefers to overhaul her mother's papers herself. She thought she had taken all the important ones with her. The debts of E.H. Jones & Alden Whitman are not very reliable. I want to keep clear of every entanglement.

I am very glad to learn that Mother's health is so good and particularly glad that she feels so free from the burdens of care. I hope God will preserve to her, peace of mind, during the rest of her pilgrimage, and I hope too, dear Father, that in your heart of hearts the prayer of the Psalmist finds a place, as "Let the words of my master & the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer." You are on the downward declivity of life and before many years will try the unknown world. So I hope & pray, that you may go hence clothed in the righteousness of Christ. How is Uncle Ensign? I have not heard about the Rail-Road lately. Does it prosper? We have no sign of snow & have had spring weather for a week. The birds sing, the frogs croak, the grass is quite green in spots & some shrubs are budding. We are all quite well. Guy remembers all about Grandpa's & Johnny's.

Your Affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

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1027 3/21/1859

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* Lieut Oliver O. Howard

OOH-0962

No 11 Tompkins Place  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 11 Tompkins Place Brooklyn  
Monday evening - March 21st 1859

Lieut Oliver O. Howard

Dr. Sir -

Your Aunt Mrs Lee desires me to write you for her - informing you of her removal from Harrison St to Mrs Lyman's cor. Of Clinton and Warren sts. where she has taken the parlor floor, and is very pleasantly situated. I am happy to tell you, she has a very excellent servant. Mrs Lee would be very much pleased to see Mrs Howard, and yourself at any time.

Mrs Lee has been suffering exceedingly since Thursday, especially yesterday and today. I have been with her much of the time during the last three weeks, and feel convinced, though very reluctant to inform you, that your Aunt is failing very rapidly. She has had frequent turns of bleeding during the last month occurring very profusely three times today previous to four o'clock P.M.

Mrs Sargent is expected this week. Capt Lee has not been heard from yet, his Mother is expecting tidings every day.

Mrs Lee sends to you all her warmest love, trusting soon to see you.

Very respectfully,  
Thomasine M. Kearny

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1028 3/21/1859 *From:* R. H. Gilmore

*To:* My Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0963

N.Y.C. Academy  
Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N.Y.C. Academy  
Yarmouth Mar. 21 1859

My Dear Brother:-

I was very much pleased to get that good letter from you last Monday after so long a silence. I had a letter from Rowland last week, also. So I have heard from both of you, the first letters for over six months.

I attended Church yesterday. Mr. Aiken was absent. He preaches for the last time next Sunday. The church holds a council this week Wednesday & I suppose Mr. Aiken will go. Some of them hate to have him go and others will rejoice to see him go. Mr. Aiken is a fine speaker and an engaged Christian. The man who preached yesterday was a good preacher. I wish such a man could come here to take Mr Aiken's place when he goes.

Some one was talking about sending for Rowland the other day. Many of the people here heard of his success at Harpswell last year. I wish Rowland would come here. The church is in a bad condition and I think Rowland is especially calculated to restore peace here and I think that if he could come immediately he might hold the church together.

We are going to have a prayer meeting here in the Academy every Saturday evening. I find there will be about six or eight who may take an active part. That is enough to commence with. I think by the aid of this Holy Spirit that a great work might be begun here.

The churches here have begun to hold union prayer meetings and you know that is a great thing to commence a revival of Gods work in a place. Those union meetings were of great benefit last year and I think it may be the case this. When Christians are united in this, there cannot but be a good success. For God has promised that where there is a union of prayer He will answer. Such was the result at Farmington & at Auburn.

I had a letter from mother a few days ago. All well at Leeds. Charles writes me often & I suppose you hear from him as equally often.

We are having a fine school here. Mr Randall is liked very much indeed by the whole school. I like him much better than at first, if possible. I shall finish reviewing Virgil in a short time. My lessons now are six lines of Virgil, two pages of Cicero, & a page and a half in Greek, besides a lesson in Latin & Greek grammar. The school now numbers nearly sixty and they are constantly coming in from all parts of the state.

Some of the trustees of the Academy are Democrats and they are now making a great fuss because Mr Randall voted the Republican ticket this year. Mr R. says that he shall ask no man how to vote. There is quite a stir about it now, so that with the church quarrel we are in a continual broil.

Give my love to Lizzie & the children and remember me as your very aff. brother.

R. H. Gilmore

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1029 3/25/1859    *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O.O. Howard

OOH-0964

*Source:* Bowdoin

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March 25th 1859

Otis my dear son,

I am just as happy as I ever was at the reception of your last letter of the 12th inst. It came into the office the 23d and we received it, but yesterday I could not write.

I will first write about the carpet. I have not bought one, and on your account I was thinking of buying one, as my old one is so much worn and faded. If you think best to buy one, I will accept of it as a present or pay you for it. I shall need it. You will be likely to buy a better one for the same money than I should. The size of the room is fourteen feet and a half from the Chimney to the north wall of the house, and from the west to the east side of the room is fifteen feet and a half. I have thus written the size of the room in words, because my figures are so bad. I bought a new set of curtains for the windows last fall, oil cloth ones.

Your Uncle Ensign's general health is good and Laura's health is good. She is keeping house for Ensign, has boarded the Mr Fulton a baptist minister who has preached at the Centre the past winter, but is gone home now.

I think I wrote you all the news in last letter. Victorie Turner is about being married to Steven K Dean. You recollect when you was a boy attending his school at the brick school house. He is now a widower of 42 years of age, with two daughters, the oldest 14 years, the other 6 years of age. He must be a gentleman of rare engaging qualities to be accepted by one so young and engaging as Victorie.

Roland's family remain the same, as when I wrote last. Jonnie is delighted with the steers and calls them his. Your father has let a good part of the farm to Thomas Boobier and his brother-in-law Mr <Krab> who was here last year in haying. They will live in the back part of Roland's house. The cars run to East Wilton, a few miles from the end of it the winter came on so early they the directors thought best to leave it until spring. Our Engineer was scalded so that he died in a few hours a month or two since. In examining the machinery of the locomotive he accidentally moved a screw, which caused the steam to force out so suddenly he inhaled it which caused his death. It is universally acknowledged, by all who knew him, that his place cannot be easily filled.

I regret not hearing from Ann. Ensign may have heard. I have not seen him for some time. I have heard from each one of the boys within a short time. They seemed to be prospering in their studies. I am glad to hear Silas is in a good way. I hope he is satisfied that he has made some mistakes in what make the true gentleman. I truly hope he will commit his all to God and love and fear Him. Charlie says Nettie is preparing to visit <home town> in Connecticut. I think Charlie thinks very much of her, and I presume he has reason so to do. I am glad she has done going to school. She will have better health now. Leeds never was in a better state of health than now. More than four months the ground has been covered with snow, and some part of the time the walls and fences were entirely covered. Yesterday your father and I were invited to Augustus Foss's to dine. We rode to Mr Brewsters Store to buy some articles of household needs and called to see Lavernia. She has a fine babe, and then proceeded to Mr Foss's. We found a large partie of Cousins of my husband's and Augustus's. It seemed so social to meet so many acquaintances. The only indications of spring which strongly present themselves to us, is a few robbins have been seen and two flocks of wild geese have passed over, to the north. To day is a snow-storm. I suppose Guy will have a new suit of different garments from what he wore when he was here. Kiss him for me and tell him kiss Grace for Grandmother. Remember me in much affection to Lizzie, and accept much love yourself.

Your affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

Your father has found the note he missed in another note.  
E. Gilmore



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1030 3/28/1859

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-0965

No 11 Tompkins Place

*Source:* Bowdoin

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No 11 Tompkins Place [Brooklyn]  
Monday March 28th 1859

Mr Howard

Mrs Lee asked me to write to you again - to inform that Mrs Sargent did not come by the Karnark which arrived on Saturday; she received letters however, and Mrs Sargent writes she will leave there by the last of April. She says nothing in regard to why she did not come. Mr Sargent, and the children were "recovering rapidly" from their colds - Mrs Sargent writes "it is an impossibility for him to come", but if possible will do so in the Fall, altho' as he wisely says "it is too far off to lay plans for."

Mrs Lee appeared quite bright yesterday. I saw her after Sabbath School, in the afternoon. She was resting on the sofa, dressed. She is much more disappointed at Mrs Sargent's non-arrival, I think, than she is willing to express, for she was very, very certain that she would come. Saturday morning she suffered very much before and after both hemorrhages, but towards noon as the weather brightened she felt much better, and was able to dictate a letter to Dr Lee. Mrs Lee sends her love to you all, and was very glad to receive your note, and the tracts.

I believe, Mr. Howard, I have fulfilled all my promise to your Aunt, therefore if I may be excused for trespassing upon your time, I would like to ask a few moments attention to a subject very near my heart.

When I saw you in Brooklyn the other day, you said that "you thought Nelie leaned toward the Episcopal church". Let me quote her own written words for you. They are these - "I could not go openly and join the church, it would be different I suppose if we had a church that we could call ours. It is not from fear of ridicule keeps me back, but Tommie. I have never felt like joining the Episcopal Church, nor the Presbyterian. I like your church (Dutch Reformed) perhaps it is wrong to hesitate, I know it is, but can't I love God without joining the church?" Such are her own words copied from a letter of December last. We have been in the habit of keeping a weekly journal, for each other, and I am therefore acquainted with almost every action, almost every thought - but of course, the months I am absent I will not hear so frequently - and before I can answer the feelings, thoughts, and actions will have been forgotten, and my remarks will awaken little if any feeling - but you will be near her, and I would ask you to counsel and pray for her. Mr Howard I cannot feel I am taking a liberty in writing to you in this way - if you consider it so may it be pardoned.

Respectfully  
Thomasine M. Kearny

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1031 3/28/1859    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0966

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor March 28, '59

My dear Brother

I was in at Gen Stevens Friday evening & was pleased to read your letter to him. May God assist you in all your labors of love. I have written a short letter to Aunt Ann which I enclose to you to send to her, in one of yours, as I do not know her address. Is Perry sick? Is Aunt able to sit up? Or to write? I know so little of the particulars of her situation that I had to write in the dark. I guessed that she was with Frank & Sarah though.

We are having a beautiful day. All the snow now on the ground here fell last week & we are anticipating an early Spring. The streets are now in their worst state - I hope.

I wish Ella could go on earlier, but her engagements - work &c are such that she can't get away before the first of May.

Give my love to Lizzie. I suppose she only meant to tantalize me by that permission (?) to visit her, but I wish I could - don't I.

John Harrison has been reading my copy of the "Higher Life" & it seems to have stirred him up some. He writes me quite a long letter, attempting to contravert some of its doctrines but evidently stimulated by its illustration & enforcement of faith.

They are all well. I wish that Uncle Ensign would make up his mind that he does not enjoy all the life of Christ that it is his duty to do.

At a recent revival in the town of China, Thos. Bridghams wife, Hellen's sister, is said to have been converted - God grant it.

I have established a Tues. Evening prayer meeting in "my neighborhood" lately - similar to that wh. you & I attended there. We have good meetings. One Methodist Brother, a Sea Capt. by name of Cooper, is rather noisy for a small room tho'. I hope you have read "Pentecost" a Revival Scene in Philadelphia. It is a blessed account of a glorious work of God.

I was glad to see in the "N.Y. Observer" that West Point was mentioned & prayer offered in the Fulton St. Meeting the other day. Prayers offered by those hearts are generally answered I believe. Why don't you correspond with Bishop <McShane> & get some acct. of the revival in his day. It would be interesting & encouraging to your cadet prayer meeting. I would give some money for an autograph letter of the Authoress of Vicars Life, & more to see her. I'd rather see her now than Queen Vic.

Do you hear anything from Lieut Lee, wife & "little Annie"? There's where I'll love to go with Ella. I saw that Mrs Ida set out to walk into the Hudson the other day.

When I began I didn't expect to write a page. Excuse my <> manner.

Give my love to Grace & Guy. (I was touched by what Guy said of God & Heaven & flowers) & believe me, as Mr Storer says

"Yours forever"  
Rowland

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1032 3/30/1859    *From:* Silas [J Lee]

*To:* My dear Cousin [OO  
Howard]

OOH-0967

Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Chicago Mch 30th 1859  
Wednesday Evening

My dear Cousin,

Yours of the 24th was received last evening. I thank you sincerely for your kind attention to my dear mother, & for your interest in myself. Your former letter prepared me for almost any news from Mother tho I confess I had hardly imagined the awful extent of her sufferings, her letters rather encourage me to the hope that she might get along for some time without these terrible agonies, & until the last two they have led me to believe that Doctor had her disease under control to quite an extent. These hemorages are very alarming, and prove beyond a doubt not only that the disease has & is progressing with terrible rapidity, but that she is likely at any hour to be taken forever from us. I feel so certain of it that I shall try and make such arrangements as will permit me to visit her very soon. I must, if possible see my mother once more, if for only a few days.

I received a long letter from her this morning. From its tenor I think she does not fully realize how very little would snap the threads of life. She wrote that Dr Waylie told her that he had "no fears of an immediate termination tho he thinks she cannot live until it assumes a positively cancerous state." Taking that opinion; with your description of the appearance of the tumors, & the hemorage, it can be hardly possible for her to live through the Summer, & yet she says she is cheerful.

I have tried to think what would be my feelings under such trials with the evidences of a final dissolution so fast & surely approaching - & compare them with hers. I have satisfied myself that she possesses the only true philosophy for such emergencies, and am obliged to admit that the philosophy of religion and the consciousness of having endured to live by its teachings is the only power which will sustain us thro' the last trial. I know my mother to have been a sincere Christian & would that I was, & yet I have many doubts which altho I know how much pleasure & comfort it would give her, hold me back keeping me in a perpetual state of agitation & wavering.

You know how I am situated & how many, & unkindly, circumstances are keeping me away, & I hope you do not think unkindly of me.

With much love to Lizzie and kind regards to Miss Tupper, I am

Very Affectionately your  
Cousin Silas

P.S. Since writing the above, I am in receipt of a letter from Dr Cathers in answer to my second. He thinks he can do mother no good, but promised to call & see her before he sailed, & as the steamer he intends going on, sails tomorrow noon, he has undoubtedly seen her.

I am disapointed to see that Sarah's name does not appear among the passengers of the "Karnak". I hope she is on the way, & by some conveyance which will soon land her safely in New York. Her presence will be a very great comfort to Mother tho I fear the shock of meeting will be very hard upon her. On that account I almost dread going on. It is so very long since she has seen me that I fear even her determination will not be sufficient for it.

Affectionately your cousin  
Silas