
1033 4/3/1859

From: Laura [B Howard]

To: My Dear Cousin Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-0968

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Apr 3 1859

My Dear Cousin Lizzie

I received your very kind letter last week. How glad I am you are going to spend the summer here. What good times we shall have if no sorrow befalls us. How glad I am that Ella is going to visit you. I know she will have a pleasant time - wish I was going too. But if we are all spared, I shall go to commencement with you.

Dear Lizzie you will be surprised to hear me say that I am going to be married next month to Mr Otis. I have prayed that I may be directed in the right way. I feel that he has done every thing for me now. He has offered me a good home and I am very happy in it. He thought Ann and Sarah were coming on here this summer, that I had better take the head of the family. But what Otis wrote his Mother it is quite doubtful if they come. I do pity her. She wrote me a beautiful letter, and if she gets able to come I will try to do all I can for her. Sarah wrote that she was very anxious her Mother should come to Leeds and spend the summer with her here but would not be able to start from Nassau, till April as her children were both having the whooping cough. This letter was written some four weeks ago. We have not heard from Ann since Otis wrote. We are feeling quite anxious about her. We did not realize her situation before. Oh what a blessing is health. How little I prize it.

I have spent a very happy winter, boarded the Minister and a very good man he was. I miss him. They talk now of trying to get Elder Gurney of Auburn, the one that preached here two years ago. Oh I hope the Lord will incline his heart to settle amongst us. Our circle have seemed to wake the folks up. I am in hopes we are going to see better times. At their society meeting there were fourteen young men joined, and they agreed to raise \$280 dollars towards fixing the church. That with what the ladies have raised at the circle will make quite a different looking house of it. It met here week before last. Although the going was very bad there were 75. They adjourned it till the second Wednesday in May.

Then I attended singing school two evenings. That with the social parties has made the winter pass very pleasantly. Oh how different from last. Then I see nothing but trouble and sorrow.

It has been some time since I saw your mother. We have no meetings. The traveling so bad I cant get there. None of our friends here know that we are going to be married. Perhaps you and Otis will not approve, but just as I am situated I think it for the best. He could not bear to break up house. I could not leave him in his deep trouble. I know there were many kind friends that offered me a home. Still I could not bear to leave this. Now I feel as though I had a good home and a friend that has always been very kind to me.

I do look forward to this summer that I shall enjoy you and Otis society here. You stay part of the time with me. It will be so pleasant. I have written to my folks. They are pleased that I am going to have a home of my own.

Victoria Turner is married tonight to Steven Dean who is just as old again. She is 21. I was over Thursday to see her, showed me all her wedding fix which was very nice. Amanda, Seth wife, is just ready to be confined. Sturge Jennings wife has got another girl. Both of their other babies are the same age of your little girl.

Kiss the little children for me, Otis too. Uncle E sends his love. John, Hellen they are well. I am boiling down sap. Have made 3 gallons of syrup.

Your affectionate cousin
Laura

1034 4/9/1859

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: O.O. Howard and wife

OOH-0969

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds April 9th 1859

My dear son and daughter

I hope this will find you all well and happy. I have been to Rolands just now. They have a daughter 9 days old - a fine healthy babe [Lizzie Gilmore, b. 1 April 1859]. I think they are very much pleas'd with it. Cynthia does not gain much yet, but I hope she will this week.

I have not seen any of Uncle Ensign's folks for a long time but presume they are in general health. I have not heard from Ann since you wrote. I had a letter from R.B.H. written the sixth of Apr, says his health is good, says he has writen a letter to poor suffering Aunt Ann. His whole letter breaths of the right spirit. Says Lydia Parker has been up to see him not long since. A letter of date 7th Apr from Dellie says he is well, and that he went to Brunswick and stopt over the sabbath of the 3rd of Apr, found Charles and Nettie both well.

Your father says I have written to you since he found Mr Whitmans note wrapt in another but I do not recollect that I have written you since the reception of your last letter of March 19th, is it so? Have I written a letter and forgotten it. I do not hear anything from Lizzie's relation this spring.

There has been some effort put forth to repair our meeting house, and get a minister, which seems more spirited than I have known for some time. I hope the people of Leeds will get waked up to their duty some way.

Cynthia feels rather lonely as none of her family have been able to come to her yet, the traveling is so bad. Those who have been obliged to go out say it is awful. The large snow banks are sloping toward the center of the road and other side made so the horse ball up with mud and snow and travels on the sides a slope and falls.

Laura was so kind as to send your letter to me. When I read from your own hand your expectations in looking forward to the time when we shall be together again, I almost felt that you are here already. Your father has obtained money on his bonds since the first of Apr sufficient to pay up the boys bills, and I have written a letter to R.B.H. and one to Charles to enclose money to them the first mail.

I have not attended meeting much of late, but I have felt as though it would be a privileg to meet with a dear Christian and tell them my joys but I can tell them to my God and Saviour.

It is about sunset and I will draw to a close. Now I do recollect writing to tell you about the size of the Carpet. This is a curious letter you must think so, but I thought you would like to hear from Cynthia why I wrote you to day.

Yours etc
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard and wife

1035 4/9/1859

From: C.H. Howard

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0970

Bowdoin College

Source: Bowdoin

Bowdoin College
Apr 9, 1859

My dear Brother

It has been some time since I received your letter - much more than I intended should elapse before answering it. I had waited a good while and I fear had got into the habit of not expecting a letter but I did not want you to do so. My part has been pressing me lately and this will pass for a better excuse with you who know by experience the situation. I have just got the first copy done ready to hand in to the Prof. I could not seem to write till last Wed. And that was a week or two behind the proper time. I am not intending to perform so it will make little difference. My subject is Elements of Strength of Romanism. Not an extraordinary good subject to write upon. I don't like it - suppose it is because I have done so poorly.

Since I rec'd your letter there has been quite a stirring movement here in the temperance cause. In this of course I have been actively engaged - 112 have signed the pledge, many of them hard-drinkers. It is during the College Course. We have had a lecture from Prof. Chamberlain on Temperance. We have one, week from tonight, from Mr Webb of Augusta. Pres Woods is going to deliver one the first of next Term.

We have been found (?) with a good deal of rain this spring. It has certainly done one good thing that is the reverse of the heap of snow with which we were almost buried down here in Maine. We have been having cold weather since the beginning of April. Today it is warm & pleasant. I suppose very likely the grass has begun to start with you.

I was pleased to hear about the little man (as it seems Guy is getting to be such very fast) and sweet little Grace. Hope to see them before many weeks. You mention that you expected a visit from Ella. It was news to me but I have seen Mrs Patten since at Topsham & she told me about it. I had a letter from Ella Monday and shall go down to Bath to spend the Sabbath week from tomorrow. Ella seems to be in a very good state of mind religiously. She is striving & praying for higher attainments in grace now - seeking the second change. She had been reading the life of Hester Rogers who was the wife of a Methodist Preacher. Rowland wrote me not long since. Ella expects he will come to Bath before the first of May. She expects Albert home then and cannot start for N.Y. till after that.

You wrote that you would like to have me spend the Winter with you at West Point. I should enjoy doing so much I know. Hope it will be so that I can. I need to have my body strengthened as you say. If we adopt this plan I would do my best as a traveling Companion to Lizzie. If I do go to N.Y. I think I better teach a school this Fall to earn some money. This article is not very plenty down here. Father don't seem to have an abundance. I haven't paid this terms bill yet at the <Trumer's>. Rowland speaks favorably of my going to West Point if you are desirous to have me.

Dellie was here at B. & spent last Sabbath with me. He likes Yarmouth very much. Thinks Mr Randall is a first rate man & a thorough teacher. He is all interested in the Philologian of which he is president. Think he enjoys greater degree of interest in religion than he has done for some time past. We spent Sat. evening with Nettie. Stephen Young a classmate whom you perhaps will remember as a sort of brother-in-law of Gilman - (you talked with him a little) was with us and as he is a beautiful player we had plenty of music. Dellie stayed with Nettie Sabbath afternoon as it rained so she could not go to meeting. I went to hear Mr Morse preach. He was earnest as usual.

I received a letter from Mother a day or two ago. It bro't the news of the gift of a little girl to Roland & Cynthia - born April 1. Cynthia was quite feeble.

Mr Holt the Methodist minister who has been laboring there has moved into the neighborhood - into Mr Bishop's house, I believe.

It seems you are still occupying your time & talents in special labor in the Lord's vineyard. God will give the increase in his own good season. I am glad you are so engaged & I trust you will not feel discouraged for want of visible fruits.

There are indications of Gods presence with us here in College. One of my Class has been quickened & in a measure restored. He had fallen away. We have dismissed two from the Circle, one of them Prof Chamberlains's brother. He had acquired the habit of drinking. We have a meeting in the Senior Rec room Thursday noons.

Fuller a classmate of mine a very fine young man from Jay has lost his mother. He went home week ago Monday & will not return this term. He & I room side by side & have been together a great deal this year. He is president of the praying-circle. He reached home before his mother was gone. She died in the Lord & seemed happy in view of the change which she knew was close at hand for some days.

Give my love to Lizzie & to Master Guy & to little Grace. I do not think of or pray for you less for not having written. Pray for me that I may live nearer to Jesus & enjoy his presence more constantly.

Your Affectionate Brother
C.H. Howard

1036 4/13/1859

From: H. Tupper

To: Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-0971

152 Maiden Lane
New York

West Point
N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

152 Maiden Lane
New York Apr 13, 1859

Lt. O.O. Howard
West Point
N.Y.

My dear friend,

Your favour of 11th inst is recd with the enclosure. I am happy to learn that Mrs H got home safely & well, and that she is to have the benefit of a better light in her house. We were all much pleased to have her make the visit and only had to regret that it could not be a longer one.

We have not heard from your Aunt Lee since she went to Port Charter. Her care is in the hands of Him who does all things for good to his disciples; and those who come from great tribulations are finally highly exalted - and we must be reconciled his will.

We all unite in rejoicing that the work of the Lord is prospering with you, and we also pray that a great blessing may attend your labors of Love.

We shall always be glad to see you and Mrs H or either at our house.

Make our best regards to Mrs H.

Remaining as ever, dear Brother

Yours faithfully
H. Tupper

1037 4/17/1859 *From:* G. Blocker

To: Professor [OO] Howard

OOH-0972

Source: Bowdoin

April 17th 1859

Professor Howard,

Sir,

I suppose you will be surprised to receive a letter from me, but as I am very anxious about the health of my son, that will be the only apology. You must make an excuse for a Mothers affection for a child. Johnny writes to me rather desponding, says his health is not very good and appears low spirited about his health and his studies for fear he will not be able to keep up with his class.

Now I wish you to write to me definitely whether you think it anything serious or not. You could consult a physician and let me know what he thinks about him. If his health prevents his studying would he be allowed a furlghlow to recruit his health.

I wish you to write to me and let me know, but not let him know that I wrote to you. Let me thank you for your attention to him, since he has been at West Point and any kindness shown by you will be gratefully received by me. I remain your friend.

G. Blocker

P.S. Do you think that Johnny will be able to pass at the examination. Direct your letter to Mrs. D. Blocker, Lowndes Co. Alabama where I am now on a visit.

1038 4/25/1859 *From:* Charles [CH
Howard]

To: Dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-0973

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds
Apr 26, 1859

Dear Brother

We are waiting for a letter from you. I have been at home almost a week - found Mother as well as usual, and seeming to enjoy life more than at sometimes. She will not have to work so hard now that they have "let out" the farm. Father met me at the depot Wed. The roads were very bad then but have improved somewhat.

I spent Tuesday night with Dellie in Yarmouth. He is doing pretty well in his studies I should judge. Mr Randall is a good teacher. But Dellie don't "stick to his books" as he ought to I fear. He attends to Philo. meetings & making calls. Is saving his eyes & his oil by not studying evenings, so I am inclined to think he will not make a scholar. I talked to him about getting his lessons more thoroughly. His religion seems to be a good deal on the outside. And yet perhaps I judge too much by appearances. And as to his piety I cannot with any consistency judge him with regard to it because my own heart & life is so far out of the way.

Next day after I came home was fast day but we did not know of any meeting till Warren Mower came down in afternoon & said there was a Prayer meeting on the Ridge in the forenoon. Mother & I walked up to meeting Sabbath day & heard Old Elder Prescott of Monmouth preach. It didn't seem much like preaching, but yet he said some things profitable for me to hear & remember. It was such bad traveling few were out to meeting. Mr Holt is expected to move into Mr Bailey's house soon. He will preach half the time here this Summer. They are repairing the house at the Center & will have no preaching for several months at least.

Warren told us Louisa was not so well as usual on acct of a cold. He brought up "Pentecost" which I have since read & found very interesting & encouraging. Rowland sent it home to mother. R preaches in Harpswell next Sabbath I expect. He will return immediately to Bangor & about the 20th has a vacation of about a week when there is some chance of his coming home, tho' he may preach in Oldtown or not far from B & not come here at all. I go back week from next Friday.

Nettie thinks of teaching this Summer but I am rather in hopes she will not get a school near home. If not she will not teach. I fear she is hardly strong enough for teaching now. She was going to see about a school yesterday & if she don't get that i.e. if it is engaged perhaps she will not look for any more.

I spent the Sabbath with Ella before I came home. She is anticipating a good time in N.Y. She expects to start by the middle of May I believe if not before. She is waiting for her brother Albert to come home.

Cynthia is getting well rather slowly. Has a fine little girl mother says. I am no judge, of one so young at any rate. John H. was down here Sat & bought father's oxen. He agreed to meet father at the depot yesterday to give him some R.R. bonds as security with his note, but father was there & looked in vain for John. Guess he couldn't find the bonds. Mother thinks & says a good deal about you & your family & often speaks about Aunt Ann. She wonders you do not write. Tell us what you know of Aunt.

My pen is rather poor & my hand trembles today but I trust you will be able to make out what I have written & hope to have a letter from you very soon.

Give my love to Lizzie & the little ones. I hope to see them all in June.

Yr. Affect Brother
Charles

1039 4/27/1859 *From:* S.P. Lee

To: Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-0974

New York

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

New York April 27th /59

Dear Otis

Your note was just received for which please accept my kind thanks. I have been very successfull this voyage and am chartered to return to the same Port and shall sail the last of next week. I will go up to see you tomorrow night and spend the night with you.

Please see Mr Wier son and tell him I want him to go with me.

Mother is quite comfortable at Port Chester but I have no hopes of her recovering. She may remain comfortable for a few months.

Sarah & Children arrived last week. She is quite well.

With much love I remain your affectionate cousin
S.P. Lee

Lieut O.O. Howard
West Point

1040 4/27/1859 *From:* J.C. Stevens

To: My Dear Friend [OO
Howard]

OOH-0975

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Apr 27, 1859

My Dear Friend,

I have been intending to write you for several days but one thing after another has prevented to the present moment when I have resolved to clear the pigeon hole. I trust I need not tell you how much good your last letter did me, breathing as it does such a spirit of confidence and perseverance in that Master and cause me profess to love. I am very glad to hear that the life of Capt Vicars is to be circulated among the Cadets. I trust it may be the means of doing much good.

I see that the Fulton St meeting have the subject of the Military Academy before them. This is a very encouraging feature, the answer to those prayers have been truly astonishing. Our daily morning meetings are continued and very interesting. A few evenings since your brother read to me a letter from you wherein you speak of the hopeful conversion of a cadet. May we not hope and pray that this is but the commencement of a glorious display of gods power in your midst? After some remarks in our meeting this morning respecting the encouraging indications in our Navy I felt that I must request the prayers of our meeting for the Army and especially for West Point and all the efforts being made by you for the accomplishment of such glorious purposes. Let us have faith my dear brother great faith in prayers, believing that if we pray right God will answer our prayers and pour us out a blessing. Yes let us "pray without ceasing".

Your brother has left the City to be absent about a week. I think over at Harpswell where the good work is in progress and where you may know that he spent some time last season with much success. What encouragement for perseverance when we have such promises that "in due time we shall reap if we faint not". Let us give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" let us believe that if, we are the means God will glorify himself in the result. "He that goeth forth and reapeth, leaving precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him".

I hope my dear brother that you will keep me informed of what God is doing in your midst, that I may rejoice in your prosperity," knowing that you have not labored in vain nor spent your strength for naught."

Remember me very kindly to Mrs Howard, and let me hear from you at your convenience. Mrs Stevens would join with me in sincere regards if present. I trust we are not forgotten in your prayers.

Very sincerely yours my dear brother in bonds I trust never to be broken.

J.C. Stevens

1041 4/30/1859 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-0976

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Apr 30 1859

My dear Brother

I received your very welcome letter last Friday week just as I was starting for "the Kennebec" as they say here. I returned Wednesday, but have had no good time to write till now. Thank you from the heart for the bill & may God assist me to use it right.

I preached in Harpswell two Sermons - addressed the S. School & attended a prayer meeting. It was a precious visit to me & I humbly hope not without profit to them. Ten new ones are propounded to the Church & I hope ten more will be. If so the increase of that church will be 37 - nearly doubling it since my first visit - & quite a no of the hopeful converts have found homes in the Baptist & Methodist Churches. Some, alas, that promised will have fallen away, but numbers exhibit it seems to me, beautiful evidence of the seed & fruit of Jesus Christ. The growth of a soul is a less striking event than its birth, but to me it is as sweet & precious an evidence of the love & power of Jesus. If such as I feel so deeply the apostacy of some who promised well, how Jesus must feel when his own children forget, disbelieve & disobey Him. O my awful responsibility! "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel!"

I went on & stayed with Ella till Weds morn. Her health is very poor & she is so driven with work for herself & especially with that of a society of misses who are at work for our chapel here & who are to hold a "fair" May 4th, that I fear she will be fairly sick by the time she starts on her journey. The girls of the Soc are so young that all the care & a good deal of the work of the Soc. falls on her. This with the dispepsia &c is about as much as the poor girl can bear. She expects to leave Bath in the Boston boat Thurs next, May 5th. She will go by one of the Sound boats & arrive in N.Y. Sat. Morn. She goes with a cousin of hers a Mr Stinson & will go with him directly to a Sister of his - a Mrs Elwell in Brooklyn, unless she sees or hears from you. She would like to make Mrs Elwell & Mary Sprague, who lives with her, a little visit some time, but she will go up to West Point just when you think best & she can come down again some time. She will hardly get thro' her visits in time to return with you & Lizzie, I fear. She says it is a good way & she don't know as she will ever go again if we settle in Maine & she wants to "do it all up" now. I enclose Mr E's address as near as I could get it. Probably Ella would get a note directed to his care in N.Y. He is a commission merchant in the City somewhere.

I would like to have Ella go up the river some pleasant morning in a steamer, as Lizzie & I once did. The scenery is so magnificent, but she had better take the cars if more convenient. If you don't all learn to love each other dearly from this closer acquaintance, you are not like me! My best love to Sister Lizzie & the children. Don't "trouble" any on Ellas acct, dear Lizzie, but treat his little wife just as you would

your own affectionate bro
Rowland

I will not close my letter, Otis, without expressing my heartfelt satisfaction at what you wrote of that Cadet convert. O that we might hear of more!

Miss Marsh has done more to reconcile me to Episcopacy than all the learned arguments in the world could. Were I to visit England, I should esteem her acquaintance more desirable than that of the Queen! She must, from the spirit displayed in her books, be a truly lovely character. One of those "temples of the holy ghost" which are the most beautiful & worshipful of any on Earth - the clearest manifestations which we have of Christ Himself.

The details of your visits & conversations with the sick are also grateful to me. The General & Mrs Stevens & also Dr. S (your West Pt acquaintance was at home) wish to be affectionately remembered. Gen. S. has written lately. He is very constant at the morning prayer meetings & is evidently being led by the Spirit of God.

I heard at Harpswell from Mr Meriam a baptist minister, living in the town of China, Me, that Aunt Aurelia,

Everett & his wife have lately been hopefully converted! Blessed news! He spoke of the cares of the women as being very encouraging & said they were soon to be baptised. How much longer will our Father & Ellas hold out? O God send down thy converting grace upon them. Capt P seems often "almost persuaded."

Poor Aunt Ann! I can only pray for her. I can never have any hope for Silas till he a new heart. O that his mothers prayers might be answered in his behalf.

A lady who has been a frequent subject of prayer in our meetings has died this week sweetly triumphing in redeeming Love. Just before she died she sang in a sweet clear voice the following words - Ella will sing you the tune, if you think of it.

"Come Sing to me of Heaven
When I'm about to die
Sing songs of sweetest ecstasy
To waft my soul on high."

Chorus

"There'll be no more Sorrow there!
There'll be no more Sorrow there!

In Heaven above where all is love
There'll be no more sorrow there."

When her voice ceased from weakness her lips moved & whispers of the other verses came feebly out till there was silence, on earth, & one more voice in the Heavenly Choir.

Charles is at home for two weeks vacation. He writes that Mother seems very well & Cynthia improves slowly. He seems to incline to teach this fall & then to spend the winter with you rather than me. If his health was firm, I should think the sooner he was here, the better, but, as it is, perhaps our life is too sedentary for him at present.

I shall hear from you often & all about you when Ella gets there. She is a splendid letter writer!!! (Of course my opinion is disinterested.)

This is a long postscript & written in a hurry & it is now time to close. So overlook the imperfections & believe me always

Yr Aff. Bro.

Rowland

[Note: Two pages filed at the end of this letter were moved to OOH-0942, dated 2/7/1859.