
1073 9/2/1859

From: O. O. Howard

To: Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1011

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
Sept 2nd 1859

Dear Mother,

After I wrote you in New York, I went to the "Thomas Powell" where Lizzie with Susan & the children met me. We had a pleasant passage up the river reaching here just at dusk. We soon got the keys & opened the house, found wood enough to build a fire & have a cup of tea. Our beds were all ready. Guy was a little man & slept in a room by himself, where he has continued.

The next day we found a fine garden, with corn, lettuce, potatoes, ochre, beans, beets, tomatoes & parsnips all in good order. Every thing looks quite inviting here. Some ten officers are ordered away & their places, filled by new ones. I have the 1st & 2nd Sections of the new Class, & am Librarian, which gives me ten dollars per month more pay. So that this year my pay is 19 dollars per month better than last.

A young officer travelling through Virginia (I think) met Mr Hazard, who was returning from the Black & White Sulphur Springs Virginia. Mr Hazard told him that Cousin O.O. Woodman had had another attack of paralysis and could not live but a few days. He wasn't expected to live from day to day. Poor Oliver, I hope he has found peace in believing before this.

I hav'nt heard from any of you directly since we left. Perry wrote that he saw you.

I have written to Rowland & Charlie, and sent a Cadet Register to Dellie as he desired - shall write him soon.

Lizzie joins me in love to all.

Affectionately your Son
O. O. Howard

Cousin O.O. Woodman is at the Black & White Sulphur Springs in Virginia where Mr Hazard had been to see him.

"Diamond" had grown to be quite a sizable dog & the children have a fine playmate in him.

O.O.H.

1074 9/2/1859

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1012

Harpswell

Source: Bowdoin

Harpswell Sep 2nd 1859

My dear Brother

There are times when I feel too stupid to study or write on a Sermon when a few moments spent in writing a letter not only rests me but "gets my hand in" & I can go on better afterwards. So it is this morning. I had a letter from Mother written Sabbath day & was very glad to hear that Lizzie was a little better at Portland. I shall feel anxious for her until I hear again.

Charles & Nettie rode down yesterday afternoon. Our S.S. had a Pic Nic in a grove by the shore. There were over 200 & all seemed to enjoy themselves in a quiet, cheerful way. Mr McKeen, J.S.C. Abbott, a Rev Mr Dunham (Baptist) Charles & I spoke to the children & people from a temporary Stage. The object of the meeting was to give a new stimulus to the Sabbath School & I hope it has succeeded. Our prayer meetings are still crowded but still something seems to hold the people back. Last Sabbath Mr Kellogg preached two excellent Sermons & I conducted the 3d meeting. The attendance, attention & tears of many indicate feeling, but O for more deeper, more pungent, & heartfelt conviction & livelier faith. Some times I am a good deal weighed down by the thought that this Revival, or my own efforts may be a favor of death unto death - for if these anxious souls now refuse, when can we hope again!

Thomas is a doubting, hesitating character. O that he might see Jesus & touch him as did the apostle & be constrained to cry out "my Lord & my God"!

I shall preach all day next Sunday. Pray for me. I have formed a new class of young men in the S.S. I did not feel that I could teach them & attend to three Services but I could not bear to see them sitting in the back part of the house & doing nothing. I am still less pleased with Nettie, but I have still hopes that her mind & heart are much better than her manner. I must say that that often seems to me supremely silly, & poor Charles is catching a little of it I fear. But I should'nt wonder if Ella & I used to act about so.

"O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!" [Poem of Robert Burns]

They had a nice time. I went to sail with them after the exercises. There are two or three things that I wish you to write me about. I want only your opinions in that as to the religious impressions of Seth Howard, Aunt Lucretia & any others that you saw & conversed with whom I may be able to reach in some way. If Aunt Ann is with you give her my love & tender to her my warmest sympathy in her affliction. I can but hope that she may be spared to us, but let it turn as it may. I pray that she may put a cheerful trust in that Saviour who is able to save unto the uttermost. I should think that the no. here who have asked prayers is about 20.

Ella don't seem to be very well in body, but in heart, her letters are a constant encouragement & stimulus to me - full of love to the Saviour & always pointing me to Him & not myself for strength & wisdom.

I received your letter from Leeds in due time. Miss Mason was down with Charles yesterday, & I ought to have conversed with her but I let my Harpswell affairs & my slavish fear of man, keep me from it. Mother writes well. Her hand she complains of, but her heart seems to be getting nearer & nearer where we would have it. She seems greatly pleased with Nettie.

Best love to Sister Lizzie & the little ones. I pray for Lizzie that she feel less care & throw more of it on him who has said "come unto me all ye that are weary & heavy laden & I will give you rest". Remember Lizzie, that our Saviour is a present help in every time of need, that he sees all our secret cares & troubles & sympathizes in all our little feelings from <hand> to <hand>, & it is there that we must cast as a burden upon him. Yes, Christ can come nearer into our heart, than the dearest friend on Earth - yes, may be "found within us".

Charles presented me with ten vol's of Sermons which I have been wishing to own. How about Perry? & John

Harrison? How did you find all your friends in West Point? Your little prayer meeting &c.

Your Brother
Rowland

1075 9/5/1859

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: Oliver Otis Howard

OOH-1013

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds, Sept 4th 1859

Otis, my dear Son,

You will perceive by my date, that this is the Sabbath and is now even in the morning. I think I have been led by the spirit of God in prayer more the week past than usual. After placing my materials for writing on the table my desire was to read a portion of Scripture, and then ask aid and benediction from above in forming my thoughts in this letter. When I took your letter in my hand to read, I said to myself how good Otis is to write so soon, and let me know of their health and how they went through their journey. I am glad you met Peleg on your journey, because it enlivened your feelings. I was sensible from appearances that you had a foggy night. We had a heavy fall of rain Thursday here commencing early in the morning.

I hope ere this you are comfortably settled for the ensuing year and all in good health.

We heard of the going to pieces of the vessel in which you are a part owner before your letter came, leaving no doubt but it was then a trial on your mind. It is all past now and cannot be recal'd. but I have been led particularly in prayer to God in your behalf that this trial, might through yo be the means of uniting your spirit more closely than ever with the spirit of Jesus. The portion of scripture, which I read at the commencement of this letter was the 144th Psalm. It struck me as peculiarly adaped to your connexion with Perry's to hope you will close up with him now. Although I am not informed how it stands with you as to the vessel, yet I cannot but think that Perry's best principles are the present except that they are no deeper rooted than for the present purpose. I think from what I can learn, that it makes no difference how much he makes. It all goes like the wind, and that he does not stop to see the consequence. I have learn'd through his own family that he has been to Boston and back to New York three times since his vessel came into Port. He was here at John Otis' making presents to Susan Jane Tole and the like, when Mr Sargent read the news of the disaster of his vessel. I called at Ensign's, and Johns Friday evening, and saw Perry a few minutes. Silas called here and took tea Wednesday evening before he left the next day. Mr Vaughn pays them sixteen hundred dollars each. Mr Sargent and wife and one of the children called last evening and took tea with us. They are to come next Tuesday to stop a few days with us. We do not go to Massachusetts until 15th.

Last night and night before (although I had endeavrd to give to God in faith all my interest and affection after lying down a shudder of fear could pass over me with regard to you and I did feel dear to Jesus, and ask his help, and now tell me how it stands with you in regard to the vessel. I suppose you have lost all because Henry Wingate said you told him you had no insureance on it, but don't suppose that your mother has not strength of mind enough to help bear affliction with you as well as rejoice with you in prosperity. If your heath is good, and your dear wife and babes are in health, and you love your dear Lord and Savior, and feel in faith that he does all things well in all this let us rejoice. I can rejoice with you. We have good laws given us and we have good common sense given us to use and let us rejoice in this.

Henry Wingate and wife and son called round and made us all a visit. I will tell you what I know of Oliver O. Woodman's death (perhaps you know already). He started from New Orleans with some friends to come to the North. When at the hot springs in Virginia, a telegraphic dispatch came to Mr Hazzard, to tell him Oliver was dying. He went to Virginia and found him still living. Vaughn Otis telegraph'd to Leeds that the funeral of Oliver O. Woodman would take place yesterday at Cambridge. I am glad that his remains can be laid at Mount Auburn, as it will be so gratifying to Mr Hazzard. It was ten days from the time of the first dispatch before the funeral. This is all I know concerning his death. Surely we can say of him and of his accumulations of wealth. All is vanity. He was Born [7] Oct 1816.

I have received a good, and long letter from Rowland B. He says if the Holy spirit is only with him tis enough. He says How sublime and beautiful to be traveling under those majestic old trees that have stood the test of time. The day you left here he walked seven miles on his way to visit the Pioneers, that are cutting down the forest in a new township and camping out. He said he was going in there again. I have sent his letter to Charles, as he directed and a letter from Charles came soon after you left full of encouragement concerning his health. Dellie has written that he has furnished his room comfortably and is now underway in good earnest. Do

remember him in <fasting> at the throne of grace, Otis. You will know more of the temptations of College than those who have not been there. He mention'd receiving the package you entrusted to Mr Merrill. I shall write to him to day.

I walked up to Class meeting Wednesday at five o'clock and enjoy'd it very much. I felt that I had Christian sympathy and felt the need of it. I look back with pleasure to the time that you were with us. Lizzie has my best of wishes, and dear Guy I hope is well and happy, and Grace dear Child, what a treasure she is. I hope she is happy and chatty as ever. Kiss them both for me. Give my love to Susan. Now I think she is happy. She has accomplish'd her journey and return'd to West Point.

Henry Brewster is married to Angelia Bishop, Lavernia's sister [see Note 1] and your father has accepted the nomination of the republican party to run for the representative. The 12th of Sept is election day. The democrats have not nominated a candidate yet.

I found Elder Holt, on Wednesday getting a tent covering done, one made by the ladies the day I went to Class meeting. He intends having a tent in the Camp meeting at Poland. Hannah, poor child, has been trying to write a letter to her sister and has brought it to me to read. I feel almost indignant to think such a bright little girl should be kept in such ignorance, where there are such excellent schools as at Winthrop. O what a terable thing it is to let him rule a whole family.

Every thing remains about the same as usual with us. Cynthia has been to see Doct <Garcelon>. He has cut Johnnys tongue and given Cynthia some medicine. He don't there is any deformity in her stomach or shoulder, but gave her strengthening medicine.

from
Your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

Oliver Otis Howard

[Note 1: Lavernia was the widow of Arza Gilmore. In 1857 she married Salmon Bishop, who was the father of Henry Bishop.]

[Note 2: Attached to this letter from Eliza is the ending of a letter from Dellie to Otis, OOH-0957, dated 3/12/1857.]

1076 9/5/1859

From: Charles [CH
Howard]

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1015

Hill N.H.

Source: Bowdoin

Hill N.H. Sept 5 '59

My dear brother

I was made happy by receiving a letter from you and one from Mother enclosing Rowland's last Friday night. I thought I would write you just as soon as you got to West Point but I was exceedingly glad to find you did not need a letter to remind you of me. Good fortune seems to attend you on the one hand & miss Fortune on the other. Mother wrote that your ship had been wrecked. It is all the Providence of God and I doubt not will result in your best good.

Seems to me it is a privilege to be Librarian & have an increased salary and the highest divisions to instruct.

You wrote for me to hurry & get well & come to you. If I wait till I am perfectly well it will take some time. I was pleased to learn that you had something for me to do. The use of my muscles will do me as much good as anything. I am busy most of the day here. I work 3, 4 & 5 hours a day - mostly choring - have just been shelling beans & a little while was hoeing currant bushes. I had gained 5 lbs at the end of a fortnight & I am otherwise better than I was. My greatest difficulty will need a long & persevering struggle to be overcome but the secondary one is fast disappearing.

Do you want me to come on to you, Otis, at the end of 6 weeks from the time I came here, say the 2d week in Oct, or the 1st?

If you want me to & I can carry out the treatment I receive here I think I will come. I should only want your assistance at the 1st bath in the morning at 5 ½ or 6 o'clock to throw a couple of pails of water upon me. I should want a chance to heat a little water then & at 10 ½ & at 1 P.M. & at 7 P.M. o'clock. And could I take two meals a day 1st at 7 ½ the other at 2 ½?

I want you to answer me these things & I want to tell you all the trouble I should make in order that you may answer me understandingly. I have a good appetite. Can make a good meal of potatoes & Graham bread (warm or cold) without butter or salt. But I could not eat any of the pies or cakes or bread that you ordinarily have so it would be considerable work to get my meals. Have you a cook? I can get a cook-book of such things as I can eat. We have black berries every meal here & have had ever since I came & I eat a good many with milk & sugar. We may eat milk moderately. We have ripe apples on the table. Have beans which I now relish without any butter or salt. Of course cooked separate from meat - green corn - beets &c. If I can have good Graham bread & vegetables & fruits there will be need of little else.

You see that I shall have to have a dish of my own &, if these are not your hours, a meal-time of my own & then the morning both requiring your assistance & besides perhaps twice a week a "pack" sometime towards the middle of the day. Now, my dear brother, I want you to consider whether I better come & write me now. 6 weeks is half a course & my money will hold out till then.

I have thought somewhat of going to Maine before I go to N.Y. if I do go. There are several inducements - to settle with father & get the \$500 put aright is perhaps the greatest. Might I not leave at home my hot comfortables & the blankets? Or should I need them to take my packs in. One blanket gets wet in taking a pack but it is not next to my body & so can be used again without washing. My two sheets I will take. I might get my boots to work in & a pair of pants & coat as the ones I wear here to work in will begin to be shabby. I might also see the "Great Eastern" as she will be in Portland by that time if nothing befalls her in the passage. I think Nettie would meet me in P. and go to Leeds & make Mother a visit as Mother wants her to this Fall. But then it will cost me 6 dollars to go to Maine & back from Boston & I shall be delayed a week in going down. This will do to consider after I hear from you whether taking all things into consideration you think it advisable for me to come to West Point.

I found a letter here from Rowland when I returned from New Hampton yesterday morning. I went up there to

visit Albert Howe who is there studying Theology. George has not yet gone up.

There have been a good many in College who fitted there of my acquaintances & I was desirous also of seeing the place. It is about 11 miles up there 6 of which I travelled by cars & the other 5 by stage. It is rough & <hardy> getting there as it is all about here in N.H. but the Village is quite level & pretty. One street runs parallel with the river, has some ornamental trees & good looking cottage houses for the most part. There are a few large houses & stores. The new Seminary is a very handsome building & there is a brick building of 3 stories & 3 entrances on the side, for rooms. One end is occupied by the Theological students. Albert seemed very glad to see me. Said he was lonely since he left College. Their father is recovering from his sickness.

Sabbath afternoon we had Communion service & it was conducted in a very interesting manner by Prof Fullerton & the minister Rev. Mr. Stuart. I walked with Albert & Prescott (an old schoolmate of mine who is there studying for the ministry) about two miles to a school-house & attended a Sabbath-school & Prayer-meeting towards evening.

Rowland seems to be in a good spirit & deeply engaged in his work. He has probably written you about going to Presque Isle to the Conference next Thursday. He wrote he had appointed an inquiry meeting but no body came. There has some other than the Spirit of Jesus crept into even that little Church at Patten it seems, & they have been quarrelling for years with one another. The Grace of God alone can overcome their divisions & their bitterness towards each other. It seems that time will not do it.

Mother wrote that Henry Wingate & Laura Ann had been there.

We have started a young folks prayer-meeting here. Had 14 last Wednesday - the 1st Eve. Hope to see more next Wed. Could you pray that the young, may not only flock to our meeting but be gathered into the fold of Christ.

I shall rejoice to keep little Guy company if I come to West Point tho' I may want a harder bed than he at night. One room is enough for two or three such peaceable young people as we. Have you Irving's life of Washington in the library? I have it in Maine & want to read it now. I read scarcely any. Think it best to be out "stirring" most of the time. I have the Melodian which belongs in the Church. I sing & so they give me the use of it. I feel in some degree thankful that my health seems to be amending. I hope my spiritual strength may be greatly increased too. Pray for me.

Give my love to Lizzie & to each of the little ones. I never saw children I liked so well. Write me soon.

Affectionately Yours
Charles

1077 9/10/1859 *From:* [RB Howard]

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1016

Patten

Source: Bowdoin

Patten Sept. 10, 1859

My dear Brother

I was very glad to hear from you & your dear family by your N.Y. letter. I do certainly pray that the changes that have taken place at W.Pt. "may not interfere with your usefulness" & may all redound to the glory of God, which is after all the End to be subserved by Everything.

You will never know till all the accts. have been rendered up how much God has seen fit to bless your labors on furlough. It may be greater, it may be less, than you anticipate, but it is now with Him - there we leave - we trust it, we pray for it.

I have had letters from both Charles & Dellie. I presume I can tell you no news of either. I suppose Ella got home from Brookline Mass today. She was there a fortnight mostly among gay & irreligious people. Otherwise she enjoyed her visit, going into Boston almost every day, & even the worldliness of her friends, she says, fairly shove her to Christ for help & strength.

God has granted me some very refreshing seasons since I wrote but he still seems to withhold his converting grace from this people. Our prayer meetings are not very full, but our meetings on the Sabbath are, tho' that I fear may be accounted for by the "new brooms sweeping clean". I have not studied or written at all hardly. I have made about 50 pastoral "calls", conversing, reading & praying as I go among all sorts of people, chiefly irreligious, now & then my soul is refreshed by meeting a Soul that loves Jesus & our prayers go up together. I need as much Grace in these "calls" as in the pulpit. Today a woman called to see me who lives 15 miles from here & 5 miles from any other family & she is the only "professor" in her own. She was greatly pleased to have me read & pray with her & give her some tracts. Such cases are frequent. The stories of longings after christian conversation & sympathy are heart moving. How thankful ought a wife or husband to be that God has not left them divided.

I have no difficulty in pleasing men, or at least I need have none if I can conscientiously use the means, but O to make them pleased with my master, to preach Christ plainly, to declare against Sin haltingly, to preach repentance & faith simply, as the means of quickening & saving. This is hard, and is uninteresting to the Sinner. I do not wonder that so many ministers have been led to preach on morals & reforms, manners & politics, when the hearts of all are so encased in Sin as to shed the truths of the Gospel as an Oiled cloth sheds rain. But if God prepares the heart, how sweet, how precious is his truth!

Mother has not yet written me. I see that Mrs E. Everett came on to Carrols ordination in Bangor, was taken sick with lung fever & died there. Would to God that her son would preach Christ. I notice the marriage of Lizzie Biggs of Augusta to a Mr Dana of Cal.

At Island Falls where I am half the time, the community is quite primitive - only 7 families, but a good many "camps" in the woods of recent emigrants. 60 attend Sabbath meetings there & 30 prayer meetings & there is a better state of feeling there than here (Patten). You would enjoy a week there very much not less on acct. of the Sociality & hospitality of the new Settlers, many of young men from Portland & Boston thrown out of Employment by the late reverses in business than because of the excellent "fishing". I have succeeded finely both times I have tried it, but shall reserve my great "Trout Story" till next time I go in. The only way I can "get at" the people is to share in their pursuits.

It looks like rain tomorrow (Sabbath). That will be a "trial" - But

"Trials make the promise sweet
Trials give new life to prayer
Trials bring me to Thy feet
Lay me low & keep me there."

If God will be more glorified by my preaching to a few than to many, He will so order it.

I start on my Journey to Presque Isle to attend our Conference next Thurs. & expect to be gone a week - two days each way on the road (100 miles). Mr Haynes, with

[missing ending]

1078 9/10/1859 *From:* W H Timberlake

To: Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1017

Corydon Indiana

Source: Bowdoin

Corydon [Indiana] Sept 10th 1859

Dear Sir -

Your welcome communication was duly received and I embrace this early opportunity to reply. Both Amelia and myself recovering from an attack of the intermittent fever, outside of this one affliction we have enjoyed good health since we were in Maine one year ago, at which time, as you probably have learned my wife was very ill. That sickness of hers was the reason of our not returning by West Point on our way home, as we had intended, the physicians thinking it would be prudent in her to seek a southern climate without any delay.

As for the profession in which I have engaged, I must say, I admire it very much, although it must be considered that my experience has been limited.

I think in time I will make, what I am aspiring to make, - a good country editor; it is all I can aspire to here on account of my location.

Do you take much interest in politics? If so, I suppose our convictions upon national affairs would not conflict much although I never heard you express an opinion relating to the subject in the remotest manner possible in our conversations, simply proving my Yankee origin by "guessing".

I can think of nothing that would interest you except that there has been large revivals in this section of Ind - during last Winter, Spring and Summer, the prospect does not look auspicious at present. The shepherds are becoming to laggard or in other words lazy and of course the sheep wander far and wide. I have not been happy in my metaphor but excuse it.

Amelia sends her love with my own and says she should esteem it a great pleasure to receive any communication from Lizzie and believe me I can say the same to you.

Yours truly
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OOH-1017

Corydon Indiana

Source: Bowdoin

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Yours truly
W H Timberlake

1079 9/19/1859 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1018

Hill [NH]

Source: Bowdoin

Hill [NH] Sept 19 1859

My dear brother

I was happy to receive your letter last Friday night. I expected you would tell me to come & I hope you will enjoy my visit as much as I anticipate I shall. If I was not a "patient" it would be much pleasanter for all parties. We must not complain however, I suppose. I still believe you do not realize half the trouble I am going to make if I keep up my treatment or else knowing it you are too kind.

I thought I should hear from home or I should have written the next day after getting yours and so on Sat. I received a letter from Mother written in Portland depot, & mailed in Boston the 17th - same day I rec'd it. She & Father were on their way to Easton. They will be in Boston on their return next Thurs., & mother wrote that if I thought best they would be glad to have me meet & go home with them. If I had gone to Maine Nettie would have gone up to Leeds & stayed while I was there but I believe, God willing, I will start for West Point week from next Wed. morning. Believe I will go to Boston & Fall River, arriving in New York week from next Thursday morn. I wish you had some business to take you to N.Y. that day but your business rather confines you at home than sends you away.

Mother wrote that father had been elected to the legislature by 36 maj. I heard from Nettie & she from Dellie that mother had adopted a girl by the name of Gould. Mother did not allude to it & this is all I know about it.

Dellie has had the class prayer meetings in his room. Nettie says he don't like the Ψ 's very well. If this is the case I fear they don't fancy him. I am sorry & yet it may be the better for him in the end. If the students don't "make much" of him his self-satisfaction will not be increased. There is a little danger of discontent & discouragement however. I hope he will now give himself up more entirely to Christ & that his life & conduct may be regulated by His Spirit. I have tried humbly to pray for him & I hope with some degree of faith of late. I much rather (infinitely more would I prefer) to see him zealous for the Lord Jesus & his Cause than for any society. I fear the energy of Christians in College is too often spent in the advancement of purely worldly concerns to the neglect of that which is higher & nobler.

I have not heard from Rowland since he went to Presque Isle to the Conference.

I am getting along very well now & I almost dread to leave. I work so as to earn \$1.50 per week 4 & 5 hours per day. Have 50 cts per wk for hearing Dresser recite in Latin. This leaves me \$3.00 per week to pay & more than this till lately. If it was not so expensive & I had not so great a desire to come & see you I think I should be contented to stay. Part of the day I have been digging clay, part carrying water to the garden, shelling beans, spent an hour "in pack" the first I have taken. I was very comfortable & felt the better for it. We have plenty of tomatoes & apples now but Frost has come & the former will soon be gone. We have had blackberries till within a week. I never saw so many before. The Dr. had them by bushels. After dinner I read daily Capt Vicars' life aloud to Merrill & Dresser for 30 min. I have just been reading Memoir of Adelaide Newton, mentioned in the "Higher Life". Hope you have it.

Mother wrote that Sarah & husband had spent some time with them just before they left & would not return to Nassau till Nov.

If I hear from you again I will write again & perhaps so if I do not. I expect I better go up the river in a steam boat - had I not? I shall enjoy those Wed. eve lectures & the Sab. School I am very sure.

Give my love to little Grace & Guy & ask them if they want to see me. I enjoyed meeting Lizzie in her home at Augusta & long ago in Portland very much. I pray that we may be soon together a happy family in Christ.

Affectionately
C. H. Howard

1080 9/20/1859 *From:* Charles [C.H.
Howard]

To: dear brother [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1019

Hill [NH]

Source: Bowdoin

Hill [NH] Sept 20 1859
Tuesday Afternoon

I wrote you one of these little sheets full yesterday, dear brother, but missed of getting it into the mail in season - this morning. I thought at first I would throw that away & write another letter but my letters are neither so frequent nor so full to you as to hinder my writing another sheet full in addition to that.

I rec'd a letter from Ella last week. She has not been returned from Brookline long. Found their house & her room greatly changed for the better. Her father has her old room at the head of the stairs for an office. She now has one at the left of the stairs facing a window opening out into the yard towards Dr. Putnam's. But probably she writes to you so I will not repeat her letter.

Since dinner & since reading my Chap. in Cap Vicars I have been out, shoveling for an hour. We are digging clay to put upon the sandy land & improve the soil. Julius (Dresser) was at work with me. I should have been lonely up here, I think, if I had not had good Companions. Julius & Melville are devoted Christians, compared with the greater part I have met. Our young people's prayer-meeting had 14 present last Wed. night. Vail, of whom I think I have written you & who is still teaching tho' with very few scholars - is a graduate of Union College & a native of Goshen Orange Co. New York - attends & takes part with us & there is one young man in the place like ancient Lot, who prays with us. Two young ladies sometimes offer prayers.

It is too dry. We need a shower of divine Grace. The Catholic young man, who has now been two weeks here in our hill with us attended prayer-meeting last Sunday night with us for the first time in his life. He was praying & laboring perhaps rather unadvisedly for his conversion. I have talked with the <> so little of late about their eternal interest, that I am very awkward. May the Lord put words in my mouth & thoughts in my heart & may He touch the poor boy's heart with the influences of his Spirit. He is Irish. His parents are not living. During the past season he has been in the worst of places - the bar-room of a watering-place hotel - Chelsea beach not far from Boston. He is not very communicative but is very good-natured & kind I think. His business was to pour out liquor - Brandy, Whiskey & Gin at 10 cts a glass. They used to pour in there on Sunday afternoons he says. He was quite willing to go to prayer-meeting when I told him all he was required to do was to sit & listen. He came into the room, while the Dr. was praying yesterday morning & seeing us kneeling - took his place by our side upon his knees. He is used to the former. I pray he may have the spirit.

One of my jobs of work is to attend & prepare the 3 baths except the morning. So you see I am getting practice, & today I noted down the manner of making the different kinds of bread without using <Saloratus> &c. the Dr's "Chemical white bread is a new idea to me & I think a most excellent one as we get a first rate bread. I was occupied about an hour in making a stick for a curtain this forenoon. All sorts of business you observe.

It has been warm yesterday & today & now looks like rain but we have had real cold weather for the week previous.

I seem to fill the sheet, without writing much that is worth the reading. If I had any one to visit or to show me round I would like to stop a day in New York, as it is I shall get transferred to the boat & from the boat & keep on my way till I reach you some time on Thursday 29th.

Till then I bid you adieu.
Charles

1081 9/25/1859 *From:* M. N. Williams

To: Dear Friends [O.O.
Howard]

OOH-1020

New Burgh

Source: Bowdoin

New Burgh, Sep. 25th 1859

Dear Friends

Allow me to present to you the Rev. C. C. Townsend, missionary, who will tell his own story, which I know you will listen to with Christian interest. You will gratify me, by extending politeness to him for the short time he will be with you. Cousins desire to be kindly remembered; we hope you reached home safely.

Yours very truly,
M. N. Williams

1082 9/25/1859 *From:* M. H. Wright

To: Lieut. O. O. Howard

OOH-1021

New York

U.S.A.
West Point

Source: Bowdoin

New York
Sep 25th, 1859.

My Dear Friend:

I am truly grateful to you & your kind Lady for the interest & pleasure manifested, upon my being so successful in my appointment. I pray that I may so live that the good will of such friends may ever be with me, and so discharge my duties through life as to savor our Master in Heaven in all that may be done.

I was glad to learn that you enjoyed your trip & were safely returned to your field of labor.

Your kind favor was duly recd & would have been answered ere this, had it not been that I was on the eve of starting for my post.

I hope to see you soon, & will not weary you with this.

I expect to be at the Point Tuesday Evening.

I hope that Mrs Howard & you all are well, & how is Miss Temmil?

My Compliments to all,

Yr. Sincere friend
M. H. Wright

Lieut. O. O. Howard
U.S.A.
West Point

1083 9/26/1859 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1022

Hill

Source: Bowdoin

Hill Sept 26. 1859

My dear brother

Dr Vail made a proposition to me Sat. night when I went to consult & settle for the last time which causes me to write to know if you have any special reason why you desire I should come to you now. He is very anxious I should stay another fortnight & invited me to stay entirely free of expense. I shall even be earning 50 cts a week by the recitation I hear. The Dr. thinks I shall improve more these two weeks. There is still great need of it with regard to my primal difficulty. I can hardly make up my mind not to be in the bosom of my brother's family before next Thursday night & now if you have any special reason for my coming & think I had better I will do so with the greatest pleasure.

One thing which has made the idea of staying another fortnight less obnoxious, is that we seem to be on the eve of a revival of God's work. There was a very full & interesting prayer-meeting last night. There is one young man here with whom God gave me an opportunity & boldness to converse on the interests of his soul last night, as he seems to be almost persuaded if not quite. The Catholic boy, Edward, who shares our hall with us has exhibited no personal interest further than attending Church all day yesterday which he has not done before. There was deep feeling manifest at our Young people's prayer-meeting & I trust the Spirit was with us. Sat. night at the prayer-meeting in a neighbor's house there was a very full attendance & some of us felt a freedom which we trust came from on High.

These things make me more contented to stay & thinking it will be better to have the Dr to consult with a while longer & to use a surgical instrument a few times more & for me to continue the diet & treatment unchanged. I shall I doubt not overcome for the present the disagreeable feelings which always follow giving up a favorite idea or a sudden disappointment - or as is perhaps equally true & more poetical "hope deferred", if I hear from you by an early letter, that it is your pleasure for me to wait two weeks more or one. It is now my breakfast time & I must close this very hastily written letter - with a request that you would continue to remember me at the throne of Grace.

Your unworthy but affectionate brother
C.H. Howard

P.S. Getting into a hurrying mood, I continued it at Breakfast and as I made most of mine upon rye pudding with milk & sugar & stewed apples with some Indian bread (easily masticated) I am "through" in time to add a word before the mail goes. I am to work all I feel like doing if I remain the same as I have done. Mother sent me a letter from Boston on her way home from Easton. You have probably heard that father was chosen Representative by 36 maj. over Stillman L. Howard. I have not heard from R since he went to Presque Isle. Nettie has a fine situation to teach in the new school-house in the Village - boarding at home. She is also taking French lessons of M. Leon. She has studied French a little before. She has the lower room of the Primary School with an assistant teacher who also assists in the room above. Have not heard from Dellie very lately. My time is fully up. Shall I have a letter very soon? James Abast Howe preached here yesterday afternoon. Nettie wished me to send her love.
C.H.H.