
1097 12/4/1859 *From:* T. J. Wright

To: Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-1037

Fort Walla Walla W. T.

USA
West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Walla Walla W. T.
December 4th 1859

Dear Howard

After some little delay I have just determined to redeem my promise and give you a little sketch of things seen en route from West Point N.Y. to these parts.

We had a short and pleasant trip arriving at this place six weeks from the day on which we sailed from New York. The steamer Star of the West sailed from the latter port at 2 P.M. September 20th having on board the Commander in Chief and staff, the undersigned, and Seven hundred and fifty other persons, whose names have escaped my memory, but they were male & females, white and black, good, bad and indifferent of all the tribes and nations of the earth. The number of people who assembled to bid adieu to the Great Pacificator was immense and the display was very gratifying to the poor old man. I fear his reception will be less warm should the news of his action in the San Juan case reach home before he does.

The English as usual have humbugged us again and without the shadow of a claim to the Island have gained joint occupation with us, and the acknowledged right to argue the point. I do not know what the feeling will be in the Eastern States but on this Coast General Scott is as much condemned now, as General Harney was before - the former for giving - the latter for taking.

We left New York just after the storm, and the effects were still visible for a day or two upon the troubled face of Great Waters. Before reaching Hatteras however they became smooth and the remainder of the trip was made over as calm a sea as any landsman would desire. On Sunday night, the fourth day out, while creeping along the coast of Florida, we ran high and dry upon a reef known as "Double headed shot". After the usual exertion, and eight or ten hours detention we at last succeeded in backing off, leaving only a little copper for change and damage. On Tuesday we ran into Key West and coaled, then sailed for Aspinwall which port we made on Sunday evening, the twelfth day from New York. Here we remained one night and the next morning at daylight took the cars for Panama, from which place we sailed in the evening. The next Sunday we were in the harbor of Acapulco, and the next San Francisco which port we entered amid a demonstration which far exceeded that which took place on leaving New York. The crowd which assembled to welcome the General was considerable for a "ten year old" city. I remained in San Francisco two days during which I saw every thing, under the guidance of Chandler, who met me on our arrival. I was perfectly delighted and only wish that I could have remained longer.

We had a pleasant run up to Vancouver, where I took the river boat for the Dalles. Here I remained about a week. An opportunity soon offered to come up here by land, and after a hard ride of one hundred and seventy five miles over the most desolate country I ever saw, with out wood and but little water. On the fourth day arrived at home, after an almost uninterrupted absence of eleven years. Nobody knew me of course, except some of my old acquaintances at the Point.

I am now with Capt Kirkham in the Qrmaster Dept at this Post. As soon as the spring opens I shall go to the Depot on Snake River as his agent.

I am very pleasantly situated here. Many of my old friends and class mates are stationed here, and all my difficulties have been happily settled. I am consequently in a much happier state of mind than when I saw you last.

I have not been able to deliver your letter to Robert as I cannot learn his exact locality, but will do so as soon as possible.

Having given you an account of myself, I shall await a letter from you with impatience.

And now, Dear Howard, let me thank you again for your kindness and politeness to me while I had the pleasure

of being with you. Remember me to Mrs Howard most kindly, to Guy and the little one. My respects to all my friends who are almost too numerous to mention - not forgetting Mrs Gray & Miss Jennie.

Let me know how Cadet Wright is conducting himself and give me some news for we never get any here.

Yours truly,
T. J. Wright [Thomas J Wright USMA Class of 1854]

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

1098 12/4/1859 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O.O. Howard

OOH-1038

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Dec. 4th 1859

My Dear Son,

Your and Charles letter intended for our thanksgiving reading was gratefully received by me. I had the pleasure of Rowlands company through our thanksgiving, and Warren Mower's family and Roland A. Gilmore's family. In all we counted 13. George A. Gilmore and little girl I had to help me a few days.

We have our meeting house very comfortable and good preaching in it and a bell which we hear distinctly at this place. All these things I hope will be blest to us, in time to come.

I am happy to hear that Charles is doing so well in his health, and to hear from Lizzie, that her health is so good, and the children. Charles always speaks of them as in good health, full of joyous ways. I always think of them with a thrill of delight, thinking of them as always happy. I hope my son you will not overtax your natural strength so as to injure your health and of course your usefulness. It is not often that anxiety gets very strong hold of me at the present day. I am for the most part striving to give all to God in spirit, and do all my hands find to do, in my power.

I expect to leave my home for Augusta in a month to be with your father, through the session of the Legislator. Henry Wingate has been out to Leeds and invited us to board with him while we are there and we shall go there at first and try it, and if your father does not have the Rheumatism or anything of the kind we may stay there untill the time we return.

Dellie has taught a week of his school. I have not heard from him. We did not get our mail last night. We are having a severe North East storm. When it is over and our roads are open'd I shall expect to hear from him. Your father passed through Falmouth since Dellie has been there and took an over coat to the Depot and a letter but we do not even know what part of Falmouth his school was in.

Charles spoke of your house being lighted with Gas and his fears for your eyes. Cannot you shade your light so that you can favor your eyes. I recollect how much I suffer'd with my eyes when at your age, and despair'd of ever having good eye sight, and now my eyes are better than most other peoples at my age.

I never knew whether you saw Mr Sargent and family. I talked with him several times with regard to Charles going out to the Bahamas. I perfectly understood how and where it was, that it was where his brother Daniel lived and owned his salt works. He wanted a teacher for his family and a few others, and I thought if it would answer the double purpose of restoring Charles to health and earning something he would like to go. But I could not be a very good or perfect judge. Neither could I know what effect a warm climate would have on his troubles, but I understand they do not suffer with extreme heat in Summer but have an even temperature.

We have bought us a nice karacene lamp and like it very much. We set it in the middle of the table, and all of us see by it, even your father sits without a candle between his Newspaper and his eyes. The oil is slightly color'd with a yellowish hew. Katie is here sewing for me. Cynthia's health is some better. She walked up here a few days since. Her babe is pined away to almost nothing with teething and has been sick having a great heat in her head and sick at the stomach. I at one time fear'd she might have water on the brain. She is not as heavy as she was last summer. All the rest of our friends are well in Leeds.

Our Circle is still popular. Mrs Berry is the president. Her husband says he shall carry her to all of them when the traveling is such that he can possibly get there. I think Rosilla is missed in her family very much. Lucia seems very <slag'd> her child weighs some twenty pounds and she makes hard work of house keeping. Lizzie has done trying to write any of us. She has my best of wishes, at all times.

Give guy a kiss and remind Grace of me, and kiss her for grandma. I have received a letter from Martha Jane Strickland. She has another daughter. I have not written her since last Christmas. Her family are all well. Mrs Strickland, Henrys Mother in law is with her.

Yours &c
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

1099 12/7/1859 *From:* O.O.H.

To: [Editor
NY Times]

OOH-1039

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
December 7th 1859

Dear Sir,

Under the heading, "cutting a hard knot," in your paper of today, I notice Mr G.G. Poindexter spoken of, as "past middle life" - not under the influence of youthful "fire". This suggested to me the idea of sending you for publication, an article that is taken from the Brunswick Telegraph, a paper edited in the place where he was at College.

I was a classmate of Poindexter, and remember him as being particularly modest in his demeanor, and amiable in social life. He had the reputation of being the best writer in his class & a fair scholar. He was generally beloved in College & will be recalled with much affection & sorrow by numerous friends here at the North. Please insert this brief tribute of a friend to the memory of one, who seemed so short a time ago all that was gentle & kind, though now his name is notorious from his melancholy death.

Respectfully yours
O.O.H.

[Note: This draft letter was published in the New York Times December 10, 1859. It was in reference to the murder of George Gilmer Poindexter in Nashville TN on November 18, 1859. He was the editor of the Nashville Union and American and was killed by Allen A. Hall, the editor of the Daily News.]

1100 12/7/1859 *From:* E. Waite

To: Mrs Lizzie Howard

OOH-1040

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Decmr 7th 1859

Mrs Lizzie Howard

Dear Niece

I recvd your letter of 1st saying the dividnd on Bank Stock came safe. I did not receive the letter which your Husband wrote.

In relation to changing Rail Road Stock for Bonds secured by Mortgage, an opportunity offered to day to make such exchange for the difference of \$10 50/100 pr share which was better than I did with mine. This order came from St Johns. If you conclude to exchange send certificate of Stock with your Signature for transfer, and write me what you wish me to do. I hear that most of the Portland Stock holders have disposed of their Stock. It seems to be the impression that sooner or later a stop must come. In case the managers should be obliged to stop payment of interest on Stock the Shares would not be worth much. The interest on five million of dollars together with Salaries and repairs &c is enormous. The road I think will continue to pay so long as they possibly can but if they are obliged to stop the Shares will be worthless.

From Your Affectionate Uncle
E Waite

1101 12/11/1859 *From:* Aunt Sarah Jones

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1041

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Dec 11 1859

Dear Lizzie

I will make one more attempt to write you. I have completed one letter I wrote you, but it was an old date before I got ready to send it to the office, so I did not send it.

When you left Maine I was at the Shop & thought I should go home the next week, but I found I could not make my children so comfortable at home, so I staid as long as I could stand it. That was a short time before I came to Portland. You may think strange my coming to P, but if you knew my mind it might not look so to you. I did not come here because I wanted to. I felt it my duty to make one more attempt, perhaps the last one, in trying to live with him who is so wicked.

I can say that with safety, he refused to furnish any thing for his family, so long as I lived in Auburn, but if I would come here, he would stop this and so, but if I did not come here, he should go South this winter.

Lizzie, I feel you would not blame me, if you knew my feelings, towards him, a last one. I could not endure the thought his taking another so wicked a tramp. I felt if I could bear with him (I would try it this winter) there was a chance for him to pay his honest debts. If he did not the great debts he owes, I am satisfied, he never will repent so long as he pursues the course he is pursuing. I ask myself how long can I bear with him when weak in faith I feel not long. He never talked so hard as he now talks to me. I ask him why he talks so to me. I came here for him to come up in the work if he wish but he said he did not want to. He was just as high as he wish to stand.

Brother Oren the way he talked to me he did not consider it safe for me to live with him. Alden ask me last fall if I was afraid of him. I told him I was not, but I will not attempt to write you what he has said to me since I have been here. Orlando says confinement is all that will bring him to himself. If that is the christians way, may it be so. Oh with what pity I look upon him, in his wickedness.

Lizzie I feel the need of one of your letters. I have been here five weeks. I never spent five just such weeks before. I sometimes think when E- is talking to me, is it reality. Yes I know it to be, for I feel it, as when I am left alone, I ask God to forgive him for he knows not what he says. He knows nothing of God, for he has turned from him.

This forenoon he went with me to the second Baptist church, his text John eight chapter thirty six verse. It seems as though it was written on purpose for him. He pointed out the ways they could get back, the yoke would be easy and the burden light. Coming home I ask him how he like the sermon. He said he did not notice it. He was thinking about something else. I told him it was one of the best sermons I ever heard.

Monday Dec 26. My letter is a getting to be another old date. I will try to finish it to night, although I did not close my eyes last night till after two oclock this morning. I generally rest well nights, how after entering all my complaints may I not be forgetful of Him who gives me all I need. One of the greatest blessings, health, to take care of children, such kind friends. The children are a going to school. The schools are better here than in Auburn. We live at the west end of the city on Salem St, very comfortable, & warm. Took what thing I needed this winter. There will be a change between now & Spring. I went out Saturday to see if I could not get an instrument for Eva to practice on. I found a piano 37c per quarter. I did not take it that night.

Minnie received the paper you sent her. She read it thoroughly the first night. She say tell Guy she goes to school. Her studies are Geography arithmetic reading <>.

I must close by wishing you & yours see the happiness this world affords. Write me when convenient, for I want to hear from you. Everett takes no interest in my letters so I have them to myself. Is Mrs Lee a living.

In your prayers remember <we> sinful ones.

SGJ

[Written in another hand]
Aunt Sarah [Jones]

1102 12/13/1859 *From:* E. Waite

To: Lieut O.O. Howard

OOH-1042

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Decmr 13 1859

Lieut O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I recvd your letter with the Rail Road Certificates yesterday afternoon. I have exchanged a part of them for Mortgaged Bonds which I now enclose to you. The balance I have not been able to exchange yet but am in hopes of finding an opportunity to do so, very soon.

I think Lizzie may now consider her stock perfectly safe and secure. I am glad she concluded to do so, for I think the Shares may drop before a great while, and then, it would be too late to sell or exchange. I presume you can collect the coupons as they become due, in N.York, if not, you can send them to me by letter. The Banks are glad to pay the money for them here. No cash is required in making the exchanges. I could done a little better last week in buying Mortgage Bonds. I got these for \$11 difference and hope to do as well with the others.

Your Affectionate Uncle
E. Waite

P.S.

Should I not find bonds at a fair price shall I invest any portion in Bank Stock or otherwise.

E.W.

1103 12/17/1859 *From:* M. H. Wright

To: Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1043

Watervliet Arsenal

U.S.A.

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
Dec 17th 1859

My Dear Mr Howard:

The approaching close of another year, cannot fail to teach us all, most effectually, the lesson of our mortality.

Deeply impressed, as may have been this solemn truth, on all our hearts 'tis none the less our duty to be gently reminded of the Same, to our fellow mortals: & allow the example of nature to have a full sway over us - as the workings of an Allwise Providence. Were we to content ourselves with the fact, that all, in a christian Land, must know that they must die, & rise again at the last day, the blessed of Heaven, or the doomed of Eternal woe, & fail to constantly point them to the Bleeding Saviour, & declare in words of Simple Faith, that their Redeemer liveth, how poorly would our duty be performed? How unthankful would we be, for the unknown blessings of redeemed Souls, that await the blest beyond the skies?

A most sad accident occurred in our vicinity a day or two since, which but more clearly declared to us, "that, in the midst of life, we are in death". You may have noticed in the Times, that Mrs Capt Shriver(?) was killed in Troy on the 15. She had just been calling on Mrs Cramer, in 3d St & leaving the house, got into a Cutter, to drive home. The horse being a little cold, began to prance a little, which frightened her, (she being very timid indeed, I understand) contrary to all persuasion from the Driver, she attempted to jump from the Cutter - her feet became entangled in the Robes, & from the motion of the sleigh in connection with her attempt to jump out, her ankle was broken, short off, & she was whisked around & falling on her back, the whole of the back of her head was broken in - she died in 5 minutes. Mrs Cramer, standing at her window, saw the sleigh pass, but did not know it was her late visitor. She saw the Lady jump fall - went immediately to her aid, & had taken off her bonnet, robe & furs, before she recognized her dear friend, who had only left her house 5 minutes before. Knowing as you must, her extensive acquaintance & connection, you can judge of the general gloom which pervades Troy. How happy to think that she was such an excellent, good Christian. I hear that she was a most charitable & lovely lady. May this sad accident & misfortune, not fail to produce a salutary effect on all around, & may her example be not only held up, but cherished & followed by a deeply affected community.

I am exceedingly grateful for your letter to Rev. Dr. Gregory, but have not presented it, in as much as I had already concluded to attend the church below the Arsenal - the Rev. Dr. Roof. Also, I've concluded to unite, with no church here, as yet, so to keep up a correspondence with my Pastor at home. At the same time, to present my certificate here, & thus enjoy all the privileges of a member. I <like> the minister very much. There is a <good> Sabbath School of some 120-150 scholars.

The church is convenient to the Arsenal. I can always attend. A great many of the men attend there. Mr Lansing, also <> he kindly tendered me a seat - as did <> Master <Workinan>, Mr Snyder.

I will see you, I hope, soon, & then I will talk it over. I have a book I intend lending you, to read at the Prayer-meeting, if thought to be of service. The simple truths, plainly told, with such abstinence of every-thing like sectarianism, I prize very much, & think admirably inclined to instruct & advise young converts. It is entitled, "Convert's Manual, or Pastor Gift"; except in reverse order.

We have started a Soldier's School, at the Barracks. We instruct them 4 nights in the week, all four of the Lieutenants, assisting. We can claim nothing for it, as we were so inactive as to wait until the men made the request. However I trust that much good may be done.

I trust that the Prayer-meetings are in good earnest, & hope that the coming holidays may be no check <upon> the ardour of its friends among the cadets, & humbly pray, that, with the new-year may come an abundant out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon Christ's Church & throughout the Land, & that many young men at the Academy may be constrained by love to God, to espouse his cause.

We are pretty comfortably situated, have pretty cold weather, River closed up &c.

All are quite well. Sill desires to be most kindly remembered.

My love to that excellent Lady, my friend Mrs H. Kiss those little cherubs for me, & while they are your hearts delights, may they learn to be God's own.

In much love,
Yr. Aff. Friend,
M. H. Wright [Moses H Wright, USMA Class of 1859]

Lt. O.O. Howard
U.S.A.

1104 12/17/1859 *From:* Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

To: Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1044

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Dec. 17. 1859.

Otis, my Dear Son,

Yours of the 14 written on the same sheet with Charles' was duly received, and it gave me great pleasure to hear that you are in so good circumstances. I have this day attended the funeral of Uncle Barney Howard. He died on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock [See Note 1] and to day [Saturday] his remains were committed to the grave, his last resting place. Mr Chapin our minister at the Centre, preached a fine discourse on the occasion. His text was, "let me die the death of the righteous, let my last end be like his". Mr Chapin said it was the last words he (uncle Barney) ever said and his friends desired him to preach from that portion of Scripture. I felt while looking at his remains, as though I would never tire at looking at him, his countenance was so peaceful. He took a violent cold, and lived six days.

Aunt Howard has been sick had partially recovered when Uncle Barney was taken sick, which has prostrated her again. Harriet and her daughter set a little apart from the other mourners. Harriet had a calm and desolate look. My feelings were carried back many years when I had almost daily intercourse with the family, and now, what a remnant they are. Death has nearly completed his work on the family. The same aunt in her bed. She was in tears bright and sensible, said she should soon be with him.

I follow'd with the mourners to the grave where I have seen the grave open'd so many times to receive those I loved and those I esteem'd. On my return through the fields what a beautiful scene in that view: the mountains though covered with snow were gilded with the brightness of the sun and together with the pure sky and calm air, was more delightful than ever. Although uncle will never meet me again at that door and shake hands with me, nor enquire with so much interest after you. "I want to know about that boy" has often been the commencement of a series of inquiries when I have met him, and there is a lonely news in the thought that he will never be seen on Earth again. I feel a sincere faith that he is gone where his savior has prepare a place for him.

Your Uncle Stillman had a fall a week or two since in his wood house, and injured his shoulder. He has suffered some considerable with it, and has come to the conclusion that a bone is broken. I enquired of Stillman L. Howard today. How he was. He said he was comfortable unless something jam'd upon his arm. The rest of our friends are well in Leeds.

I have received a letter from Sarah Sargent since arrival at Nassau in which she wrote me that Perry was ship wrecked. The Brigg is a complete wreck. O is not that too bad says Sarah. Poor Perry, he will be entirely discouraged. That is all she said about him.

Tell Guy that Grandpa Gilmore intends planting him a garden in the Spring for him to take care of it when he gets here. Warren Millet Mr Seth Millets son, died last week. He was a member of the Baptist church, so that two of our members are gone home to their God. I hope you and Charlie will still supplicate the throne of Grace in our behalf of us as a church, that God will Bless us that his divine spirit may rest upon us.

We are having a close winter. The snow is deep and the weather in general has been severe. Your father has had all his butchering done the past week which has kept me quite busy and will some time longer.

Tell Guy and Grace grandmother always thinks of them with pleasure. They can receive a good sweet kiss from papa in grandmother's name untill she sees them again. Love to Lizzie and yourself.

From your affectionate
Mother
Eliza Gilmore

[Note 1: Barnabas Howard (b. Aug. 11, 1777, d. Dec 14, 1859) was the uncle of Eliza's first husband Rowland

B. Howard.]

[Note 2: A page attached to this letter was moved to one written by Rodelphus Gilmore on 11/20/1958, OOH-0912.]

1105 12/21/1859 *From:* J.R. Bacon

To: My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1045

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York Decr 21/59

My dear Howard

Pray forgive my long silence, but I have so often intended to write you that I began to think that I had done so - much like a man telling a "yarn" so often as to believe it himself at last.

First as to business - I enclose a certificate for \$400, or 4 shares of the Washington Ins Co, which will be duly recognized & entitle you to a certificate of the same number of shares so soon as the books &c are opened which will be between this and the first proximo. If you are coming down about that time bring the enclosed with you & have it exchanged for the stock certificate, or send it to me and I will duly attend to having it done.

As to Fire stock, I don't know what to say. The secretary of a Fire Company told me the other day not to buy any fire stock now, the losses are & have been lately quite heavy, and, I am advised that in the Spring is the best time to buy fire stock as it is generally cheaper then. I enclose a circular of the Republic. Your money is on interest with me, and will be until you make some other disposition of it.

You have heard of course <of> Perry's disaster. He had his part of the vessel insured, but he must make a loss of clothes instruments &c. Poor fellow he seems to be unfortunate.

Accept my wishes for a merry Xmass & a happy New Year and with kind regards to Mrs Howard, believe me

Sincerely Yrs
J.R. Bacon

1106 12/29/1859 *From:* T. R. Tannatt
Lieut 4th Arty

To: Lt M H Wright

OOH-1046

Harlem N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Harlem N.Y. Dec 29, 1859

Dear Moses,

Your very kind letter forwarded from Governors Island, found me in a very poor state from which it has pleased God to restore me in part. My object in going to Fort Columbus was to perform such duty as I could and remain under the treatment of oculists in N.Y. until spring when I felt confident I would be able to join my company. Col Cooper advised me to remain on leave as did my friends & physicians, but I thought I would feel better doing paid duty, not having any place to call home or any diversion. I presumed, but God executed, by prostrating me on a sick bed from which <I> got up to find my entire left side affected by a shock of paralysis, and a cough which but for good care would have soon told upon me, and from which I am not wholly free at present.

Your letter came as a kind friend, and did me good, for which you place me under renewed obligations to you.

I am indebted to Mrs French & Clara for most excellent letters as yet unanswered, and I want to write to Lieut Howard but my eyes are under a medical supervision and I am very anxious to get well again by spring, and join my company or throw up my commission.

I do not see through the cloud that has lowered upon my path since graduating, but could I do so I would no doubt see the hand of God controlling all. I try to spurn the nature of my last attack, and live in a realm of hope, although poor White is ever in my mind, coupled with a remark Mrs French once made to me. God brought all this upon me to show me my own nothingness. I would run up to the Point to see Mrs F and also to Troy but Dr's C & W say I must not expose my lungs at present, but can in a few months, if nothing happens. I hope to see you before going to Randall in the spring. I am in good spirits and feel that all will yet be well. You must write to me here although I am off in a few days, your letters will reach me. You may enclose this to our friend Howard if you wish or tell him to write to me, and I will answer at such time as I can. I wish I could transfer into your corps. Think I shall write to White about it. Remember me in your prayers.

Yours very truly
T. R. Tannatt [USMA, Class of 1858]
Lieut 4th Arty

Lt M H Wright [Moses H Wright, USMA Class of 1859]
U.S. Ordnance