
1115 2/1/1860 *From:* Unknown

To: Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1063

Source: Bowdoin

[Feb 1, 1860 written in another hand]

Lieut Howard

Sir

Excuse the liberty which I, a stranger to you, now take in thus addressing you.

Having been told by the wife of our beloved Assistant Bishop Bedell that you were a devoted follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ I desire to ask you to unite daily with me in claiming the promise , recorded in Matt 18:19 and plead it in imploring an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the inhabitants of West Point especially the cadets, that they may become soldiers of the cross be strengthened with might in the inner man to fight the good fight of faith.

As a follower of Jesus and surrounded by immortal souls and they removed from under parental care I trust you will unite with me in this petition and present them impertunately and faithfully before a prayer hearing God.

I have a son among the cadets and as a christian mother my heart yearns for his spiritual well-being.

Excuse the liberty I have taken I beseech you and believe me

Very Respectfully yrs
in the bonds of Christ

[Missing signature]

1116 2/7/1860

From: E Waite

To: Lieut. O O Howard

OOH-1062

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

Portland Feby 7 1860

Lieut. O O Howard

Dear Sir

Your favor of 15th ult. acknowledging recpt of Bonds was duly recvd. I have since invested the balance \$400 in Bank Stock - Certificate to be given in April. By so doing I get Stock at par - in the International Bank. The Canal & Casco Shares are worth \$6 to 7 dollars premium. Your account is as follows viz,

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| 63 Shares R.R. Stock @ 75 | \$4725 |
| 50 Bonds @ 86 50/100 | 4325 |
| 4 Shares Bank Stock | 400 |
| | 4725 |

I am glad you made the Exchange. I think the Bonds will gradually advance, while the unsecured Stock must depreciate.

Our kind regards to your dear wife and children from

Your Affectionate Uncle

E Waite

1117 2/8/1860

From: A.S. Gardiner

To: O.O. Howard Esq

OOH-1061

Cold Spring

Source: Bowdoin

Cold Spring, Feby 8th 1860

O.O. Howard Esq
Dear Friend

Your note reached me yesterday. I am much obliged to you for writing to me concerning poor Lyons. I will take the very earliest opportunity and go down to see him. Meantime should you see him please tell him this.

We held our meetings for prayer agreeably to the plan I mentioned to you and had a most delightful week. And I am glad to say that the meetings have been continued up to this time, not indeed for the world so much as for ourselves. This is now the fifth week since the services commenced and I am pleased to say that they have been greatly blessed. The church has been revived and many have been hopefully converted. Mr Weekes, sh'd you see him, would be able to give you the details.

Your letter reached me yesterday, and it is an interesting fact that your request for prayer had been anticipated. On Sunday a friend handed me a Baptist paper called the "Examiner", which contained an account of the transactions of the Fulton St Prayer Meet'g. Amongst other things there was notice taken of the remarks and prayer made by some gentlemen from the Military Academy at W. Pt. In the remks. Reference was made to the company of cadets, about forty in number, who hold under the conduct of one of their teachers a semi weekly prayer meet'g. This notice I read on Sabbath ev'g to my people and commended your interests to their prayers. I intend to read to them tonight a part of your letter of yesterday and to renew my appeal to them in your behalf. For the prayer of even one righteous man or woman availeth much.

Please remember me kindly to the members of your prayer meeting and ask for my people and myself an interest in their prayers. May the Spirit of the Lord descend ere long upon your entire post and make you all soldiers of Cht.

I should be very glad to see you here. Can you not come over some ev'g while the moonlight continues & share in our exercises?

Yours very truly
A.S. Gardiner

P.S. Send herewith a half dozen copies of a sermon recently printed, to be disposed of as you may think best. Perhaps the young men of the prayer meet'g could induce their companions to read it.

I send also one copy of a discourse delivered on the last sab. Afternoon of Dec'r last, printed in the "Herald of Youth". I have only one copy left or I wo'd send you more.

May the Lord bless them wherever read.
ASG

1118 2/20/1860 *From:* O. Whitman

To: Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1060

North Turner

Source: Bowdoin

North Turner Feb. 20. 1860

Dear Sir

I hope you will excuse my remissness in not writing to you before. The stone that I agreed with you for was not put in the grave yard until late last fall or the first of the present winter, don't recollect which. I designed to write you immediately after receiving the stone but it slipped my mind until last night. Probably I should have been more punctual had the money been coming to me rather than going. You should have kept the pay when it was in your hands, as I proposed. I recv'd 20\$ soon after you left rather unexpectedly for I designed to pay you out of it.

It is a general time of health with us and my wife still improves - grows stronger physically and mentally so it raised my courage some to think that she is improving altho very slow does some light work and goes out occasionally a visiting. Last fall she went to Portland and made a visit and returned in good health and spirits.

Feb 26. As I was called off before I finished my letter last Monday and lost the opportunity of sending to the office that morning my wife and I went off on a visiting tour and were caught in a storm of rain that made the road impassable for a few days but at length began enjoying usual health. We had a fine visit, met with an old acquaintance from Minisota Silas Haines and he gave us some wonderful accounts of Spiritual manifestations which I could not credit if I did not know him to be a very honest and intelligent man. I am almost inclined to believe that is something real in the matter. Will you please give me your views on the subject.

It is most time for me to prepare for meeting, so I close. Wife desires to be remembered in love to yourself and family. I enclose fifteen dollars.

Yours Truly

O. Whitman [Oren Benton Whitman, Lizzie's first cousin]

1119 2/21/1860 *From:* S Perry Lee

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1059

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York 21st February 1860

Dear Otis

I have been thinking every day that I would go up & see you but something in the way of business has detained me so that I can not say positively when I can go. I am thinking of takeing a vessel for the Nassau trade which will be very pleasant as I shall be half the time with Sarah & Frank and I think the business will pay better than any thing else as freight now stand, although shipping business is beginning to improve a little. I feel very unsettled now and shall untill I decide on something to do which I hope will be in a day or two when I will see you at West Point.

I hope Charles got home safe and that his health is no worse from his visit to New York. How is the crossing at West Point. I have not heard any thing from Maine since my return. What news from Leeds. Have you heard anything from Vaughan.

With much love to Lizzie & the children & Charles.

I remain as ever your affectionate Cousin
S Perry Lee

Tell Charles to write me at Washington Hotel, New York.

1120 2/26/1860 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1058

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. Feby 26. 1860

My dear brother:

I commenced and even finished a letter to you nearly two weeks ago but I neglected to cary it to the P.O. until it got to be so old that I gave it up. But I will try to answering your letter now and will write Charles ere long. I was glad to get your letter after so long a silence but on that account I suppose it was the more welcome. Much of my spare time is now taken up by the Freshman election which takes place next week. We are pretty sure to get beaten this time as they according to one best counting have a number of men more than we can muster, so we have about concluded to abandon the contest and let them have it. This course will save us much money, time, trouble and bad feeling.

Father is going to Portland next Thursday in company with the other members of the Legislature to visit the "natural seaport of the Canadas" by the special invitation of the city government of Portland. Mother has long been talking of coming down here and make Nettie and Ella a visit and go and see other of our friends in the town.

I called at Mr Sand's a few days since and learned for the first time that Miss Helen was in N.Y. I called at Mrs Gross' a day or two after and Lucy Ann was "out making calls" and Mrs Gross was quite unwell so that I was unable to see her. I saw Mrs Frost a day or two ago. She inquired about you, Lizzie & the children and Charley. Mrs Frost has got over calling me Delli.

The railroad movement has ceased to be talked of so much now as the bill has got through the Legislature in good shape.

You seemed to think it very strange that I do not go to hear Dr. Adams in preference to any one else. I have a great many reasons why I like to go somewhere else and I think it is no wrong if I obey those promptings which my feelings dictate. The first reason is that I don't like to hear Dr Adams preach. His sermons are good but his delivery is hard and uninteresting. I have great difficulty in following the points of his discourse. Frequently, last fall, I have found myself thinking of everything except Dr Adams. The benches are very hard and the Sophomores have stolen all the Freshmen's cushions so that it is hard and tiresome to sit still on them for an hour and a half or longer. The meeting house is a poor one to speak in as the sound is not reflected by the roof. The "sounding board" does those no good who sit in the gallery of the So. Transept as the gallery is nearly as high as the board. The students are usually whispering, laughing and reading up there, which constantly takes one's mind from the preacher, even if he should be a very eloquent man.

I have leave to go to the Baptist, but as there is no meeting at the Baptist and has been none regularly since I had permission to go there, I go over the river to the Cong. Church to hear Mr. Potter whom I like very much, whom I consider very eloquent, and decidedly a devoted Christian man. There we have good seats and the preacher is talking to us not to someone else. Dr. Adams has a congregation whom he preaches to and whom he looks at when he is talking. We in the galery are mere spectators and lookers on. None of it is intended especially for us, as we are not of his congregation. But at other churches the students mingle with and form part of the congregation and feel as if the remarks were intended for us. I never can listen attentively to any man when he is talking back or side toward me in a public speaker or otherwise. I like to have a person look me in the face and then I can pay attention to his remarks.

You wanted to know why I did not go to hear Dr. A. and I have stated a number of reasons - I might more but think I have said enough.

Last Thursday afternoon and evening we had the college fast. The meeting in the vestry was very interesting and there was much interest apparent in the minds of those present. We certainly felt as if the Holy Spirit was truly present there. The meeting was well attended by the students - more than half I should judge were present. On Friday p.m. Dr Anderson, the first Secretary of the American Board of Foreign Missions, addressed

the pious students of the college in the Senior recitation room upon the subject of Foreign Missions. This morning the meeting of the Praying Circle was very interesting and it seemed as if the Spirit of God was present during the whole time. The meeting was unusually full, there being as many as seventy present. Prof. W. Smyth lectured last evening. It seems as if God was present in all our meetings and we feel very much encouraged.

Fred. Kendall, whom Charles knows, of the Senior class, the "hardest" drinker and it seemed the worst man in college, was converted during vacation & he comes back a reformed man. Fred. Kendall of last fall, poor and lank, looking as if his health was entirely dissipated away is now one of the finest looking men in the Senior class. He has taken a firm stand in the Temperance Society and has infused new energy into its declining and uninteresting meetings. The Temperance men are waking up! This will be good news to Charles. The Freshman election is the only draw back apparently upon the progress of the Spirit of God in our midst. But as our side have about concluded to withdraw from the contest we are in hopes that the excitement which usually attends an election of that character will be avoided.

Nettie has commenced her school with twenty five or thirty scholars and they will pay her well. It is a private school and it will be easier and more lucrative than a town school.

Give my love to Lizzie and the Children. Tell Charles that I will write him as soon as I can. Give my love to him. Write me as soon as you can make it convenient. Pray for me and the college.

Your very affectionate bro,
R.H. Gilmore

Tuesday morning [Feb 28]. I find my letter still in the drawer but will send it today. Tell Charles that I am thankful for the papers. Our alliance voted last night to give up the election silently and let the other side bring on their men. (The above is for Charles benefit). I will write Charles in regard to the fun we are having in anticipation when it takes place. I may write him before next Saturday when we have our election. I had a letter from Mother last night - no news of general interest. Mother is coming down here next Thursday.

1122 2/28/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1057

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
February 28th 1860

Dear Mother,

I was going to write you on the day Charles wrote his last letter, but as he got the start of me, I concluded to put off writing for a few days so that you might not have so many letters at the same time & then have wait long for another batch. The Library gives me some additional duties & thus absorbs some of my time, but I now feel quite free, for I have finished the article on a Military Subject that I had so long in contemplation, and have long ago got through with the lecture on Ambition which I was to deliver at the "Falls".

Chas. just said you had gone to Montville and that you had not returned when his last news left Brunswick and maybe you will not be in Hallowell when this reaches there. You must tell me all about your visit - how is Aunt Fanny & Uncle B [See Note 1], and when did they hear from the Children, if large sized men & women can be called children? I hope you have enjoyed your stay at Hallowell very much & that it has been mutually pleasant for Cousin Henry, Laura & Josie and yourself. I noticed by the paper that Father's boarding place is the Central House Augusta. From this, I suppose he takes his dinner up there.

Charles has been to New York now twice. You probably have had an account of his first visit. He went last Thursday to go & hear the Rev. H. Grattan Guinness preach & to accompany miss Maria Tupper up here. He went, heard Mr G, went to the Opera, attended the Fulton St Prayer Meeting, but brought up Perry Lee instead of Miss Tupper.

Rather fortunately for us, for Guy was taken with his old fashioned intermittent fever while he (Chas.) was gone. This has caused us considerable uneasiness & anxiety, but he is now almost well again. He is running about at play, looks pale & a little reduced in flesh. We think he took a sudden cold & that a derangement of the bowells at the same time helped on the fever. We have reason to be very thankful to God that we have been blessed with health & so many of his bounties & that He has so cared for us as to raise up our little boy again. May we never forget to recognize this hand in such benefits & blessings.

I must tell you something about a transaction of mine with John Otis. I fear you & Father will hardly approve of it. John wrote me that in a few days he should lose his farm & everything, for he could'nt raise the wherewithal to meet his obligation at Auburn, and said he applied to me as a last resort. After some correspondence with John on the subject, I wrote to Judge Morrill and asked him to do the business for me, told him I would let J.H. Otis have 350 dollars, provided he gave me his note due in one year, secured by a first mortgage on his real estate. This would necessitate John to raise money enough besides mine to clear his estate from mortgages before he could execute one in my favor. He has not yet done so, but I heard from Judge M the other day that he told Judge Morrill he should be able to give me the desired mortgage in a few days.

We have changed all our Atlantic Stock into Bonds & Bank Stock and I feel a little safer in that quarter than I did. Tell father I am very glad to see the A.R.R. having such fine prospects, from Gardiner & Bath & not the least desirable part is to be free from the pestering of the other road. I hope father is very well & endures the honor of office without detriment to peace & comfort.

The children count much on their visit & talk of Grandma & Grandpa much. Give my love to all. I hope Vaughan is better. Tell him to brace up cheerfully & look to God for help.

Good by. This must go to the office.

Affectly your son
Otis

Father's paper came today. Chas is quite well.

[Note 1. This is probably a reference to Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister, Fanny Otis and her second husband, Jonathan Bartlett.]

1121 2/28/1860 *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

To: Dear Cousins Otis and
Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1056

Nassau

Source: Bowdoin

Nassau Feb 28th 1860

Dear Cousins Otis and Lizzie

The Alma leaves for N. York in the morning and I shall only have time to write you a hurried note. I have been intending to write you a long letter, ever since our arrival here, but the multiplicity of family cares, prevents my attending to many duties, as I should like to do, and I find it a difficult thing to sit down, and collect any ideas sufficiently for writing until my 3 babies are fast asleep, for like all boys they like to play horsey, and make a great noise.

We were very much disappointed in not being able to visit you before leaving N. York, but we staid so long "down East", that it gave us very little time, and Frank had business to attend to, that could not be neglected. I wanted very much to go to Philadelphia, but we were obliged to forego the pleasure of seeing our friends there too.

We had a delightful visit at Leeds, and I think it seems more like home to me than any other place. Your Mother, & Uncle Ensign were particularly kind to us all, and Mr Sargent became very much attached to them. This was his first acquaintance with them. Your Mother told Frankie so much of Guy & Grace that they have not yet forgotten them, and Frankie often speaks of them, and asks when we are going to see them. I hope they will see each other some time.

I wrote to Charles by the Steamer, last week, and could tell him nothing definite about coming out here. Since then, we have had letters from Inagua, and they want him to come out at once, and certainly insure him \$500 five hundred dollars and may be able to raise more for him, and they will do all they can, to make him comfortable and happy, while he remains among them. It is a very healthy place, and a more pleasant climate than this, as it is never so hot, as here. They are in the direct line of the "trade winds", and always have a good breeze. Mr <Sturnbern>, the Episcopal Clergyman, opened a School, but finds that he cannot attend to so many duties, and has given it up, and they will be very much disappointed if Charles does not come out. I hope he will find the change beneficial. There are not many Scholars, and the school will be an easy one for him, and will not be a very great tax upon his strength. If a vessel should be leaving New York for Inagua direct, it would be the cheapest way for him to go. The passage is \$30.00 in a sailing vessel. It is the same to this place, and we should be very glad to have him come this way, and make us a little visit. Vessels are frequently going from here to Inagua, and the fare is only \$5.00, I think. It is 300 miles from here.

The "Alma", which takes this letter, is the best vessel running between here & N. York and if Charles thinks best to come, it will be a good opportunity for him to return in her. She will remain 10 days or a fortnight in N.Y. She is consigned to Mr Bacon, and he will give you any information you wish.

I suppose you have seen Perry. Poor fellow, he has been so unfortunate. He seemed quite discouraged when he left here. I am afraid it will be a long time before he gets another vessel. I wish he might find some good business on shore to do.

Mr Sargent intended to have written to you today, but he is so full of business that he has not time. They have the cargoes of 4 wrecked vessels to attend to all at once, and he has been half sick for the last fortnight. I am afraid before he gets through with them all, he will be quite sick. He joins me in much love to you both, and kisses for little Guy & Grace. Give our love to Charles, and please tell him the contents of this letter. I thought as you were all together, one letter would answer. I hope he got my letter by the Steamer.

Dear Lizzie I wish you would find time to write to me occasionally. It is such a treat in this far off Island to get letters from friends at home. You cannot tell how I miss my dear Mothers long letters. I miss her much more every day. We have an excellent Photograph of her.

Give much love to all friends at Leeds, and take much love to yourselves. Believe me affectionately your Cousin

Sarah E. Sargent