

Rev. Mr Buchanan

107

Oxford Church,  
Phil<sup>a</sup>, May 14 '60

My Dear Sir,

From a letter  
lately rec<sup>d</sup> from my son Edward  
at West Point, I perceive that he  
is under considerable apprehen-  
sion that he may be found de-  
ficient in Mathematics at the  
approaching examination. And  
he writes as if his apprehensions  
had arisen, in part, from some-  
thing which had been said to  
him by one of his Instructors. Though  
he does <sup>not</sup> say which of them. Will  
you do me the favor of informing  
me candidly whether, in your  
opinion, there is much, if any,  
danger of his not passing the ex-  
amination? I take the liberty



501  
of writing to you for this  
information, on account of your  
name having been more than  
once mentioned by Edward as a  
person who seemed to be interes-  
ted in him; a fact for which  
I am very grateful.

Very Respectfully & Truly

Yours &c

Edw Y. Buchanan

Lieut. Howard.



There are many professors of religion - but  
few working Christians - I want to be one of  
the latter - I can be <sup>one</sup> anywhere, but where I  
am going I think I shall have a wide field  
to work in - and if I am only faithful I shall  
I know, do good - but I am weak - I lack  
moral courage - I need your prayers - I need  
strength from above - I have thought over the  
matter prayerfully - I am convinced everything de-  
pends, almost, upon the way I start out. If I take  
a right stand at first I shall get along - but if  
I buckle to sin - hesitate to show my colors -  
and thereby deny my Lord & Master - why my in-  
fluence for good is gone and my profession of re-  
ligion will only bring reproach upon the name of  
Christ. O my dear friend, pray for me, that I may  
be delivered from this fate - pray that I may  
have faith to rely implicitly on the promises of  
the Blessed Jesus and place my whole trust &  
confidence in his mercy -

I expect to start for my post on the 22<sup>nd</sup> - My address  
will be Fort Randall D. T., via, Sioux City Iowa -  
My wife joins me in the kindest regards for yourself -  
family - and you are ever remembered in our prayers -  
Yours sincerely, C. A. Mack

C. A. Mack

Chicago, Ill.

May 14<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Dear Howard:

Your letter of April 2<sup>nd</sup> reached me at  
Clifton on the 6<sup>th</sup> of that month. The perusal of  
that letter afforded me a great deal of comfort.  
I felt sure, all along, that you were growing in  
grace & still striving to redeem souls from the ban-  
dage of sin - yet it was a great satisfaction to hear  
from your own pen, your testimony of the gra-  
tiousness & loving kindness of the Lord Jesus, and  
of the triumphs made in his cause through your in-  
strumentality. And there is one good work begun  
& continued under your endeavors which re-  
joices me very, very much, and <sup>which</sup> I pray may long  
be kept up - I mean the social prayer meetings  
you have organized & conducted among the  
Cadets. How vivid is my recollection of the total absence  
of religious sentiment, or influence, in the Corps  
leading to during the whole of my term at the Milit. Academy.  
The levity with which religious topics were always



descended - of the cruel criticisms to which all Chris-  
tians were subjected who had anything to do with the  
Cadets - and of the gross profanity & vulgarity & desec-  
ration which prevailed almost universally throughout  
the Corps. It has often occupied my thoughts, since  
I have been led to contemplate the sinfulness of  
my own life & the great need I have of an Advocate  
with the Father, how those young men - those cadets,  
who many of them come from pious families & who are  
religiously inclined, and some already open professors of  
Christ, are to be preserved from contamination, and  
kept from being drawn into the terrible vortex of sin which  
is yearly carrying so many young men of otherwise fair  
promise. I have felt that the efforts of the Chaplain, exerted  
in my time, were futile & vain - his most touching appeals be-  
ing worn into ridicule - and his weaknesses as a man  
being placed as affects to the purity of his heart - and that  
some other channel of communication with the hearts  
of the Cadets must be opened before any progress could be  
made in the right direction. That Channel, I am  
sure, is the one you have opened - is the prayer meeting  
now held with the young men - God will

bless you in this work - and you will have the  
assistance of the prayers of many friends interceding  
with him to pour his Holy Spirit upon you, and  
make you an instrument in his hands of carry-  
ing the conviction of sin and the way of deliver-  
ance thenceforward into the hearts of these young  
men. I pray God to raise up some worthy dis-  
ciple to take your place during your summer  
furlough, that the fire which you have kindled  
may not be allowed to die out, but go on burn-  
ing brighter & brighter & shedding its blessed light  
further & further into the moral darkness which sur-  
rounds it.

The Christian sympathy which you extend to  
me is, my dear friend, most gratefully received, and I  
trust I may continue to receive advice & encourage-  
ment from you - I am very glad to find that Mr.  
Tannatt is to be at my post - I trust we shall be  
found fellow workers in our common Master's cause.  
I shall endeavor to see St. Wright, if I make any stop  
in St. Louis. I desire to make the acquaintance of  
officers of the army who are earnest, working Christians.



RBAZ

& others. The last mentioned has become an "Adventist". I had no conversation with him but he only came to hear me once. My spirit is generally refreshed & strengthened by my Sabbath labors. but Monday is always a day of temptation - as it is of relaxation. I saw Henry Evans & heard from Vaughan. They think him failing gradually. I am very glad that Maria can come to see him once more.

I called a few moments on Helen Sands but had no time to visit Nettie. Helen said every moment was happily passed at West St.

The three places now in my mind are Yarmouth & Skowhegan & Farmington. But please do not write this to Maine. I may not receive a "call" from the 1<sup>st</sup> & last & if I do from the last, they may not be able to make out an adequate support.

But I try & mostly succeed in leaving all these things to an Overruling Providence.

Sometimes between two lines of duty the case seems evenly balanced. I will be glad to see Lizzie at Bangor. Love to her & Guy & Grace & Charles Jr. W. B. B. Portland

Bangor May 15, 1860

My dear Mother & Ois

I received your & Ois's letters with the acct. of your Philadelphia visit the last of last week. You had a delightful time & I would have enjoyed being with you very much. The good news from Dr. Wheaton & Dr. Mack cheered me exceedingly. We are here having a great drought & in both the natural & spiritual world & a single drop refreshes my thirsty soul. My own mind is occupied a good deal with the question of where I ought to settle. Pray for me that I may decide this unselfishly. Our long engagement seems to me to make it my duty to Ella - as well as for other reasons. that we should be married before long & that question is involved in the one where I ought to go. I have been invited into a promising brookfield field - to Turner & to Brewer. And it has been intimated to me that they would like me at the New Ch. in Yarmouth. where I have preached two Sabbaths & also in Skowhegan & next Sat. I expect to go to Farmington, to preach as a candidate. The two first fields I have declined chiefly on acct. of my wife. Brewer. I expect to decline



when waited upon this evening by a Com:  
or I understand they cannot raise but  
700 - Salary & I don't believe I could keep  
out of debt with that there tho: I might in  
many other places - The natural beauty & healthfulness  
of Farmington attract me - but the Church is  
small & that means <sup>limited</sup> ~~poorly~~ - At Farmington they  
would pay 9 or 1000 but you know the place  
somewhat - May the Lord guide me in these  
things - As I came home from G. last Monday  
I took a freight train & so had a few hours to  
spend with Ella - She was well - but Lizzie is  
at home from Portland - no better after all  
Dr. Fitch's tortures & Mr. Patten was sick with  
a lame back - I saw Nellie Sat. He is  
well - but feels as if the religious interest in Coll.  
had somewhat subsided - Nellie tries me a little  
by his disposition to "mell" & "talk large" about his  
brothers - especially in regard to my place of labor.  
I have coaxed & scolded & prayed for him  
till I am pretty much in despair about him  
& must let "Nature work" - The Leopard does  
not change his spots & there's no use worrying &  
writing to Nellie - He will look at things in  
false colors & feel & speak in a manner  
unbecoming a humble follower of Jesus -  
Thurs. May 17 - Mr. Matthy. Pastor of Farmington  
St. Church, whom you remember - died very

suddenly in Worcester Mass. He had been away  
from Bangor a little over a week. He was one  
of the hardest laborers in the Vineyard that  
I ever knew - I could see him "a ripening"  
ever since I've known him - His Church over  
wh. he has been over 25 years mourning for him  
sincerely - They had a solemn meeting last  
night - May <sup>he</sup> his death may move more than in his  
life - Capt Lincoln Patten - wife & one child  
have gone a 10. mon. voyage round Cape Horn -  
Ella's brother Albert is mate of the ship (Washington)

I hope to get a glimpse of Patten at the  
Depot in Leeds next Sat. I called on Gen.  
& Mrs. Stevens yesterday & gave them your message -  
Gen. I was much interested in your Phil. letter -

What do you mean by "the fund"? Is it that  
wh. you set apart for charitable purposes? If  
so I feel guilty of robbing God's Treasury - I  
expected to pay you the debt during the  
first year of my settlement - & while I feel  
under deep obligation to you & Lizzie in this  
matter I would a little rather pay it - than  
that it should be cancelled or above - Tell  
Charles I saw his friend Dwyer in the cars -  
He seems well & was glad to hear from C. - I  
read him his last letter - Quite a no. of  
old acquaintances in Farmington inquire  
for him - Mrs. True. Mr. Humphrey - Alf. Mitchell