
1138 5/14/1860 *From:* Edw. Y. Buchanan *To:* Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-1079

Oxford Church
Phila

Source: Bowdoin

Oxford Church
Phila, May 14 '60

My Dear Sir,

From a letter, lately rec'd from my son Edward at West Point, I perceive that he is under considerable apprehension that he may be found deficient 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 not 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 examination?

I take the liberty 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 interested in him; a fact for which I am very grateful.

Very Respectfully & Truly Yours,
Edw. Y. Buchanan

Lieut. Howard

1137 5/14/1860 *From:* O.A. Mack

To: Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1078

Oswego N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Oswego N.Y.
May 14th 1860

Dear Howard:

Your letter of April 2nd reached me at Clifton on the 6th 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 bondage of sin - yet it was a great satisfaction to read from your own pen, your testimony of the graciousness & loving kindness of the Lord Jesus, and of the triumphs made in his cause through your instrumentality. And there is one good work begun & continued under your endeavors which rejoices me very, very, much, and which 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 of Cadets during the whole of my tour at the Mil. Academy or the levity with which religious topics were always discussed - of the cruel criticisms to which all Christians were subjected who had any thing to do with the Cadets, and of the gross profanity & vulgarity & dissipation 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 burying so many young men of otherwise fair promise.

I have felt that the efforts of the Chaplain, as exerted in my time, were futile & vain - his most touching appeals being turned into ridicule - and his weaknesses as a man being placed as offsets to the piety 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 meetings you now hold with the young men. God will bless you in this work - and you will have the assistance of the prayers of many friends interceding Him to pour his Holy Spirit upon you, and make you an instrument in his hands of carrying the conviction of sin and the way of deliverance therefrom into the hearts of these young men. I pray God to raise up some worthy disciple 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 burning brighter & brighter & shedding its blessed light further & further into the moral darkness which surrounds 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 & encouragement 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 Lt. 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. There are many professors of religion, but few working Christians. I want to be one of the latter. I can be one any where, 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 every thing depends almost, upon the way I start out. If I take a right stand at first I shall get along, but if I knuckle to sin, hesitate to show my colors, and thereby deny my Lord & Master - why my influence for good is gone and my profession of religion will only bring reproach upon the cause 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 22nd. My address will be Fort Randall N. 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,
O.A. Mack

1139 5/15/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1077

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor May 15, 1860

My dear Brother Otis

I received your & Chas' 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 & Lt Mack cheered me exceedingly. We are here having a great drouth 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 Aroostook 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 Sab. 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 visited upon this evening by a Com. As 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 & healthiness of Farmington attract me, but the Church is small & their means limited. At Yarmouth 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 Y. 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 & Mrs Patten was sick with a lame back.

I saw Dellie Sat. He is well, but feels as if the religious interest in Coll. Had somewhat subsided. Dellie tries me a little by his disposition to "swell" & "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 talking & writing to Dellie. He will look at things in false colors & feel & speak in a manner unbecoming a humble follower of Jesus.

Thurs. May 17.

Mr Maltby, Pastor of Hammond 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 mourn for him sincerely. They had a solemn meeting last night - may be in his death <they> more than in his life.

Capt Lincoln Patten, wife & one child have gone a 10 mos. Voyage round Cape Horn. Ella's brother Albert is mate of the Ship (Washington).

I hope to get a glimpse of Father at the Depot in Leeds next Sat. I called on Gen & Mrs Stevens yesterday & gave them your message. Gen S. 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 Gods 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 as above.

Tell Charles I saw his friend Dresser in the cars. He seems well & was glad to hear from C. I read him his last letter. Quite a no. of Chas' old acquaintances in Yarmouth inquire for him - Mrs True, Mr Humphrey, Alf Mitchell & 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 temptation, as it is of relaxation.

I saw Henry Emmons & 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 Lands but hadn't time to visit Nettie. Helen said every moment was happily passed at West Pt.

The three places run in my mind are Yarmouth & Skowhegan & Farmington. But please do not write this to Maine. I may not receive a "call" from the 1st & 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.

Yr. Aff. Bro.
Rowland