
1154 9/2/1860

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]
West Philadelphia

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1096

Source: Bowdoin

West Philadelphia Sept 2d '60

Dear Otis,

I don't believe I can do anything better than write you some acct. of our journey & stay here so far. We had a most beautiful day, as you know, & a delightful trip down the Hudson & across N.Y. Bay. We took a Lunch at Taylors & passed some time pleasantly in the coolness and stillness of Trinity Church in N.Y. Wm met us at the Ferry, so our trouble was at an end. We found our friends well, received a very cordial welcome, & are very much at home.

Our only draw back, has been the fact that our trunk was not delivered in time for the Phil. Boat by the express man on the Thomas Powell to whom I committed it. The consequence is that I am decked in borrowed plumes & poor Ella, being so much slighter than Maria is left to her solitary "water proof" for comfort & beauty. But I am rather glad we left it (the trunk) for it has revealed a new phase of Ellas character. When I broke the news to her on the boat with much delay & trembling, she received it as cheerfully as she would an unexpected streak of good fortune! And we were merry over it all the rest of the afternoon. But yesterday, it seemed hard to leave her at home alone all day, but she bore it so cheerfully tho' she was so much disappointed, that I could but love her better & better. My wife will be more tried in the matter of enduring patiently deprivations & disappointments than in any other way. May God give her strength to endure them.

But to my Sabbath, as you may suppose, I started on my walk to Mr Barne's Church with no very lively feelings. I got there just at the right time & heard him preach an excellent (not "great") extempore Sermon - the first since an absence - on "I was glad when they Laid unto me let us go unto the House of the Lord". Here is a slight synopsis

I Objects of public worship

II The way to secure such objects.

I. Objects - Treated under 4 heads as follows. 1st worship itself. 2dly Salvation of our Souls. 3dly Cultivation of right affections. He feels this more & more as he grows older. The Sanctuary is for the cultivation & stimulation of the highest & best affections of the Soul. 4thly Incidental blessings connected with Sab. worship. Such as (a) Rest of body & mind. (B) the diffusion of knowledge on religious topics. (c) Influence on families, on morals, on community at large, awakening them to a just humanity.

II Ways to secure these blessings - (1) things in the arrangement itself essentially adapted to this end. (2) arrangements dependant on ourselves, in order to secure these blessings (3) Those dependant upon God. By this you will get no idea of the Sermon I fear. It was plain, simple affectionate, fatherly & spiritual - No great Rhetoric or Logic in it, no display of learning, but eminently quiet Christian & instructive in its tone. I enjoyed the Service very much, was melted somewhat in new Gods blessings to me & mine. The walk home seemed very short & almost everybody looked like Christians as I came along. In the Evening I heard Mr Wise & liked him. He seems to be a good earnest Christian, as unchurchy in his style as possible. He will do good here & hold up the cross of Christ.

This morn Maria & Sam have been walking with us in "Woodlands" (Cemetery) Alexander Hamiltons old Seat - a beautiful spot. Wm is in town & we will be pretty quiet today looking for the trunk tonight by the express train.

I hardly think this worth three cents but I will send it tonight after I have asked "Will" about your money.

Evening. "Will" ways that those Railway Shares are payable in installments, & that he can draw on Bacon for them as they become due. None have been called for yet, but the first one will be, in a week or two. It will be about (\$140.00). If you are writing Bacon, perhaps you had better mention that Wm will draw on him as above. The trunk is here & Ella is "dressed" & waiting a call from her cousin Mrs Tappan.

Love to Lizzie & the children. Ella joins in it & Sam has given a large no. of kisses for each of you.

Your affectionate Brother
Rowland

If I have any letter from Farmington, Please send it to Brooklyn Friday care of Geo. Elwell, NY City. We will go to Bkln on Sat & will not be back to West Pt before Tuesday of next week.

1155 9/6/1860

From: J. R. Bacon

To: My dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1098

Tarrytown

Source: Bowdoin

Tarrytown Sept 6/60

My dear Howard,

Yours of 5th at hand to day. I have written Merrick to draw as instalments become due.

All well with us. Am too much engaged to visit you now, hope to see you here with Mrs Howard this fall. Mrs Bacon joins me in affectionate regards to Mrs Howard & yourself & I am in haste,

Truly Yrs
J. R. Bacon

1156 9/15/1860 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1100

Holden

Source: Bowdoin

Holden Sept 15 1860

My dear Mother

With great regret I learned from a letter received from Dellie yesterday that you have been suffering severely from Erysipelas or a disease of that nature. I was somewhat relieved to find that you considered the worst part gone through with & seemed to be getting well again. I had had some misgivings & fears that you might be ill. How thankful I ought to be to Our Heavenly Father that He has spared you a longer suffering & has or is bringing this to so happy an issue. It seems hard for you to be without a child & to be sick but you have the daily prayers, I trust, of us all. I know very little about your condition & if you are not able I hope father will write me. I shall be very anxious to know how you are. Dellie told me what father wrote him I suppose. I had not had a letter from him till yesterday. He wants me to get him a school & I suppose I can do so here.

My own school is very flourishing - 46 scholars - and all seem interested in their studies except two little boys who have been absent a week sick.

Rev. Mr. Southworth has gone away, & expects me to read two of Bushnel's discourses to the people week from tomorrow. A man from Bangor supplies tomorrow. I thought I would not take my own sermons. He did not know I had written any & so asked me to read those or write some of my own if I would but he supposed I would not have time to do that. Rev. Mr. S. originated in Winthrop, married his wife there. He lost his wife last winter & now lives all alone in his house, taking his meals at deacon Fisher's about 1/4 mile away. It seems rather a lonely way of living especially nights. He has a little girl living at her grand-parents in Winthrop.

Last night I rode out to Bangor with Mr. Newcombe (with whom I board) & witnessed a grand triumphal procession - torch-light. We got home about 10 o'clock. I had some books to get for my school. I study all the time nearly between schools. Have been hearing two scholars out of school. One began the study of French & has overtaken the class - with the intention of <[sheet 4 (pages 4&5) glued together]> into school week from next after her folks return from a visit to Dartmouth Mass. The other did not conclude to <study French till recently & her <and her I have been> helping to overtake the class. I always hear two classes after school, taking me till 5 my regular day's work. My health is good - not so tired this week as last. During the recess have found time to go out & play ball & pitch quoites with the boys occasionally - which is much better than puzzling over some mathematical questions. Our meeting last Thursday Eve of <> I had the charge - was larger & <> was taken up by more speakers than either of the previous ones. I hope to see a work of Grace especially <> my scholars. If you are enabled <to> work, you will perhaps have some time to reflect & pray & I wish very much that you will spend some moments in prayer for us here & for the object I have mentioned. Think how responsible a place I am in - kneeling daily in prayer before a family, who exercise no faith in Christ. Standing hourly before young men & women with souls to <save> - Calling upon God in their <presence> daily. How much I need Divine Grace to help me to live consistently every moment & to pray in faith & fervency.

Do you see much of Rev. Mr. Chapin. My regards to him. I hope his labors were blessed. How much I pray that Father may decide to throw all his influence upon the side of Christ.

I studied part of the forenoon then went down in the field & dug potatoes ½ hour, then returned to study & to write this letter.

There were at Bangor besides squads from each of the Wards, companies from Orono, Dedham, Holden & Brewer - wide <wake with their torches of all colors, a band of music in the Center. Just below here, some men were thrown from a carriage & three of them severely injured - one dislocated his shoulder last night after we got home. The harness broke right opposite our house & the horse ran & kicked. They <stopped> at the next house below & were taken home to Buxport this morn.

Our life hangs upon a slender thread. Let us Commend ourselves often to the mercy of God thro' Christ our Lord.

No more today but let me hear soon. Your affectionate son
C.H. Howard

1157 9/16/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1097

New York

Source: Bowdoin

New York
Sept 10th 1860

My dear Mother

I was shocked to learn of your sudden illness this morning. Rowland & Ella had gone to Philadelphia & were to be in New York yesterday. As soon as I got Uncle Ensign & Laura's letter, I hastened to New York to find Rowland to let him know. I must go back without seeing him as I shall have duty tomorrow morning. He is in the city & will go up to West Point tomorrow and if tomorrow don't bring us good news I shall encourage him to start for home immediately.

I do hope & pray that God will spare you to us a little longer, that we may see you again. Lizzie was very anxious when I got home to day & said we had a letter from Leeds with bad news.

Major Ramsay who came with me from West Point, says a Cranberry poultice has invariably proved a sure remedy for your disease when it has not struck a vital part.

With much love I am your
affectionate Son, Otis

1158 9/22/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1099

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
Sept 22nd 1860

My dear Mother,

Rowland & Ella left us yesterday morning. After they had gone the letter that I was expecting from Father came. I had let him have the thirty dollars & did as he desired me - opened Father's letter, took the \$30 enclosed, & sent him the letter to E. Cambridge. I was glad to find you had improved so much and sorry to think how sick you still were, but I should thank our Heavenly Father for his goodness in sparing you to us & moreover in answering our prayers to give you a cheerful dependence on His will. How truly kind your neighbors have been to you in sickness. May their works of love be restored to them four fold. What a different, what a delightful society we should have, if men loved God with all their hearts & their neighbors as themselves.

I was all prepared for bed tonight, but could'nt have a peaceful prayer till I had fulfilled my promise to you, so I slipped on my clothes & came to my desk to write you. I have a good many calls upon me and am apt to put off, what comes irregularly before me, for instance letter writing, but I ought to have some system in this as in other things. Since I wrote you, we have been obliged to move into another house. We are now in a house with another family - that of Mr Carroll occupies the lower half. It is not quite so convenient as an independent establishment, but we hope to get on very pleasantly.

Alice Sands or rather Mrs Alice Wing has been with us for some time - her husband joined her this evening. George Wing has been 1st mate of ship Niagara. He has just changed to another vessel. He met Rowland in New York who told him that Alice was with us. Returns are pleasant, but I think these long absences where the months, days & hours are counted must be tedious.

This year I have a Section in the 5th & another in the fourth Class, so that I have a different Mathematical course to teach this year from that I had last year with one class. It don't take a great deal of time to get my lessons. I usually get them in the morning before breakfast.

I am sorry to hear of Nelson Gilberts death. But I didn't much expect to see him again in this world. He said he should'nt see me again. God grant that his Christian example during the last hours of his life may be followed by his children & that his prayers for them be answered. It is unwise to put off what will make us truly at peace. Sickness & misery of Soul don't go well together, they aggravate each other, and yet how many begin to seek God the moment disease begins to prey upon them, having altogether neglected to seek him in health.

I hope you will find much comfort from communing with your blessed Saviour while you are suffering. In this way bodily ills can be counted only as blessings, if they induce self-consecration to Christ.

Tomorrow is the Sabbath. I hope we shall all enjoy it. I presume Rowland has written you all his plans. The children & Lizzie are asleep & I must send love from them without the verbal endorsement. Love to Father & kind regards to Isabella & all the neighbors.

Your aff son.
Otis

How do Mr & Mrs Chapin come on in their good work?

1159 9/24/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Brother Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1101

East Cambridge

Source: Bowdoin

East Cambridge Sept 24 1860

Dear Brother Otis

I received Mothers & Mr Sitcombs letters this A.M. They were very welcome I tell you. I do hope that that ulcer is not going to continue long to afflict her. We found Mr & Mrs Godfrey at the U.S. Hotel in Portland & they together with Alfred Patten, her brother, came on to Boston with us. We had to come by the Norwich route to get rooms & had to rise at 1 A.M. - a very disagreeable operation wasn't it Lizzie?

Ella & I walked in to hear Dr Kirk yesterday (Tell Mrs Gray). You must never spend a Sab. in Boston without hearing him. He is most profoundly Spiritual. I was affected to tears while listening to him. In the P.M., I went with Mrs Hazard. In the Evening, I went to Dr Kirks prayer meeting & a Baptist one afterward near by. Both were blessed meetings. I asked them to pray for you & your meeting & a Clergyman put up an earnest prayer.

We go out to Harvard Coll. this A.M. & to Brookline to a friend of Ellas to Tea. We go to Bath tomorrow night in the boat.

I miss my sleeve buttons. If they "turn up" please send them in a letter. I just spoke with Geo. Wing in N.Y. & presume he is with Alice by this time. Give Ellas & my love to her, to Lizzie & lots of kisses to the children.

I felt very much like writing you my feelings yesterday, but have no time today. O that Christ would come into this household. All Olives family are well & Lester talks about Guy, Grace & Diamond!

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

1160 9/27/1860 *From:* Sarah E. Sargent

To: Dear Cousin Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1102

Nassau

Source: Bowdoin

Nassau Sept 27th 1860

Dear Cousin Otis,

It is with a breaking heart I write you these few lines to apprise you of the dreadful intelligence that my dearest Husband is in the Tomb. He died very suddenly on the morning of the 21st at 5 o'clock. He had had an attack of Hemorrhage from the Lungs two weeks before, from which he was recovering and the day before his death he sat up in a chair 3 hours, but an abscess (of which I was ignorant) broke very suddenly upon his Lungs, and he died in half an hour, and was not able to even speak to us. He strangled to death, as he had not the strength to raise it.

His Faith in his Redeemer was strong, and feel that it is well with him. He is at rest in his Father's bosom. But the affliction is greater than I can bear. It seems to me he was so affectionate, and devoted, as a Husband, & Father and these dear Babes that are left without a Fathers care. May God have mercy upon them and upon me, for in 7 months another poor orphan will be added to them, which adds tenfold to my great affliction. The ways of God are so mysterious.

I feel that the hand of God has been most heavily laid upon me, and I feel so totally incompetent for this great responsibility which has been thrown upon me. Pray for me dear Otis, & Lizzie. My only relief is in prayer. May Grace & Wisdom be given me. But my utter, utter, loneliness if I could flee from myself. Why should one so much needed, be taken so soon from these dear Innocent Babes. I may deserve it for my great sinfulness, but these dear Children. Oh! May God who has sent this affliction have mercy upon us.

Will you write to Leeds and tell them these dreadful tidings. I have not the heart nor strength to write to them now.

Your affectionate & broken hearted Cousin
Sarah E. Sargent

by his own request some time ago, Frank's remains will be taken to Greenwood [Brooklyn, NY]. I expect Perry [Lee] will be here in about 6 weeks.

Sarah

1161 9/27/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1103

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

Leeds Sept. 27. 1860

Dear Otis

I found Mother yesterday very much better than I anticipated & I hasten to inform you. Your letter came last evening by the same train that I did. I left Ella at Bath & came on in the 12 ½ train.

Mother seems not quite so well this morn. She thinks she has taken some cold. Tell Guy & Grace that I saw their picture in the parlor & wanted to kiss it but couldn't reach! Mother walks from one room to the other, looks pale, but has not lost much flesh & is cheerful. Her ulcer is gradually healing. She has Elizabeth Bates, a girl from Greene. I hope she will stay as she appears to be a good girl. Elizabeth More was here last week & they have had 5 girls, 4 days each, \$1.00 apiece!

Ella is well. Saw Dellie yesterday. He is ditto. I go to Farmington today to arrange for board, ordination &c, & will return to Bath Sat., & probably attend Mr Fisks meeting in Bath next Sab with Ella.

Much love to all your dear ones in which Mother joins. She will write soon. Hopes to ride out before long.

Your Brother
Rowland

1162 9/29/1860 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1104

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. September 29 1860

My dear Mother,

Saturday night has come round again, and I wish to write you a few lines before I retire. I received a letter from Rowland today enclosing one of Charlie's. I am glad you are as well as you are and hope the ulcer will soon disappear and leave no ill effects upon your system. I think we are very comfortable in our new house.

Lt. Carroll's family are pleasant and I don't know why we may not be as happy here as elsewhere. It is hard to get used to having another independent family in the same house, but doubtless there is a Providence in this as in other things reaching forth into eternity. Rowland's visit to you was a short one, but I presume you were glad enough to see him. With the rail road between you, you & Rowland don't seem now to be far apart. If you are well you can easily run up to see him & Ella, & vice versa.

Mr Carroll has a horse & carriage. He took or sent out the children to ride this afternoon. They went about five miles & back and didn't get in till it began to grow dark. Guy said when he got home, that if any one should ask him to go to ride again, he should not go - he was so cold & tired. The weather is quite cold so that we have fire in two rooms.

The children, Lizzie & myself, are in our bed-room. Lizzie is white for bed combing her hair & quoting 'Burns' just now. Grace taking long breaths in her crib & Guy, sleeping quietly in his bed in the corner. They look very pretty when they are asleep. I think they are good children. Grace obeys me now with alacrity & cheerfulness. She saw somebody yesterday while we were riding that she said was grandmother. I expect it would be pleasant to you to have her playing around while you are confined to your chair & Bed.

Mrs Wing (i.e. Alice Sands) & her husband have gone to New York. They went last Tuesday. We shall expect her back when her husband again goes to sea & I hope she will stay with us some time, for I have to be away from Lizzie so much I think it will be pleasant for her to have a companion.

Tomorrow I have engaged to speak for Mr Gray the Presbyterian Minister at "the Falls" so that I have had to employ much of my leisure this week in preparing a discourse, and as a consequence my private theological studies have not advanced much. I have many drawbacks & many misgivings about the will of God concerning me, but I have confidence in Him, that He will direct me aright.

My love to Father & kind remembrances to the neighbors. Lizzie sends her love to you. I hope the colt is doing well. I shall send her oat-money if I conclude to draw forage for her. Write when you are able & pray for me that I may do my duty.

Your Aff. Son
Otis

P.S. Monday Oct 1st

I spoke for Mr. Gray yesterday in the morning & afternoon. <[hole in the middle of the paper]> went through with my usual S.S. duties. Mr. <> invited me to be present at the meeting of <> class at 4 P.M. Sundays which I did <> knowing I received a Kennebec <> Father with the election <> Frye is a representative from <> Republicans have swept the state <> . I hope you are gaining. God bless you, & restore you to complete health.

Otis