

wife & happy children with all
the attendant circumstances - God
is indeed good to me - and I think
I enjoy much real peace of mind -
though I break up the even tenor
of this peace by my irregularities - my
yieldings to temptation - Alice King
(Alice Sands formerly) is with us now.
All would send love to you if
awake. Guy had a high time with
Diamond tonight before he went to
bed. Sometimes Guy would be down &
sometimes the dog - It has been very
sunny & muddy for a few days
just & Grace has come out in an
old pair of boots of Guy's. She makes
them fly without regard to mud. As we
passed the coast battery tonight while
riding, Grace said she thought the
last time she was there she was
with Uncle Rowland. Good night
much love to Father & kind regards to
the neighbors & a hope for a great
spiritual blessing at Leeds to refresh
you all - Affectionately your
son O. O. Howard

Tell father I have made arrangements to have a horse-drawn carriage for which I
draw forage in Troy & also I have him to use I calculate - will consider the only
in my service while I am here & he is at Leeds.
We have good news from
Charles
I saw a letter
to Alice this
morning -

West-Point - N.Y.

Nov 2. 1860

My dear Mother,

All have gone to
bed and my eyes feel a little tired
of Hebrew so I will write you a
few lines. I haven't heard from you for
so long a time, that I fear a relapse
or else you are too busy to write. I think
we are all pretty well, though each
one of the family has a cold
which causes quite a concert of
coughing in the morning. Everything
goes on about as usual with us, there
being very little to vary the ordinary
routine. We get up between six & 7 a.m.
I get my lessons, go to recitation, return
between 11 & 12, find Sissy sewing &
the children at play out of doors or
within. I look over my newspaper

read my letters if I have any -
sometimes study till 2 P.M. Though
almost every day calls me off
to do something else - then we
sit down to dine - After dinner
I generally ride or walk for an
hour or two. Though of late I have
been fixing a stall & flooring for the
cow in which operation the children
have been too much interested to keep
out of the dirt. St. Carroll has
gone away for a couple of weeks
and I am to exercise his horse
for him till he returns, so I have
the opportunity of looking Lizzie &
the children to ride. Two afternoons
in the week I go to Rev. Mr. Wells, just
opposite Goggin's Hotel to recite in
Hebrew & two other evenings we
have the Cadets prayer meetings -
The Sundays exercises only, vary the
routine of duty & exercise - We rise
& breakfast a little later - I often visit

the hospital before church - almost
always the Soldiers Hospital - Though
last Sunday I stopped at the Cadets' as
it is near by & I had no time to go
to the other. Here I leave tracts & sometimes
read 6 chapters & have prayer - Services
at the Chapel are then from 1/2 past ten
till after twelve - We dine at one, go to
Sunday school at 2 - I go to Mr. French's
Bible class at 1/2 past 3 - evening services
at 4 - and usually go to the Methodist
meeting from 7 to 9 - Last Sunday
night I went to "Fort Montgomery"
some 5 miles below to address the
children at a missionary concert - &
I have been once before. I do
not do a great deal of work this year
but do not often feel refreshed & vigorous
as I would like - My appetite is good
and if anything is wrong I am apt
to eat too much - but I am thankful
for the great blessings, I have, in the
constant care & love of God - in My dear

he (Guy) must look so
much like him with this
hat on. I want a picture
of Guy very much. Maybe
we have one? When you
go down to Buttermilk - do
some day have one taken
& send us. Ella is nice
& sends her love to you
Lizzie, the children & Mrs W.
She is mourning over going
out to sea this P.M. = I am
feared on acct. a little
ague in the face. Was
glad to get yr. letter
about the Prince & the
Bishop. We got a three
gal. keg of New cider from
home yesterday = don't you
want some?
Yours affly. Rowland

151
Hamington. Nov. 2^d 1860

Dear Bro: Oles
I have former
all lost property except my
Greek Testament = If that
is at West Point I beg leave
to present it to you with
much love. I had supposed
that Mrs Winy had left you
but Mother tells me she
will stop all winter - Give
her my love & Ellas. We have
been thinking how much
we would like to see her
when she returns to Mass.
Ellie is to teach in Holden
a small, short school of 8
weeks - He will commence
right after Thanksgiving -
(Nov. 29th) - Ella & I went
down to Leeds & dined with
Mother yesterday returning

in the P.M. rain = ^{us} That gives
us about 3 1/2 hours at home.
Mother was very much better
so much so that she returned
as far as Livermore Falls
with us = Father came up
on business & they were to
stop with Geo. & Mildred over
night - We had one of the
warmest & most beautiful
days of this beautiful season
(Indian Summer). I don't know
but that I told you that
we had made an arrangement
whereby our fares on the A.R.R.
are charged to Father's acct.!

I have thought since I was
at West Pt. of a hand book
of theology just such as
you need - "Knapp's Theology"
It is in one vol. & not
very expensive - I would
certainly have it - as it is full

& generally reliable - as
much so as any - I saw
none of the Secd. people
but our own yesterday -
Mother had had a very
interesting letter from Chas.
but had sent it down to
Louisa - I have been mak-
ing pastoral calls tomorrow
this week - There were 30.
at our Wednes. evening meet-
ing tho. a dark night - Our
Sab. meetings are quite full
but no other signs of special
interest - I exchange with
Bro. Morrill next Sab. A.M.
& we have our first Com-
munion as Pastor & people
in the P.M. - May the Lord
show himself at his own
table - Tell Guy that Frank
Gilman sent me a picture
of the prince - I suppose

Sir,

In compliance with your request I give you the following account of my religious experience.

My ancestors were Puritans, and they all, of whom I have a knowledge, were Christian members of different churches. My parents were both devoted Christians, and always strove by both precept and example, to lead their children to a Savior.

Many times during my youth did a remark or prayer of some Christian person, affect me deeply, and often at such times have I turned away where none but God could see, and tried to pray. Then a dread of the remarks or scorn of companions would creep over me and I would grieve away the Holy Spirit. Thus my time passed until the winter of 1857-8. A great revival of religion was then in progress and many of my companions were hopefully converted. I was somewhat affected, so much so that I arose in the prayer meeting, as a request for prayers.

During the winter my father was taken sick, and after a protracted illness, he died rejoicing in his Savior. His last wishes for his children were, that they might be Christians, and live to do good in the cause of Christ.

My father's death made a deep and lasting impression on me, and I inwardly resolved to find a Savior who could make so peaceful a dying bed. I studied my

Bible and became convinced of my sinfulness in the sight of God. I felt that something must be done; I took my Bible and went into the wood and there prayed earnestly that I might be led aright. I was greatly impressed by the Scripture, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them;" &c. Matthew 6:1. So I kept my feelings pent up in my own bosom for several days, until I happened one day in the shop of a young man who was a Deacon of the Church. He knew nothing of my mind, but like a Christian he spoke to me of my eternal welfare. I unbosomed to him my whole heart, and was kindly advised to press on and do my duty. From time to time for a few weeks afterward I made known my feelings in public, and as I was then about to start for West Point I was advised by my friends to join some Church as a safeguard to keep me while away. At this time the Church to which my parents had always belonged, was without a Pastor, but the Church met at my mother's house on the evening previous to my departure, and I there became a member of the Congregational Church of New Sharon Maine, and took the vows of God upon me. Thus I went from my friends in my early Christian life and entered upon a life surrounded with temptations; but I have not ceased to hope and pray that I may be kept from the evil in the world, and that I may lead the life of a Christian. My experience in my present situation is perhaps already known to you. I have times when I lack the interest I ought to maintain,

but at other times I think I can truly feel the joy arising from the love of God, and it is my prayer that I may ever be a disciple of Christ. Hoping that I may be remembered in your prayers I am Sir,

Respectfully Yours,

J. A. Smith.

Lieut. C. C. Howard.

Perhaps it may be well to state aside from the above that the Church referred to, is the "Second Congregational Church of New Sharon; also that Rev. Johnathan E. Adams has since been installed as its pastor.

J. A. S.

U. S. M. A. West Point N. Y.
Nov. 2nd 1860.

since her health has failed I hope she will think it is all for the best, as she said she hoped it was at first; Laura took back some of the clothing she had been preparing him, the presents Lissie gave her for him & pity her she is so disappointed I think she has injured her health taking care of him & intend seeing her again this week and know more about her infirmities, for I think she feels a want of sympathy. she spoke in our conference as though she had communion of spirit with her God and saviour, but I think there is bodily suffering for her in the immediate future, it is now past nine o'clock, good night. Eliza Gilmore it is now evening again and we have had fine sunny day which seems to have changed everything for the better. there has been no particular change at our place since you left. Oliver Gilbert has bought William Wings' farm will not probably move there until spring. Elder Holt is holding a series of meetings at Keens corner, and I understand there has been several conversions, yesterday being stormy day got no news from any quarter hope you do not over fatigue your nervous system, it will tell on you in after years, more seriously, than now I suppose Delle will go to Thalden to teach this winter, give my regards to Mrs Wing and much love to Lissie always accepting a big share yourself, I hope to continue to receive your kind letters, as punctual as ever I suppose we must expect cold weather soon, three days will complete 30 years of your life,

from your affectionate Mother

Eliza Gilmore

A. O. Howards

Leeds, Nov. 4th. 1860,

My Dear Son Otis

It is a long time since I have written you I cannot tell you how long but one thing I know I am very happy when I receive yours, and every one is a treasure to my heart, and you could not devote a few minutes to any one that would appreciate them as I do, and I have the pleasure of feeling that my sons love each other your letters have come in good time, I have been feeble indeed for five months last Saturday we took a letter from the office directed to Rodolphus Leeds mailed at West Point, I took a mothers privilege and opened it, and found it one of your kind letters, to Delle directed to Leeds that mistake, I regretted the mistake on Delle's account, it would have been so pleasant for him to have met your handwriting at the Post Office sat. eve, after his week's labour was over, I have written him to day, and will have them mailed to Brunswick tomorrow, I am very sorry to hear Lissie is sick with the fever again, (as she told me she had an attack of it last winter) I hope ere this she is fully recovered from it, I think of her and even dream of her sometimes, hope and trust she leans earnestly on her redeemer, tell Guy Grandmother thinks of him every day and goes into the parlor sometimes on purpose to look at his and Grace's picture I recollect that Guy had ^{the} present when in Thaine from Grandmother but still look forward to a time when an opportunity will offer that I can do differently, dear Grace grandmother thinks of her with pleasure always hope her childhood is gay and lively like the sweet little birds in summer she is a darling little girl hope she will long have both of her parents to love and bless her, only think of Sarah's dear ones one year ago I was witness of the carnesses of their dear father that is gone from them forever, they have lost the teachings of a pious father, I hope Sarah

will continue those teachings, but it is a dark day to her now, I received
received a letter from her soon after you died and ^{have} written her in return
and hope my letters will be some comfort to her, but sometimes the heart
is so full that it seems almost like mockery to tender our cold sympathies
I hope she will live near to God and whatever befalls her, in a worldly sense
of view she will ever be found at the feet of Jesus. It is truly a bereavement
to lose such a husband as Sarah has, and in looking over the world to think
no one ^{in whom} she can put much confidence, and in her trying situation the sym-
-ptoms of a kind husband, is a great relief. ^{to} Her, I saw Ensign and Laura yesterday
at Conference, and had a little talk with them, they told me John ^{had}
received a letter from Sarah's father saying she would come on with Perry
in Nov; have you heard anything of the kind? Said Lee wrote from Boston
last ~~Friday~~ Thursday the 1st, that K B Howard and Lady, that is our Rowland
and Ella, came down in the morning train and returning in afternoon
making a short visit carrying his keg full of New cider, you remember
her the maple cyrip, a present from Arrostock, he brought an empty
trunk so he could smuggle his cider into Farmington, but some
such things are justifiable are they not? K B looked up all of your letters
and read them with eagerness, read Sarah's and sister Martha's and
seemed in very good spirits scarcely sitting down while at home
Ella was in fine spirits, was glad to get where she could be called Ella
again as it is all Mrs Howard at Farmington they liked full better than they
expected and seemed in pretty good health. K has lost flesh since
went there I think he feels the responsibility of the place he is in
he preaches Thanksgiving day, there is a great deal expected of a Minister
I hope God will be his friend, the day they were here was a bright
sunny day they gathered a fine bouquet from the garden, and took
with them, in the cars, on their return your father and I went with them
as far as Livermore Falls and returned the next morning, I am getting quite

strong, again, I did not bear my taw to Livermore without fatigue
but become rested after good night's sleep in my own bed, our
apples are very nice this year I wish you could have a barrel or two
set into your closet for the children to eat your father has picked them
all himself and had the small ones made into cider I have boiled
one barrel into ten gallons, and shall send a barrel for an experiment
to see if it can be kept sweet, we have rainy and foggy weather
all the time, the only exception was the first day of November the fog
came off in the morning, and we had a beautiful day all through Oct
I think I can sympathize with you in regard to your children, never
was a mother more closely attached to their children than yours, and entered
more closely into all their feeling with a jealous care, and I trust they
have obtained the Pearl of great price, that money cannot buy,
Charles writes as though the love of God had magnified his soul, if I
had his letter here I would copy his words, but I let Warren carry it home
I thought Louisa would enjoy reading it so much, but it was a most
satisfactory letter to me, I felt truly that the goodness of God followed
all my days, yesterday I was led to see the value of religion while at
our conference, Mr Chapen seems to enter fully into his work, his
faithfulness must be a blessing somewhere, seems to me he enters
into our necessities perfectly, he is now preaching a course of sermons
showing the necessity that the Church should work and where the
probable failure is, Laura's health is poor, and I am rather anxious
about her, she was out to Conference, but her limbs are bloated
unnaturally and her feet are badly swollen, so that she wore some
big over shoes, her Aunt Amelia is with her, but I fear she will not
be able to do for her all she needs, she has lost her boy, while she was
gone to Rowland's ^{ordination} and his mother packed up and went off, Laura
went to see her but could get no satisfaction from her it is great grief to her.

Dear Otis. It is pretty late
at night, but not too late to
write a few lines to you. I
think I wish you could
come in & see our cosy little
room - I guess you'd want
to stop! Rouben has
been right down sick, for
over a week - hasn't yet
been out of doors, but is so
nearly well, that we consider
him quite so. I'm afraid -
I begin to feel quite like "the
minister's wife" - not like "a
minister's wife" as I have always
imagined them, though - I am
very happy here - wouldn't change
place with anybody! The
people are very kind, and I
love them - Tell Lizzie she
mustn't ever dread your being
a minister - ~~xxx~~ Give my best
love, & lots of it, to Lizzie & the children
and also to Alice, if she is with you.
I had a pleasant visit at Aunt, Frank
and. With love - I am. So much as you can

Hamington Nov. 10th 1860
Dear Bro. Otis

I have been
unwell & kept the house
for a week. but feel very
thankful tonight for the
very delightful convalescent
consciousness that I have. I
have been quite feverish
tho: not quite a fever. I
was "supplied" last Sat.
by "Father Rogers" & will be
tomorrow by some Baptist
brethren. I only wish
that you & Charles were
in this vicinity. My
Sickness has been a blessing
to me in a no. of ways -
not least in teaching me
the intrinsic value of my
wife - I am to ride
out a little way to
attend a funeral tomorrow.

the daughter of two members
of our Church - Her
was a disease of the
throat and may have
been diphtheria of which
the Physicians here seem
profoundly ignorant - I
must renew my request
in regard to Mr Grey's
treatment - I will pay
him for the time he
may spend in writing
what I desired. If there
is a secret not to be
divulged - I will say
no more about it -

Rev. Mr. Lathrop of
Holden writes me this
week as follows - "Your
Bro. has been a rich treasure
to us - to me especially -
We will miss him very
much when he leaves
this week - I thank the

Lord very much for sending
him here" - So I suppose
Charles is in Bangor tonight -
Sellen goes to Holden after
Thanksgiving - We all rejoice
in the election of Mr Lincoln.
if I only felt that he
had grace in his
heart I should have
no fears for the spirit
& tone of his Administration -
My nerves are quite
quite weak & you must
be a longer letter -

I suppose you saw
the "Telegraph" containing
the notice of Amanda Knight.

Did you also see that
of Mrs Everett? Perhaps
Ella will write some
love to all -

Yr. aff. Bro.
Rowland

medical building - which is to be one hundred feet long and of the same height as the other college buildings but containing only three stories - The sum of \$10000 has been appropriated for that purpose - The political condition of the country seems to be the theme which absorbs a large share of the public attention of our little world of College - Most all other subjects seem to be absorbed by that - To night the Students and people of the town have a grand oration ~~in~~ to celebrate the election of "Red Abner" - The cause of Religion like everything else seems to be absorbed in this great political movement. The prayer meetings are thinly attended & are for the most part cold and stiff affairs - There seems to be but little freedom among those who do attend - Every little thing that comes up takes the place of the meeting and the students go to that rather than the prayer meetings - My love to ~~the~~ Lizzie and the children -
 Your very aff. Bro. R. H. Grimore

Forrd. Coll.
 Nov. 10. 1860.

dear Brother -
 Your kind letter was received after having paid its visit to Leeds where it was directed. Norton attributed the directing of your letter to Leeds to your great number of cases and increased nervousness which must necessarily follow overtaxing the brain - But let the cause be what it may I will here state that in future my place of residence will be Brunswick Maine except when I happen to be elsewhere, which always happens when I am not in Brunswick - For instance, during next winter I shall be in Holden Me. teaching school at which time nothing but my ghost will be in Brunswick

Nov. 14. Wednesday. I had a letter from home yesterday. Mother is getting along nicely.

Rentald has had an attack of the fever and has not been able to do much for some time but it seems that he is now improving and will be able to resume his duties immediately. Charles has now finished his school and will go to Bangor soon as he can. Nettie closed her school this week. My term will end in two weeks from yesterday at which time I shall go home to spend Thanksgiving day. I think I shall be the only one of Mother's children at home upon that day. You have not spent Thanksgiving at home for a long time. I wish we could all be at home once at that time and then we could give thanks with thankful hearts. After Thanksgiving, the next day, I shall go to Bangor, from thence to my place of business in Alder. I shall teach in the same house that Charles has taken charge of this fall. He got the

school for me. Our R.R. is progressing nicely. Already over seven miles are graded and many more miles are in process of being finished in as short a time as possible. Mr. Sands is building the road from the river to the N. & P. RR. I saw him this morning "putting into it" like any of his men. He has graded two thirds of his part. We have been having some of the finest autumn weather I ever knew. I have not seen a bit of frost this fall and it is now in the middle of Nov. as you see. The leaves have long since left the trees and the college grounds begin to assume a very nude and bare appearance. The Treasurer has been setting out a few hundred trees in the College yard this fall and we are in hopes that in a few years we shall have a fine set of grounds. Next spring, as early as the ground will permit the "delta" will be made into the grounds of a

He was one year with me as a cadet - my first year
 & his last - now, I believe two years. He has become
 quite bold & looks old - It hardly seems possible
 that I am thirty - I got your kind letter on my
 birth day and it was a very acceptable
 birth day present. I hope you will continue
 well & father too. How does he do this fall
 I presume he is poking! at disunion - I
 have no idea what the result of the movement
 would be, but I can't help ^{almost} wishing that South
 Carolina will execute her threat & be able to go
 out of the Union. It would be a good lesson
 to her people to stand alone for a few years.
 I am glad to hear that Mr Chapin is hard
 at work & I hope other Christians will
 be hard at work for their master & Saviour.
 It will be encouraging to Charles to hear
 had such a good result of labor just before
 commencing his theological studies - It is
 now 11:30 Good night - Love to father &
 kind regards to the neighbors - I hope I
 will try to pray that the cause of Christ
 may prosper in individual hearts & in the
 town at large. Your affectionate son

O. O. Howard

P.S. I will not stop to read over tonight

I have heard that your mother is very sick with inflammation in the city of New York. I hope she is not better & will have a sick leave.

O. O. Howard

West Point, N.Y.

November 11th 1860

My dear Mother,

I have come from my room to the prayer meeting room at the Cadet Barracks and finding that the Cadets Supper had been delayed till a later hour than that it was at our last meeting, I have concluded to spend the half hour, while waiting for them, in writing you. Last week passed without furnishing you a letter from me. The Rev. Mr Gray Presbyterian Clergyman at "The Falls" was taken very ill with an attack on the brain a little more than a week ago, and not having a Clergyman to call to the post he asked me to officiate for him. So that I was trying the latter part of last week to prepare myself by sustaining my strength. I delivered a discourse of my own in the morning & read a Sermon of a Scottish Divine in the evening. I rode down on horseback in the morning returned to dinner, went to the Sunday school, & the French's Bible Class & Evening Service at the Chapel and after tea rode again to the Falls & got home a little before nine pretty well tired out. The

mistake was riding on horseback, for I
had not been on a horse for some time
and it only served to tire me: but the
weather was rainy & the roads very muddy.
I took Sizzie out to ride this evening.
She did not suffer any with neuralgia
at the time I wrote you. Her tooth played
her a little & chews so occasionally. Today she
was not feeling very well. I am sorry Laura
feels so poorly. She must take courage for
she will soon be strong & well. Remember
me kindly & affectionately to them as
Uncles & John's. Has Aunt Amelia yet
united with the Church? I hope she
has not put it off. Guy & Grace are both
very well. They were much delighted to
see a beautiful rain bow tonight. I gave
them a short ride before I took Sizzie out, which
they enjoyed as they always do. Alice is still
with us. I don't know how long she will stay, perhaps
till Spring. The children have a school with
her ^{reading} every day in the little dining room. Guy
always loves a book. I hope he will not be
less inclined to books when he gets big enough to
study them. He has heard me say over the Hebrew
letters & from this has learned quite a number of them.
Grace is very happy & talkative. Her eyes are bright
her countenance animated & her tongue moving
the greater part of the time while she is awake.

I will close now, ^{in order} to find my hymn & Chapter
for the prayer meeting. Political excitement has
made some inroads upon us & I could feel
its influence in a dry meeting the last time
we met. I hope we will have a better one tonight.
If I could send this to you by telegraph I would
ask you to pray that we might truly pray
tonight. (11 o'clock 10 - P.M.) We did have a good
meeting the room was well filled. We had a ^{part of a} Chapter
in John read & then a hymn and then repeated together
the Lord's prayer. Afterwards three young men
followed each other in earnest replication at the
Throne of Grace. From the time we commenced our
praying till all have done we do not generally
rise from our knees. After this I talked to
the young men tonight urging upon those
who had made no profession the necessity of
acting. When I had finished my remarks there
was only time to read a few words from
the "Still Hour" when the bugle for "call to quarters"
brought our meeting to a close. Some young men
lingered to get tracts & some to talk with me. One
told me he desired to be baptized. I came home
then to take tea & have prayers with Sizzie & Alice.
The latter always knelt with us in prayer, though
she has never united with any Church. God grant
that she may have this lasting peace in her own
heart. This evening I went to call upon my
new Tactic Officer, who has just come. Lt. Torney

& bold in his teachings - Simple & unostentatious - & while all love him, we are not led to look so much to the man, per se - but to his plain, holy teachings - to the Goodness of God -

A most affecting incident occurred in connection with our Sabbath School, a few weeks since - A lively interest being felt in the School - & general good feeling so pervading as to make all, young & old, feel as though their special services were needed - & that all could do some good - it was proposed as another inducement still, to the scholars, to offer a reward to the One bringing in the most, or the greatest number ^{new} rather, of scholars, to become permanent members, within a certain time - The effect was good - Many little ones before neglected (so common in our large cities) were visited & urged to come - One dear scholar, a little girl about 12 years old, went to a house on Saturday, & found

Saint Louis Arsenal:

Nov. 12. 1860.

My Very Dear Friends:

Though I've not had the pleasure of hearing from you since the expiration of your Summer's "leave of absence", I suppose that you are still at the point engaged in your usual labors - And I must confess, that I have waited a long time to make this indirect inquiry as to your whereabouts - & to ask after the welfare of your kind family -

Though I've not written to you & expressed my interest in you & yours, & your success, in your generous labors to advance the Cause of Our Lord and Master, you may be assured that my heart has ever been with you - And that you all have been & are most kindly remembered -

Often, often have I endeavored to
Thank the Giver of all good Things, for
the many kind friends I had at the
Point - for their goodness to me - Their
encouragement & support, among the
many trials & temptations common to
the young man, when thrown far away
from the gentle influence of home, &
among so many of his own age & inex-
perience - To them I feel much in-
debted - Living in all the healthful influ-
ences of their teaching & society, the kind
providence of our Heavenly Father -

Would that I could influence every young
man that goes to the Academy to go to
them for counsel - & especially would I
have every young Christian that may
enter there, commence at once, to
engage actively in the labors of the
gospel, with them - Declare themselves
on the Lord's side before all - & taking
a part in the Prayer-meetings, the Bible-class

& the Sunday School, show that feel
an interest in, & are determined to work
for, the Cause of Christ - for the salvation
of souls - You will know the dangers of
waiting - too often alas! is the delay fatal -

I was ^{much} gratified to learn from Mr. Hamilton
of the success of the Prayer-meeting - Though
the information of its neglect on the part
of some, for whom I entertain much regard,
caused some sad feelings & forebodings -

May they be constrained, by the grace of
God, & the strongest ties of love, of our
fraternal Lord, to return again & to
realize rich blessings therefrom -

I find in the Pastor of our church, a
most worthy Christian & a devoted friend -
His sincerity & earnestness in his labors bind
all to him with the sacred ties of love &
friendship - Oh indeed it is encour-
aging & reviving to hear him talk - of
his faith in Jesus - & tell us that in Christ
alone is our salvation - He is plain

You will present my kindest
regards to Mrs. French & family - Tell
of them - Oh never can I forget those
good people - ever so kind & good to me
I have commenced two or three letters to
Mrs. F. but could never seem to finish them.

Remember me to Prof. Kendrick
most kindly - To Symonds & all
my friends - Present my kind regards
to Miss Annie Gray & her mother.

May the Lord bless you & yours
according to His own goodness.

Your aff. friend,

St. O. O. Howard M. H. Wright

West Point,
N.Y.

Do write to me - I would
like so much to talk a good deal
to you -

M. H. W.

5

Three children who were not at-
tached to any S. S. - They welcomed her
gladly - joyfully - Their hearts leaped
for joy at being offered a place in the
S. S. - & oh what a kind good girl, to
come after us, they said - Yes, & she will
come & go with us to-morrow - not leave
us alone, to go & meet so many strangers,
& be coldly treated perhaps - No. She will
be good to us - & take us - Yes, she was
to come by their house next morning
& take them to the S. S. -

Sunday came - a bright, glorious
day - At early dawn the little girl
was up - & soon was ready for S. S. -

She left her mother, & went for the
little ones she had found the day before
she entered the house - & what did she
behold - bright & joyous hearts? Ah no -
gloomy sadness reigned within - The Angel
of death had visited the house & car-

said off one of those dear little children - both the others were on their death beds - Yrs before another Sabbath they too, were called to their long home -

Oh how sad to think that they had been neglected so long - All three of these poor little ones are now at their eternal homes - Oh who can say where they are - We humbly pray that it may have pleased the Lord to take them unto Himself -

This is no fiction - it is truth - occurred in our own S. S. - I have a class there - & find much comfort in attending it - & may the Lord bless all our efforts -

No doubt you feel some little anxiety about the result of the recent election - for surely every good man must love his country & would pray even, that it might be under the special charge of an

Allwise God - And our Country, towards which the eyes of all Christendom are turned - upon which the advancement of the Gospel would appear, in the Providence of Heaven, so much depends; Oh who can contemplate its distraction, without feelings of the deepest sadness & sorrow?

I must confess that I fear, the consequences - I see no just cause for secession - nor for any trouble - but sad to say, the bad passions of wicked men being aroused & excited, may lead to much evil -

There will be secession - if some of the States - Mark my words - let others laugh at the idea as they may, I believe it -

What it may lead to, who can tell?

But I'm running on here too far - I would desire my love to your kind Lady, & to those dear little ones - Give Grace - I earnestly hope, that I may yet, again be blended with the Society of your dear family -

West Point - Nov. 16th
Friday morning

Dear Mr. Howard -

After so long a delay I have at last been able to complete your picture, wh. I now send, trusting you will receive it safely. I hope it may please you. but don't scruple to let me know if it should not. I have been writing a long letter to Charles. trying to make amends for my neglect. but will not close it till I shall have seen you.

Yours very respectfully
J. F. Weir

Lieut. Howard.

Present

West Point - Nov 18
Friday morning

Dear Mr. Howard.

After so long a
delay I have at last been able to
complete your picture. And I am
sure, trusting you will receive it
with pleasure. I hope it may please you.
But I don't suppose it will be known
if it should not.
I have been
writing a long letter to Charles. I try to
make answers for my nephew. But
will not give it till I shall have
seen you.

I am very respectfully
Yrs. Wm. W. W.

Yours
Howard

152 Maiden Lane

New York Nov 17 1860

My dear Sir,

157

Your kind favour of 9th inst
was duly rec^d. - I thank you and
your excellent wife for your kind
sympathies. To part with children
is a severe trial but to be resigned to
the will of our Maker is our duty -

There was a great preparation on
the part of my daughter for the
event and we have confidence
that the change is for the better
with her - so we mourn not as
we would if the case was less hope-
ful -

I am gratified to learn that
you continue the Good work among
those with whom you dwell, may
God bless your efforts in his cause -
It would at all times give us
pleasure to see you and your
lady at our home, which,
although not quite so cheerful

as when Maria was present,
is not made gloomy by the
event of her removal -

My Mother in Law Mrs Estlin
from Savannah & My son and
daughter, Mr & Mrs Lloyd are
with us - but still we have
plenty of room and not only
happy but desirous of having
the visits of our old friends
when convenient for them
to come & see us -

Remaining as ever,

Your affectionate friend

H. Dupper



Genl O Howard

West Point

West Point N. York
Nov. 18th 1846

Mr. Howard:

dear sir: in compliance with the request you made of me, to write to you some account of the manner in which it pleased God to touch my heart and make me sensible of my duty to him, I now pen this. During the great outpouring of the Spirit in 1838, there was a considerable awakening in the town in which I reside. Old Professors of Religion had their hearts warmed, and strove vigorously for the salvation of their impenitent friends. In this way, and by various other means was I brought to examine myself. But a habit which I had formed of avoiding religious persons, because I feared they would converse with me upon religious topics, and of driving away serious thoughts whenever they would arise, made this self-ex-

I had never felt before. I wished to be with Christians and to talk of our Master. A few mornings after, at one of our sunrise prayer-meetings I was asked to lead in prayer. I took an active part as a Christian, striving to do what I considered my duty. But strive as I might still I did many things which were inconsistent with my profession. If I had not come to the Academy, I should have studied with the Ministerial Profession in view. If it is the will of my Master, that I graduate here, so soon as I shall have served three years, it is my intention to resign and enter the Ministry. And may the Father be for this great work! Will you vouchsafe to me your prayers to this end? From fear of wearying I have abridged very much. I close remaining,

Yours in Christian Fellowship,
Leah Howard
Rebecca Nelson

amination of no avail. To avail, I said - It should have been no saving avail. For from what then was worked in my heart, I broke off the use of profane language, to which I had hitherto ^{been} dangerously addicted. Some few after a friend obtained for me the situation of Alect. Instructor in a high school, the Principal of which was Rev. L. H. Shuck, son of Rev. J. L. Shuck former Missionary to China. A few weeks after entering upon the discharge of my duties as a teacher, God in his infinite goodness saw fit to rework this work in the town in which I was residing. For nearly a week, this awakening seemed to extend no farther than to the hearts of professing Christians, and one or two sinners who were asking what they should do to be saved. On Friday evening of the week it was evidenced that the earnest prayers had not been in vain. Some seven or eight young men ^{had} presented themselves to be prayed for. Dr. Fay, whom I never shall forget, was sitting by me. He whispered to me that then was the accepted time, and asked if I would

not seek Jesus too. I had been seriously reflecting upon my lost condition for two or three days. And shame was the only thing which had restrained me from presenting myself for prayer. I left my seat and proceeded to the front seats which, those who desired that prayer should be offered for them, had been requested to take. After the close of the service, I went home with Dr. Fay. He conversed with me and pointed out to me the way to the Saviour. I knelt with him in prayer, and he earnestly supplicated God in my behalf. We then retired to bed. Having passed a very restless night, I arose early the next morning and went to my room. I took my Bible and read the promises Christ had made to all who would come to Him aright. I prayed that he would receive me as his own. I read and prayed. Upon my knees and with the Bible in my hand, I made the resolution, that let others do as they might, for me I would strive to serve God for the rest of my life. From the moment of making this resolution I felt a joyful calmness, such as

Fort Randall, N.S.
November 19, 1860.

Friend Howard,

Your silence does not preclude the probability of my writing to you, and to prevent any accusation of neglect from you I am determined to write for the next mail.

Tell Howard, to commence at home; I am greatly blessed, with a good christian wife, and almost perfect health, my cup seems filled to the brim with God's mercies.

You may expect me (as a newly married man) to enter into a graphic description of Mrs. S.; to you I need only say, she is from a good New England family, with the culture attending, and above all an earnest christian.

My home is a cheerful happy one, my circumstances easy, and all goes well in the temporal world.

You would ask what are you doing for Christ? and I must answer nothing.

You could not conceive a more desolate place than Randall, no church, no Sabbath, no religion, the officers are either avowed atheists, catholics or universalists, excepting Lieut. Meek. My own company commander told me he thought "a soldier had no business with religion and he did not want any one giving them tracts and bibles, the Lieut

in the company was once a communicant, but now says she considers the bible "a pack of lies from beginning to end," you can judge how unphilosophically I am situated spiritually, and how much I must find precious in my wife and the religion of my fireside.

I am writing to you in confidence and must say I am disappointed in the officers of the army. I formed my ideal from those I met as a Cadet. I find religion not respected and even ladies are bawled about their religious feelings, billiard rooms open during the Sabbath, and the fear of God far from their minds.

I am not prepared to leave the army at present, but I shall soon do so, unless some change takes place. I do not feel it my duty to remain where all is opposed to the chief aim of life. My wife came into the army full of love for the work of Christ, fresh from the teachers seat, and the bedside of the sick and needy, she spent stated times in reading and praying with three old ladies over ninety, and thought in the army she could do a good work. But she finds her hands not only tied, but she is cut off from all religious privilege and concern.

My health declined or I should not have joined my company here, I hope we will

yet meet. I want my wife should see you, & above all she should know Mrs H. Mrs Lench, and a few others who are, bound with her in Christ. I am not complaining Howard, but I long for the society of a few warm, active souls. I feel I am growing cold and very selfish, a more than lukewarm spirit is upon me. I am cold, cold; I do not find that support in prayer. God has not changed, it is my own heart. I know it well, a friend of Jesus must work, his soul must be kept alive by mingling with kindred souls.

I have written the dictates of my heart, unreservedly, let all rest with you and in your prayers remember him who writes. We need your prayers, and I feel you will not withhold them.

I write to Mrs Lench by this mail, Remember me to all,

May God bless you and yours.

Your friend in Christ

J. R. Samuels

Lieut. 4th Regt

Lieut. O. O. Howard
U. S. A.

should be filled with fear at
the ominous forecasting of coming
events. Civil war, heated controversy,
lawless conduct, a shattered confederacy
grouping in fragments around different
centers. I suspect we shall exchange
peace & comfort & ~~the~~ innumerable
blessings for ~~the~~ nobody knows what.

The foolish State or States which
considerately create the disturbance will
suffer the most & lose in the very thing
most desired i.e. "the extension of slavery"
for they won't know any where to extend
except ^{purchase} over the barren wilds of New Mexico.
But as I said the Lord holds the storm
in his own hands & can dispel or
curb the madness of foolish men.
We are quite well - The children
happy & growing - I do hope seeds
will have a refreshing season
from the Lord this winter - Continue
to pray for our dear Mother -
I have made letter from Chas. for some
time. Billie & Howard have written lately

Affectionately your son
J. O. Howard
The family all well - I am to father.

O. O. Howard

161

West Point, N.Y.

November 22nd 1860

My dear Mother,

Before retiring tonight
I will spend a few moments in writing
you. Time passes very rapidly with us.
It is like a large prairie here with
regard to time. There where nothing
obstructs the view you cannot easily
estimate distances. So here the
routine is so smooth & regular
that we have scarcely any land-
marks. Week after week goes by with
the same round of duties without
any variation. We are having
beautiful weather now, clear & cold.
In the morning when I first enter
our front room which overlooks the
Hudson & takes in the Eastern horizon.
I feel grateful to God that he has
planted my feet in such pleasant

places. How beautiful is this ~~world~~^{earth} -
& its surroundings! How rich the
provisions God has made for his
children! How much of comfort &
blessing I am permitted to have
and yet it is only now & then that
a grateful impulse springs from my
heart to the Great Giver; and moreover
we find that even our gratitude
when we have it is the offspring of
the Holy Spirit, or at least induced
in us by the effect of His blessed presence.

Still if we can, let us enjoy every
blessing of Divine Providence, looking at
it as a faint type of a blessing in
Heaven. Last Sunday, one Cadet
went forward in Baptism. Cadet
Andrews. The prayer meeting of tonight
was a good one. Some of the prayers
were, more than usually, earnest. And
we may yet have an answer far
beyond our expectations. I expect there
is some political excitement existing

amongst the young men. The South
Carolina delegation have just published
in the Herald, the result of a meeting
amongst themselves. You would judge
them filled with State patriotism &
think they had made a great sacrifice
in leaving. Five of them at least (I
don't think there are more than seven
in all) are either completely deficient
or stand a fair chance of being
pronounced so at the next examination.
It is very valorous in them to retire
at this juncture. If South Carolina's
going out don't hurt the country more
than the resignation of deficient cadets
hurts West Point, the rupture so
much talked of will be a blessing,
unless other States get crazy too & follow
her suicidal policy. Whatever is
in store for us God watches over
rulers & countries & in the end will
cause all counsels to rebound to His glory.
If I did not have this confidence, I

by Prof. Davis upon Mental & Moral Philosophy - He is closing up the course now with two or three upon Phonology which he not only demolishes (apparently) by argument but plies unsparringly with ridicule - Hebron will take the place of these after Thanksgiving.

In the P. M. we have an exercise in Greek - The Harmony of the New Testament. Prof. Smith conducts this - He opens with a brief but fervent prayer & questions & enlarges upon the meaning in the manner of a Bible Class of a Sabbath School.

You would enjoy this exceedingly.

My room in the Chapel is very high with three immense windows - My room-mate is the young man of my acquaintance that I would have chosen could I have had the privilege of selection - with the exception of my brother. Our room is upon the South Eastern corner - so we have the sun all day.

Yesterday & today have been clear & cold - like winter

but we have had only a sprinkling of snow - a few moments yesterday - The boat Daniel Webster starts upon its last trip for the season today. I learned by this morning's paper that Dr. C. B. F. Graham of your Class died at Augusta last Friday. He has been declining some time I believe. One young man ^{here} has died at the lungs & then reduced very low since I have been here - He seems to be recovering - My Class number 174 ^{Academy} of Farmington - my Classmate in college - will be here today - Webster ^{also} of my ^{college} Class is here.

Dr. Lincoln the Baptist - has moved to Bangor in order to study Theology & join the Senior Class - He seems to be an earnest Christian - a worker & one who has much experience of grace - He speaks of you with interest - He has been filling some of my teeth - S & is not done yet - He is at his office afternoons - Intends to spend three years here & would have taken the whole in course but by investing

Frammingham Ms.
Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29 / 1860

My dear Brother

163

Rev. Mr.

Fuller formerly of Weymouth,
is our Methodist minister
here & preached the
Lecture today - all denom-
inations uniting on such
occasions - I knew you
will recall his manner
& tones - He gave us a very
good Lecture - rather dodg-
ing the conventional topics
of the day - a boy, ^(nephew) just
came & offered Mrs.
Cutler a ride, but as
she was busy, Ella took
her place - Our singing
is two days old & quite
good - One of our parish-
ioners who has been sick

Two years gives very conclusive
evidence of a change of heart.
She is ~~very~~ happy & prays
& converses with all who
visit her - I attended her
Grandmother's funeral at
the same house last Sunday.

I declined Mother's in-
vitation to go home today as
I wished to be with my
people - Ellie is at home
but is to go to Holden this
week I believe - I suppose
Mother has written you of
Laura's misfortune - Her babe
was not alive - She was
better and recovering herself -

How delightful it would
have been for their old
age if God would have
continued the life of their
child - But He had some
better purpose - You need

Not be afraid of my own
working. The danger is the
other way - the temptations
of my beautiful home are
very great. I am too little
at my table (study) & too
little among my people -
many of whom are sick -
If Mr. Grevs health is sufficiently
recovered. I hope you will
get his statement & prescription.
I am daily visiting those sick
with diphtheria & the only remedy
of the Dr's here, is burning - &
if I take the disease, and
do not hear from you - I
must submit to that. - No
one has greater reason to
praise God today than I
have - no one! Our subject
in meeting last Evening
was the duty of praise.
It seemed to be pleased to us.

Mr & Mrs Abbott called
last evening & I gave them
the kindest regards. They are
just home from Boston. Mr.
Abbott is indebted to them for
apples & cranberries for
dinner. Mr.
Abbott is in Leeds - very kind
to all his relatives. How much
do you fear that poor Sarah will
not fall into his & her
other hands. Do you hear
from her? Tell Guy - we
are a fine & he might
like if he were come to
see us. Ella & I have
not our skates out but have
not been on the ice yet.
Grand are to have quite a
few

company to sea tonight. ^{the}
I expect a missionary ist
preach half a day next Sunday
for me, and, on Tuesday
we are to have a Mission
Convention at which a no. of
returned missionaries will
be. Everybody here is
in the faith that the
"Union must & will be
preserved". If So. Carolinas
refuses to allow customs to be
collected - she must be
made to submit even at the
cost of blood. as numerous
as that is to be deplored.
I am greatly in favor
of a stronger Central Government.
So. Ca. might go joyfully
and we bid her do it. yet
the precedent would not be
unanimous. Tell Jay & Grace
that just across the street

from us, a gentleman (Mr. Abbott) has got a great black bear. He has a house for himself - He is asleep now and will not awake till Spring. They he has a K.R. for his boys to hide down in in the summer - But they won't need it now - I think you have got along well in Behew - wish we could meet it together some day. What a good time we will have - God willing - when you all come to see us next summer - Ella is the out or the women have a message to send - God bless you all & give you hearts overflowing with thanksgiving & praise. How swiftly the days glide by. God bless them is rich of diphtheria. Lovings - Rowland