
1178 11/2/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1120

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 hav'nt 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 Lizzie 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.

Lt. 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 taking Lizzie & the children to ride. Two afternoons in the week I go to Rev. Mr Wells, just opposite Cozzen's Hotel to recite in Hebrew & two other evenings we have the Cadets prayer meetings.

The Sunday's 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 a chapter & have prayer. Services at the Chapel are then from ½ past ten till after twelve. We dine at one, go to Sunday school at 2. I go to Mr French's Bible class at ½ past 3. Evening Service 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 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 tenor of this peace by my irregularities - my yieldings to temptation.

Alice Wing (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 rainy & muddy for a few days past & Grace has come out in an old pair of boots of Guys. 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 here, for which I draw forage in Hay & oats & have him to use. I could'nt quite consider the colt in my service while I am here & he is at Leeds.

We have good news from Charles. I sent a letter to Dellie this morning.

1179 11/2/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Bro. Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1121

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Nov 2d 1860

Dear Bro. Otis

I have found all lost property except my Greek testament. If that is at West Point I beg hereby to present it to you with much love. I had supposed that Mrs Wing 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 Bruns.

Dellie 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. train. That gives us about 3 ½ hour 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. & Huldah [George and Huldah (Gilmore) Lothrop] 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 ch'g'd to Fathers acct!

I have thought since I was at West Pt. of a hand book of theology just such as you need. "Knapps 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 Leeds people but our own yesterday.

Mother had had a very interesting letter from Chas. but had sent it down to Louisa. I have been making pastoral calls somewhat this week. There were 30 at our Wednes. Evening meeting 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 communion 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 he (Guy) must look very much like him with that hat on. I want a picture of Guy very much. May not we have one? When you go down to Buttermilk, do some day have one taken & send us.

Ella is nicely & sends her love to you, Lizzie, the children & Mrs W. She is mourning over going out to Tea this P.M. I am excused on acct a little ague in the face. Was glad to get yr. letter about the Prince & the Bishop. We bro't a three gal. keg of new Cider from home yesterday. Don't you want some?

Yours affly
Rowland

Did you mention that matter to Mr. Grey?

1180 11/2/1860 *From:* J.A. Smith

To: Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1122

U.S.M.A. West Point
N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 [Jared A Smith, USMA Class of 1862]

Lieut O. O. 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.

1181 11/4/1860 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: O.O. Howard

OOH-1123

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

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 two months. Last Saturday we took a letter from the office directed to Rodolphus at Leeds mailed at West Point. I took a mothers privilege and opened it, and found it one of your kind letters, to Dellie directed to Leeds thro' mistake. I regreted the mistake on Dellie's account. It would have been so pleasant for him to have met your handwriting at the Post Office Sat. Eve, after his weeks labour was over. I have written him to day, and will have them mailed to Brunswick tomorrow.

I am very sorry to hear Lizzie is sick with the Neuralgy 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 some times, 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 recall that Guy had no present when in Maine 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 carresses 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 a letter from her soon after you did, 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 sympathys 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 Otis 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 Thursday the Rev. RB 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 the maple cyrip, a present from Arroostook. He brought an emty trunk so he could smuggle his cider into Farmington, but some such things are justifiable are they not? R.B. looked up all of your letters and read them with eagerness, read Sarah's and sister Martha Jane's and seemed in very good spirits scarcely siting 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 F... They like full better than they expected and seemed in pretty good health. R 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 geting quite strong again. I did not bear my tour to Livermore without fatigue, but became rested after a good nights 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 hold 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.

Otis 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 in time 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 me all my days. Yesterday I was led to see the value of religion while at our conference. Mr Chapin 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 failer 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 Aurelia 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. His mother packed up and went off. Laura went to see her but could get no satisfaction from her. It is great grief to L. 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 Lizzie gave her for him. I pity her. She is so disappointed. I think she has injured her health taking care of him. I 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 a fine sunny day which seems to have changed every thing 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 Dellie will go to Holden to teach this winter. Give my regards to Mrs Wing and much love to Lizzie 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. [Otis was born Nov 8 1830.]

From your affectionate Mother
Eliza Gilmore

O.O. Howard

1182 11/10/1860 *From:* Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Bro. Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-1124a

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Nov. 10th '60

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 Sab. 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. Hers was a disease of the throat and may have been Diphtheria of wh. 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. Southworth 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. Dellie 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 still quite weak & you must excuse 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.

Your aff. Bro.
Rowland

[The following note from Ella, was attached to this letter.]

1183 11/10/1860 *From:* Ella [Howard]

To: Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1124b

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[The preceding letter from Rowland, was attached to this letter.]

[Farmington Nov. 10th '60]

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 cozy little home. I guess you'll want to stop! Rowland 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 places with anybody! The people are very kind, and I love them. Tell Lizzie she mustn't ever dread your being a minister. 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 Leeds, last week.

With love,
Ella

Do write as often as you can.

1184 11/10/1860 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1125

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll.
Nov. 10, 1860

My dear brother:-

Your kind letter was received after having paid its visit to Leeds where it was directed. Mother attributed the directing of your letter to Leeds to your great number of cares 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 else where, 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. Rowland 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 as soon as he can. Nettie closes 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 mothers 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.

Afer thanksgiving, the next day, I shall go to Bangor, from thence to my place of business in Holden. 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 K. & 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 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 ovation to celebrate the election of "old Abe".

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 Lizzie and the children.

Your very aff bro.
R.H. Gilmore

I am much obliged to you for the register which you sent me and I will send you a Bowdoin Bugle when they come out.

1185 11/11/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1126

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 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 husbanding 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, & to Mr 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 Lizzie out to ride this evening. She did not suffer any with neuralgy at the time I wrote you. Her tooth plagued her a little & does 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 at Uncles & Johns. Has Aunt Aurelia 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 rainbow tonight. I gave them a short ride before I took Lizzie 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 nearly 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 cease 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.

(1/2 past 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 Lords prayer. Afterwards three young men followed each other in earnest supplication at the throne of Grace. From the time we commence 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 Lizzie & Alice. The latter always kneels with us in prayer, though she has never united with any Church. God grant that she may have His lasting peace in her own heart.

This evening I went to call upon our new tactic officer, who has just come, Lt Forney [John H Forney, USMA class of 1852]. He was one year with me as a Cadet - my first year & his last. No, I believe two years. He has become quite bald & 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 <poing>! at disunion. I have no idea what the result of the movement would be, but I cant 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 at Leeds. It will be encouraging to Charles to have had such a good result of labor just before commencing his theological studies.

It is now 11, so good night. Love to father & kind regards to the neighbors. I hope & 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 poor Warren Lothrop has been sick with inflammatory rheumatism in N. York City. I have only lately heard so & that he is now better & will have a "sick leave".

1186 11/12/1860 *From:* M.H. Wright

To: Lt. O.O. Howard

OOH-1127

Saint Louis Arsenal

West Point
N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Saint Louis Arsenal
Nov. 12. 1860

My Very Dear Friend:

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 & inexperience. To them I feel much indebted, seeing in all the healthful influences of their teachings & 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-Meeting, the Bible-class & the Sunday School, show that [they] 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 gracious 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 encouraging & reviving to hear him talk of his faith in Jesus, & tell us that in Christ alone is our Salvation. He is plain & 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 rather, of new 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 three children who were not attached 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 & carried off one of those dear little children - both the others were on their death beds. Yes 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 ever, 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 destruction, 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, of 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 - Guy & Grace. I earnestly hope, that I may yet, again be blessed with the Society of your dear family. You will present my kindest regards to Mrs. French & family, to all 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 Laurie Gray & her Mother.

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

Your aff. Friend,
M.H. Wright

Lt. O.O. Howard
West Point,
N.Y.

Do write to me. I would like so much to talk a great deal to you.
M.H.W.

1187 11/16/1860 *From:* J.F. Weir

To: Dear Mr [OO] Howard

OOH-1128

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point Nov 16th [1860]

Friday morn'g

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

1188 11/17/1860 *From:* H. Tupper

To: Lieut O O Howard

OOH-1129

152 Maiden Lane
New York

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

152 Maiden Lane
New York Nov 17 1860

My dear Sir,

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 hopeful.

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 house, 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 Crabtree 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 assured friend
H. Tupper

Lieut O O Howard
West Point

1189 11/18/1860 *From:* R. M. Nelson

To: Lieut. [OO] Howard

OOH-1130

West Point N York

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N York
Nov. 18th 1860

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 1858, 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-examination of no avail. No 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 months after a friend obtained for me the situation of Asst. 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 revive His 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. Foy, 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. Foy. 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. He 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 one 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 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 He fit me 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,
R. M. Nelson

To
Lieut. Howard

1190 11/19/1860 *From:* T. R. Tannatt
Lieut 4th Arty
OOH-1131 Fort Randall K.T.

To: Lieut O.O. Howard
U.S.A.

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Randall K.T.
November 19, 1860

Friend Howard,

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

Well 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 T; 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 Mack. 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 he considers the bible "a pack of lies from beginning to end." You can judge how unpleasantly 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 bantered about their religious feelings, billiards 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 converse.

My health demanded 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 French 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 careless, 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 French by this mail. Remember me to all.

May God bless you and yours.

Your friend in Christ
T. R. Tannatt
Lieut 4th Arty

Lieut O.O. Howard

U.S.A.

1191 11/22/1860 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-1132

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 landmarks. Week after week go 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 earth & its surroundings! How rich the provisions God has made for his children! How much of comforts & 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 Andrus. 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 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 & innumerable blessings for nobody knows what.

The foolish State or States which senselessly create the disturbance will suffer the most & lose in the very thing most desired, i.e. "the extension of slavery" for they wont have anywhere to extend except perchance 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 Leeds will have a refreshing season from the Lord this winter. Continue to pray for me dear Mother.

I hav'nt had a letter from Chas. for some time. Dellie & Rowland have written lately. The family all abed. Love to father.

Affectionately Your Son
O.O. Howard

1192 11/26/1860 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1133

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Nov 26, 1860

My dear brother

I have been expecting a letter from you but think I have waited long enough. Rowland has written very often since I came here & mentioned hearing from you not long since. A letter from Johnny Weir came Sat night & he spoke of having met you not long ago. It seems you have a painting for a memorial of him. From Brunswick I learned that Mrs Wing still remains with you. These accounts furnish rather a dim outline, however, of your present life. You know well I suppose that you could not write one sentence about yourself & family at West Point, which would be devoid of interest for me.

I came here two weeks ago yesterday. We have had lectures in the forenoon by Prof. Pond upon Mental & Moral Philosophy. He is closing up the course now with two or three upon Phrenology which he not only demolishes (apparently) by argument but plies unsparingly with ridicule. Hebrew 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 brothers. 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 noticed by this morning's paper that Dan. C. Ingraham of your class died at Augusta last Friday. He has been declining some time I believe. One young man here has bled at the lungs & been reduced very low since I have been here. He seems to be recovering. My class number 17 & Ladd of Farmington Academy - my classmate in College - will be here today. Webster also of my College class is here.

Dr. Lincoln, the Dentist, has moved to Bangor in order to study Theology & joins the Senior Class. He seems to be an earnest Christian, a worker & one who has much experience of Grace. He spoke of you with interest. He has been filling some of my teeth - 5 & 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 inverting it he can better attend to his business & he hopes to be able to study all the time the 3d year. Then he will probably take up Hebrew.

How do you come on in the study of Hebrew? Do you recite to any one? We make use of Commentaries largely in getting our Harmony lesson. I sat with Gen. Stephens yesterday & heard Rev. Mr. Storr in P.M. I attend the Central usually where I have a S.S. class of young ladies. How you would enjoy the sermons & meetings we have here! Wish you could have attended the Missionary meetings addressed by Dr. Hamlin of Constantinople & Rev. Mr. Lindley of South Africa held here the first of last week. I can give you so slight an idea of the discourse that I will not attempt it in a letter.

Mr & Mrs Dennet mentioned having met with you. I sit with them at Church. Mrs D came from Bath, a distant relation of Ella's.

Dellie will be at home Thanksgiving & here the next day on his way to Holden. I am very anxious for him to exert a wholesome religious influence there both in the family where he is to board & in his school.

There is danger of my doing little for Christ here. Pray that I may have the heart which will enable me to perceive opportunities & embrace them with a will.

My love to your family. Is Lt. Carroll a believer yet? How does my little man Guy spend his time & how is Grace as sweet & happy as possible I suppose. Does she have a Susan to love? Do you have many rides? Johnny spoke of a new horse & carriage. How is that? Tell me of the Cadets & of the meetings. My regards to Miss Blanche, also to other friends, you know whose names I would wish if I had time. Tell Clia I wish I were there with her as I was with Helen - a momentary wish however - for I trust I am in the place the Lord would have me be in. I felt sorry to hear what you wrote of your Bible Class. If I had known I had so much that must be said I would have taken another sheet.

Hoping to hear from you soon if it be but a word, I remain
Affectionately Your Bro.
C.H. Howard

1193 11/29/1860 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* My dear brother [OO Howard]

OOH-1134 Farmington Me.

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Me.
Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 29 / 1860

My dear Brother

Rev. Mr. Fuller formally of Wayne, is our Methodist minister here & preached the Sermon today - all denominations uniting on such occasions. I know you will recall his manner & tones. He gave us a very good Sermon - rather dodging the controverted topics of the day. A boy (nephew) just came & offered Mrs Cutler a ride, but as she was busy, Ella took her place. Our sleighing is two days old & quite good. One of my parishioners 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 Grandmothers funeral at the same house last Tuesday.

I declined Mothers invitation to go home today as I wished to be with my people. Dellie is at home but is to go to Holden this week I believe. I suppose Mother has written you of Lauras 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 overworking. 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. Greys health is sufficiently recovered I hope you will get his statement & prescription. I am daily visiting those sick with Diptheria & 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 blest to us.

Mr & Mrs Abbott called last Evening & I gave them your kind regards. They are just home from Boston. We were indebted to them for celery & cranberries for Thanksgiving dinner. Mr Lee is in Leeds - very kind to all his relatives. How much I fear that poor Sarah will now fall into his & her mothers hands. Do you hear from her?

Tell Guy, we have a pond & he might skate if he would come to Farmington. Ella & I have got our skates out but have not been on the ice yet. We are to have quite a company to Tea tonight. I expect a missionary to preach half a day next Sab for me, and, on Tuesday we are to have a Miss. Convention at wh. A no. of returned missionaries will be.

Everybody here is strong in the faith that the "Union must & will be preserved". If So. Carolina refuses to allow customs to be collected, she must be made to submit. Even at the cost of blood, as much as that is to be deplored. I am greatly in favor of a stronger central government. So. Ca. might go, joyfully would we bid her do it. A precedent would not be ruinous.

Tell Guy & 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. Then he has a RR. For his boys to slide down on in the Summer. But they wont need it now.

I think you have got along well in Hebrew - wish we could study it together some Eve day. What a good time we will have, God willing when you all come to see us next summer. Ella is still out or she would have a message to send. God bless you all & give you <hearts> overflowing with thanksgiving & praise.

How swiftly the sleighs glide by. Good Dea <Cutter> is sick of Diptheria.

Lovingly
Rowland

Remember us very