West Point, U.S.
December 1st, 1860

To my dear mother,

I feel slightly tired tonight and will only write you a few lines to tell you that Lizzy presented me with another little boy this afternoon, about ten minutes past one. She labored hard but everything was favorable. Her first pains began a little after four, but were not severe till after eight. She is doing well. The boy weighed 9 lbs. 6 oz.

Mary decried pretty large. Though I don't look at it, I'm sure she is delighted. They want to know if he will it come in two, the door or the window or over some back door. Lizzy sent to Newburg for a nurse. She was to come down today, but the baby was...
born & raised before she got here. Mrs. Simpson, a colored woman, who sells candy and tea to the cats, acted as nurse. Mr. Douglass, an aged surgeon, was kind & patient and attentive. Our Heavenly Father was indeed kind to us. It is then He accomplishes His mercies upon us. May He fit these children for His own service & with them glorify His Holy Name. One of my cherished hopes is that my children may be faithful servants of God. Love to Laura T., her two sons, Zigger & Shannon. Dear Ziggie—also to Uncle & Aunty & his family. Wishing regards to the neighbors. Love to mother. Affectionately, your son.

O. B. Howard
I have been very much refreshed & my back set
up by the presence
the brave Christian Spirit
of these men of God -
the
Meneminees: Rev. D. B. Marsh,
for 11 years in Nelson; & Rev.
Milwaukee, 25 years in So. Africa.
Some old texts as a Thanksgiving,
with Dr. Mc Culloch's sermon on
the subject of Jesus' Chris-
test death. Charles was
invited to Prof. Sheppard's
Thanksgiving - here not heard
from him since. Nor from
home. Tell by the coasting
good here. We must keep the
baby brother for Uncle T Amick.
Ne & Grace will love their res-
nued. Both Grace & the Sible
keep all those doll babies now
With great love to you both.
To all the Children Alice
Matt. & E. Monte
t

January 19th 1860

Dear Brother & Sister

To congratulate you most heartily
in your new accompany.

Ella says the 's just as
sick as if the last got him
herself.' and I am sure
the letter letting of the arrival
of the new company of
Maggie's safety made us
both very glad & happy.

You were remembered at
our family prayers. We
pray prayers with the family
board with the same
that you do, and Ella
I always read & pray
again before our retire.
We have been having
true interest

interesting
Mrs. meeting here this week. My heart has been deeply moved for the poor and destitute millions of the Earth and I have resolved God helping me to try to do some for them and our people seem to be interested also.

Mr. Farrell who is from Green was in Augusta I knew you there made some excellent remarks in the prayer meeting last evening. I spoke of our power to do duty a privilege of giving. He said - Three years ago he paid he cents a week for the support of the Gospel. He was considerable about that since he has increased his donations. He now he gives 76. 60 per week. No line left of Tobacco. Thus ends 1885.
West Point, N.Y.

Thursday Dec. 3rd 1860

My dear Mother,

Sizzie & the baby
have had no draw-back. She has
a good appetite, looks cheerful &
happy. Tuesday we had a light
fall of snow. I gave the children
a sleigh ride yesterday. Elly & Evans
& Katy Carroll are having a
nice time riding this morning.
Sizzie was very sorry for Laura.
How is the snow. Give her much
love, sympathy. Her baby's corrected
weight was 8½ lbs at the 35th day.

Mabel came to father. Mr. & Mrs. expecting
expecting
reception & are anxious for the month.

Elly

Mrs.
O. O. Howard
Dec 5th, 1860

[Handwritten text]

[Invisible text due to handwriting]
Keddie Dec 7, 1860

My dear Brother,

Your letter of the 12th inst came to hand last night and I hasten to write you in turn. I have a very pleasant home in a pleasant neighborhood. My school is not large but being only about 30 in all and that average attendance is not more than 15. Most of them are very present. And I have some good work to do. But all is getting into mischief. As yet I have no formal punishment but I think I shall have to enforce the necessity of doing as we long. My reading place is quite pleasant. I have the same that Charles had. Mr. Newcomb is a very quiet man and I have a year many
a week ago today. Mother was much better today and she had been
for a week before. The cavity in
her lungs had been decreasing in
size for a long time so that, is
not about the size of a phial to
put. The rest of the pork are only
what had a small Thanksgiving
i.e. the portion at the table was
small. I was the only one of our
children Queens and Robert. There
was the only one of Patrick's children.
Three besides me. We have been
having quite a snow storm in
these parts so that we can now have
snow sleighing. Charles sent me
a letter yesterday and enclosed in
it his best one from you.
I have received numerous invitation
to call at the various homes in
our neighborhood. I shall make me
a night after I have finished
this. Give my love to Lizzie.
P.S. Dearest, we bought a peach tree and I should have finished the school writing before now. I hope I will get along sufficiently.

Banger, Dec. 17, 1860

My dear brother,

It may seem rather late for me to congratulate you on the birthday of being another of those gifts from Heaven which bring joy also to all your friends and we expect will be a blessing to the world. My feelings however have not grown less intense nor my prayers less frequent in behalf of you all, especially Grizzel, also. I have delayed writing. I find a great need to occupy myself more at it seems good to me. There is something almost every evening, I mean a guess that I debated whether it was not my duty to attend the "Society of Freemen" which now meets once in two weeks alternating with the "Kosmopolitan"... After a half hour in
The boxes contained this sum $275.00.

We had a little practice at singing before leaving the country. The money raised by the sale of the letters sent to us were found with a sum of $75. It was money to be used for little packages for each school. After one more trip, Prof. Harris offered for comparatively little with borers. This was a very large sum for the fee of the students who were given a general group meeting by the students. Then there is a Scott Mission and teaching meeting of the students, at which I found it invaluable to attend. Then meeting every week, and 4:30 meeting for the benefit of the community. We are expected to attend when invited.

The regular church prayer meeting of which I find it advantageous to attend. The meeting regular, but always something. Last week there was a social gathering after the Scott Mission teaching meeting of the boxes containing the contributions of each class. I want to get acquainted with my class, most of whom are present. Among 47 young ladies 16 to 18 years of age.

The letter was written on August 30, 1893.
this letter another that best think I ought to dear it be done w 10 to the meeting. The P.O. is in that
room. The Sunday coming the Dean and being there with each other. You see are
how conveniently located Dear Boyell Rec. Library. Reading room in the building.
Our house is in the cellar—How
much I should enjoy having you here while I am last about while listening to Prof. Harris played
to have you there. It is like a post
this reading only it is all tone
fewer—nothing unhealthy.
We are all watching the daily
news from Washington. The South with
independence interest—hat probably will not
be then soon. Tomorrow or perhaps this
beautiful moonlight night when the
starry are shining to close thought out
of their depths of blue and the nothing en-
usual care transpiring below, Smith Carolina makes her exit from the town. I am disposed to get to use no phonology which may signify that our glory "United States," or a government, is near it and I hope the President will not to back here will vindicate our federal stipend. What are the schooled senior Tavenger at West Point? Can Cadet succeed? Tell Johnny Heer, I have joined the boosterous association of the city. They spend about an hour in gymnastics daily. They allow about 50 of us students to attend a year for $60. Casual price is from 5 to 8 daily office. Expect Brother to be back. Postal tomorrow on the occasion of Thanksgiving meeting.消息 of Syphonia in Joncington. Mr. May fairly recover? How much I would enjoy spending a few days with you now talking to see my friends then. Especially Mrs. Giant W. Johny Heer, Where is Miss Blanche? Think her I felt the need of her presence in my school. Fall—I thought of trying to introduce it, but I must clear the identity of some boys. Your Opponent. Bro. Charles.
O.C. Howard
Dec. 17, 1860

West Point, N.Y.
Dec. 17, 1860

Dear Mother,

I am getting anxious about you. After such a memorable event as the birth of another grandson, I did expect to get a letter from you, but perhaps you have been too busy to write. I hope you and father are well. We have heard the good news of the birth of a child.

The steady gain in strength of the baby has done well. Alas, the baby has a cold, and a good while, which gives us some anxiety. Because it has affected her hearing, so much so that she asks you over and over to say anything to her in the ordinary...
Our Dr. says, he will soon pass away. They are very robust. He delights in riding. He was 57 yrs old yesterday.

When he got four steps on the deck and a present of a case containing four books called Willow books. We have not named the baby yet. What shall we call him? Does not Patton think the political thing is rather inglorious at this time?

I hope we shall get a letter soon. I have heard from the boys since I wrote last. How is Father? I hope she is able to stand in the second phase of the war. He has been under the shadow of the Almighty. I hope my dear mother, that your own heart is filled with peace. Love to Mr. and Mrs. Evers and the neighbors. Off. Bye. Sus.
Leeds, December 23, 1860

My Dear Son,

With a cheerful heart
and I hope a thankful one, I commence writing
you this Sabbath morning. The sun is now
rising out of sight, and leaves a golden
shade far up before it reaches the red and
blue stripes, but the whole aspect rather
bespeaks a blustering night. We had seven
inches of light snow fell yesterday and last
night which will probably fall up tonight.

Your last letter was rather a surprise to me, as I am doing no work alone and cannot at all
the present time. I am very much concerned my health is
nothing now been of some time.

Good I believe I can say my limb is healed
my leg is very happy to hear in each one of
your letters that I am so comfortable and that
nothing will befall her, and here the wonderful
comes she will recover her full strength, baby
must have a name and it belongs to her parents to
name him so always liked your brother's name
and would congratulate it in this little son of
your is agreeable to his parents.

I am very solemnly to, dear from God,

Hence my long silence & hence thought
of many things that inclined to say to

a beautiful babe I present; there not known
anything about it, I just as thought
babe was an object of sympathy.

With us all, the babe had been there
two days. It was a daughter, the marks
of death were on the head that showed
what saved the mother. He, 80 hours
of agony previous to taking the life
of the child, and his life was at stake.
When strength was lost leaving his I
have not been there since, but Dean
L. at church last Sabbath she stood one
half the day, we had a shock of an
earthquake in the midst of the song
it was the most distinct I ever heard
and made a column impression on
me for one, Miss Chapin had singing
with Mr. Smith from Wayne he
stayed entirely in his sermon and
when he resumed his speaking he
asked I was solemnly to hear from God,

Hence my long silence & hence thought

I am glad to hear that you are so healthy. Of him, his last day, it was on the Sabbath, the same as his first birth day. I am sorry to hear that Grace has had a bad cold so early in the winter and fear she may not recover until warm weather. Grandmother often sends her thoughts wandering away to West Point, imagining how each individually is employed, still hoping all is well, the death of the thought, that has cut off so many children in Auburn and Lewiston. The month past does not prevent the West Point your letters are very precious to me, more so than ever since I am so much confined and alone till Grace the white kitten is grown to be a cat, and stays in the house with me the most of the time, she is now sitting in the sun shining the most of the time, she is now sitting in the sun shining. I shall send for you as I plan forward to write you letters in the next month by the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Brown. I have received a letter from Father containing a portion of the sermon preached on the death of Mrs. Talbot and his sister. A beautiful address for the occasion, our neighbors and friends are in good health at this time, I saw Laura's babe it was
I am grateful to know that the 4th January will be very generally observed in this City, as a day of fasting, prayer, 
set the example to our children, as they may, we must be humble ourselves before our offended God, circumscribing our 
visiting and protection. The act does not have the effect that is not desired.

Another way our worst fears are realized. I should all things work together harmoniously, I trust. I assume, but nothing would mean as well as to have you to join your lady. Come to St. Louis. Come in abundance. Mrs. Wind is back, and you will see that. I hope you will get some idea of my location and when I tell you that. I love in these times. We are very busy at the house now, watching gathering some 5000 barrels of rice for my. You see how to Mrs. Brown and the children. Many Christmas happy New Year to all. Best to my friends.

Mark Wright.


My very dear friend:

Being prevented from leaving my house to-day, owing to a very severe cold in some throat, I thought I could not better occupy a few moments of my leisure, have a writing to you — acknowledging the right of your kind favor, which came to hand in due time —

I have been suffering since Saturday with my throat it is very dry. I must say, I doubt if I have to stay in doors for more than few days. I am getting better now, I hope soon to be all right.

Will my letter, most esteem friend, would fail to be the less important.
of the present state of my feelings, I am to reflect. Speaking of
The Crisis, which now occupies
the thoughts of not only of Politicians
but of the entire
people, I unfortunately have ins-

tended to a dangerous extent to
the pious thoughts of our ClERGY
and Church. Not that they are

just from all care concerning
our government, but that the
remembrance has led to too great

concern for the rights of the
poor. Politics are pre-

ached from the pulpit of the most

upright minister, the truest pas-

sions seem to have gained the upper

hand. Instead of Convicting,

for giving, friendly, and tender means
being urged, we hear only bitter

invectives on the adverse political

organization. No brotherly love is

proclaimed, but bitter hatred is to

1o the knife." To you popularly
with the idea, seems to be the

rising passion in some souls.

When we see religious bodies

passing resolutions for secession

to what other conclusion

can we come? But we of

course are not just and to judge.

It is needful for me to speak
to you of the suffering among the

poor, in our city. Pray, if familiar

with such things, can fully appreciate

what must be the bitterness to which

all are driven.

What think the knowing and
in your part, if the signs of the times

are in these respects have abandoned

their prophetic knowledge, to say "Cant
till," "Cant till." Truly are we being

securely scourged, I brought low in

account of our iniquities. The first

rules of all things, whatever is best

for us—is indeed the way an unknown to us.
Hallamell, Dec 27th 18--

My dear Otis,

I do not know whether you have been aware that Nanny has for the past two weeks been so sick that her life has been despaired of. She has been troubled with a cough since August last but about two weeks ago she began to fail very rapidly. Mr. Otis informed Maria how sick she was and I brought her on 10th September. Yesterday at a quarter after three her soul took its flight as quietly and gently as a little child falling asleep. Her mind has been at rest as to her future since she was made aware of her true condition.
the Quic' clergymen has been very kind and attentive to her, coming to see her every day - he says he has never known such entire peacefulness in the hour of death in anyone - she did not seem to have a single thought and talked of her approaching end as quietly as you or I would talk of any ordinary subject - here was the peace of God which passeth understanding. her funeral is to be on Saturday. Maria + all the others are not. we left Vaughan, Otis + Anna London to keep house. For us to U.P.

Your truly

Wm. Munro
his direction. I hope the national fest will not be in vein. If all would pause for the little space of one day more the thoughts to God the result may be happy for He is able to bless. I pray his plans filled with present Christmas morning. On the 20th. They went to a Christmas tree. Christmas eve at the Chapel where I have my S [School. The next night Mr. Mardell [had a tree. The next night I took the children to Professor Boustead's to another tree. Grace is still a little deaf. The day is fall. P. Grew & Higgins has been abroad. The house three weeks. Higgins has great need for thanksgiving. Messrs. " have all at the great mercy of Heaven. Now I am sorry for her. hope she will soon be well. How very love to Father & [send my love to Father & Mother. Write to the neighbors. I had a letter from Newland today. "Merry Christmas" the happy new year to you. [send my love to Father & Mother. "Alfredo." Your love, [W. Howard

[Handwritten text starts:]

My dear Mother,

The old year is just closing and I think I know that I can do better than spend a few moments in writing you. The past year I have had a good many thoughts and a good many words. I have done many acts. They are all just small. Some I have passed over as a little moment. May have been most mighty to some I have thought important may be without significance to God. We have not a very just appreciation of what is useful. What is not, but this much I am sure that the priest with God it cannot be denied. Today I would confess any shortcomings.
and myother sins to know my covenant with God to reverse sin & strengthen my purpose to act with will. The state of the country is alarming in the extreme. It is alarming everywhere. Passions & prejudice has gone so far that I expect civil war before any settlement is had. Began with South Carolina seceded. The president thinks will upsetting the treasury & daily muscle robbing the government. The Sec. of war sending heavy guns from Pittsburg south to forts whose foundations are hardly said. Then getting angry because they Anderson quitted action as a fool nor a coward, tendency his resignation.

South Carolina exhibited a frightful front, took Fort Pickens & Charles Henry & the Charleston arsenal & also a United States vessel. How rapidly corrupt, succeed each other. Peace war is by far the most horrible for the officers of the army. Associated together by education & so many social ties. They will either shrink away into some other profession or have to stand each other in deadly enmity. Very few states have yet left except those who own planters. I see fine young men left a day or two ago. Reubenian to believe the causes of our troubles cannot be easily traced. Slavery is only the sole cause. Good men have shirked from offices of public trust. Infringement & all sorts of wickedness have prevailed amongst our public men. This of itself shews amount of the character of our people. Some portion have been greatly wicked, and other portions have allowed business, private interests to absorb them & very self-negligence of the public good. Who was only friend against God. How much time to become every soul at the close of the year. To humble himself before Almighty God & implore his forgiveness.