

---

1215 2/11/1861    *From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

OOH-1155

West Point

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

West Point Feb 11th 1861

Dear Mother

I will just write you a few lines tonight to let you know that we are all quite well. All are in bed but Lizzie & me & she is just retiring. I think the baby is a little more troublesome than either Guy or Grace. Lizzie sometimes gets very, very tired as she is tonight, but we ought to be thankful indeed for so many & so great blessings.

My Sunday school has increased lately. Some of the Professors children attend & the Cadets prayer-meeting continues its interest. A great revival is in progress at Buttermilk Falls at present. As many as fifty I understand have made profession of religion. I have been down quite often to attend the meetings and have the happy assurance from some converts that I was instrumental in pointing them to Christ.

The wife of the Presbyterian minister, Mrs Gray is very low. She has had a severe hemorrhage of the lungs. You may remember Dr Cuyler, who took such good care of me when I was sick as a Cadet here. His son James Cuyler, a member of my mathematical class, is quite ill with typhus fever, just hanging between life & death. His father & mother are here with him.

My love to Dellie & father.

I am glad Virginia & Tennessee have gone for the Union. We can do without the Gulf States. We will hardly miss them, if we don't have war. Oh, that we may not be called to spill each others blood! I hope the hearts of the people of Leeds wont grow cold at this time. Now we need the care & protection of our Heavenly Father, if we ever did, & I hope many will turn their faces Heavenward & beseech mercy & guidance at this crisis.

Susan has just come in to fix the fire for morning. I thought she was abed. She says send my love to her & so does Lizzie though she is so sleepy that she drawls her words.

Good night. I hope Rowland is well. Remember me to the neighbors & to Uncle Ensigns & Johns. Has Aunt Aurelia joined the Church yet? My love to her if you see her. I hope she will join.

Affectionately your son  
O.O. Howard

---

1216 2/13/1861 *From:* Henry N. Rothery

*To:* Lieut O. Howard

OOH-1157

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Washington D.C. Feb. 13th 1861

Lieut O. Howard  
Respected Sir

Allow me to thank you and your lady for the kind manner in which you have and your wife have treated my wife and little ones since I left my home. I do not know how we will ever repay you for your many kindnesses to us but God will reward you. Our officers are very kind to us and we are as comfortable as can be expected. Please remember me to Mr. Wells. I remain with respect

Your Obedt. Servt.  
Henry N. Rothery

---

1217 2/13/1861      *From:* [CH Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1158

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Leeds Feb. 13. 1861

Dear Brother

You perceive I am at home. It is evening. Mother sits near me knitting. Father is reading. We got our mail tonight which has been very irregular of late. In fact until yesterday morning (Tues) we had rec'd no mail since Thurs. The cars got detained at No. Leeds on their way up & no train passed over the road till yesterday. They were compelled to shovel away the snow by hand.

A letter from Rowland tonight written Sab. Eve. informs us that Ella has been quite sick during the week past. She had many symptoms similar to his but did not have the Diptheria. She seems to be getting better. Another little boy of his S. School is gone. His funeral was to be last Monday. There was one the Sunday after I was there.

I have not written you since I was with Rowland two weeks ago last Sab. I was at home time enough to take dinner & see mother a little while on my return. Father met me at Leeds Center & then took me to Monmouth. I went up to relieve Rowland before he was able to preach. For two Sabbaths he has been able to conduct the services himself. He has been Ella's nurse during her illness. Says she has been at the table with the family for two days now.

I came home last Saturday. After the storm of Thursday night the train did not get thro' to Waterville from Bangor till Sat. Friday was terribly cold. Thermometer gave the record of 30° below zero at the Seminary and 35 downtown. It was 32 & 33 here in Leeds. I froze one of my ears Sat. Morn. going to the depot. We learned on the train, that the Androscoggin R.R. had not got thro', so several who were going to Farmington, took the stage at Readfield. I got out of the train at Monmouth, with the expectation of walking home but found a Mr. Wheeler there who bro't me almost to Curtis' Corner.

I first called on the minister Mr. Loring & got some dinner. I had called there before & had become acquainted with Mrs. Loring's folks in Holden which was her native place. I found mother quite well tho' she had been having a cold. Mahala is with her now. Father is well. I got cold about the time of leaving Bangor so I have been rather heavy headed. I ought not to complain for this is the only cold I have had this winter I believe & this is not very severe.

Rev. Mr. Chapin was expecting me to take his place ½ day last sab. & as I found him almost sick I preached for him twice. He got sick by walking down upon the Plains that stormy Thursday to attend the funeral of Miss Molson a member of his Church. Very few were out at Church Sabbath-day tho' the weather was favorable. Mother says the people have got in the habit of staying at home. But they seem to have attended the Circle in good numbers & there is no lack of interest in a Lyceum at the Otis school-house. Rev. Mr. Chapin seemed almost discouraged. The people give him a donation tomorrow. Father sent up beforehand today 2 bush oats ditto of potatoes, of apples & of other vegetables. Melvin carried them up together with some contribution of his own.

Your letter to Dellie came Tuesday. The mail was sent up from the Junction Mond. P.M. by a private conveyance. We opened the letter. It was exceedingly interesting to me - the acct of those troops leaving W.P. especially. I remailed it to Dellie today. I had a letter from Johnny Weir just after returning from Farmington. I did not know he had been away at Washington. Has Rev. Mr. Grey got well again?

I have been reading several of your recent letters to mother. The good long one you wrote me deserved a more speedy reply. It was just what I wanted - almost equal to a visit to W.P. I read it to Rowland at F. & to mother when at home before. Tell Guy I was highly pleased with his letter & will answer it - perhaps to accompany this. Uncle Rowland & Ella, Grandfather & Grandmother thought they must see that letter, so they read it for themselves. Have there been any more resignations among Cadets or any recent ones among officers?

I did not feel like writing tonight Otis but I wanted to have this taken to the P.O. tomorrow as we go to the donation. I know it will partake of my dullness. I called down at Roland's the first of the <eve>. Cynthia looks in the best health I have seen her enjoy since her marriage. The children also look nicely. Roland talks intelligently upon national affairs. Is not radical. Cynthia told me Sabbath-day as we rode to Church, that he was quite skeptical upon the subject of experimental religion. Believes he is just as well off without it as with it. She still clings to her hope.

Joshua Turner & wife had been here about a week but returned Monday. It was a very pleasant day. I rode to the Junction for my baggage & took mother to Mr. Brewster's. Lavernia's boy has the Bishop complexion & yellow hair - looks smart & healthy.

Yesterday it rained hard all day. I was intending to go to Br'k but the rain put a period to all my plans. It did not freeze hard enough last night for me to go today & now it is too late as I return to Bangor Sab. from here.

It seems to be the general opinion that James W. is hardly equal to Grace & Guy as a name. But intrinsically I can't perceive much difference. As the two latter names have acquired a great charm for me by their association with two lovely little beings, so I anticipate I shall soon begin to think James one of the most beautiful of names.

Father is reading aloud & as I am not in a state to conduct more than one train of thought with accuracy I will hasten to close. I find I have filled out quite an extensive letter. Since I began I paused to attend to family prayers. Mahala is now a Professor of religion. I am glad to have her with mother. She is good help. Betsy Bates was taken very sick Sab. Morning. She has sometimes 10 fainting fits in the course of a day. I was in to see her this P.M. Jane Bates has been sick but I found her quite well today. Oliver has bo't the "James Wing" farm. Wm Wing takes that of Mr. Parker (Simeon Tunney). Mr. P. Goes to Keene's Corner. Father has hired Thos. Brebiar for 8 months & will board

[missing page & closure]

---

1218 2/17/1861     *From:* Eliza Gilmore

*To:* O. O. Howard

OOH-1159

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Leeds Feb 17, 1861

Otis my dear son,

Yours of the 11th inst, was duly received and with much pleasure. The general tone of the letter was calculated to satisfy a Christian mother's desires, and all your letters are a great treasure to me. Oliver Gilbert was in this morning and said that your uncle Stillman Howard was dead, died yesterday P.M. died in an instant without apparent suffering. He was as well as usual up to the time of his death. I think he has not been from home this winter. I saw Aunt Lydia at Church a month or two since, and ask after her husband in particular. She said he was feeble. The funeral is next Tuesday.

Charlie has spent the past week with us, which was a pleasant week to me. He wrote to all of his brothers while here. The state of our Country seems to be the all absorbing feeling of every one, but I trust we have those amongst us who have an interest at the throne of grace, who make it a daily duty to ask our Heavenly fathers blessing on our union. When we ask for blessings how very ignorant we are of what we ask. "God works in his own misterious way his wonders to perform." We must therefore submit ourselves to his providences in humility.

Rowland and Ella have had quite a portion of poor health I suppose. Farmington is a cold place. Dellie says it is. I have not seen them since the first day of Nov. I have expected them several times . Sickness, or death in the parish has prevented them from coming and I am a little timid about leaving my own bed a night.

I like the name of your babe, very well. Give him Grandmothers kiss. Lizzie has always my best of wishes. Kiss Guy and Grace for me. My regards to Mrs Wing, and Susan.

Susan Ames, your father's niece was married New Years day (to a Boston Merchant of some great firm). His name is Henry French.

I saw your Aunt Aurelia at a donation party, not long since. She had visited your Aunt Lucretia a short time previous and found them all well. Mrs. Bridgham has had several attacks of severe palpitation of the heart. I think she will leave us in the same way that her brother has. Cynthia has just gone out, sends love to you and Lizzie, and Johnny sends love. He improves in talking. I can understand him now quite well. I am sorry for Mrs Gray. I have heard of the family so much I feel almost acquainted with them. I cannot sympathize with such extreme agony at the death of my friends, although every new stroke of the grim messenger on our family ties leaves me more sorrowful, (notwithstanding my poor sinful heart). I have been enabled to look beyond the grave, in my bereavements, and not dwell on the poor tenement that holds the immortal spirit. I think that I have been wonderfully blessed in having a calm, and leaning spirit on my divine master. I feel at this moment a fullness of gratitude towards my heavenly father, for his sustaining hand in all my undeservings.

Your father's health is good as usual. Capt Turner's health is feeble. The winter is trying to old age. Oliver has been in and says the funeral of esquire Howard is at 10 o'clock Tuesday. What a blessing in this dying . Would to live with an affectionate husband 55 or six years, to see ones children and grandchildren with the same interests.

Oliver brought in our mail, which contained a letter from Rowland and one from Rodelphus. Rowland says he and Ella will come to Leeds Monday if nothing in providence prevents. I wish Charles could be here to go for them. The traveling is awful. We had a quite deep snow fell in the night, followed by rain this morning. Dellie writes in good spirits, was delighted to receive a letter from you accompanied by one from Charles. He has few letters. We are fully expecting the restoration of our union.

From you affectionate mother  
Eliza Gilmore

O. O. Howard

---

1219 2/21/1861      *From:* Rowland [B Howard]      *To:* Dear Brother Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1160

East Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

East Livermore Feb 21, 1861

Dear Brother Otis

My letter bears the above date because in our passage from Leeds to Farmington, the snow accumulated on the track & finally about 7 ½ P.M. the Engine gave out & I found a place of entertainment for Ella & myself at a Mr Lovejoys. (He keeps the P.O. & knew you as a Schoolmaster.) We have comfortable quarters & must stay till the state of the R.R. allows us to go on & I have nothing to do better than to write letters. This family are Universalists & say nothing about prayers & Grace before meals.

Ella is pretty well & pretty patient. Yesterday was very stormy but father was certain that we should get through. We left mother very well, with a good girl.

We attended Uncle Stillmans funeral on Tuesday. I rode over to the house with Oscar. Aunt Lydia [Lydia (Lothrop) Howard] is deeply afflicted. She feels alone. Uncle S. expressed willingness to die & a 'hope', but gave no definite evidence of love & trust. (I protest against this ink). The Funeral was at the M.H. & called out a large congregation & a large number of relative. I saw Aunts Lucretia [Lucretia (Howard) Leadbetter] & Aurelia [Aurelia (Howard) Leadbetter] & Uncle Frank [Benjamin Franklin Howard]. Uncle Ensign & Laura rode home with us. They have been on a visit to Montville of three weeks.

In the evening, Mr Chapin & wife came down and we had a very solemn prayer meeting at Capt. Turners. A great deal of interest was manifested. 28 were present & Mrs Nath. Coffin requested prayers & seemed deeply affected. Betsey Bates who is quite sick at home and manifests an excellent spirit, such as gave me reason to hope that she is a Christian. She expressed herself very much gratified at Charles' visits.

While I was praying with her, her mother crept into the room & near me and seemed very attentive. I can't help thinking that there is a good spirit at work in our neighborhood. Mother is more than usually engaged.

I read your last letter home & am glad to hear of the work at the Falls. I do wish that the human instrumentalities may be humble cautious discreet & prayerful. The Methodists are very apt to begin to <shout> before the victory is won. Then I always distrust the thoroughness & utility of those revivals in which they are engaged.

Ella & I are quite well now & send our love to you, Lizzie, Mrs Wing & all the children.

Rowland

---

1220 2/23/1861 *From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* My Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1161

Saint Louis Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Saint Louis Arsenal  
Feby. 23, 1861

My Dear Howard:

Amidst the great excitement caused by the unfortunate state of our political affairs & the many perplexities of life at best, your kind communication, recd. a few days since, was a most welcome Visitor, & had been look for, a long time.

With the gratification of learning that you were all well, that of knowing that you had been again blessed by an Indulgent & Gracious God, gave additional pleasure.

Truly are we all blessed, & oh that we could be more grateful to Our Father in Heaven. Oh that our eyes may be turned away from beholding vanity, & that we may be quickened in His way.

I am happy to hear of the prosperity of the cause of Christ in your vicinity, & pray that the fruit of your labors may be made manifest to all, that others may take courage to fight in the same Good Cause, & not grow weary. I trust that Prayer-meeting may become a permanent & fixed institution in the Corps, never to be forgotten nor neglected.

As regards the action of my state, I can but feel proud of the good sons of Tennessee, who have so nobly stood beside the Stars & Stripes - not forgetting the purity of the cause for which our Fathers battled, their wounds & Bloodshed & the overshadowing Providence of Heaven, through so many long years. Oh that the hearts of men may be brought to a sense of the debt of gratitude they owe to God, & learn that the ways of God are full of mystery, & thus be brought to rely solely upon Him for all aid.

The action of the Seceding States I consider unjustifiable, under any pretense, selfish and ungenerous. They treated, some of them, the border slave states unkindly, refusing to take or ask council with them. Although I believe heartily, that the Abolitionists North are much to blame, that they have desired to wrong the South, I cannot justify the course that the Cotton states have adopted.

I go on the principle that we the Southern People, have equal rights with the North, in the Union & that it will never do to throw away those rights in order to secure them. The blessings <of> the Union are not to be compared to the sufferings (<fancied>) of which we hear so much.

I say if the North persist in infringing upon our rights, <take> the constitutional means of remedying the Evil, & if any go, we are right in adhering to the constitution, force the ultras <out>.

It would be good if Massachusetts & South Carolina could be tied together for awhile. These two would find out more about <the> other, & no doubt, be surprised to <learn> that one was no worse than the other. But I must not <discuss> politics any further.

We have now quite a Garrison at the Arsenal. All told, we number about 488 - rank & file, & Capt. Tother brings 83 to-day making a total then, of 571. Maj. Hagner is in command, Major Bell having been removed, without any cause having been assigned for it. He is still here. Capt Lyon, 2d Inf., Capt. Tracy 10 Inf, Lieut. Saxton 4th Arty, Lieut. Lee 2d Inf, Lieut. Sweeny 2d Inf., Lieut Thompson of Cavalry, Dr. Bouver (Surgeon), Todd & myself of the Ordnance are here. All mess with me, & stop in my quarters. Gen Scott, I presume is at the bottom of it all. We don't know how long things will remain as they now are. Capt. Totten was down last evening. Quite a military looking place. No danger of an attack now apprehended. Though there can be no doubt of an attack having been contemplated.

You may easily imagine how busy I am, when I tell you that I am Quartermaster, A.A.C.S. & Post Adjutant, under the new state of affairs. So many new arrangements, quarters, clothing, eating &c.

The Arsenal is in as good a state of or for defense as it can be put. Guns mounted & placed in position &c.

The Paymaster relieved us a little to-day by paying us one month's pay. As I've had none since November, it came very opportunely.

I have my Brother here with me - reading Medicine. He is a most excellent Boy & great Company for me, when we are in ordinary circumstances; now there is company "en abundance".

As regards the Question you asked of me, in your letter, I feel deeply grateful for the kindness manifested towards me, in the expression of confidence you would seem to place in me, but feel conscious of my unworthiness of any such regard. I really would feel most deplorably incapacitated to undertake to carry on the good work you have begun & so satisfactorily carried on at the Point. It would do my heart good now to aid in the cause of our Heavenly Master, but there is a sphere & situation for which each one is suited, & in no other can he do much good. I fear much, that I am not the man for the place you would seem to wish to have me occupy. And right here, my pride rebels, & warns me of my unfitness for the religious duties that would devolve upon me there. It says, I can not solicit such a place. I could never get my consent to ask of Prof. Church the situation, for I should dislike so much to be refused, & I could never be happy in a place where I thought I was not wanted.

As for my being able to do the duty of Instructor, I have always thought it a bad place for Young Officers to go back to West Point, though I might possibly have but little to do with any of men with whom I'm acquainted. I look upon the position as one that would be highly creditable to me, if I were selected by the Professor, but to get there as some do, I would <never>.

The position is a very responsible one. I am young - would be thrown with men of learning & ability, the advantages on that score, to me, would be great. But am I, or would I be suitable for the place?

You can understand my feelings, & know how I write to you. I am desirous of doing what I feel to be my duty, in every sense, but I wish to be prepared for it & suited to it. I can look to & depend upon you for advice. But I wish you to understand distinctly, that I would not under any conditions go unless Prof. Church prefers & desires it.

I would prefer to hear from you again. I really fear that I am not a suitable one for an Instructor.

All this I write in confidence to you.

I heartily sympathize with Miss Jeannie & her family. Remember me kindly to her. Rem'br me to my Friends. Tannatt has not written for a long time.

As I am Offr. Day I write this about 4 & 5 A.M.

Give my Love to Mrs. H., & Guy & Gracy.

May the Lord bless you all.

Yr. aff. Friend  
M. H. Wright

To,  
Lt. O. O. Howard  
U. S. Army



---

1221 2/23/1861     *From:* C. P. Kingsbury     *To:* Lieut. O. O. Howard  
OOH-1162                      Washington, D.C.                      West Point N.Y.  
*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Washington, D.C.  
23d Feb. 1861

Dear Sir:

It has occurred to me that in consequence of the disturbed condition of the country, and the threatening aspect of the future, you like many other army officers, may be reconsidering your notions of resigning, and if this should be so, I desire to call your attention again to that South Carolina Professorship of which we have heretofore spoken.

I have just received a letter from the President of the College asking me to recommend a suitable person for the chair of Natural Philosophy, which was vacated a few months since, and there is no one among my acquaintances, whom I could so heartily commend, as yourself. The salary I believe is \$1500 per year with a house. The neighborhood is a pleasant one, and the present President, recently elected, a most estimable and accomplished Christian gentleman.

I believe that I mentioned to you, that the Professor must be a member of the Presbyterian Church, which I understand was not inconsistent with your ecclesiastical preferences.

As an officer of the Army, I presume of course that you entertain no views on the "peculiar institution" which would be objectionable to a southern community.

Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience, and believe me

Truly your friend,  
C. P. Kingsbury [Charles P Kingsbury, USMA Class of 1840]

Lieut. O. O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

---

1222 2/28/1861 *From:* C. P. Kingsbury

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1163

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Washington, D.C. 28th Feb. 1861.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 26th, I have this moment received. I have not a word to say, except by way of encouragement, in relation to your purpose to devote yourself to the ministry of Christ. I pray that you may prove, and by His blessing you will prove, a workman worthy of the Master. But I write mainly to suggest that at Davidson College you would enjoy excellent facilities for theological studies, and that I do not believe the Philosophic course would interfere with a successful prosecution of them. That you may be guided in this and in all other things by that wisdom, which cometh from above, and at last receive the crown of life, is the prayer of your sincere friend.

C.P. Kingsbury

---

1223 2/28/1861     *From:* Eben. E. Waite

*To:* My friend Otis [OO  
Howard]

OOH-1164

Livermore

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Livermore Feb 28th 1861

My friend Otice  
Dear Sir:

It is my humble prayer that you, & yours are all well, & long may continue so. The last that we have heard from you was when you left us, at our place. Then you was not well, & how long you continued unwell we never have heard, but have hoped all the time that it was not long. You may think with propriety, perhaps, that if we had felt very anxious for your welfare that we might have written to you before, but that is not the reason by any means not at all, no sir, but shall I say what it is. You will say perhaps, that is a very poor excuse. Well I admit it is, but it is this. I have thought, & think so now, that my scribbling, in my poor unlearned, & broaken manner would not be at all interesting to you, & that has kept me from writing to you before this.

But now I have begun I might as well tell the whole cause that Stimulated me to write at this time, how we are & how the people are generally, as far as I know. We are all well at our place. You probably have heard before this, of Emaly's children's death (Eliza & Emma) in the fall, while I was at Portland at work. They died with what some call the putrid sore throat. Ten days betwixt their deaths, I am told. What disorder has prevailed to a grate extent their way round in different parts of the country, & continues to, I hear, considerably yet. Some families it has taken away all its members. We have escaped as yet, & I feel thankful for it, & I hope we shall not be afflicted with it at all. We have a heigh school here this spring, it commenced yesterday.

But to the other part of the situation, I want to hire some money. Now I will tell you why, & all about it. You know without my telling you, perhaps, if you don't know, others do, that it has been rather dull times for the last 3 or 4 years & there has not been much doing at my trade, calking, & consequently I have not earned much, that is, I have not had a chance to git much money any more that get a living, & I built a stable, & had to get in debt, some by the means of it. That is, I got some Lumber & some other things of Mr. Nathaniel Perley, which amounts to about 100 doll. not quite in all & it ought to be paid. I felt in hopes that I was going to git some money this last fall on a job of calking that I did at Portland, but it cost me so much to git my tools made & filed up to commence anew again (I have been out of the business so long & I had to do the work so cheap in order to git started again.) that I did not have but a very little left out of all the expences which I had to be to. Now I have got my tools in good shape again, so that when there is any calking to be done, I am ready, & shall not have to be to the expense of buying tools, & therefore am in hopes that I can have money left to pay wat I owe when I take any other job. Those men that I worked for, are Messrs Wm Merrill, David Wyman, & Smith Barber, all Master Ship builders, & good men & what is more, I gave them perfect satisfaction, & they told me if they ever built any more vessels they should give me the first call <surely>.

Now what I thought was this. If I could hire the money of you (\$100.) untill I can pay you at six percent interest annualy, I should like to do so. If you will let me the money pleas drop a line first, & I will send you a Note.

Respectfully Yours &c  
Eben. E. Waite