

Syracuse Monday, 4 Mar. 2^{PM}
 Dear Sir [1865]

Yesterday I wrote Mrs Gray informing her that Mr Gray has grown very much worse since he left home, & that I had but little hope that he could survive many days. — at least I think she would infer that from what I did write.

Directly after our arrival here, he relapsed into a state of utter helplessness & imbecility, tho quite restless. but since last evening he has been in a stupor, from which it is impossible to arouse him but for a moment, & never, apparently, to even partial consciousness.

As soon as I discovered the change, I called Dr Shipman of this city, by advice of our friend Judge Pratt. He prescribed but held

out no hope that he will
ever be better.

I address you as the friend
of the family, hoping that you
will break this sad intelligence
to Mrs Gray & Jenny as only a friend
can do.

I do not expect that he can
live at longest, more than a day
or two, & should not be surprised
if he does not that many hours.
I will Telegraph to you the time
of his demise if I am with him
as I expect to be, with the hope
that his friends may be ready to
receive his remains, & have arrange-
ments made in advance of arrival
for his burial.

In thus writing you I am pre-
paring for the worst. God alone is
able to raise him, & perchance
he has still further work for him to
do & may exercise his miraculous
power to save him, but nothing else can do
Respectfully &c W M Beebe

Since writing the foregoing, the
Dr has been in & says that altho he
seems to be very near his end still it
is possible for him to linger longer
than seems now probable, that he will,

Very truly Yours
W M Beebe

My dear Mother,
I have just received your letter of the 2nd inst. & am
glad to hear from you. I am well & hope this letter
will find you the same. I am very much
interested in the progress of the war & hope
it will soon be over.

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West Point N.Y.
March 6th 1861

Dear Mother,
I hope you are
still well. I last heard from you
through Rowland at East Sovermore
where he was blocked in with snow.
Everything moves on here about as
usual. I am glad the 4th of March is
past & that we have a new Adminis-
tration. I think the country will soon
get settled except the Cotton States. I
hope it will be managed to give them
their walking papers, since they so much
desire to leave us. I don't believe any
good can come out of war. I hope &
pray it may be avoided. I think it
may with an honest President &
a wise Secretary like Seward to lead
off in the execution of the laws. So much

for politics. The S. School & the prayer-
meeting remain about as usual. I
have the promise of a Christian officer
to take my place, i.e. Professor Church
wants him & will try for him & he is
willing to come. if our new Secretary
of War will order him. I have thought
today, what does Mother think about my
leaving the Army for the ministry. Should
I do so. I should like to have you pray
over it & tell me then what you think.

Whether it would give you joy or anxiety.
Lizzie is quite well & sends her love.
Guy is very busy. He attended a Convent
the other night for the first time. I
waked him up to go. I noticed him with
a magnificent truncheon playing in
imitation of a member of the Band.
He has a wheelbarrow that he & 94
his Mother made by successive
additions. which he now thinks much
of. All send love - baby well.

My kind regards to the neighbors, hope
Butsey Bates is better. Remember me
to Uncle Ensign. Love to Father -

Very affectionately Yours Son
O. Howard

Guy & Grace both send love
to Grandmother

will remain with you when
you leave West Point? Give
our best love & warmest
sympathy to Mrs. Grey &
Miss Jeannie - Ella feels
very much for Jeannie
& says she would write, -
did she not know how
very inadequate everything
she could say, would be - Did
not Mrs. Grey brother leave
her anything? I had a
pretty good Lab. yesterday,
in many respects - It was
a beautiful day & my
Audience was good - I
to preach Thurs. Fast day - I
have not begun my prepa-
ration yet - I feel too
tired today - but I hope
to be ready by divine
assistance - if well, tomorrow
& next day. - Yr aff. Bro. Rowland

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Hammington Mich. 8. 1861

My dear Brother

Your letter came
the same night that I
mailed mine - I did not
mean by any remarks that
I made that you should
"keep your own counsel" - but
that you should be governed
by your own convictions - &
not mine - I love to have
you free & frank with us.

Now if you have decided
to resign this fall & spend
a year in the Seminary,
will you allow me to make
one or two suggestions? There
will be plenty of time to
consider their wisdom - It
seems to me that you had
better - for the sake of your

own future influence, not
preach much more with-
out a license - wh. here,
is simply the approval of
an association of Congregation-
al Clergymen - So I hope
that your first endeavor
on Harlowe will be to thus
start right with the min-
isters - In order to a License-
you must be a member
of a Church & be able to
undergo a satisfactory ex-
amination as to your religious
experience & doctrinal views -

Many enter the Seminary
for a year - already licensed -
& then ~~they~~ you can preach occa-
sionally while there without
being thought "formal" & thus
do good & perhaps receive
recommendation - At what
time did you propose to

resign? I hope you will
be able to spend a good
deal of time with us this
Summer - Our house is
large - so that we could study
without interference from the
noise of the family - The
fishing above here is good -
& I may have a horse -
at one is offered to me for
\$75 - that suits me very
well. If I do, we should
enjoy going about if we
find a "Rock away" large
enough to hold all - Ella
returned Sat. night - She is
very well indeed - thinks the
house is an old miserable
thing &c (of course) - She joins
me in great love to you
Mother, Lizzie, the children &
Mrs. King - Remember us too
to Susan - Do you think the

of the Middle Class attend - so that next year if you
are here you can hear the same - We are just beginning
to read some Hebrew extracts from Exodus - Mr Perkins
seems greatly rejoiced at the prospect of your coming here.
He knew you in College - His is his first name - He will
not probably teach us much longer. As I was
returning from Missions Sabbath School last Sabbath
I met Mr. Everett - He always inquires about you - He
says "Tell him to come by all means" - Hope you will
tell me about Jonnie's Baptism if it has taken
place - How did you like the Inaugural - It
is highly spoken of by all parties here I believe
except a few unreasonable Buchananites - Such as the
editor of the Bangor Union - He called it "weak & trashy" &c.
Dr. Stearns has recently come home from Miss.
He is a secessionist I believe - He has a tremendous cloud
of whiskey - black & threatening - When in company he is
in the habit of talking them quite complacently - Did
you ever meet him - ^{He was once at W. P. M. Socy.} The eldest I think of Gen Stearns's sons.
Does the Revival progress? When is Mr. Clarke's
family & Lockett? You have not alluded to them
recently - Rowland will give you account of the Re-
vival at Winthrop - At our meeting for Prayer for colleges
a Union meeting at the 1st Parish Church - I mentioned
West Point Miss Acad. & a prayer was put up specially remem-
bering that institution - The Vesper was full even but a good
meeting that day - No word from Dell yet - Fr. Wm. Pr. Charles -

Bangor Mar. 19, 1861

My dear Brother

The contents of your last letter
was all intensely interesting to me. It seems like another
of the free bonanzas of God to me that you have the pur-
pose of coming here - Sometimes His goodness seems almost
overwhelming and then again much of the time I fail
to consider it. The sufferings of Mrs. Gray & Miss Gleason
have been much in my mind - How wretched they must
have been and yet I know that in these greatest of earthly
afflictions is not found of necessity the greatest misery - I
hope that Christ has been very near to them & that
their hearts have been comforted in the consciousness of his
love - How have they recovered? It has been very natural
for me to take them to the throne of Grace with me -
I trust that they are brought into closer union with the
Lord & more complete harmony with his blessed will by each
additional trial. - I wished to write them a letter when
I first heard of their affliction but feared it would do
no good - You must tell me how the sad news you
conveyed to them was received - Did you preach ~~at~~ their
Church last Sabbath?

I saw an account of the burning of Cozy's Hotel
quite full & explicit, in the N. Y. Post - also mention
of a new Supt. I suppose Mr. Webb's father is to have
an office - Naval Officer of N. Y. - is it so?

I was very much rejoiced to know Mr. Wright
was to succeed you - And what glorious news of
the Revival - I would like to be there with you.
I should think the S.S. would become more interest-
ing - Who has the clap that Willie Shoudell is in
now? I was in at Gen. Stephens last night.
Mrs. S. only was at home - She took great interest
in portions of your letter which I read to her. Mrs. S.
spoke to Mr. Mills about a house for you
which he liked much but Dr. Lincoln is
going to have it - He will begin house-keeping im-
mediately. His wife is now at Saco at the death-
bed of a younger brother, a member of the Sophomore
Class in Bowdoin. Have you heard of Decker's dif-
ficulty - something in connection with the Freshman
election - I heard he was suspended but not from himself
nor from Nettie - Think I'll have a letter from one
both of them tonight with the particulars - Suppose there
is no doubt but that he is suspended for 4 months, but
the letter I saw from a Classmate said Decker was
less to blame than many others who didn't get caught -
if that is any consolation.

I thought a great deal of Mr. Denton's conversion.
How does he seem - He will be likely to be the
means of great good to the people at the Falls.

It is time for our W.S. Soc. prayer-meetings. How
much I hope you will be disposed to attend these
and our meetings & enjoy them with me. If you

unite with the Central Church I have some
thought of uniting with you as now I do not go
to Hallowell any & Mr. Buttrick has left. He
has gone to Fort Falls - preached here 8 months -
Rev. Mr. Storer is here for the present at the Hammond
St. - I have a bad cold in my head but think
it passing off. Think I will close this now
so you may get it late night. I do hope there
may be some special religious interest with the
cadets. We have just started a young people's
prayer-meetings which seems to promise well.
Dr. Lincoln is a lovely Christian and very
efficient in his labors for Christ - Several of his
S.T. class have been awakened. I have heard
from Roland recently & he was not long ago at
home but he will tell you of himself.

Affectionately

A. H. Howard

My love to Lizzy & Henry & Ellen - kind regards
to Mrs. Wing if she is with you.

Thursday P. M.

Dear Otis - The mail-man missed my letter last night so I
have opened it to add a few words more - We have a lecture
from Prof. Harris upon Theology every Monday morning now -
Have had 8 - They are very interesting - He names the books we
are to consult so we study the subject during the week - Good morning

Fort Randall A.T.
March 17. 1861.

Dear Howard.

The present time is favorable to my writing and I will improve it.

St. Mark has told me of your contemplated change of profession, and I have thought of it much of the time. You have in God's hand been the instrument of much good, in the army, yet I do rejoice that you can see duty in seeking a new field of labor, where your harvest will become greater.

I pray you may be blessed with health, to work vigorously in the cause you love so well.

You have so long weighed the matter, I have no fears as to your spiritual & temporal prosperity. I often view my own feelings and conduct in contrast with the lives of other Christian officers, and see little to encourage me; indeed I at times fear the love of God is not in my heart as it dwells in you, to make me faithful and active, in the cause of Christ. I enjoy my hours of prayer and find comfort therein, yet in all I am weak in Christ.

Here we are completely outside the religious world, and my feelings are pent up, to be known only to my wife. We often converse upon this

subject and she too feels that her faith in Christ remains strong, although dead to good works. we lament our situation, and fear that we may be quitted now, neither service nor a prayer meeting for nearly a year, and scarcely a quiet Sabbath.

My situation is made more unpleasant by my Capt., who is generally stupid with whiskey by noon, and always selects Sunday for the examination of company papers.

I cannot conceive of a more demoralizing place than this, we have two billiard rooms and a theatre open on Sunday for games and rehearsals. You know my views of the army as a place for religious culture, and I must say I do desire a new calling.

I picture to myself a quiet home, my seat in the church, my class in the Sabbath School, the weekly prayer meeting, and a circle of religious friends, and ask myself, if I would not be a better Christian and better do my masters will.

God cut short my earthly plans by taking from me my sight, and he has a good in making it my present duty to remain in the army.

I was talking with Mack upon this subject, he counsels me to mention my object to you, and ask you to mention my name should you see a fit place for me at West-Point.

When my eyes began to trouble me I was making

arrangements to enter another profession.

I am now in perfect health and could I be stationed favorably for two years I could gain my end. I would prize West-Point for its many religious privileges and the excellent society my wife would find among the families.

I should resign this spring did I not feel it would be wrong when every officer may be needed.

I can easily get an appointment through friends at Washington, but I am not willing to force myself upon a Professor who may not consider me competent for the place.

I will not write of political matters, but simply say secession finds no friend in me, and that I deeply regret the ground exists upon which to found a charge of disloyalty in the army. My wife joins me in love to you & yours.

May God bless you in all your work.

Lieut. Howard.

Your friend in Christ.

L.R. Lammatt.

Lt. 4th Art.

P.S. Please remember me to Mr. Lunch & family, Mr. & Mrs. Church, Mrs. Reed, and all my kind friends.

L.R.L.

Cornwall, N. H. Mar. 20, 1861

Lieut. Howard,

Dear Sir:

In thinking further upon the matter of my visiting the Buttermilk Falls Church I will from next Sabbath, I have concluded to write you this line advising that the service be given out for 2 past three, instead of three o'clock as we talked about. Hoping that you will get this and appoint the time accordingly, I will make my plans for a $3\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock service.

I hope there will be a number to unite with the now afflicted Church.

You, Sir, have the gratitude of that people and, doubtless the favor of her, for your interest in, and labors among them.

Yours, in love and work of Jesus,
L. P. Sedgwick

West Point N.Y.

Mar 30. 1861

My dear Mother

I believe I let last
week pass by without writing you.
Yesterday I sent a letter to Rockland
and I am in hopes to hear from
both you & him every day. I would
to write Debbie; if he is at home
give him my love & tell him to
write me without waiting for me.
For my mindraces with my duties &
my family are many more than his.
I hope father is well. I often think
of him & pray for him. Wonder if he
has grown much older in looks during
the past year. I presume the state of
the country must be an all absorbing
topic with him. I am glad of
Lincoln's peace policy. If Mr Bu-

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Shanan had crushed the rebellion in
its incipency, force could have been
used to advantage. But since Lincoln
has come in war would only make
matters worse. An immense amount
of treasure & blood would be wasted
on both sides & irreconcilable hostility
be established and unless we
completely subjugated the South
we would be no nearer a settlement
than now. This is the aspect of
politics to me. In religion I doubt
know that we have had an increase
in the number of converts since I
wrote you. I think over a hundred
have joined the Methodist Church -
a few will join the Presbyterian
Church next Sunday. Mrs Gray & Miss
Grannie are in great affliction &
in rather poor circumstances since
the sudden removal of Mr
Gray. His Church too is poor
scarcely able to pay up what

is due on his salary & almost
despairing of another Minister -
If people would only consider
that the support of their minister
& Church is of ^{an} equal if not a
superior consideration to that of
their families, then could they
give less grudgingly. & the
poor Churches would not suffer as
they do & the poor Clergy would
be freed from worldly anxieties -
We are all well. - Guy - Grace -
Fannie - Lizzie - Alice - Susan &
Catherine - I hope the same
for you - I must stop
now as the time for morning
family prayer has come.

Affectionately Yours
O. O. Howard

Love from all