
1225 3/4/1861

From: W M Beebe

To: Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-1165

Syracuse

Source: Bowdoin

Syracuse Monday 4 Mar 2 P.M. [1861]

Dear Sir

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 arrangements made in advance of arrival for his burial.

In thus writing you I am preparing 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 less can do.

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

1226 3/6/1861

From: O.O. Howard

To: Dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1166

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y.
March 6th 1861

Dear Mother,

I hope you are still well. I last heard from you through Rowland at East Livermore 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 Administration. 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. We attended a Concert the other night for the first time. I waked him up to go. I noticed him with a make-believe trombone playing in imitation of a member of the Band. He has a wheelbarrow that he & I & his mother made by successive additions, which he now thinks much of.

All send love. Baby well.

My kind regards to the neighbors, hope Betsey Bates is better. Remember me to Uncle Ensigns. Love to Father.

Very affectionately your son
O.O. Howard

Guy & Grace both send home a kiss to Grandmother.

Mrs Wing sends love.

1227 3/8/1861

From: Rowland [B Howard]

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1167

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

Farmington Mch. 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 & preach with me.

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 Congregational Clergymen. So I hope that your first endeavor on Furlough will be to thus start right with the ministers. In order to a license, you must be a member of a Church & be able to undergo a satisfactory examination as to your religious experience & doctrinal views.

Many enter the Seminary for a year, already licensed, & then they can preach occasionally while there without being thought "forward" & thus do good & perhaps receive remuneration.

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, as one is offered to me for \$75, that suits me very well. If I do, we should enjoy going about if we find a "Rackaway" 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, sister Lizzie, the children & Mrs Wing. Remember us too to Susan. Do you think she 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 Greys brother leave her anything?

I had a pretty good Sab. yesterday, in many respects. It was a beautiful day & my audience was good. I am to preach Thurs, Fast Day. I have not begun my preparation yet. I feel too tired today, but I hope to be ready by divine assistance, if well, tomorrow & next day.

Yr. Aff. Bro.
Rowland

1228 3/13/1861 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: My dear Brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-1168

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

Bangor Mar. 13, 1861

My dear Brother

The contents of your last letter was all intensely interesting to me. It seems like another of the free bounties of God to me that you have the purpose 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. Grey & Miss Jeannie 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 seemed? 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 carried to them was received. Did you preach at their Church last Sabbath?

I saw an account of the burning of Cozzen'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 interesting. Who has the class 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. Gen. S. spoke to a Mr. Mills about a house for you which he liked much but Dr. Lincoln is going to have it. He will begin house-keeping immediately. 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 Dellie's difficulty - 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 or 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 Dell. was less to blame than many others who didn't get caught, if that is any consolation.

I tho't 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 Wed. Eve. prayer-meeting. How much I hope you will be suffered to attend these & all our meetings & enjoy them with me. If you unite with the Central Church I have now thought of uniting with you as now I do not go to Hallowell any & Mr. Bathfield has left. He has gone to Gr't Falls - preached here 3 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 yo may get it Sat. Night. I do hope there may be some special religious interest with the Cadets. We have just started a young peoples prayer-meeting which seems to promise well.

Dr. Lincoln is a lovely Christian and very efficient in his labors for Christ. Several of his S.S. class have been awakened.

I have heard from Rowland recently & he was not long ago at home but he will tell you of himself.

Affectionately,
C.H. Howard

My love to Lizzie & to Guy & Grace. 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 3. They are very interesting. He names the books we are to consult so we study the subject during the week. Good many 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 seemed greatly rejoiced at the prospect of your coming here. He knew you in College. Geo. is his first name. He will not probably teach us much longer. As I was returning from Mission Sabbath School last Sabbath I met Mr. Everett. He always enquires about you. He says "Tell him to come by all means".

Hope you will tell me about Jamie'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. Stevens has recently come home from Miss. He is a secessionist I believe. He has a tremendous cloud of whiskers - black & threatening. When in company he is in the habit of stroking them quite complacently. Did you ever meet him? He was once at W.P. Mil. Acad. The eldest I think of Gen. Steven's sons.

Does the Revival progress? Where is Mr. Clarke's family & Lockett? You have not alluded to them recently. Rowland will give you an account of the Revival at Winthrop. At our meeting for Prayer for Colleges a union meeting at the 1st Parish Church, I mentioned West Point Mil. Acad. & a prayer was put up specially remembering that institution. The vestry was full & we had a good meeting that day. No word from Dell yet.

Yr. Affec. Br.
Charles

1230 3/19/1861

From: T.R. Tannatt
Lt 4th Arty.
Fort Randall K.T.

To: Dear [OO] Howard

OOH-1169

Source: Bowdoin

Fort Randall K.T. [Kansas Territory. Fort Randall was in what is now South Dakota.]
March 17, 1861

Dear Howard,

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

Lt Mack 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 fearless 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 pray that we may be quickened anew, 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 ways.

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

Lieut. Howard

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

1231 3/20/1861 *From:* L. P. Ledoux

To: Lieut [OO] Howard

OOH-1170

Cornwall, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Cornwall, N.Y. Mar. 20, 1861

Lieut Howard,
Dear Sir:

In thinking further upon the matter of my visiting the Buttermilk Falls Church a week from next Sabbath, I have concluded to write you this line advising that the service be given out for ½ 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 ½ 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 God, for your interest in, and labors among them.

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

1232 3/30/1861 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: My dear Mother [Eliza
Gilmore]

OOH-1171

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 Rowland and I am in hopes to hear from both you & him every day. I want to write Dellie. If he is at home, give him my love & tell him to write me without waiting for me, for my hindrances 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 Buchanan 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 & irremediable 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 don't 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 Jeannie 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 freer from worldly anxieties.

We are all well - Guy, Grace, Jamie, Lizzie, Alice, Susan & Catharine. I hope the same for you. I must stop now as the time for morning family prayer has come.

Affectionately Your Son
O.O. Howard

Love from all