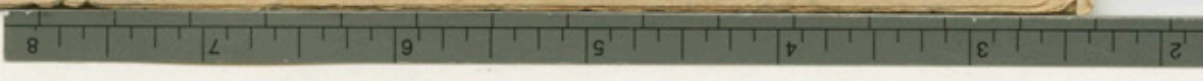


Yorktown August 20-1817

[1817]

Dear Sir after my respects to you I have the pleasure  
to inform you that I arrived safe here in one fortnight  
to a day from the time I started from my fathers we  
had a very pleasant time and a very agreeable journey  
We traveled from Leeds to Portland to Boston through Bridg-  
water to Providence from Providence to Hartford then to Fay-  
ettsville from there to Yorktown a journey of more than  
five hundred miles - I passed through a great variety of  
Country many delightful Villages & pleasant farms every  
where I under high cultivation and even some most re-  
markable mountains that exhibited to the eye of the traveler a  
very dismal scene I arrived at Fayetteville the residence  
of my brother Seth on Saturday evening found my relations and  
my Brothers friends in health on Sunday forenoon I attended  
W. Edwards Church & in the afternoon the English Church  
services, was new to me and appeared an excess of formality it  
was all "as the negro said fill up seth down Se Se"  
Fayetteville is very humorously situated and the market  
is crowded with produce of every kind from the back Coun-  
try for twenty or thirty miles which is fertile and very  
productive it is generally watered with hills and valleys  
and it abounds with fruit in great plenty and is the bar-  
renest Country I ever saw - I repaired immediately to  
his town found W. Edwards in health and very pleased to see me  
when he could not be his brother but at first he could  
not recognize my <sup>face</sup> and it appeared to him in a time a thing  
almost impossible that it could be me I Yorktown is a  
Country town situated about forty miles from New York  
City a good township of land but perhaps no uneven is  
the town in Mass are in general my Brothers owns a  
fine Combining machine and other built in good  
and doing considerable business I have been here now  
but a short time but to say that I like as well  
as I expected is to speak the truth <sup>with the hands</sup>  
from the general appearance I suspect that I have cost  
armor ~~an~~ an uncultivated & dissipated part of the world  
you will readily comprehend the state of society now existing  
and what of course the enjoyments of a person must be  
who is fond of good company good society and wishes to  
devote his time to cultivate his mind and enlarge his



standing. I resume the pleasing task of writing  
to you at this time and would make use of every effort  
to convince you or at least so far as words will tend  
to the confirmation of any truth that my bosom  
still glows with affection for you and while  
momany continues to whold herself in this  
• breast of mine the recollection of your sympath-  
etic and tender friendship towards me shall  
be fresh in my memories. It is true I have  
quit my native ~~Country~~ Province my relatives  
and bosom friends and have wandered to a  
distant Country but not at the same time  
thinking to add to my felicity and enjoy ment  
but perhaps you know some of the motives that  
actuated me to do as I have done and some perhaps  
are best known to myself however my advise  
would be to a person living among his good friends  
& confidants placed in a good society situation &  
and family and enjoying a suitable fortune  
sufficient to answer all the demands of his appetite  
& taste to console himself on the advantages of  
his present state & live and die under the mild  
influence of Contentment and conclude with  
his own breast that he has enjoyed himself as well  
as any one living. Which in fact he has &  
if we were all conversant of it our enjoyments would  
be much greater than they are at present but  
our minds are as fickle as the wind and no director  
can controul them.

Mr. Ensign Otis & Family

Richard Howard  
" "

Yorh Town Sunday Oct. 25-1814

Ensign with pleasure I acknowledge the  
receipt of yours dated at Bath a few days since  
in which I learned with great satisfaction the well-  
-are of yourself and companions in arms and  
with uncommon feelings almost productive

of electricity I received yours from Farmington  
which was the first news I had from the east and  
which contained many little incidents that added  
more to my pleasure than can be described or even  
imagined and it was not through forgetfulness or my  
not being mindful of my distant friend that I  
have not written before but owing to the multipli-  
city of business on my hands (left by my brother  
and the many letters I have written to the eastward  
and elsewhere but as this has been my misfortune  
you will excuse me this once and not follow my ex-  
ample in this respect but write every opportunity.  
As you are the only person I depend on for common  
and domestic news I wish you to acquaint me with  
much of these which perhaps will seem little  
or nothing to you but will be of consequence to  
me and I suspect there has been great alterations  
in the feeling and anxiety of the people since I  
left there but it is no more than could be expect-  
ed at this eventful period. I hope those that I have  
had the honor to know my associates will not be back-  
ward in defending our common country and in re-  
pelling the hostile invader from our shores but go  
cheerfully and perform their duty  
which is short and easy to what many of our coun-  
trymen experience we all have our bad and good  
fortune in the great drama of the world but  
Mr. Comb said fortune favours the brave the militia  
here have been called in to actual service but the  
sergeant that warned me being a particular friend of  
mine and by my request did not return me to the

Commanding officer of course I am clear from military duty for a time I attend a military school very strictly and think I had better be prepared and not go when go and not be prepared - I have had the offer of \$75 a quarter for teaching a school in this vicinity but have declined the offer I receive a letter from Stoughton not long since he had escaped unhurt after the last battle at Fort Erie before the British left that place he thinks it is ten to one that he gets his profile disfigured in this fighting school I have been very prosperous so far and enjoyed myself as well as I expected but if I had some of my former associates here I could live far more contented than I do now I have been in perfect health since I left home both and my relations here are all well I wish you prosperity and contentment in a soldier's life and hope you will pass your time as agreeable as such a state will allow you have a good opportunity of studying or any other amusement you have a mind to employ yourself about those that ask what I send for from you must more good will and gratitude than my pen can describe - Shake hands with all my good friends for me do write invariably I close in haste

Your ever true friend  
Wm. W. Wood

Mr. Ensign Wm. Leeds County of Pennel. S. Mass

Dear Sir  
Beloved Friend one more I am favoured with a moment to advise you of my situation and to renew our former correspondence which to my great surprise and regret had been discontinued and for what reason I have thought it was beyond human intention to determine

many hours have I passed in solitary retirement  
saying to myself did I leave any friends behind  
me and if I did why are they so unkind and unkind as  
to deny me the privilege of perusing a few lines  
from my native country but it with great plea-  
sure that I find that the fault of which I complain  
is not yours - This day a gentleman handed me a  
letter from a distant post office when it had mistaken  
date at Farmington December the 20 but not withstand-  
ing the anterior you will readily conclude that it was  
not unwelcome news when I inform you it is the only  
information I have received from the East for more  
than four months - I will inform you now of my sit-  
uation occupation and life since my last which  
perhaps will be among your first inquiries after  
my brother returned I sought for an occupation that  
would be more lucrative and hearing that the school  
in this village was vacant I made application and  
procured it for one quarter after passing an exa-  
mination by a board of inspectors appointed by the  
State to bring into execution a new law for the reg-  
ulation of common schools - I flatter myself I  
flatter myself that I succeeded in a way satisfactory  
to my employers my first quarter terminated two  
weeks ago on which I received \$118 for the tuition  
of the scholars under my care It is the most profitable  
situation in westerchester county - but the undertaking is at-  
tended with so much perplexity and anxiety it is very prob-  
able I shall not perform the office after the termina-  
tion of the second quarter which I commenced on sun-  
day last The village of Prebleville consists of some hu-  
ndred houses and more than twenty stores and a com-  
municated with every commodious harbor from which  
while the river is open are eight or ten sloops

continually sailing transporting produce & passengers  
to the City of New York this village stands on the  
East bank of the Hudson about 33 miles from  
Poughkeepsie and about 30 above New York I  
board in a pious & respectable family who  
live staidish in every sense of the word. I  
I have generally speaking been in perfect health  
since I left Leeds I visited Edward & Seth last week  
who were both well. Except I have not heard from  
for about six weeks he was then at White Hall  
on Lake Champlain and in good health should I  
not return to main this summer which it is  
possible I may but not very probable I shall  
enter into the mercantile line of business in  
company which may prolong my stay in your state  
for years. I desire if you will but in your opinion  
if in a distant Country among strangers you can  
form a faint idea of the satisfaction which would  
be reanimating in my bosom if I could but receive  
a visit from some of my former friends or schoolmates  
if you calculate to settle for life in main I think  
it a thing of great and very expedient that you should  
visit some part of the United States that you never have  
while you are yet a young man it will not be time  
and money thrown away but on the other hand it  
will be productive of many great advantages you  
will not only observe the different customs habits  
manners and practices of every class of people but will  
have an opportunity of regulating your own by re-  
vising the errors of the land and following the good examples  
of our superiour who distinguish themselves in the ar-  
ms of our beloved country. I should be very happy  
to wait upon you at any day hour or minute  
which if I continue in this country I hope I shall  
have the honor of doing.

you must write to me immediately and continue to  
write without waiting to receive one from me fail  
not to write me every month if not oftener you hear  
other ways probably from me but I receive nothing  
from main except yours & your last is of great  
import to me remember me to my beloved parents  
& family to the neighbouring families and all  
other friends

I am your sincere and good friend  
Wm. Ensign  
County of Kennebec Co. Me.  
Yorktown September 28-18-14

Respectful Friend as it is providentially happened  
while studying in away to preparing ourselves to set  
out in the world that we became somewhat intimate  
and did enjoy ourselves at that age of our lives in soli-  
tarity and leisure peculiar to ourselves and at this point  
altho we are now deprived of the advantages of personal  
liberty in a many and social chat yet with great reluctance  
I relinquish this enjoyment and with much pleasure resu-  
me my pen agreeable to your request and coincident with  
my own inclination to acquiesce you with my welfare  
and situation in life - it is true I have left my relatives  
confidants and bosom friends and wandered to a distant  
Country among strangers of all descriptions some good and  
and indifferent as they are of course in any country what  
ever let it be represented in the best light it can but to  
state facts I can say that the greater class of people in  
this country have accomplishments peculiar to the  
Yankees there are some few of the fair especially that have  
perfected their selves in the rudiments of their behaviour  
as to deportment habits customs and manners coincident  
with genteel life I have spent some good hours in compar-  
ing with those of this description but some of my time  
I have appropriated to a moral retreat on some lonely rock  
to amuse myself in reading or in contemplation of my past  
or future life as for the former from the time I saw  
you first my enjoyments has been as great as I

could wish and God knows that the finer feelings of  
my heart calls forth greater acts of gratitude to my  
good friends than my pen can perform & I left Leeds  
on the 7th of August and arrived here in one fortnight  
I went immediately into business for my brother  
in a store he went to main even after my arrival  
which of course confines me entirely and which renders  
me incapable of making of making observations on  
the country at present I now have the offer of 45<sup>0</sup> a  
Quater to teach a school it is more than probable that  
I shall once more undertake this is a agreeable occupation  
as this together with other business I will attend to will  
make my situation very promising - If you will have  
the goodness to write me I will inform you from time  
to time of my life and the country where I reside  
"in my poor brother's way" I must draw to a close but  
requesting you to give my amities and shake hands  
for me with all that know me I am with great  
Respect and esteem Yours &c. G. Howard

Messrs Norton & Co

Wetherlow September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1714

Good Friend with pleasure I eagerly improve this  
to acquaint you of my welfare and hope to receive frequ-  
ently in return a recompense in the same way I  
I arrived here safe in a fortnight from the time I  
moved from Leeds we were favoured with beautiful  
weather and had a very good time saw many pretty places  
Delightful villages and pleasant farms & I walked at Easton  
where I taught school last winter and past two or three  
evenings in a way peculiar to my taste inclination  
and liking I likewise have been favoured with con-  
vents of this kind since I arrived in this place  
my brother having a good span of horse and a coarse  
double horse waggon which is the only pleasure cart we  
have in this country we took in full compliment  
of young women wode about eight miles to a great  
Camp meeting where men were collected some



Thousands of people at the least calculation - we fast  
that day evening and some evenings since perhaps as  
likely as I ever did in main of No state facts I can  
say that I like as well as I expected and am perfectly  
contented the people differ here much from those of  
main there are two general classes of people which  
are no ways similar one is of regular habits and tolerably  
informed but the lower classes are very dissipated and of  
low habits but some allowance is to be made as my  
business leads these people to my acquaintance more  
than any other I almost forgot to inform you that  
I had the good fortune of entering in to business  
with my brother in his store where I expect to con-  
tinue for some months  
And undoubtedly you will have received information of the  
capture of Washington ere this arrives to your hand  
I will assure you it has caused an animated spirit of  
resentment and roused the patriotism of the people  
to such a degree that almost every man is on the  
alert between thirty and forty thousand men are  
now in actual service in the vicinity of New York  
City and the militia are ordered and now moving from  
all parts of the state they move with energy and  
patriotism becoming American soldiers  
After wishing you prosperity and happiness I must  
draw to a close by requesting you to write the first  
opportunity Yours &c &c  
Wm Thomas Lindell Leeds County of New Hampshire

Dear brother & sister

Park Hill July 2 - 1818

It is with the greatest pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of writing which I have long delayed in hopes of receiving a line from Leeds — You little think while you are there busily employed in your domestic concerns of the great anxiety which ever rises your distant friend and brother relative to your health and welfare — I have heard not a word since Howard & Lindsay arrived in this place and then was very much surprised when on asking him I found not one letter for my self nor brothers he arrived here in good health and spirits about six weeks ago and immediately repaired to the doctors where he has remained ever since at work I heard from Seth a few weeks ago but not from Edward for more than six weeks he was then in Plattsburg in tolerable health Ward has sold all his possessions in Yorktown and moved his effect to the village the first of last may the second quarter of taught school in this village was then terminated and I thought it a very promising opportunity for me to go in to some more active business we rented the best stand & store in this town at one hundred dollars a year We entered into partnership Ward agreeing to put in two thirds of the stock and I came and draw the profits accordingly we bought in New York when we began 4,000 Dollars worth of goods we have and shall keep that stock and I went down to the city for the purpose of purchasing goods last week and had the pleasure of seeing the City celebration on the 4<sup>th</sup> inst which was very splendid surpassing any thing I ever saw of the kind before It is nearly a great and elegant City I had like well the pleasure of seeing the steam frigate move round battery with a heavy discharge of her guns — You will readily suppose we have no much business as we can attend to when I inform you we

Take some days <sup>newly</sup> some hundred & beside what we charge  
Owing to my small constitution and poor state of health  
I confine myself mostly to dry goods which is very  
busy but very clean and tidy work I have had some  
very severe turns of pain and sickness this spring  
and have lost some flesh but of late I think I have  
recovered some I make it a practice now to ride out  
a small distance every day I have been under the  
necessity of leaving my former boarding house it  
being so far from the store which I much regret  
Altho myself & brother now board in a very good house  
Jeth has bot out his parlour in the furnished is now  
very prosperous I feel under great anxiety about  
my fathers concerns but it is wholly impossible  
for me to have been any advantage to him on the farm  
had I returned last spring I have not done one days  
work since I left home nor should I be able to were  
I to return and you will readily conclude it was  
not possible for Ward to leave this country after being  
a merchant here for more than four years and accan-  
ts standing to a great amount and many no one  
could collect but himself and beside he is very  
well situated among a numerous train of Friends and  
acquaintance which if he remain in this country  
probably will be conducive to his advancement and station  
in life - much more but the copy is lost & closes

Wm Stillman Howard Leeds  
Secretary of Friends of D. Maine

Rowland Howard

Boston December 11<sup>th</sup> - 1815

Beloved Brother

With unexpressed felicity I avail myself of this opportunity of writing but notwithstanding what I write may be irregular and unnatural in its form and destitute of the simple rules of composition and other qualities that would render it pleasing to the reader Yet it is to be hoped that it will meet with a kind reception as it proceeds from a well meaning heart - It is with pleasure that I can announce to you that our relatives and friends are well in Bridgewater except Grandma which it has pleased an omnific God (after a long and laborious life devoted to the particular care and attention of her domestics to confine her to her bed about two months which she seems to bear patiently - Her disorder it is thought will terminate her existence - I left home about the middle of October the people there were enjoying good health - Aurelia came to Bridgewater with me and is there now very well contented we come expect to see you here as you wrote you were coming to Boston But I have not received any thing from you since nor from home since I came from there - I should be extremely pleased to see you here and have you accompany me home for I expect to return in next spring if I do not alter my mind -

I am now in Exton teaching a school near the  
factory it is a very large school of sixty scholars  
it employs the most of my time while the day  
lasts but I have some leisure hours which I approp-  
riate to the study of the better Language or in turning  
over the instructive pages of some historian in order  
that I may benefit at some future period from such  
necessary and useful science - Teaching a school is not  
an occupation that pleases me but I am in a situation  
which excites me to do from necessity what I would  
not do from choice - I wrote a scrawl to you while  
at Bridgwater last September which undoubtedly  
you have received - I came up then with a drove of  
cattle and the last time with a drove of horses which  
I have sold one of them I have owned at least six months  
but three years old for which I had one hundred dollars  
My Father is coming after Amelia in the course of the  
Winter we have heard most horrid news relating to the  
treatment of prisoners at Quebec the story of which would  
almost excite tears of blood from the eyes of a Hero if all  
the accusations of passion were not shut against it  
A great number of young and my acquaintances are  
then doomed to waste the bloom of their youth in  
the obscure clutches of an unrelenting Tyranny -

Many of your acquaintances since you left Leeds  
have become inhabitants of the world of spirits  
of those I now recollect are Abigail Lindsay  
Clarissa Lamb Bemus Lamb Eli Herick & Sister Francis  
was thought to be on the last stages of consumption  
and likewise Archibald Lindsay was failing

very fast James Lindsay and Lydia Linn  
were published and it is expected that  
Luther Pedbiter will take genuine I will  
omit all other matrimonial stings until  
I see you which I hope will be soon for when  
you wrote you observed you had nothing to hinder  
you from writing but the sailing at your  
departure but I think your unlearned  
imagination exaggerates the folly of the  
people you must excuse my getting — —  
that Baidyham taught a school one quarter  
at the schoolhouse near my fathers and boarded  
at our house together with seven or eight  
it was said to be an excellent school I did not  
attend on account of other business but the  
most of the young people of the neighbour  
hood went and some scholars out of town —  
Davis Tomms attended it and has been reading vergil  
all summer when he was able I wish you  
to write to me immediately after you recd  
this whether you come or not and inform  
me of Everett and ward I have not heard any thing  
from Everett since he left you Give my respects  
to Ward and all relatives and friends there  
and receive the same yourself —

Your loving brother

Wm. S. Harris

Phskill Sept 25 - 1815

Sir This will apprise you that I am  
yet in the land of the living acting my part in  
this wide world with health and prosperity  
and notwithstanding the distance that separates us  
I am yet mindful of you and my former friends  
Whom I have past so many delightful hours with  
and now with an impression that a line from  
me would be acceptable I take the liberty to employ  
a leisure moment in writing my welfare and  
giving you proof of my good will for yours  
I have lived well since I saw you with enough  
to eat drink and wear and other favours requisite  
to pleasure and happiness in this discordant world  
I had the good fortune from the time I came into  
this country to get into business both profitable  
and advantageous for improvement in education  
and business I Ezekiel you probably well  
Recollect my saying in days of our intimate  
acquaintance that we might shortly separate and desolve  
is now a reality But notwithstanding acquain-  
-tance Can not now be cultivated between us Let  
us not neglect the more necessary friendship by  
adding to the pleasure and happiness of each  
others with the favour of a few lines which

To me when I receive that favour is very interest-  
-ing and I presume that a correspondence will  
not be wholly disinteresting to you  
When I receive a letter from my native Place  
it gives me more pleasure than any moments  
I pass But seldom it is that I receive ~~that favour~~  
one I It is probable you have learnt my situ-  
ation before by letters I have wrote to my friends  
I am doing much busin<sup>s</sup> in the mercantile line  
My Brother Ward is Sheriff & Justice of the Peace  
He has some days five or six Courts a Day consequ-  
ently the care of the store mostly devolves on me but  
I have assistance good part of the time therefore my task  
is not hard. My Brothers and friends here are all  
~~well~~ in good health Dick Storser called upon us last  
Saturday but could give us no late news from home  
he said he was going on to Baltimore  
Give my love and Amities to all good friends  
I shall visit you when I can the Lord willing  
Give my respects in particular to Dr. Dyer tell him  
if he has not forgotten me to write me one letter  
and be so good as to do the same yourself I

Your good Friend Rowland B. Howard

Mr. Ezekiel Pinefield Leeds County of Kennebec  
P. Maine



Peebles Hill August 9 - 1815

Enclosed

It is always with pleasure that I receive  
your letters. I am that to the necessity  
of requesting once more some information from  
the Eastward - It has been if I do not mistake  
four or five months since I heard one word  
from home - You well know my anxiety for  
the welfare of my friends and I can not but  
consider them unfeeling if they neglect the  
small task of penning a few lines for my  
information - But I will complain no more at  
present but hope for the better - I now for my  
own part enjoy tolerable health like wise Ward  
with the latter I visited two weeks ago and found  
him as prosperous in his business as I expected  
he received a letter about the fourth of July from  
Robert who was then at Plattsburg doing well -  
And as for the particulars of myself which you  
said you always wished me to write is that I  
have done teaching school where I believe I  
was employed when I wrote you last and have  
entered into the mercantile business in partnership  
with my Brother Ward which occupation I like  
extremely well notwithstanding the great anxiety  
you must know of course attends it especially if  
it be a young man just setting forward in the wo-  
rld when good or bad management will materially  
influence or promote him through the rest of his  
life - My acquaintances in this Country are  
very extensive and my being conversant

With so many new names it has caused me to forget many of the names of my former acquaintances whose persons I perfectly well recollect. I now board in a very good house near our store and pay two Dollars and a half per week for my board exclusive of my washing which amounts to fifty cents per week. Generally and my other expenses would be thought considerable in Maine - But this fact is certain money is easier to be obtained in this country than it is in that but it is equally certain it will go but very little ways if you expend it either for luxury or necessity - We have two boarders in the house both young men, one a student at Law the other a merchant who make our society very pleasing while at home - Ward is appointed Justice of the Peace and has received his commission and qualified to the office he is doing and like to do good Deal of business as a Justice which office is much more lucrative than it is in Maine as there is scarcely a day but what there are more or less Justice Courts in this village -

Ward and I last Sabbath went out for a Chair ride and visited Post Bailys 13 miles from this place where we see Rowland B. Lindsay who was well and tolerably well contented he has recruited his horses flesh and has been at work for the Post ever since he arrived in this state I think it very likely he will return next year - I wish to visit you very much but cannot at present I do not regret my visit to this country as I receive many advantages here that I never

could acquire there and perhaps am better satisfied  
for comfort and enjoyment than many of my  
friends provided I am blest with health —  
It is probable my parents considered that my leaving  
home was a detriment to them but they may rest assur-  
ed that it will not be in the end — Give them my  
love and all the family likewise the best & tender  
& all those that inquire of my welfare & wish  
I have long expected to write and like wise yourself  
which I hope you will with out fail after receive  
this inform me of the deaths removals and marriages  
since your last — You must accept my best  
wishes for your prosperity and happiness

Your Friend  
Wm. Howard

Wm. Howard  
Esq. Leeds County of Pennington to Maine

Richd. October 6 - 1813

Sir  
I was highly pleased a few  
days since when a gentleman came into our store  
and presented me with your compliments whom he said  
he had seen a few days before — You can not imagine  
how much the news of one of my intimates  
friends did interest me I drew from the man all  
he could tell which was but little at most only you  
was in Lyons and had made a stand —  
I was surpris'd you did not visit me at the time  
you cross'd the river — which I suppose was not far  
above this village —

But I suppose you was on your journey and could make  
no stop. I have heard nothing from Leeds within two  
or three months But the last news I had the people  
there all well and Flourishing & I came to this  
village last fall which probably you heard before  
I thought school here two quarters and received  
one hundred dollars for each - My Brother Ward  
Told his possessions in Yorktown five miles from  
this and moved here the first of April when my  
School had terminated I entered into partnership  
in a store with him where we have been doing  
ing much Business ever since - The Village  
of Peekskill stands on the east Bank of  
The Hudson River about fifty miles above  
New York City and twenty five miles below  
Newburgh and thirty five from Poughkeepsie  
It is a very pleasantly situated town of  
about two hundred houses - I live very  
agreeably in a good society of young people  
& find money plentiful here than in  
mine But much easier spent -

The Climate here is warm mild and healthy  
and but little snow in the winter but I  
suspect Lyons lies so far north that the Cli-  
-mate differs but little from that of Leeds  
You can imagine by your own experience  
my feelings when I left my native Country

Who come into a distant land among a continent do  
But I have been <sup>very</sup> fortunate <sup>as</sup> <sup>one fails</sup>  
-ous since I have been here and it is <sup>nothing</sup> <sup>as</sup> <sup>you hear</sup>  
wish that you may be equally fortunate you  
will find your Country navigated with poor  
in every Quarter likewise advantages and dis-  
advantages you where you will. — — — —

But one Truth is certain that a man must  
be wiser awake to live in this world — I had a  
letter from Harrington a few days since he was  
then at Sackville Harbour in good health and  
Spirits I must I have returned to Leeds in the month  
of July — Samuel do write me immediately after  
Beverly this and inform me of all the news when  
you left Leeds of your old friends of the Country  
where you now live and how you like living  
Leeds and all the removals from there with  
all the deaths and Mournings Give my best com-  
pliments to your father and all the family hee  
them Ward Seth & myself are all in good health —

Accept of my best wishes for your  
prosperity

Your friend & sweet mate  
Beverly B. Howard

Mr Samuel Paul

Leeds — — — —

could I  
my to

Pukshie Dec 1815

With pleasure I present  
yourself to my beloved. Payments and be  
on assured that I feel particularly interested  
for your well fare & happiness at the  
consequence of my absence be what  
it may I have long delayed writing  
hoping to receive a line from home  
But an anxious mind and a belief  
that it would not be displeasing  
to you to learn the welfare of  
your distant Children prompts  
me to write Everett arrived in this  
village in about fourteen days from  
Leeds has boarded with ward & myself  
ever since which is eight or nine weeks  
he is in perfect health and has found  
Wards mine and many other pictures  
in this place but talks of leaving  
this for necessary duty soon  
Lett continues out to Gleason's with  
much business on his hands Rowland  
Lindsay has gone to vesce and work  
for him in the furnace and is  
very well contented Ward & myself  
continue as usual Dairy work busi-  
ness and have enjoyed our selves  
extremely well since Everett has  
boarded with us Ward will probably  
buy a property in this village in  
the course of this winter and

probably may ~~be~~ in the line ~~of~~ retirement  
Dispute of late some inclining roads behind  
I have been very sorry through the ~~of~~ as  
now except a least some amount of ~~the~~ lines  
I have had an alarming pain in my ~~of~~  
with ~~in~~ common sickness but after  
nursing my stomach with ~~the~~ are ~~some~~  
I ~~in~~ live on these days I get about again  
It is owing to a debilitated constitution  
altho I am now quite healthy —  
I confine myself at home pretty much  
having woods but one more than a  
mile from the village for five months  
of course I can give you very little history  
as there are many places of note within  
five or six miles that I need not name you  
may think strange of this but it is a fact  
the people all are very domestic in this  
country I like my situation very  
well and hope by industry and stout applica-  
tion to business to support myself  
handsome ly and lay up something against  
a day of need — I present myself with  
gratitude to my good mother and thank  
her for good counsel in my ~~of~~ these days  
and have learnt by sad experience how  
to appreciate the benefits of many ~~of~~  
domestic favours of a mother which a person  
is deprived of among ~~of~~ ~~of~~  
with due respect and esteem I am  
your Obedient son ~~of~~ ~~of~~

conten  
ins de  
East  
Du



Happy shall fair when mild company  
 Adorns thy quiet breast  
 So artless thought upon <sup>thee</sup> present  
 Not to disturb thy rest  
 Angelic form than heaven has lent  
 How greatly are we blest  
 Delightful then if we could see  
 Union and peace embrace  
 Smiles and sunshine there would be  
 Enlightening every face  
 Nothing disturbs <sup>thy</sup> peaceful heart  
 But small domestic care  
 Endeavour then to all in part  
 Reconciliation there  
 Recount to them a quiet thought  
 You then will close these care

Think well ere you're where might each event  
 Let when to take in compass your content  
 Beauty makes virtue laudably set off  
 Virtue makes beauty more becoming

Fiskhill March 15 1815

Fair lovely maid all in thy bloom  
 Angelic form quiet at home  
 Delightful here to talk and chat  
 And please here guests with their or that  
 Sure to touch their generous heart  
 And overcome their greatest art  
 Holding the staff of cupid's dart  
 Comely in form  
 Comely and mild generous and just  
 Reason her guide providence her trust  
 Amiable in gesture look and art  
 From vice and folly she doth turn  
 To elevate her town guard sent

Joins heart with virtue's freight  
 And can't be out with rural glee  
 Sweet looks with dignified look  
 Except when friends doth prove not free  
 Sublime her choice to stay her voice  
 Unrestrained in the ramble  
 Mind full its best to lie at rest  
 Enjoys in peace not trouble  
 Retentive she her neighbours see  
 Bewildered in their folly  
 Enjoys not there every plat  
 Let virtue should be sorry

Yorkham 7 September 1814

Lived July the 3-19 1814

Common

standing before friends  
very  
in

Peckville Jan 3 - 1816

Words cannot express the gratitude

I feel for your favour of the 15<sup>th</sup> of  
July which was the first within four  
months with becoming humility  
I think myself incapable of giving  
advice to one older than myself not-  
withstanding my inability I will  
embrace some of the principal ideas  
of your letter and to which you  
can add or diminish as your better judg-  
ment will direct - 1<sup>st</sup> then as respects  
traveling you have already taught my  
mind and experience being the best  
instructor I have had the opportunity  
of information and improvement  
whether I have profited by it or not -  
a Man with money can put himself  
in to business where he pleases  
but without money he must be  
favoured by Providence together with  
industry and economy to flourish with  
any degree of prosperity every thing is  
best illustrated by comparisons now  
to compare you with myself in every  
Respect would not be just at the

your education and opportunities  
with the same with mine yet  
fortune (the best recommendation  
strangers) is undoubted by considerable others  
mine is nothing, therefore your prospects  
would be better than mine. The wiser  
people of this country are very attentive  
being to the management of schools  
and the education of the country having  
disputation therefore a young man of your  
education with a full portion of good breeding  
and good character can walk and be respect  
ed in the first class who are generally speaking  
wealthy and adorned with polished manners in  
this class I have had the fortune to introduce  
myself and (considering I am writing to you  
in confidence as our friends to an other speak  
not of this) have so far gained the confidence  
and esteem of an A. G. L. in Phi. U. whose rank and  
fortune surpasses any in my knowledge —  
I flatter myself that of my esteem and invitation  
correspond with my outward wish I shall one  
day prosper h. h. but till then God forbid! as you  
know it never was my faculty to speak or  
act for in to my heart — If you conclude  
to travel with you will call on me of course  
which I shall consider as a great full favour  
I long to see my good friends for some weeks  
know I have in many youthful companions

to you at <sup>stan</sup> instance to me and Ensign you may  
be assured <sup>to the</sup> my friendship is the same as when  
they were Clapmarts at the armaments  
school - I am not doing so much busi-  
ness as formerly in consequence of the  
Small Pox prevailing throughout the  
Village which is occasioned by some  
ignorant superstitious willful people  
who would not believe in the efficacy  
of the kind Pox as a preventative upon  
the small like the Dutchman  
carrying a stone in one end of the bag  
to mill because his father did -  
However thanks (not to the doctors for  
they have tried to spread it) that  
to heaven that there is no more here  
to have it when these get well -  
I am sure some Yankee ladies in this respect  
I am astonished at your negligence  
in writing to me you must not  
expect it is so necessary for you to  
hear from me so often as for me to hear  
from thousands write every opportunity  
I will write when any news presents  
in your out speak of my friends all you  
know is news to me give my respects to  
all that know me tell them my  
health is better than formerly  
Yours respectfully  
Oliver Howard

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7 8/20/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01a

Yorktown

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown August 20, 1814

Dear Sir

After my respects to you I have the pleasure to inform you, that I arrived safe here in one fortnight to a day from the time I started from my fathers - had a very pleasant time and a very agreeable journey. We traveled from Leeds to Portland to Boston, through Bridgewater to Providence from Providence to Hartford. Then to Poughkeepsie from there to Yorktown - a journey of more than five hundred miles. I past through a great variety of Country, many delightful villages & pleasant farms very fertile & under high cultivation and over some most reched mountains that exibeted to the eye of the traveler a very dismal scene. I arrived at Poughkeepsie the residence of my brother Seth on Saturday evening found my relations and my Brothers friends in health.

On Sunday forenoon I attended Wm Donards Church & in the afternoon the English Church which was new to me and appeared an excess of formality. It was all "as the <iregov> said Gitty up setty down &c &c."

Poughkeepsie is very hansomely situated and the market is crowded with produce of every kind from the back Country for twenty or thirty miles which is fertile and very productive. It is agreeably inundated with hill and valies and it abounds with fruit in great pleanty and is the handsomest country I ever saw. I repaired immediatly to this town found Ward in health and very pleased to see me when he found me to be his brother. But at first he could not recognize my features and it appeared to him for a time a thing almost imposible that it could be me.

Yorktown is a country town situated about forty miles from Newyork City a good township of land but perhaps as uneven as the towns in Maine are in general. My brother owns a farm & a cording machine and other buildings and is doing considerable business. I have been here now but a short time but to say that I like as well as I expected is to speak the truth. Noting this landscape from the general appearance I suspect that I have cast among uncultivated & disipated part of the world. You will readily conclud the state of society now existing and what of course the enjoyments of a person must be who is fond of good company, good society and whishes to devote his time to cultivate his mind and enlarge his understanding.

I resume the pleasing work of writing to you at this time and would make use of every effort to convince you or at least as far as words will lend. To the confirmation of any truth that my bosom still glows with affection for you and while memory continues to hold her seat in this brest of mine the recollection of your simpathetic and tender friendship towards me shall be fresh in my memory. It is true I have quit my native province my relatives and bosom friends and have wandered to a distant country but not at the same time thinking to add to my felicity and enjoyment but perhaps you know some of the motives that actuated me to do as I have done and some perhaps are best known to myself. However my advise would be to a person being among his good friends & confidents placed in a good society situation &c and family and enjoying a sutuble fortune sufficient to consel all the demands of his appetite & taste to console himself on the advantages of his present state & live and die under the mite influence of contentment and conclude within his own breast that he has enjoyed himself as well as any one living. Which in fact he has & if we were all concerned of it our enjoyment would be much greater than they are at present but our minds are as fickle as the wind and no director can control them.

Rowland B Howard

[To:] Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds

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14 10/23/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01b

Yorktown

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown Sunday Oct 23 - 1814

Ensign

with pleasure I acknowledge the receipt of yours dated at Bath a few days since in which I learned with great satisfaction the welfare of yourself and companions in arms and with uncommon feelings almost productive of electricity. I received yours from Farmington which was the first news I had from the east and which contained many little incidents that added more to my pleasure than can be described or even imagined and it was not through forgetfulness or my not being remindful of my distant friend that I have not written before but owing to the multiplicity of business on my hands (left by my Brother) and the many letters I have written to the eastward and elsewhere but as this has been my misfortune you will excuse me this once and not follow my example in this respect but write every opportunity. So you are the only person I depend on for common and domestic news. I wish you to acquaint me with much of these which perhaps will seem little or nothing to you but will be of consequence to me.

I suspect there has been great attentions in the feeling and anxiety of the people since I left there but it is no more than could be expected at this eventful period. I hope those that I have had the honor to know my associates will not be backward in defending our common country and in repeling the hostile invader from our shores but go chearfully and perform their tour of duty which is short and easy to what many of our countrymen experience. We all have our bad and good fortune in the great drama of the world but M. Comb said fortune favours the brave. The militia here have been called in to actual service but the Sergeant that warned me being a particular friend of mine and by my request did not return me so the commanding officer of course & I am clear from military duty for a time. I attend a military school very strictly and think I had better be prepaired and not go than go and not be prepaired.

I have had the offer of \$75 a quarter for teaching a school in this vicinity but have declined the offer. I received a letter from Stonington not long since. He had escaped unhurt after the last battle at fort Erie before the British left that place. He thinks it is Ten to one that he gets his profile disfigured in this fighting school. I have been very prosperous so far and enjoyed myself as well as I expected but if I had some of my former associates here I could live far more contented than I do now.

I have been in perfect health since I left home. Seth and my relations here are all well. I wish you prosperity and contentment in a soldiers life and hope you will pass your time as agreeable as such a state will allow you have a good opportunity of studying on any other amusement you have a mind to employ yourself about. Those that ask what I send for them you must more good will and gratitude than my pen can describe. Shake hands with all my good friends for me. Do write immediately. I close in haste

Your ever true friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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16 2/20/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01c

Peekskill

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Feb 20 1815  
Beloved Friend

Once more I am favoured with a moment to advise you of my situation and to renew our former corespondance which to my great surprise and regret had been discontinued and for what reason I have thought it was beyond human intention to determine. Many hours have I passed in solitary retirement saying to myself did I leave any friends behind me and if I did why are they so unmindful as to deny me the privilege of perusing a few lines from my native country but it with great pleasure that I find that the fault of which I complain is not yours. This day a gentleman handed me a letter from a distant post office wher it had miscaried dated at Farmington December the 20 but not withstanding the interior you will readily conclude that it was not unwelcome news when I inform you it is the only information I have received from the East for more than four month.

I will inform you now of my situation occupation and life since my last which perhaps will be among your first inquiries after my Brother returned. I sought for an occupation that would be more lucrative and hearing that the school in this village was vacant I made application and procured it for one quarter after passing an examination by a board of inspectors appointed by the state to bring into <eximtion> a new law for the regulation of common schools. I flatter myself that I succeeded in a way satisfactory to my employers. My first quarter terminated two weeks ago on which I received \$115 for the Tuition of the scholars under my care. It is the most profitable school in westchester county but the undertaking is attended with so much perplexity and anxiety it is very probable I shall not perform the office after the Termination of the second quarter which I commenced on Monday last. The village of peekskill consists of some hundred houses and more than twenty stores and accomidated with every commodious haven from which while the river is open are eight or ten sloops continually sailing transporting produce & passengers to the city of Newyork. This village stands on the East bank of the hudson abut 35 miles from Poughkeepsie and about 50 above Newyork. I board in a genteel & respectable family who live stileish in every sense of the word.

I have generally speaking been in perfect health since I left Leeds. I visited Ward & Seth last week who were both well. Everet I have not heard from for about six weeks. He was then at White Hall on Lake Champlain and in good heath. Should I not return to main this summer which it is possible I may but not very probable, I shall enter into the mercantile line of business in company which may prolong my stay in York state for years. Ensign if you will but imagine yourself in a distant Country among strangers you can form a faint idea of the satisfaction which would be reanimated in my bosom if I could but receive a visit from some of my former friends or schoolmates. If you calculate to settle for life in main I think it a thing of great and very expedient that you should visit some part of the united States that you never have while you are yet a young man. It will not be time and money thrown away but on the other hand it will be productive of many great advantages. You will not only observe the different customes habits manners and practices of every class of people but will have an opportunity of regulating your own by reversing the errors of the bad and folowing the good example of our superiour who distinguish themselves in the annals of our beloved country. I should be very happy to wait upon you at any day hour or minute which if I continue in this country I hope I shall have the honor of doing.

You must write to me immediately and continue to write without waiting to receiving one from me. Fail not to write me every month if not oftener. You hear other ways probably from me but I receive nothing from main except yours & your last is of great interest to me. Remember me to my beloved parents & family to the neighbouring familys and all other Friends.

I am your sincere and good friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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11 9/28/1814 *From:* Rowland B. Howard *To:* Mr Millford Norton

RBH-0e01d

Yorktown

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown September 28 - 1814

Respective Friend

As it so providentially happens while studying in a way to preparing ourselves to set out in the world that we became some what intimate and did enjoy ourselves at that age of our lives in soubillity and liveliness peculiar to ourselves and at this period altho we are now deprived of the advantages of personal liberty intimacy and social chat yet with great reluctance I relinquish this enjoyment and with much pleasure resume my pen agreeable to your request and coincident with my own inclination to acquaint you with my welfare and situation in life. It is true I have left my relitives confidants and bosom friends and wandered to a distant country among strangers of all descriptions some good bad and indifferent as they are of course in any country what ever. Let it be represented in the best lite it can but to state facts I can say that the greater class of people in this country have accomplishments peculiar to the yankes. There are some few of the fair especially those that have perfected them selves in the rudement of there behaveiour as to deportment habits customs and manners consistent with genteel life.

I have spent some jovel hours in company with those of this description but some of my time I have appropriated to a rural retreat on some lonely rock to amuse myself in reading or in contemplation of my past or future life. As for the former from the time I saw you first my enjoyment has been as great as I could wish and God knows that the finer feeling of my heart calls forth greater acts of gratitude to my good friend than my pen can perform. I left Leeds on the 9th of August and arrived here in one fortnight. I went immediately into business for my Brother in a store. He went to main soon after my arrival which of course confines me entirely and which renders me incapable of making observations on the country at present. I now have the offer of \$75 a Quarter to teach a school. It is more than probable that I shall once more undertake this disagreeable occupation as this together with other business I could attend to will make my situation very promising. If you will have the goodness to write me I will inform you from time to time of my life and the country where I now reside "in my poor broken way" I must draw to a close by requesting you to give my amities and shake hands for me with all that know me. I am with great Respect and esteem

Yours &c.&c.  
Rowland B. Howard

Mr Millford Norton  
Augusta



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9 9/3/1814 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Thomas Lindsay

RBH-0e01e

Yorktown

Leeds County of Kennebec  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yorktown September 3rd 1814

Good Friend

With pleasure I eagerly improve this to acquaint you of my welfare and hope to receive frequently in return a recompence in the same way.

I arrived here safe in a fortnight from the time I moved from Leeds. We were favoured with beautiful weather and had a very good time, saw many pretty faces delightful villages and pleasant farms. I walked at Easton where I taught school last winter and spent two or three evenings in among peculiar to my taste inclination and likeing. I likewise have been favoured with coincidents of this kind since I arrived in this place. My Brother haveing a good span of horse and a carriage double horse waggon which is the only pleasure cart we have in this country. We lack in a full complaiment of young women. We rode about eight miles to a great Camp meeting where men were collected some thousands of people at the least calculation. We past that day evening and some evenings since perhaps as lively as I ever did in main. To state facts I can say that I like as well as I expected and am perfectly contented. The people deffer here much from those of main. There are two general classes of people which are no way similar. One is of regular habits and tolerable informed but the lower classes are very disapoted and of low habits but some allowence is to be made as my business leads these people to my acquaintance more than any other. I almost forgot to inform you that I had the good fortune of entering into business with my brother in his store where I expect to continue for some months. Undoubtedly you will have received information of the capture of Washington ere this arrives to your home. I will asure you it has caused an animated spirit of resentment and roused the patriotism of the people to such a degree that almost every man is on the alert. Between thirty and forty thousand men are now in actual service in the vicinity of Newyork City and the militia are ordered and now more being from all parts of the state. They move with energy and patriotism becomeing american soldiers.

After wishing you prosperity and happiness I must draw to a close by requesting you to write the first oppurtunity.

Yours &c &c  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Thomas Lindsay  
Leeds County of Kennebec D. Maine

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18 7/6/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Capt Stillman Howard

RBH-0e01f

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D. Maine

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill July 6th 1815

Dear Brother & sister

It is with the greatest pleasure I avail myself of this opportunity of writing which I have long delayed in hopes of receiving a line from Leeds.

You little think while you are there busily employed in your domestic concerns of the great anxiety which exercises your distant friend and brother relative to your health and welfare. I have heard not a word since Rowland B Lyndsay arrived in this place and then was very much surprised when on asking him I found not one letter for myself nor Brothers. He arrived here in good health and spirits about six weeks ago and immediately repaired to the Doctors where he has remained ever since at work. I heard from Seth a few weeks ago but not from Everet for more than six weeks. He was then in Platsburg in tolerable health. Ward has sold all his possessions in Yorktown and moved his effect to this village the first of last May. The second quarter I taught school in this village, was then terminated and I thought it a very promising opportunity for me to go in to some more active business. We <rented> the best stand & store in this town at one hundred dollars a year. We entered into pardner ship, Ward agreeing to put in two thirds of the stock and I some and draw the proffits accordingly. We bought in New York when we began 4,000 Dollars worth of goods. We have and shall keep that stock good. I went down to the city for the purpose of purchasing goods last week and had the pleasure of seeing the City selibration on the 4 inst which was very splendid surpassing any thing I ever saw of the kind before. It is realy a great and elegant City. I had likewise the pleasure of seeing the steam frigget move round battery with a heavy discharge of her guns.

You will readily supose we have so much business as we can attend to when I inform you we make some days nearly one hundred & besides what we charge. Owing to my small constitution and poor state of health I confine myself mostly to dry goods which is very busy but very clean and lite work. I have had some very severe turns of pain and sickness this spring and have lost some flesh but of late I think I have reverted some. I make it a practice now to ride out a small distance every day. I have been under the necessity of leaving my former boarding house, it being so far from the store which I much regret. Altho my self & Brother now board in a very good house Seth has bot out his partner in the furnace and is now verry prosperous. I feal under great anxiety about my fathers concerns but it is wholly imposible for me to have been any advantage to him on the farm had I returned last spring. I have not done one days work since I left home nor should I be able to were I to return. And you will readily conclude it was not posible for Ward to leave this Country after being a merchant here for more than four years and accounts standing to a great amount and many no one could collect but himself and beside he is very well situated among a numerous trains of Friends and acquaintance which if he remain in this Country probably will be condusive to his advancement and station in life. Much more but the copy is lost. I close.

Rowland B Howard

Capt Stillman Howard Leeds  
County of Kennebec D. Maine

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5 12/11/1813 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Seth Howard

RBH-0e01g

Easton

Poughkeepsie

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Easton December 11th 1813

Beloved Brother

With unexpressable felicity I avail myself of this opportunity of writing but notwithstanding what I write may be irregular and unnatural in its form and destitute of the simple rules of composition and other qualities that would render it pleasing to the reader. Yet it is to be hoped that it will meet with a kind reception as it proceeds from a well meaning heart. It is with pleasure that I can announce to you that our relatives and friends are well in Bridgewater except Grandma. While it has pleased an omnific God (after a long and laborious life devoted to the particular care and attention of her domestics) to confine her to her bed about two months which she seems to bear patiently. Her disorder it is thought will terminate her existence.

I left home about the middle of October. The people there were enjoying good health. Aurelia came to Bridgewater with me and is there now very well-contented. We some expect to see you here as you wrote you were coming to Boston. But I have not heard any thing from you since nor from home since I came from there. I should be extremely pleased to see you here and have you accompany me home for I expect to return next spring if I do not alter my mind.

I am now in Easton teaching a school near the factory. It is a very large school of sixty scholars. It employs the most of my time while the day lasts but I have some leisure hours which I appropriate to the study of the latter Language or in turning over the instruction pages of some historian in order that I may benefit at some future period from such necessary and useful science. Teaching a school is not an occupation that pleases me but I am in a situation which excites me to do from necessity what I would not do from choice. I wrote a scrawl to you while at Bridgewater last September which undoubtedly you have received. I came up then with a drove of cattle and the last time with a drove of horses which I have sold. One of them I have owned about six months but three years old for which I had one hundred dollars.

My Father is coming after Aurelia in the course of the winter. We have heard most horrid news relating to the treatment of prisoners at Quebec. The story of which would almost excite tears of blood from the eyes of a Hero if all the avenues of passion were not shut against it. A great number of yours and my acquaintance are then doomed to waste the bloom of their youth in the obdurate clutches of unrelenting tyranny.

Many of your acquaintance since you left Leeds have become inhabiting of the world of spirits. Of those I now recollect are Abigail Lindsay, Clarissa Lamb Bernus Lamb Eli Henish & Ester Francis was thought to be in the last stages of consumption and likewise Archabal Lindsay was failing very fast. James Lindsay and Lydia Lane were published and it is expected that Luther Ledbeter will take Jennison. I will omit all other matrimonial stories until I see you which I hope will be soon for when you wrote you observed you had nothing to hinder you from coming but the sobing at your departure but I think your unbounded imagination changes not the folly of the people. You must excuse my gestic.

Doct Bridgham taught a school one quarter at the school-house near my fathers and boarded at our house together with seven or eight. It was said to be an excellent school. I did not attend on account of other business but the most of the young people of the neighbourhood went and some scholars out of town. Davis Francis attended it and has been reading virgil all summer when he was able.

I wish you to write to me immediately after you receive this whether you come or not and inform me of Everet and Ward. I have not heard any thing from Everet since he left you. Give my respects to Ward and all relatives and friends there and reserve the same yourself.

Your loving Brother  
Rowland B Howard

[To:] Mr Seth Howard Poughkeepsie

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20 9/25/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr. Ezekiel Stinchfield

RBH-0e01h

Peekskill

Leeds County of Kennebeck  
D. Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Septem 25 1815

Sir

This will apprise you that I am yet in the land of the living acting my part in this wide world with health and prosperity and notwithstanding the distance that seperates us I am yet mindful of you and my former friends whom I have past so many delightful hours with and now with an impression that a line from me would be acceptable I take the liberty to imploy a leasure moment in writing my welfare and giving you proofs of my good will for yours. I have lived well since I saw you with enough to eat drink and wear and other favours requisite to pleasure and happiness in this disapated world. I had the good fortune from the time I came into this country to get into business both Proffitable and advantageous for improvement in education and business.

Ezekiel you probably well Recollect my saying in days of our intimacy that we might shortly separate and desolve acquaintance but what was then only vision is now a reality. But notwithstanding acquaintance can not now be cultivated between us. Let us not neglect the more necessary friendship by adding to the pleasure and hapiness of each other with the favour of a few lines which to me when I receive that favour is very interesting and I presume that a corespondence will not be wholly disinteresting to you.

When I receive a letter from my native Place it gives me more pleasure than any moments I pass. But seldom it is that I receive one. It is probable you have Learnt my situation before by letters I have wrote to my friends. I am doing much business in the mercantile line. My Brother Ward is Sheriff & Justice of the Peace. He has some days five or six Courts a day consequently the care of the store mostly devolves on me but I have assistance good part of the time. Therefore my task is not hard. My Brothers and friends here are all in good health. Dick Foster called upon us last Sabath but could give us no late news from home. He said he was going on to Baltimore.

Give my love and Amities to all good friends. I shall visit you when I can the Lord willing. Give my Respects in particular to Ensign. Tell him if he has not forgotten me to write me one letter and be so good as to do the same yourself.

Your good Friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr. Ezekiel Stinchfield  
Leeds County of Kennebeck D. Maine

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19 8/9/1815

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Mr Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01i

Peekskill

Leeds

County of Kennebec D. Maine

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*Source:* Bowdoin

Peekskill August 9th 1815

Ensign

It is allways with pleasure that I address you but I am put to the necessity of requesting once more some information from the Eastward. It has been if I do not mistake four or five months since I heard one word from home. You well know my anxiety for the welfare of my friends and I can not but consider them unfealing if they neglect the small task of penning a few lines for my information. But I will complain no more at present but hope for the better. I now for my own part enjoy tolerable health likewise Ward & Seth. The latter I visited two weeks ago and found him as prosperous in his business as I expected. He received a letter about the fourth of July from Everet who was <then> at Plattsburg doing well. And as for the particulars of myself which you said you always wished me to write is that I have done teaching school where I believe I was imployed when I wrote you last and have entered into the mercantile business in partnership with my Brother Ward which occupation I like extremely well notwithstanding the great anxiety you must know of course attends it especially if it be a young man just setting foreward in the world when good or bad management will materily injure or promote him through the rest of his life. My acquaintances in this Country are verry extensive and my being conversant with so many new names it has caused me to forget many of the names of my former acquaintance whose persons I perfectly well recollect.

I now board in a very good house near our store and pay two dollars and a half per week for my board exclusive of my washing which amounts to fifty cents per week generally and my other expences would be thought considerable in Maine. But this fact is certain money is easier to be obtained in this country than it is in that but it is equally certain it will go but verry little ways if you expend it either for fancy or necessity.

We have two boarders in the house both young men one a student at Law. The other a merchant who make our society very pleasing while at home. Ward is appointed justice of the Peace and has received his commission and qualified to the office he is doing and like to do good deal of business as a justice which office is much more lucrative than it is in Maine as there is scarcely a day but what there are more or less Justice Courts in this village.

Ward and I last Sabath went out for a chair ride and visited Doct Baileys 15 miles from this place where we see Rowland B Lindsay who was well and tolerably well contented. He has <recruited> his horses fleash and has been at work for the Doct ever since he arrived in this state. I think it very likely he will return next year.

I wish to visit you verry much but can not at present. I do not regret my visit to this country as I receive many advantages here that I never could acquire there and perhaps am better situated for comfort and enjoyment than many of my friends provided I am blest with health.

It is probable my parents considered that my leaving home was a detriment to them but they may rest asured that it will not be in the end. Give them my love and all the family like wise the Doct & Aurelia & all those that inquire of my welfare. Aurelia I have long expected to write and likewise yourself which I hope you will without fail after receiving this. Inform me of the deaths removals and mariages since your last. You must accept my best wishes for your proprosperity and happiness.

Your Friend  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Ensign Otis  
Leeds  
County of Kennebec D. Maine

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21 10/6/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:* Mr Samuel Paul

RBH-0e01j

Peekskill

Lyons

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Octbr 6 1815

Sir

I was highly pleased a few days since when a gentleman came into our store and presented me with your compliments whom he said he had seen a few days before. You can not immagin how much the newes of one of my intimate friends did interest me. I drew from the man all he could tell which was but little at most only you was in Lyons and had made a stand.

I was surprised you did not visit me at the time you crossed the river, which I suppose was not far above this village. But I suppose you was on your journey and could make no stop. I have heard nothing from Leeds with in two or three months. But the last news I had the people there all well and flourishing. I came to this village last fall, which probably you heard before. I taught school here two quarters and Received one hundred dollars for each. My Brother Ward sold his possessions in Yorktown five miles from this and moved here the first of April when my school had terminated. I entered into pardnership in a store with him where we have been doing much Busines ever since. The Village of Peekskill stands on the east Bank of The Hudson River about fifty miles above New York City and twenty five miles below New burgh and thirty five from Poughkeepsie. It is a verry pleasantly situated Town of about two hundred houses. I live verry agreeably in a good society of young people. I find money pleantyer here than in maine but much easyer spent.

The climate here is warm mild and healthy and but little snow in the winter but I suspect Lyons lies so far north that the climate differes but little from that of Leeds.

You can immagine by your own experience my feelings when I left my native country and came into a distant land among <[paper torn]>. But I have been verry fortunate <[paper torn]> since I have been here and it is <[paper torn]> wish that you may be equally fortunate. You will find good country <verigated> with poor in every Quarter likewise advantages and disadvantages go where you will.

But one truth is certain that a man must be wide awake to live in this world. I had a letter from Harrington a few days since. He was then at Sacketts Harbour in good health and spirits. <Everet> I have returned to Leeds in the month of July. Samuel do write me immediately after receiving this and inform me of all the news when you left Leeds of our old friends of the Country where you now live and how you like leaving Leeds and all the removals from there with all the deaths and marriages. Give my best compliments to your father and all the family. Tell them Ward Seth & myself are all in good health.

Receipt of my best wishes for your prosperity.

Your friend & schoolmate  
Rowland B Howard

Mr Samuel Paul  
Lyons

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22 12/1/1815 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* [Capt Seth Howard]

RBH-0e01k

Peekskill

[Leeds]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Dec 1815 [Assume Dec 1 1815]

<[Torn page]>

with pleasure I present myself to my beloved payrents and be assured that I feal particularly interested for your well fare & happiness at the consequence of my absence be what it may. I have long delayed writing hoping to receive a line from home. But an anxious mind and a belief that it would not be displeasing to you to lern the welfare of your distant Children prompts me to write. Everet arrived in this village in about fourteen days from Leeds has boarded with Ward & myself ever since which is eight or nine weeks. He is in perfect health and has painted Wards, mine and many other pictures in this place but talks of leaving this for new york city soon.

Seth continues yet to flourish with much business on his hands. Rowland Lindsay has gone to oversee and work for him in the furnace and is very well contented. Ward & myself continue as usual doing much business and have enjoyed our selves extremely well since Everet has boarded with us. Ward will probably buy a property in this village in the course of this winter and possibly may. In the time <[paper torn]> discourse of late some inclining so <[paper torn]> I have been very harty through <the summer [paper torn]> except about once a month <[paper torn]> I have had an alarming pain in my brest with uncommon sickness but after running my stomach with an Enema in two or three days I got about again. It is owing to a debillitated constitution altho I am now quite healthy.

I confine myself at home pretty much having wrode but once more than a mile from the village for five months. Of course I can give you very little history as there are many places of note within five or six miles that I never saw. You may think strange of this but it is a fact. The people all are very domestic in this Country. I like my situation very well, and hope by industry and stout application to business to support myself hansomely and lay up something against a day of need.

I present myself with gratitude to my good mother and thank her for good counsel in my youthful days and have lerned by sad experience how to appreciate the benefit of many small domestic favours of a mother which a person is deprived of among strangers.

With due Respect and esteem I am your dutiful Son  
RB Howard

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17 3/1/1815 *From:* Rowland B Howard *To:*

RBH-0e01l Peekskill

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Happy thou fair when mild <con [torn corner]>  
Adorns thy youthful breast  
To anxious thought upon Thee sent  
Not to disturb thy rest  
Angelic form than heaven has Sent  
How greatly are we blest  
Delightfull then if we could see  
Union and peace embrace  
Smiles and sunshine there would be  
Enlivening every face  
Nothing disturbs thy peaceful heart  
But small domestic care  
Endeavour then to all impart  
Reanimations there  
Recount to them a goodly thought  
You then will claim there care

Peekskill March 1 1815  
Rowland B Howard [written backwards]

Hail lovely maid all in thy bloom  
Angelic form quiet at home  
Delighted there to talk and chat  
And please here guests with this or that  
Sure to touch There generous heart  
And overcome there greatest art  
Holding the staff of cupids dart

Comely and mild generous and just  
Reason her guide providence her Trust  
Amiable in gesture look and act  
From vice and folly she doth lack  
To alleviate her own good self  
Leeds July 3 1814

Your heart with virtue fraught  
And soul bedect with usual glee  
Never a look with disdain took  
Except when friends doth prove not free  
Sublime her chaise to stay her name  
Unremembered in the ramble  
Mind full its best to lie at rest  
Enrapt in peace not trouble  
Reluctant she her neighbours all  
Bewilldered in there folly  
Envys not There were flat  
Lest vertue should be sorry

Yorktown 1 September 1814

Think well ere you resolve weigh each event  
Lest when to take in sorrow you repent

Beauty makes virtue lovelyer still of [TORN PAGE]



< > makes duty more devinely [TORN PAGE]

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23 1/3/1816

*From:* Rowland B Howard

*To:* Ensign Otis

RBH-0e01m

Peekskill

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Peekskill Jan/3 1816

Beloved Friend

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for your favours of the 15 of Jany [Dec?] which was the first within four months. With becoming humility I think myself incapable of Giving advise to one older than myself notwithstanding my inability I will embrace some of the principal ideas of your letter and to which you can add or diminish as your better judgement will direct. 1st then as respects traveling you have already learnt my mind and experience being the best instructor I have had the opportunity of information and improvement whether I have profited by it or not. A man with money can put himself in to business where he pleases but without money he must be favoured by providence together with industry and economy to flourish with any degree of prosperity every thing is best illustrated by comparisons. Now to compare you with myself in every respect would not be just, altho your education and opportunities <[torn page]> much the same with mine yet <[torn page]> fortune (the best recommendation <[torn page]> strangers) is undoubtedly considerable where mine is nothing. Therefore your prospects would be better than mine. The common people of this country are very illiterate owing to bad management of schools and the luxurience of the country produce dissipation. Therefore a young man of your education with a full portion of good breeding and good character can walk and be respected in the first class who are generally speaking wealthy and indowed with polished manners in this class I have had the fortune to introduce myself and (considering I am writing to you in confidence as one friend to another speak not of this) have so far gained the confidence and esteem of an A. Y. L. in the V. whose rank and fortune surpasses any in my knowledge.

I flatter myself that if my esteem and inclination corespond with my outward wish I shall one day possess h.h. but till then God forbid! As you know it never was my faculty to speak on that far into my heart. If you conclude to travel south you will call on me of course, which I shall consider as a greatfull favour. I long to see my good friends for some such I know I have in Maine youthful companions. <[torn page]> to me and Ensign you may <[torn page]> my frenship is the same as when we were classmates at the Monmouth school. I am not doing so much business as formerly in consequence of the small pox prevailing throughout the village which is occationed by some ignorent supersticious willful people who would not believe in the efficacy of the kind Pox as a preventative against the small like the dutchman carrying a stone in one end of the bag to mill because his father did.

However thanks (not to the docters for they have tried to spread it) but to heaven that there is no more here to <have> it when these get well. We need some yankee laws in this respect. I am astonished at your negligence in writing to me you must not expect it is so necessary for you to hear from one so often as for me to hear from Thousands. Write every opportunity. I will write when any news presents. In your next speak of my friends. All you know is news to me. Give my respects to all that know me. Tell them my health is better than formerly.

Yours respectfully  
Obt serv  
Rowland B Howard

Ensign Otis  
Leeds