

Christiansburg Jan 26

Dear Beloved Sis. Who could resist  
such a command as the following? Sit you  
down & answer this immediately; says  
that sister of whom I am proud. It is  
Lucretia. Yes Lucretia has condescended to  
bless me with a long communication.  
Nearly six months had passed with not a  
word from home.

Wherever I would think of my relation  
This consolation burst on my mind that  
their anxiety was not so great as mine  
For I had always had an idea that I was  
beloved the least of any branch of the family  
But since the receipt of your letter I  
am almost compelled to believe I was  
mistaken.

I gave up the idea of your answering my  
at all. But to my undiscernible satisfaction  
I was blessed at last. But Oh it informed  
of the death of our Beloved Sister! Though  
not so bad as I expected. Yet it is enough  
to ~~kill~~ did I think when I saw accounts of  
the raging mortality of that country  
that either our Brother or Sister would  
survive the Demon  
Alas death will come & I am resigned to  
any of Gods decrees.

At times with pleasure I anticipate  
the day I shall meet my relations in that  
But Heaven knows when that day will  
come. Perhaps not for years. But live! live!  
until I come. Yes I must see my Parents  
some more. I love them indeed. I love  
not only as a duty but with voluntary  
affections. But a Person of my age &  
situation requires fortitude which I never  
expected to learn. Childish dependence which  
has got the better of some of our Leeds Boys

"I am in tolerable health this winter except now & then a cold the one  
attaching so commonly it is impossible to prevent it I was lately  
sick for a week & a half & lost much blood & a  
great deal of strength."



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
Then is cousin Jason, & Gould & others can<sup>go</sup>  
to Boston City or some big town &  
return to Mamma with a satisfied  
mind. They get no business & one a  
fraud of starving & back they come.  
They will some day find that the knowl-  
-ge of human nature is not so easily ac-  
quired. Jason might have done well in  
this country but I never shall invite him  
again.

I have told you that I was always  
possessed of fortitude & my next qualification  
you have often accused me of not possessing.  
But you were wrong Industry Yes Industry  
Thou art my constant companion I never  
was fond of labouring with my Body but  
with my mind was, & ever will be my  
blissful employment.

Hardly one morning this winter has passed  
without the reflections of her luminary without  
finding Rathbun seated in his study with  
half of his candle consumed. In the mi-  
-dle of the day when my fellow students  
are at the Hotel hearing the news & taking  
glass of today I am in my retired room listening  
to the recitations of five or six dutiful  
little children.

Is Rowland my brother? Yes: has he  
answered my letters? no: What is the reason?  
Why he is in love: with whom? For God's  
sake say no more! Thunder struck thundering

I —, once fell in love! But it was with  
an angel. And when I saw wife in your  
letter with so many exclamation & around  
it an agreeable sensation struck my mind.  
Thinking that M — with three letters would  
follow. But Alas, what a contrast!

Who knows but fortune will preserve  
him for Rathbun on some future day  
could I think so! I dare not: Then I shall  
even remain in one respect as I now am



If you can understand me, well. I am not  
I am the only one that knows the secret.

At awful distance I must entertain my grief;  
But still in pain but dare not ask relief.

She's too much my superior to comply,  
And too too fair to let my passion die.  
I'll languish in secret & with dumb surprise  
Drink the resistless sorrows that oft arise.

But no more: I said I was possessed of  
fortitude & I may betray myself.

My dear says Nathaniel: I shall before  
many years be situated on the banks of  
that beautiful Missouri that tumbles  
through the Western world.

I am determined if possible to attend the  
Medical lectures at Brunswick if not  
Philadelphia or New York.

I have read of medical ~~authors~~ authors. Murray  
Materia Medica two large volumes, two  
authors of ~~alchemy~~ & Davy's Chemistry &  
how ~~and~~ minutely.

His name is Doct. Alexander  
a fine <sup>man</sup> & possessed of an angelic  
life.

Let our Parents be as easy as possible  
about me for if I can get through with  
my studies as I had ought I am safe, I may  
have to get the loan of a small sum of  
money to attend the lectures But I expect  
it not from any of my relations but some  
more able patron. I get through without.

God only knows what has become of  
that ten Dollar United States Bill I sent  
you I sent a Negro boy to the office with  
the letter & he says he put it in the letter  
box on the outside of the house immediately  
I have informed his Master of it who  
has threatened to whip him to death if  
he does not tell the truth, he still continues  
to deny that he took the money from the



letter & I can hardly think myself  
that he is guilty. I wish you would  
inform me if the letter was marked  
double postage if it was he is certainly  
innocent. I have not the money by me no  
w or I would send it in this letter but you  
shall be paid with four fold interest  
Remember me to Mr Leadster & kiss that  
little boy of yours for me.

Tell Papa & Mama I think of them as  
much as it is possible for them to think  
of Nathaniel

Elmhurst  
104 St.

Wm. L. Smith

Mary

St. John's

20

Give my love to all. Doct Aurelia Child  
her our Brothers, Franklin & Rowland  
particularly Stillman & family. Say I'm  
family throughout & kiss one brother for  
it for me & much oblige your affectionate  
& dutiful brother

P.S. I find a friend in Mr. Quackenbush & Parsons  
formerly of Paris Me. who is practicing Law in this Co.

I am in Boston. I wish this winter except now & then I could the  
I am in Boston. I wish this winter except now & then I could the



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50    1/26/1823    *From:* VRH [Valentine Rathburn Howard]    *To:* Mrs Lucretia P. Leadbetter  
RBH-0e31    Christiansburg Va    Wayne  
*Source:* Bowdoin    State of Maine

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Christiansburg Va Jan 26 1823

Dearly Beloved Sir

Who could resist such a command as the following? Sit yourself down & anser this immediately, says that Sister of whom I am proud. It is Lucretia, Yes Lucretia has condescended to bless me with a long communication. Nearly six months had passed with not a word from home.

Whenever I would think of my relations, this consolation burst on my mind that their anxiety was not so great as mine. For I had always had an idea that I was beloved the least of any branch of the family. But since the reception of your letter I am almost compelled to believe I was mistaken.

I gave up the idea of your answering my letter at all. But to my undisevabe satisfaction I was blessed at last. But Oh it informed of the death of our Beloved Sister! Though not so bad as I expected, yet it is enough. Little did I think when I saw accounts of the raging mortality of that country that either our Brother or Sister would survive the Demon.

Alas death will com & I am resined to any of Gods desires. Oft times with pleasure I anticipate the day I shall meet my relatives in that country. But heaven knows when that day will come. Perhaps not for years But live! live! untill I come. Yes I must see my Parents once more. I love them indeed I love! not only as a duty but with voluntary affections. But a person of my age & situation requires fortitude which I never <> to banish childish dependencies which has got the better of some of our Leeds Boys. There is cousin Jason J Gould & others can go to Boston City or some big town & return to Mama with a satisfied mind. They get no business & are afraid of starveing & back they come. They will some day find that the knowledge of human nature is not so easily acquired. Jason might have done well in this country but I never shall invite him again.

I have told you that I was always possessed of fortitude & my next qualification you have often accused me of not possessing. But you were rong. Industry. Yes Industry. Thou art my constant companion I never was fond of labouring with my Body but with my mind was & ever will be my blissful employment.

Hardely one Morning this winter has presented the reflections of her luminary without finding Rathburn seated in his study with half of his candle consumed. In the middle of the day when my fellow students are at the hotel hearing the news & taking a glass of toddy. I am in a retired room room listening to the recitations of five or six dutiful little children.

Is Rowland my brother? Yes: has he answered my letters? No: what is the reason? Why he is in love: with whom? For God's sake say no more! (Thunder struck, Shine enough) I—, once fell in love! But it was with an Angel. And when I saw wife in your letter with so many exclamations around it an agreeable question struck my mind. Thinking that M—with three letters would follow, but alas, what a contrast! Who knows but fortune will preserve her for Rathburn on some future day. Could I think so! I dare not: Then I shall ever remain in one respect as I now am.

If you can understand me, well. If not I am the only one that knows the secret. At awful distance I must entertain my grief. But still in pain but dare not ask relief. And too too fain to let my l'll languish in secret & with dumb surprise. But no more: I said I was possessed of fortitude & I may betray my self. May Be says Rathburn: I shall before many years be situated on the banks of that beautiful Missouri that tumbles through the Western World.

I am determined if possible to attend the medical lectures at Brunswick if not Philadelphia or New York. I have read of medical authors. Murry & Materia Med <[torn page]> two large volumes, two authors on <anatomy> & Daveys Chemistry. I have <> Minutely. <> name is Doct. Alexander <> a fine man & possesed of <>.

Tell our Parents to be as easy as possible about me for if I can get through with my studies as I had ought I am

safe. I may have to get the loan of a small sum of money to attend the lectures. But I expect it not from any of my relation but some more able patron. I may get throug without. God only knows what has become of that ten Dollar United Sates Bill I sent you. I sent a Negro boy to the office with the letter & he says he put it in the letter box on the out side of the house unmolested. I have informed his master of it who has threatened to whip him to death if he oes not tell the truth. He still continues to deny that he took the money from the letter & I can hardly think myself that he is guilty. I wish you would inform me if the letter was marked double postage. If it was he is certainly innocent. I have not the money by me now or I would send it in this letter but you should be paid with four fold interest.

Remember me to Mr Leadbter & kiss that little boy of yours for me. Tell Papa & Mama I think of them as much as it is possible for them to think of Rathburn. Give my love to all. Doct, Aurelia children our brothers Franklin & Rowland particularly Stillman & family Esq L's family throughout & kiss one <branch> at it for me & much oblige your affectionate & dutiful Brother  
VBH

P.S. I find a friend in Mr Crowden F Roweson family of Paris Me. Who is Practicing Law in this Country.

I am in tolerable health this winter except now & then a bad cold the weather being so changeable. It is impossible to prevent it. I was blesed last night & took a <First page sideways writing too faint.>

[Envelope]  
Montgomery Co  
1st Feb  
[Postage] 25  
Mrs Lucretia P. Leadbetter  
Wayne  
State of Maine



off my self, I saw the General the other day he  
says he can't get money to go over the lake, poor fellow.  
By the time you return this you will have lost the  
fatigue of your journey & I hope acquiring the rich  
rewards you so justly merit from a long & untroubled  
absence from all that is dear to you in life, Oh! that  
happy meeting you cannot find language to tell  
it, nor mother can I, but I know it all, One common  
sinner is worth the world besides.

Recd of Dr. Dray  
State of Mass  
J. H. Dray  
J. H. Dray

you must not fail to bring Mr Dray along with  
you, & then I shall hold you to your promise, I think  
if she knew the half you suffer in her absence she  
would not hesitate a moment, you see I have  
no more paper or I could write a month, do not  
forget I say all to my Parents & friends, that I could  
say to them, if I were present give my best love  
to Mr Dray & childrens love, Yours S. Howard

New Orleans August 27 1823

Dear Sir I have the pleasure to inform you I  
still enjoy as good health as when you left - I  
have got moved in to my new house, where I  
am very pleasantly situated, my room being  
high from the ground I enjoy the luxury of so  
much to be wished for in this country, a free  
circulation of fresh air, since you left here we  
have had some pretty warm days, the Thermometer  
I think however has not ranged higher than seventy  
four, but for the most part the weather has  
been remarkably fine. The yellow fever has once  
more made its appearance, the first report from  
the board of health three days since, & before  
two months are at an end the probability is  
that thousands will succumb that old & beaten  
back to the swamp. The Mayor's carriage I see  
begin to be in motion & no doubt before the  
season is expired hundreds will take their last  
airing in this celebrated neighborhood our commu-  
-nication with Natchez is completely stopped, by  
a quarantine being established four leagues ~~from~~  
the coast, where a health officer is stationed &  
every person who shall pass there without first  
reporting himself is subject to a fine of one  
thousand dollars besides imprisonment. From  
all reports the Town of Natchez does not contain  
one quarter of its usual population nearly all  
that are not sick & dead have fled to the  
country, this is a truly unpleasant news, that  
if Natchez City suffered beyond account in the  
year 1817 - I don't know what consequences



will say now, the fever undoubtedly has originated  
there. I remain as when you left our head & ears in  
business, there is hardly a day since that you could avoid  
through my furnace without singeing your hair, my men  
seem to stand it remarkably well, some of them now  
& then sick a little, but seeing none I presume to  
imprudences than any other cause, Holmes is well &  
suff. as ever, but poor Whitman is completely done  
over, about three weeks ago he & our black boy Joe,  
were carrying off a bundle of iron & from some cause  
or other they let it fall & Whitman got both his feet  
burned, they are however getting better & by the assistance  
of a couple of wooden legs he can manage to go about  
the house, but I don't think he will ever dare to venture  
into the Grounds again, I was standing near the bundle  
& escaped with a very slight burn, but had it taken  
another direction it might have injured me in a very  
tender point I should judge at least 2 or 3 hot iron  
went into my bosom & part went out the bottom  
of my pantaloons, you know how I am dressed while  
at work, my shirt collar open & pantaloons what  
there is left of them very loose, I wear even a poor  
in pocket in my life my clothes are all worn out  
& I have not time nor money to buy new ones.  
But I have 1400 barrels of good coal & a pretty good  
stock of iron besides a great many other little nick-  
nacks that no small sum could purchase, this is  
a fine demonstration that industry & perseverance  
will accomplish wonders, I believe you never knew  
the Capital we commenced on I have smiled often  
at myself when I have reflected on it, Whitman's, capital  
stock was this Negro that cost him seven

hundred dollars, from the sale of him at auction  
he expected to realize four or five hundred, this  
was to go for his share Holmes had a lawsuit  
from which he expected to receive four hundred  
dollars, this was to go for his share, poor old  
Jarlick, you know his capital, this was a great  
prospect, poor Junker, no more, & no Greene, &  
but there was something better than all this, a  
thorough conviction in my own mind that the thing  
would succeed, & a determined resolution to carry it  
into operation at all hazards, I don't know how  
my ambition carried me a little too far, as it  
was the cause no doubt of my late sickness, but  
thank God I was never in better health than at  
present, finally the amount of capital actually in-  
vested was simply this, it took fifty dollars out  
of the common stock to pay the Debt, half of  
the Negro, & Holmes Law suit was paid off  
& the day of judgment how long that will  
be your Lawyers best know, Holmes it matters  
not how the works we have erected if a fair  
valuation was taken of them, would amount  
to at least eight thousand dollars & we have  
enough on books that is good to pay our debts  
this is not to course taking every thing into consid-  
eration, but what is all this to me, sometimes  
I think myself the biggest fool in the world to smoke  
a pipe of myself in this way, my prospects as it  
respect my engagement in life are completely  
ruined, poor little Laura remains in good health  
but I think much thinner than when you  
left. I am very anxious about her health, if  
she should not live I believe I should jump



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51 8/27/1823 *From:* Seth Howard

*To:* J. R. R. Pray Esq

RBH-0e32

New Orleans

Livermore  
County of Oxford  
State of Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New Orleans August 27th, 1823

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you I still enjoy as good health as when you left. I have got moved in to my new house, where I am very pleasantly situated, my room being high from the ground. I enjoy the luxury of so much to be wished for in this country, a free circulation of fresh air. Since you left here, we have had some pretty warm days. The thermometer I think however has not ranged higher than ninety four, but for the most part the weather has been remarkably fine.

The yellow fever has once more made its appearance. The first report from the board of health three days since, & before two months are at an end, the probability is that thousands will traverse that old & beaten track to the Swamp. The May'r's Carriages I see begin to be in motion & no doubt before the Season is expired hundreds will take their last airing in this cellibrated <neighade>. Our communication with Natchez is compleatly stoped, by a quaringtine being established four leagues past the coast, where a health officer is stationed, & every person who shall pass there without first reporting himself is subject to a fine of one thousand Dollars besides imprisonment. From all reports the Town of Natchez does not contain one quarter of its usual population. Nearly all that are not sick & dead have fled to the Country. This is really unpleasant news, that ill fated city suffered beyond account in the year 1817. I don't know what contagionists will say now, the fever undoubtedly has originated there.

I remain as when you left over head & ears in business. There is hardly a day since that you could crawl through my furnace without singeing your hair. My men seem to stand it remarkably well. Some of them now & then sick a little, but oweing more I presume to imprudence than any other cause.

Holms is well & happy as ever, but poor Whitman is completely done over. About three weeks ago he & our black boy Joe, was carrying off a ladle of iron & from some cause or other they let it fall & Whitman got both his feet burned. They are however getting better & by the assistance of a couple of wooden legs he can manage to go about the house, but I don't think he will ever dare to venture into the Foundry again. I was standing near the ladle & escaped with a very slight burn, but had it taken another direction it might have injured me in a very tender point. I should judge at least 2 lbs hot iron went into my bosom & past out at the bottom of my pantaloons. You know how I am drest while at work, my shirt collar open & pantaloons what there is left of them very loose.

I seem ever so poor in pocket in my life my clothes are all worn out & I have not time nor money to buy new ones. But I have 1400 barrels of good coal & a pretty good stock of iron besides a great many other little nick-nacks that no small sum could purchase. This is a fine demonstration that industry & perseverance will accomplish successes.

I believe you never knew the capital we commenced on. I have smiled often to myself when I have reflected on it? Whitman's sofcapolate stock were this negro, that lost him seven hundred dollars, from the sale of him at auction he expected to realize four or five hundred. This was to go for his share. Holm had a lawsuit from which he expected to recover four hundred dollars. This was to go for his share. Poor Till Garlick, you know his capital. This was a great prospect, poor Garlick, no money & no friends, but there was something better than all this - a thorough conviction in my own mind that the thing would succeed, & a determined resolution to carry it into operation at all hazard.

I don't know but my ambition carried me a little too far, as it was the cause no doubt of my late sickness, but thank God I was never in better health than at present. Finally the amount of Capital actuly invested was simply this. It took fifty dollars out of the common stock to pay the Doct bill & buy the negro, & Holms Law suit was put off & the day of judgment how long that will be you Lawyers best know. However it matters not now the works we have erected if a fair valuation was taken of them, would amount to at least eight thousand Dollars & we have enough on Books that is good to pay our debt. This is not to cause taking every thing into consideration,



but what is all this to me, sometimes I think myself the biggest fool in the world to make a slave of myself in this way.

My prospects as it respects my engagement in life are compleatly <aborted>. Poor little Laura remains in good health &c but I think much thinner than when you left. I am very anxious about her health. If she should not live I believe I should finish off myself.

I saw the General the other day. He says he wont get many to go over the lake, poor fellow. By the time you read this you will have past the fatigues of your journey & I hope reaping the rich reward you so justly merit from a long & protracted absence from all that is dear to you in life. Oh! That happy meeting you cannot find language to tell it and neither can I, but I know it all. One bosom friend is worth the world besides.

You must not fail to bring Mrs Pray along with you, & then I shall hold you to your promise. I think if she knew the half you suffer in her absence she would not hesitate a moment.

You see I have no more paper or I could write a month. Do not forget to say all to my Parents & friends that I could say to think if I was present. Give my best Love to Mrs Pray & children.

Yours forever  
S[eth] Howard

[Envelope]  
[Postage] 20  
P. R. R. Pray Esq  
Livermore  
County of Oxford  
State of Maine  
[Postmark] Sep 20



[1824?]  
New York July 16

Dear Brother I received your  
letter a few days since & am  
happy to hear you were from  
home a season. I have been  
long deprived of Ward & Luu  
have also been complaining  
for a long time of your  
neglect.

My business is increasing &  
I have now but little doubt  
of doing well, this city is the  
best place for a Physician  
of any in the northern country  
My health however is poor &  
I think it is probable we shall  
have the Yellow fever. It is now  
very hot the Thermometer has  
been from 98 to 99 for six days  
We have ~~just~~ parted with our guest  
La Fayette not without a great  
persuade &c



Ward left my Office a few  
minutes since he requested to  
give his to all the family  
I am at the Red Mills they  
will start in a few days for  
the Springs Ward in com-  
pany with Col Snodden of this  
city has purchased the Red Mill  
Plantation at 30 thousand dollars  
they are anticipating a great  
speculation

Ward rec'd a letter from  
Lett not long since she was  
then well - Your acquaintances  
in this country are frequently  
making inquiries about you -  
will fare so

I was at Peekskill about ten  
minutes this week but could  
not leave my ~~business~~ <sup>house</sup> longer  
than 24 hours & then on business  
I visit none but the sick except  
now & then by the way of  
increasing ~~the~~ my acquaintance  
in the city



I exchanged your money but  
through my carelessness permitted them  
to take a percent whereas at some  
other offices I could have exchanged  
even for New England paper  
I had some difficulty in getting it  
off as it was supposed to be  
two dollar stamp

Should any of my friends visit  
this city a gain they will find  
my Office No. 112 Chapel Street  
I will send you this morning  
Paper & was the Post office  
never I would send you one  
every morning Noan charges  
me nothing for his I take  
the Statesman therefore I have  
two papers for day -  
You probably have seen the  
account of the ascension of  
Mr Robinson in the below  
It was the most awful &  
sublime I ever beheld  
Such a crowd of people near



2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
were assembled on the Battery &  
in Castle Garden before ~~BS~~  
was in the garden at the time  
with nearly four thousand

16.  
Wm Howard  
Jacks  
Mann

P.S. I enclose three notes one  
five one three one one  
My love to all Parent Brothers  
Sisters &c - - Yours &c  
Wm Howard



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55 7/16/1825 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e33

New York

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York July 16 [1824?] [See Note 1]

Dear Brother

I received your letter a few days since & am happy to hear once more from home, a favour I have been long deprived of. Ward & Lucia have also been complaining for a long time of your neglect.

My business is increasing & I have now but little doubt of doing well. This city is the best place for a Physician, of any in the northern country. My health however is poor & I think it is probable we shall have the yellow-fever. It is now very hot. The thermometer has been from 98 to 90 for six-days. We have parted with our guest LaFayette not without a great parade &c.

Ward left my office a few minutes since. He requested to give his to all the family. Len is at the Red Mills. They will start in a few days for the Springs. Ward in company with Joe Snowden of this city has purchased the Red Mill Plantation at 30 thousand dollars. They are anticipating a great speculation.

Ward recd a letter from Seth not long since. He was then well. Your acquaintances in this country are frequently making inquires about your well fare &c.

I was at Peekskill about ten minutes this week but could not leave my office longer than 24 hours & then on business. I visit none but the Sick except now & then by the way of increasing my acquaintance in the city.

I exchanged your money but through my carelessness permitted them to take a percent whereas at some other offices I could have exchanged ever for New England paper.

I had some difficulty in getting it off as it was supposed to be two dollar Stamp.

Should any of my friends visit this city again, they will find my office No 112 Chapel Street. I will send you this mornings paper & was the Post Office nearer I would send you one every morning. Noan charges me nothing for his. I take the Statesman. Therefore I have two papers per day.

You probably have seen the account of the ascension of Mr Robinson in the bolon. It was the most awful & sublime scene I have ever beheld. Such a crowd of people never were assembled on the battery & in the Castle Garden before. I was in the Garden at the time with nearly four thousand.

My love to all Parent Brothers Sisters &c

Yours &c  
V.R. Howard

P.S. I enclose three notes one five, one three, one one.

[Envelope]

Mr Rowland B Howard

Leeds

Maine

[Postmark] New York July 16

[Note 1. The date 1824 was written in later. General Lafayette visited New York City in July 1825. Thus, the year should have been 1825. "Contemporary newspapers reported temperatures exceeding 100 degrees on July 13, 1825; the city and its environs were prostrate with heat and drought as the Nation's Guest prepared to take his final leave of Manhattan. According to an account published by the Newark Sentinel on July 19, 1825, it was early on the morning of Thursday, July 14th, 1825, that General Lafayette was escorted by military parade from his lodgings on Broadway, New York City, to the Hoboken ferry, where he crossed the Hudson River into New Jersey." From the Bergen County Historical Society.]



New York. 29<sup>th</sup> August. 1824

Dear Parents,

I beg that you will pardon me for not having written often to you. It has not been owing to want of respect or affection or a proper sense of the many obligations I am under to the best of parents for the numerous favours they have bestowed on me. that I have thus neglected them. I am myself a parent and absent from my child & consequently have some little experience of the various anxieties that you must naturally feel for your part. It falls to my lot however at this time to afford you some consolation with respect to one of your children who has been some time absent my Brother W. Rathbone went on a few days since on board the Steam Boat on his way to visit me in Peekskill he had

P.S. I have now no letter from home in nearly a year why does Providence so the rest of the family, subject to write

Wm. J. Howard

deeds.

County of Herkeseck N.Y.



landed but a few hours before in a packet  
from Richmond Va and not stopping to enquire  
in the City for me took passage immediately  
on board the Steam boat. It so happened that  
I was going up in the same boat after Mrs  
H. who was then on a visit in the Country  
he recognized me the moment he saw  
me. I had not the least recollection of  
him after making himself known. It was  
not long however before I could trace a  
familiar resemblance in him, I assure you  
I was extremely happy to see him and  
highly pleased with his appearance & deportment  
he accompanied me to Peekskill & back and  
spent a few days with me in this City. He  
expressed a wish to attend a course of  
Medical Lectures at Castleton Vt for which  
place he started yesterday in the Steamboat  
as far as Albany. He will remain there 16 Weeks  
& will probably be able to obtain a practicing  
License at the expiration of the term from  
some Medical Society in this State. Let  
me assure you that he is every thing that

his Parents Brother or Sister could wish & I  
think deserves great credit for his perseverance  
& industry in prosecuting his Studies — He will  
undoubtedly write to you from Castleton. Mrs Howard  
has not yet recovered her ~~Health~~ health and my  
own has been miserable during the present season  
& attribute it to residing in the City during the  
Hot weather I have however traveled considerably  
have been myself to Saratoga & Ballston Springs  
Mr H. did not accompany me as her Physician did  
not approve of the waters & a Northern climate as  
a remedy for her complaints. we are not at  
present keeping owing to her ill health. we  
are boarding at P. Dolan's for Week & furnish our  
room. I have let out my house & land  
for the present. I want much to see you all and  
seriously intended making you a visit this summer  
but my business would not permit — our little daughter  
is at the Red Mills & has not been with us during the  
summer. & indeed has never been under the care of  
her mother since she was first born. she is now 16  
months old & a very fine healthy child — I can  
add no more at present. Mr H. with myself wishes  
to be remembered to every branch of our family naturally  
& join with me in much love to our dear & beloved  
Parents. Ward B Howard



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52 8/29/1824 *From:* Ward B Howard

*To:* Capt'n Seth Howard

RBH-0e34

New York

Leeds

County of Kennebeck ME

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York 29th August 1824

Dear Parrents,

I beg that you will pardon me for not having written oftener to you. It has not been owing to want of respect or affection or a proper sense of the many obligations I am under to the best of parrents for the numerous favours they have bestowed on me, that I have thus neglected them. I am myself a parent and absent from my child & consequently have some little experience of the various anxieties that you must naturally have felt for years past.

It falls to my lot however at this time to afford you some consolation with respect to one of your children who has been sometime absent. My Brother V. Rathbon met me a few days since on board the Steam Boat on his way to visit me in Peekskill. He had landed but a few hours before in a packet from Richmond Va and not stoping to inquire in the City for me took passage immediately on board the Steam boat. It so hapened that I was going up in the same boat after Mrs H. who was then on a visit in the Country. He recognized me the moment he saw me. I had not the least recollection of him after making himself known. It was not long however before I could trace a family resemblance in him. I assure you I was extremely hapy to see him and highly pleased with his appearance & deportment. He accompanied me to Peekskill & back and spent a few days with me in this city. He expressed a wish to attend a Course of Medical Lectures at Castleton Vt for which place he started yesterday in the Steam boat as far as Albany. He will remain there 16 weeks & will probably be able to obtain a practicing License at the expiration of the term from some Medical society in this state. Let me assure you that he is every thing that his Parents Brothers or Sisters could wish & I think deserves great credit for his perseverance & industry in prosecuting his studies. He will undoubtedly write to you from Castleton.

Mrs Howard has not yet recovered her Health, and my own has been miserable during the present summer. I attribute it to residing in the City during the Hot weather. I have however traveled considerable, have been myself to Saratoga & Ballstown Springs. Mrs H. did not accompany me as her Physician did not approve of the waters & a northern climate as a remedy for her complaints. We are not at house keeping owing to her ill health. We [are] boarding at 8 Dollars per week & furnish [hole in paper] room. I have let out my house & lands [hole in paper] for the present. I want much to see you all and seriously intended making you a visit this summer, but my business would not permit. Our little daughter is at the Red Mills & has not been with us during the summer & infant has never been under the care of her mother since she was first born. She is now 16 months old & a very fine healthy child. I can add no more at present.

Mrs H with myself wishes to be remembered to every branch of our family respectively & joins with me in much love to our dear & beloved Parents

Ward B Howard

[Envelope]

Capt'n Seth Howard

Leeds

County of Kennebeck ME

[Postmark] NEW YORK AUG 31



Castleton Vt. Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1824

Dear Brother  
You will be surprised to  
hear from <sup>me</sup> at this place when I arrived  
a few days since for the purpose of attend-  
ing a course of Lectures I left Christiansburg  
Va. about six weeks since I traveled on horseback  
to Richmond when I remained a week my  
horses then got lame & I exchanged him for  
a three year old colt unbroken which I sent  
by a friend of mine back to Montgomery  
who will break him & take care of  
him without expense till I return  
or give order for him to be sold I then  
took water to New York when I arrived on  
the twentieth of August. Went immediately  
aboard the town & took the Steamboat  
for Peekskill not knowing that Ward  
lived in the City. but accidentally Ward  
came on board going to Peekskill for his  
wife who was there on a visit I recognized  
him as soon as I saw him & immediately  
made myself known the meeting was a  
happy one indeed I went with him to  
the Red Mills, from there to Amherst  
when I found that Joseph had left for  
this place the same day I returned with  
Ward to the City where I remained till



2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
last Saturday then took Steamboat to  
Newburg where I remained till Sunday  
evening I then saw a letter from you  
to Pamela when I first learnt the death  
of our dear cousin & your most affectionate  
& bosom friend it was news of a most  
deplorable kind to me although I  
was warned of her fatal disease some time  
since -- We must all some day either pay  
the great debt of nature -- & as for my  
part I am resigned at any time that God is  
pleased to summon me this is a world of  
trouble & disappointment the next can be  
no more

I took the Boat from Newburg to Albany  
from there in Stage to this place 78  
miles from Albany where I shall remain  
sixteen weeks

Those Notes of Lindsey's I sent to him  
for collection he let the Gentlemen have  
a horse which I rode to Richmond (as  
I told you before) for the largest note  
the other he could not pay I left it however  
with Dr Chapman. His circumstances are  
not very good for paying money at this  
time Had suit been brought on the notes  
they could not have been collected at all  
as they are out-lawed according to the  
Laws of Virginia their being no writ-  
ings nor seal



Ward is one of the finest fellows in the world & he has a no less amiable wife. While Philips's family I was also much pleased with & —

My health is not good but better than when I left Virginia had I remained there till this time I fear. I should have had a severe attack of Bilious fever — It has been remarkably hot the past season & is now very sultry in that place — I am in great haste my bell is now ringing & I must close my love to Parents brother & sisters Yours &c —

W. M. Howard

P.S. Write me immediately without delay it is a long time since I heard from home —

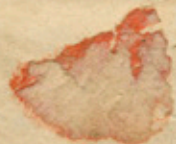
We have about 140 students from all parts of the United States & five fine Professors &c —



Easton  
Sept 4

184

Mr Rowland B Howard  
Leeds,  
Mass





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53 9/4/1824 *From:* V.R. Howard

*To:* Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e35

Castleton Vt.

Leeds,  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Castleton Vt. Sept 4th 1824

Dear Brother

You will be surprised to hear from me at this place where I arrived a few days since for the purpose of attending a course of Lectures. I left Christiansburg Va about six weeks since. I traveled on horsback to Richmond where I remained a week. My hors then got lame & I exchanged him for a three years old colt unbroken which I sent by a friend of mine back to Montgomery who will brake him & take care of him - without expense till I return or give order for him to be sold.

I then took water to Newyork where I arrived on the twentieth of August, went immediately across the town & took the Steamboat for Peekskill not knowing that Ward lived in the City, but accidentally Ward came on board going to Peekskill for his wife who was there on a visit. I recognized him as soon as I saw him & immediately made myself known. The meeting was a happy one indeed. I went with him to the Red Mills, from there to Uncle Bailey's where I found that Joseph had left for this place the same day. I returned with Ward to the City where I remained till last Saturday. Then took Steam boat to Newburg where I remained till Sunday evening. I then saw a letter from you to Pamela where I first learnt the death of our dear cousin & your most affectionate & boosom friend. It was news of a most disagreeable kind to me although I was warned of her fatal diseas some-time since. We must all some day or other pay the great debt of nature. & as for my Part I am resined at any time that God is pleased to summon me. This is a world of trouble & disapointment. The next can be no more.

I took the boat from Newburg to Albany. From there in Stage to this place, 78 miles from Albany where I shall remain sixteen weeks.

Those notes of Lindsey's I sent to him for collection. He let the Gentleman have a horse which I rode to Richmond (as I told you before) for the Largest note. The other he could not pay. I left it however with Dr Chapman. His circumstances are not very good for paying money at this time. Had just been brought on the notes. They could not have been collected at all as they are outlawed according to the Laws of Virginia, their being no witness nor Seal.

Ward is one of the finest fellows in the world & he has a no less amiable wife. Uncle Philips family I was also much pleased with.

My health is not good but better than when I left Virginia. Had I remained there till this time I fear I should have had a severe attack of Bilious fever. It has been remarkably hot the past season & is now very sickly in that place.

I am in great hast. My bell is now ringing & I must close. My love to Parents brothers & sisters.

Yours &c  
V.R. Howard

PS Write me immediately without delay. It is a long time since I heard from home. We have about 150 students from all parts of the United States & five fine Professors &c.

[Envelope]  
Castleton Vt  
Sept 4  
[Postage] 182  
Mr Rowland B Howard  
Leeds,  
Maine