

Christiansburg Jan 26

"I am in total want of health this winter except now & then I feel cold the air
attaching so changeable it is impossible to prevent it I was a few days ago & last night took a

Dear Beloved Sis. Who could resist
 such a command as the following? Sit you
 self 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.
 Whenever I would think of my relation¹⁸
 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 fam^{ly}
 but since the receipt of your letter I
 am almost compelled to believe I was
 mistaken.
 I gave up the idea of your answering my¹⁸
 at all. But to my undiscernible, satisfaction^{ed}
 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^{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
 some more. I love them indeed (love)
 not only as a duty but with voluntary
 affections. But a Person of my age &
 situation requires fortitude which I never
 expect to learn. Childish dependence, which
 has got the better of some of our Leeds Boys



There is cousin Jason, & Gould & others can^{go}
to Boston City or some big town &
return to Mamma with a satisfied
mind. If they get no business & one
of them of starving & back they come.
They will some day find that the knowl-
-ge of human nature is not so easily acq-
-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 & 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 Nathaniel 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
glasses of today I am ^{in a} retired room listening
to the recitations of five or six dutiful
little children.

Is Prowland 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 mine in your
letter with so many exclamations & 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
her for Nathaniel on some future day
could I think so! I dare not: Then I shall
even remain in one respect as I now am

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 Mathew

Elmhurst
101 St.

Mr Leadster

Mary

Mathew

Q

Give my love to all. Doct Aurelia Child
her our Brothers, Franklin & Rowland
particulars Stillman & families Esq L's
family throughout & kiss one brother etc
it for me & much oblige your affectionate
& dutiful brother

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

I am in haste - health this winter except now & then - I fear cold the we
I am in haste - health this winter except now & then - I fear cold the we

50 1/26/1823 *From:* VRH [Valentine
Rathburn Howard]

To: Mrs Lucretia P.
Leadbetter

RBH-0e31

Christiansburg Va

Wayne
State of Maine

Source: Bowdoin

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 undiservabe 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 determind 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 & possessed 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 see the lake, poor fellow.
By the time you see this you will have lost the
fatigue of your journey & I hope escaping the sick
abundance you so gently arrived 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, one neither can I, but I know it well, One Cosmos
Sawyer is with the family.

Recd of Dr. Drake
of Providence
Sept 27 1823

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 to say all to my Parents & friends, that I could
say to them, if I was present give my best love
to Mrs Dray & children your friend 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 sixty
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 office 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 still unpleasant news, that
ill fated city suffered beyond account in the
year 1817 - I don't know what contagion,

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, Holms is well &
Suff. as ever, but poor Whitman is completely done
over, about three weeks ago he & our black boy Joe,
was 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 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 lb. 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 never wear a pair
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 case
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 Holms had a lawsuit
from which he expected to receive four hundred
dollars, this was to go for his share, poor Pills
Jarlick, you know his capital, this was a great
prospect, poor Junker, no more, & no Greeney,
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, or if
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 invest-
ed was simply this, it took fifty dollars out
of the common stock to pay the Debt, half of
which the Negro, & Holms Law suit was paid off
& the day of judgment how long that will
be your Lawyers best know, I believe it matters
not how the work 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 count taking every thing into consid-
eration, but what is all this to you, sometimes
I think myself the biggest fool in the world to make
a slave 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 of her than when you
left, I am very anxious about her health, if
she should not live I believe I should jump

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

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'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 owing 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 thiner 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 more from
home a favour - 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 countries
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 ~~parted~~ 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~~^{business} longer
than 24 hours & then on business
I visit none but the Sub except
now & then by the way of
increasing ~~the~~ my acquaintances
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 a gain they will find

my Office No. 112 Chapel Street

I will send you this morning

Paper & was the best office

never I would send you one
every morning. No charges

are 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. Roberson in the below

It was the most awful &
sublime I have ^{ever} beheld

Such a crowd of people never

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

16

Mr. Howard
I oods
M. M. M.

16

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

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

To: Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e33

New York

Leeds
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

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 gest LaFayett 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 geting 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 nerer 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. 29th 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 duty of obligation 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 seen one letter from home in nearly a year why does Providence & the rest of the family, subject to write

Walter John Howard

2 Leeds.

London Wm



WJH

landed but a few hours before in a packet
from Richmond Va and not stopping to enquire
in the City for one 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 Cortlandt 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 Brothers or Sister could wish & I
think deserves great credit for his perseverance
& industry in prosecuting his Studies — he will
undoubtedly write to you from Cortlandt. Mrs Howard
has not yet recovered her 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 considerable
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
boarded at P. Dolan for Week & furnish our
room. I have let out my horse & 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
season. & 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
& to join with me in much love to our dear & beloved
Parents. Ward B Howard

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

To: Capt'n Seth Howard

RBH-0e34

New York

Leeds

County of Kennebeck ME

Source: Bowdoin

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 4th 1824

Dear Brother
You will be surprised to hear from ^{me} at this place when 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 horseback to Richmond when I remained a week my horse 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 across the town & took the Steamboat for Peekskill not knowing that Ward lived in the City. but accidently 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 thence to Amherst where 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 they 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 overthrow
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 wit-
-ness nor seal

Ward is one of the finest fellows in the
world & he has a no less amiable wife
Uncle Philips's family I was also much
pleas'd with & c

My health is not good but better than
when I left Virginia had I remain'd 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

1844
C. G. Weston
Sept 4

Mr Rowland B Howard
Leeds,
Warr



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

To: Mr Rowland B Howard

RBH-0e35

Castleton Vt.

Leeds,
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

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 accidently 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