a inta gue 11 pero a a Howard

whe speaks it - will need how or three months to prache st_ So gen must exense me to four friend who manted U. - Imyhrentry is to day & send is; hut - I could good. For must write me how you succeed that exhibition. The heat-advie Dean give 3 an is "keep herfeetty wool" of any one tell, you string drink, will bely throw all all diffidence, do not behieve then: an that subject. as you like about - going to school to

Brunswick fre 11. 1849. dear Brother I am much abliged to gen for the piece, which you rend; for I shall be obliged to declaim for the prize Summ and, if this suits, whale take it -. I shall not - send zon the Gead thust -It is too hard a piece for your, and any one and get it have . My halth is guilt Stimulants are more apt to make a man uppen like a food on the Stage. I have had good opportunities our observation, I have made preparations to keep School at Wayne village next ball. Ban may do me; Perhaps, of I have alarge school. Ishare want - you to addist me some, People might

Think, if my brother would not go to school to me, that I could not be much of a teacher. If you will go me can rown togethe and have some very gund times, I shall be Aliger to shidy considerably . It may be the lust opportunity we shall have of stretting End perhaps of tining togethe: yet as I david all your pleasure, and do what you think will be most - for your own advantage, Thesame I can keep a better school now then I did on the sidge I am alder & have more experience. Write me how many sheak for the prize and if thether comes to your exhibition. Imust-get my lefton (hun, I will try and write more very soon. From Jon brother Monard



66 6/11/1849 *From:* OO Howard

To: Rowland B. Howard, Esq.

Kents Hill

Readfield Maine

RBH-030

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

Brunswick June 11, 1849

Dear Brother

I am much obliged to you for the piece, which you sent for I shall be obliged to declaim for the prize soon, and, if this suits, shall take it. I shall not send you the "Dead Christ." It is too hard a piece for you, and any one who speaks it will need two or three months to practice it. So you must excuse me to your friend who wanted it. I might enjoy it to day & send it; but I could not get it before.

My health is quite good. You must write me how you succeed at exhibition after it. The best advice I can give you is "keep perfectly cool". If any persons tell you strong drink will help throw off all diffidence, do not believe them. Stimulants are more apt to make a man appear like a fool on the stage. I have had great opportunities for observation on that subject.

I've made preparations to keep school at Wayne Village next fall. You may do as you like about going to school to me. Perhaps, if I have a large school, I shall want you to assist me some. People might think, if my brother would not go to school to me, that I could not be much of a teacher. If you will go we can room together and have some very good times. I shall be obliged to study considerably. It may be the last opportunity we shall have of studying and perhaps of living together. Yet as I said act your pleasure, and do what you think will be most for your own advantage.

I presume I can keep a better school now than I did on the "Ridge". I am older & have more experience. Write me how many speak for the prize and if mother comes to your exhibition.

I must get my lesson now. I will try and write more very soon.

From your brother OO Howard

[Envelope] Rowland B. Howard, Esq. Kents Hill Readfield Maine (via Augusta) [Postmark] BRUNSWICK ME JUN 11 [Paid] 5

evening the sentinel parts his head into the room twice & sings "all right" to which we vefly all right" All these officers of different grades are sworn & thus bound to report any absence or delinguiney in the performance gang duty, Every absence is nonperformance of thety, or violation of the smallest regulation, is Seported before the Battalion, and if no good, substantial credible excuse is sendered. The offender gets, marks of demerit - (200 globich, send lionit) - There is a great variety glalant in our club, running from absolute shipidity, up to the highest grade of mellect. About To will be found (deficient) in January next. The me how you are getting on as ofter as you can find time, Here the never Study all the time from daylight till 10,0'clock at hight, and it is necessary for those so to No, who have misemproned their former advantages. I was glad to hear from home through you, for I hade not you heard a word from theme Since Istarted. You may give my respects to fervett. ytell him I will hat by to write his to night, for that I should fail or write a very poor letter from their fatigue. Sam really gland Deleghas got a Situation to Suit him. I have been in good health all the time since I left Maine, and an now in good sports. My greatest enjoyments consist in secencing letters Surgeous. They locked at me measured by height size round the chest (34 icho). Que Surgeon locked of the another y said them "He is a stort man" and said that was sufficient. I looked then in the eye without thembling or blushing - yet? "I appendente Here you got your Shirt tra Portland yet?" Other

to leave immediately be sent me word that he would come again in a few dampigest Point . F. G. Sepet 15 to 1850 Dear brother, Creceived your letter yesterday. and was glad to find that you had really arrived at yumowth and got settled. Robinson is a good fellow & a good teacher. I previence he has told you that he to well acquainted. with me, we having been, Together, in Pollege three years. Give him my respect, I heat wishes I must he pleasanter for you at A garmonth, than it was for me, when I weat there: for theme is Mor fewett, my friend, Clapmate & companion, to keep your company & make you lef homeick. I shall reserve all my respects for him, to file a letter which I shall write him as Som as I finish this . To give you any decount of my discipline, & of the Weat Point - System is pretty difficults you Should be subjected to the same to have a correct & welldefined idea of the independent ladet. I will give you this history of a day, or that beast of it so trich I lake a part, & that will suffice, for the Same things are down, the same order, observed day after day. I week after week, except aclasionally on Juneral days, when the regular exercises are sugrencled. (Two officers have died since & have been here, whuse funeral exercises have been held in this place). Suppose you can see me in hed, warning comfortable, sleeping soundly, or toping about, in the voin belief that I am laking peart in Derne, Seene Surrounded by friends; From some such state of Lowenolency"

Uncle Ward came here the other day to see me. But could not find me; for some cause or other, he was abliged at just the perf of day, an I sudden's arended by the morning gum.

Dreams & fafes, commediately give forth a very inviting call. I justife from my hard hed, put an my clothes & seen down three pains of stains, as quickly as possible . I fall who ranks. The sole is the Galled, after which we return to aur racons. wash & study till Joclock. lit 7. the drens & fifes call on again to ranks, soll is called, I we march to the mets Hall. We stand around the lattles near our respective places, and at the Compression take Seats" lown are drops, the Stay them be hours of bour mand size, all get up, glathe places in sanks as soon as popaible, and are marched back to the paradeground & dismissed. One half hour after breakfust is allowed for recreation. at 8, o'click. all are galled to quarters . 12. hours. A part however of The ladets recite at this time - Each Claps is divided into sections. The first sections contain the 121 geholans. the 2d sections. the next in sant yso and Al halfbus gollock & recite - The all the Sections that secilias that time are called by the buffe to the parade ground, where they all into ranks , kaving each a Section Marcher" Who calls the sole this section I marches it to a Section room, to how he take our seals in alphabetical order. The instructor call, upon an individual; he must more quickly to the middle of The floor, Stand allertron" (without moving until he is told what to do: then he goes to this board & performs what be is told , (which is , menally , to deduce some rule) . The highest mark given for a recitation is & called a "maximum" or may". No individual gets this mank unless he behaves in just-such a manner, uses no woord incorrectly

Uncle Word came there the other and to bee

in his demonstration, and does every thing with the precipion I brenity of the text. This mark I have get twice I come with one a two leaths of it alever every time . I an gaining i confidence y hence i rank. I am bound to be among the first soon. after are first secting (at the end of Ale hound meane marched back to the Barracks: Called to dinner as to Break fuel at 1, oclock, - see at & at four black - comes drile". The Battation, (all the Cadets except the Setats") have the band to play for this sometimes & sometimes not - The (septs) are taken, five in a squad, and hearched away into some private place and there are dvilled to our satesfaction. This tores the second afternoon that we have drilled with muskets, and my back and shoulders ache more than they ever did after moring all the fore noon: for we are abliged to part our shoulders is Such a constrained position, that that of itself without the heavy gun is tireson enough . lifter drilling about an hour & a half mithaut speaking or movinguales ordered we are dismifeed. Again, at 6 Delock is parade when the arms are inspected, delinquencies read to the batterin; lefter this we are marched to suppoer - there. back have recreation 1/2 a hour; The comes Call to quarters, At half past 9. Oclock the drums y fifes lete us to prepare for hed. At 10, when there are three tops on the dream, all lights must be and if every individ wal in hed. During the day the room is inspected horee by an lermy officer, to sid if every thing is in A its exact place, Stance a day by allader officer Suthe

Excusing the sam agel puts and the

To: Dear Brother [R B Howard]

RBH-031

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. September 19, 1850

Dear brother,

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to find that you had really arrived at Yarmouth and got settled. Robinson is a good fellow & a good teacher. I presume he has told you that he is well acquainted with me, we having been together in College three years. Give him my respects, & best wishes. It must be pleasanter for you at Yarmouth than it was for me, when I went there, for there is Mr. Jewett my friend, classmate & companion to keep you company & make you less homesick. I shall reserve all my respects for him, to fill a letter which I shall write him as soon as I finish this.

To give you any intelligible account of my discipline, & of the "West Point System" is pretty difficult. You should be subjected to the same to have a correct & well-defined idea of the independent Cadet. I will give you the history of a day, or that part of it in which I take a part & that will suffice for the same things are done, the same order, observed day after day, & week after week, except occasionally on funeral days, when the regular exercises are suspended. (Two officers have died since I have been here, whose funeral exercises have been held in this place.) Suppose you can see me in bed, warm & comfortable, sleeping soundly, or tossing about, in the vain belief that I am taking part in some lively scene surrounded by friends. From some such state of "somnolency" at just the peak of day, am I suddenly aroused by the morning gun. Drums and fifes, immediately give forth a very inviting "call." I jump from my hard bed, put on my clothes & run down three pairs of stairs, as quickly as possible, & fall into ranks. The role is then called, after which we return to our rooms, wash & study till 7 o'clock.

At 7, the drums & fifes call us again to ranks, roll is called, & we march to the Mess Hall. We stand around the tables near our respective places, and at the command "take seats", down we drop. We stay there ½ hour & at command "rise", all get up, & take places in ranks as soon as possible, and are marched back to the parade ground & dismissed. One half hour after breakfast is allowed for recreation. At 8 o'clock all are called to "Quarters", i.e. rooms.

A part, however, of the cadets recite at this time. Each class is divided into sections. The first sections contain the 1st scholars, the 2d sections the next in rank & so on. At half past 9 o'clock I recite. Then all the sections that recite at that time are called by the bugle to the parade ground, where they all fall into ranks having each a "Section Marcher", who calls the roll of his section & marches it to a "Section room". On arriving at the section room we take our seats in alphabetical order. The instructor calls upon an individual. He must move quickly to the middle of the floor, stand "attention", (without moving) until he is told what to do. Then he goes to the board and performs what he is told, (which is, usually, to deduce some rule). The highest mark given for a recitation is 3, called a "maximum" or "max". No individual gets this Mark, unless he behaves in just such a manner, uses no word incorrectly in his demonstration, and does everything with the precision & brevity of the text. This mark I have got twice & come within one, two or five tenths of it every time. I am gaining in confidence & hence in rank. I am bound to be among the first soon. After we finish reciting (at the end of 1 & ½ hours) we are marched back to the Barracks. Called to dinner as to Breakfast at 1 o'clock, recite at 3. At four o'clock comes "drill". The battalion, (all the Cadets except the "Septs") have the band to play for them sometimes & sometimes not.

We (Septs) are taken, five in a "squad", and marched away into some private place, and there are drilled to our satisfaction. This is the second afternoon that we have drilled with muskets, and my back and shoulders ache more than they ever did after mowing all the forenoon, for we are obliged to put our shoulders in such a constrained position, that, that of itself without the heavy gun is tiresome enough. After drilling about an hour & a half, without speaking or moving unless ordered, we are dismissed. Again, at 6 o'clock is parade, when the arms are inspected, delinquencies read to the Battalian. After this we are marched to supper then back, have recreation ½ an hour. Then comes "call to quarters". At half past 9 o'clock the drums & fifes tell us to prepare for bed. At 10, when there are three taps on the drum, all lights must be out & every individual in bed. During the day, the room is inspected twice by an Army officer, to see if everything is in its exact place, & twice a day by a Cadet officer. In the evening the Sentinel puts his head into the room twice & sings, "all right" to which we reply,

"all right."

All these officers of different grades are sworn, & thus bound to report any absence or delinquency in the performance of any duty. Every absence or nonperformance of duty, or violation of the smallest regulation, is reported before the Battalion, and if no good, substantial, credible excuse is rendered, the offender gets marks of demerit (200 of which "send him"). There is a great variety of talent in our Class, running from absolute stupidity, up to the highest grade of intellect. About 20 will be "found" (deficient) in January next.

Write me how you are getting on, as often as you can find time. Never rest satisfied with a partial knowledge of things. Here the most of the Cadets study all the time from daylight till 10 o'clock at night, and it is necessary for those so to do, who have misimproved their former advantages.

I was glad to hear from home through you, for I had not heard a word since I started. You may give my respects to Jewett, & tell him I will not try to write him tonight, for fear that I should fail or write a very poor letter from sheer fatigue. I'm really glad Peleg has got a situation to suit him. I have been in good health all the time since I left Maine, and I am now in good spirits. My greatest enjoyments consist in receiving letters from my friends.

My physical examination was nothing. I stripped myself & went in before three Surgeons. They looked at me, measured my height, size round the chest (34 inches). One Surgeon looked at another & said "he is a stout man". And said that was sufficient. I looked them in the eye without trembling or blushing.

Have you got your shirt from Portland yet?

Yr affectionate brother Otis

Uncle Ward came here the other day to see me, but could not find me, for some cause or other. He was obliged to leave immediately, but sent me word that he would come again in a few days.

Ol Howard Oct, 2,63. Dear brother. much pleasure. I am glad that you were thoughtful enough to open my eyes to the fully I committed, in N C B, Wara Main La contrata de la contrata de la contrata then I am very well contented . I hear, you have been The second s 0 me your opinion unless is favorable .- Tele me all about your hisil, your studies, your elap. ye.ge. -Has Uncle Henry Strickland moved to Portland yet? I made out to get permision last saturday to visit-A LEAD IN LAND AND THE REAL OF he total me that his oldest son was very sick y without me to come I make him a wisit. Itals lucke and the second of the second o A set and a set of the and the second and the second of the second se much soliciting & of my own, I made out to get permission

Mest Point A.B. Qch 26# 1850. Dreeeined your last letter with writing home about all my little perplexities & difficulties. I really enjoy myself there, now. I have to shidy very hard, it is there, but I know that this as what I came here for. Hadd not come to this place. I could not have enjoyed all Sunshine. On the whole mto Hortand from feleg). How did Mils Lizie West you! How did you like her ! In fast you need not give Uncle Ward at Seekskill . The way I got fermition was as fullows: - There came to see me Mulile here that if he would write me on his return Stating that my cousin was very low, & desired me to make him a visit, I might berhaps, get a short leave of absende. He did so, and so, with his letter, yeith

to be absent from Caturday noon tile 1/ past 9 d'elock. in the evening of the same day. Swent over the River to Stonmy Loind, & from there in the land to kettskill. I down found Uncle's family. Which is all consisted of three or rather four endividuals, hundelf inclusive. His Oldest daughter, a lady between twenty give I Thirty, remains at home with him as yet unmarried. This Aldeat Son Augustus, is one year alder Man I.a little tatter, with my kam, eyes I forchead. Inather think That he I I resear the each other more than you I &. His complaints is of a feedlier kind - Something Laure "Fishes, only the never maker a house when the spearns come upon him. He is very intelliget & before this attack was called, as five, promising a young man as you may beldan find. He can get no help, but he says he hopes to get well. He is defined entirely of the pleasures of Society, of reading, writing, y in fact of every thing, almost that makes a part of our the enjoyments. Tell fewett that I received a letter from Townsend this week, who finds hindelf prospering finely. Townsend is heally doing well for a young man of his energy, or rather want of energy, but as he is a good hearted beg swish him well. I have tately been put into the Battation. I hence feel a little more like a man, a little more independent. I remain pretty nearly at the head

bingels (Decte brated so celebrated beauties (a) yet? You cannot enjoy Vergel much when you are Aliged to study your eyes and almost of the get but a faint idea of his meaning. When you got To familiar with Sate that you can Warstate with ease grapility, then you may takk down Aleasure in reading Mergils writings, but all the Aleasure you can derive from them while fitting for Oblege, you will carn. I hav while at putertule the place where Our father once traded I was in The very same stone . A lady came to Mucho justhefore Sleft in the evening, to whom I was Apresented as her consuis Louil. The is cousin to father. Uncle Lay that I have many relations at New Bury. This you bee I am surrounded by relatives in any part of the world, even al the Military Readen of West Pourb. My respects to feared tell line I shall write him soon . Shave had to Study tremendously lately, but despect to have an easy time tohen I get to studying geometry g Grench, notead of evarmetting fine or Dix pages of Blair's Thetone every day & of preparing sindel to explain the hardest thing in all muthematics, big: The Binomial Theorem, I its cousegnences. My head is full of m's m's y g's. I have now got Algebra healter into me so that Scould not forget it if I would . Now good type, if you do not write a better letter than thes of him is I shall say you don't know much. Is appediente wither stis -

68 10/26/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

West Point N.Y.

To: Mr. Rowland B. Howard Yarmouth Maine

RBH-032

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct. 26, 1850

Dear brother,

I received your last letter with much pleasure. I'm glad that you were thoughtful enough to open my eyes to the folly I committed in writing home about all my little perplexities & difficulties. I really enjoy myself here, now. I have to study very hard, it is true, but I know that this is what I came here for. Had I not come to this place, I could not have enjoyed all sunshine. On the whole then I am very well contented. I hear you have been into Portland (from Peleg). How did Miss Lizzie treat you? How did you like her? In fact you need not give me your opinion unless it is favorable. Tell me all about your visit, your studies, your class &c. &c.

Has Uncle Henry Strickland moved to Portland yet?

I made out to get permission last Saturday to visit Uncle Ward at Peekskill. The way I got permission was as follows. Uncle came to see me & while here he told me that his oldest son was very sick & wished me to come & make him a visit. I told Uncle that, if he would write me on his return stating that my cousin was very low, & desired me to make him a visit, I might, perhaps, get a short leave of absence. He did so, and so, with his letter & with much soliciting of my own, I made out to get permission to be absent from Saturday noon till 1/2 past nine o'clock in the evening of the same day. I went over the river to Stony Point and from thence in the Cars to Peekskill.

I soon found Uncle's family, which in all consisted of three or rather four individuals, himself inclusive. His oldest daughter, a Lady between 25 & 30, remains at home with him as yet unmarried. His oldest son, Augustus, is one year older than I, a little taller, with my hair, eyes & four head. I rather think that he & I resemble each other more than you & I. His complaint is of a peculiar kind. Something similar to Laura Fisher's, only he never makes a noise when the spasms come upon him. He is very intelligent & before this attack was called as fine, promising a young man as you may seldom find. He can get no help, but he says he hopes to get well. He is deprived entirely of the pleasures of society, of reading, writing, and in fact of everything almost that makes a part of our enjoyments.

Tell Jewett that I received a letter from Townsend this week, who finds himself prospering finely. Townsend is really doing well for a young man of his energy, or rather want of energy, but as he is a good hearted boy I wish him well.

I have lately been put into the Battalion & hence feel a little more like a man, a little more independent. I remain pretty nearly at the head of my class.

How is it? Have you found any of Virgils so celebrated beauties as yet? You cannot enjoy Virgil much when you are obliged to study your eyes out almost & then get but a faint idea of his meaning. When you get so familiar with Latin that you can translate with ease & rapidity, then you may take some pleasure in reading Virgil's writings, but all the pleasure you can derive from them while fitting for College, you will earn.

I saw while at Peekskill the place where our father once traded & was in the very same store. A lady came to Uncles just before I left in the evening, to whom I was presented as her cousins son i.e. she is cousin to father. Uncle says that I have many relations at Newburg. Thus you see I am surrounded by relatives in any part of the world, even at the Military Academy of West Point.

My respects to Jewett, tell him I shall write him soon. I have had to study tremendously lately, but I expect to have an easy time when I get to studying Geometry & French, instead of committing five or six pages of Blair's rhetoric every day & of preparing myself to explain the hardest thing in all mathematics, viz.: the Binomial Theorem & its consequences. My head is full of m's, n's, & q's. I have now got the greater part of Algebra beaten into me so that I could not forget it if I would.

Now Good Bye. If you do not write a better letter than this of mine is, I shall say you don't know much.

Yr affectionate brother Otis

[Envelope] Mr Rowland B Howard Yarmouth Maine

Vandon of for Ordale Pages and out gomman the

Give them my heart angle to alley complete the terreten

any love to go the first part fingles - find factoring

Clefforard and and hadiente of theorem & have 50 . Date and ability y all my pleasening power I die I glan fall about of the all the second mark . Shapt far wang comes the External time which is to try and Amongth : Every they while and part that is not and have a proved of a star The copy days a grant a the drawn and tom. Eur next extensible and and he for next; then Compared bien Build examine and the that tome nor clap adate w & contaces over gaines the sectioned at chast are half to have going and heard ? As on hearer going grance Litter and hear Collegonna ! He Mindie Reland will bedrow down . When he gots haven if he has made her fromands I shall first in good here to want me to have me gave leaver from home for must and me. I taked a letter and provinged to our part of the

Considerable time has paped dine Shave seccined a letter from you. Reshaps you think me rather negligent in answering your letters. you must not stop writing to me. Securt much upon receiving letters from you and thall write myself as often as I can. Leldow does any thing new transfeire in West Point. So I have no news to tell you . West four with all its beauty is a detle monotosions place during The greater part of the year : The same sontine day after day I month ofter month. Dee that keeps is alive is the exectment of thirdy, or rather the enclation that must exist in an suchtation like this, when everything depends on sank. It often looks rather discouraging to me to look forward to four long Theary years of confinement , but I am by no means east down. I have come here with the determination of staying if possible & of taking the very best stand possible. I have got some very hard cases to compete with but I probably shale come out bright. Now as knough has been said about self. I wish to know what your prospects are. What kind of yanng men you have got in your Clafe I have your one making out with your studies. Make the post of your how Howland. You must to better take a higher

Thest Point N. 4: 1850. Abi 19th accounted more than to, with real and have stand in College than your brother has done. I feel

non that my education is superficial. I might have accomplished more than twice as much as I have done during the last four years, I this with sade . I am expecting much of you. you an virtually older than I was four years ago. Non much have more judgment, I with my experience befor you, you may lithe every advantage of time & circumstances. I fear, however, you will be lagy is moving your body about. Al man is going to study to any advantage, he must have excercise of body as well as minds. "You must team to pick up your feet & walk for briakly, or , as a soldier, I shall have to evaplain of you, when I some to walk with you on furlow. Let us see; you will graduate (five live & are so fortunate) you will graduate only a year behind me . Dat proxing you had spent four years in Callege, how would you litre the ideas of centering the mulitary Academy of West pour for thend your years more? No matter how much knowledge a man may have If he is not a natural mathematician he cannot do any thing here. I have not the least doubt that many of my clapmates who work a good stand in Callege as scholans, would have he found deficient " in mathematics, should they Enter here I my this Course. I was considered a good Mathematican : So much to that the Sophs would come to me for affectance after I got to he a

Senion. But here in Davies Bourdon, amid roots radicals of theorems I have to event all my ability I all my persenering powers. I then I often ball short of the highest marke. Next farmany comes the Examination which is to try our Atrength. Every man who cannot pass that ardeal mile have the provalege of mosting his mother as long as he changes. I am not save but I thale envy some of the poor fellows after all. Those who are to be found are called Immostals. The whole deventhe section bear the name. Shappen to be at the other end of the Claps & therefore have no fears I had berg he " hope. Car next examination will be in fine next, when Congrand men will examine us. By that time our clap whet not contains over go, will he reduced at least one half. Have your heard from home since Frances Lottorop arrived from California; He thinks Raland will return soon. When he gets home, if he has made his thousands I shall put in for him to visit me. Every thing you leave from home you must write me. I what a letter as I provinced to our prind Mr Samson of fac & Bile Carry are at yarmonth give them my hear respects . My respects to Roburson,

my love to yoke Non - Good night - griffeetroute

69 11/19/1850 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

West Point N.Y.

To: Mr. Rowland B. Howard Yarmouth Maine

RBH-033

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. 1850 Nov 19

Dear Brother,

Considerable time has passed since I have received a letter from you. Perhaps you think me rather negligent in answering your letters. You must not stop writing to me. I count much upon receiving letters from you and shall write myself as often as I can. Seldom does anything new transpire in West Point. So I have no news to tell you. West Point with all its beauty is a dull, monotonous place during the greater part of the year. The same routine, day after day & month after month. All that keeps us alive is the excitement of study, or rather the emulation that must exist in an institution like this, when everything depends on rank. It often looks rather discouraging to me, to look forward to four long weary years of confinement, but I am by no means cast down. I have come here with the determination of staying if possible, & of taking the very best stand possible. I have got some very hard cases to compete with, but I probably shall come out right.

Now as enough has been said about self, I wish to know what your prospects are. What kind of young men you have got in your Class & how you are making out with your studies. Make the most of your time Rowland. You must do better, take a higher stand in College then your brother has done. I feel now that my education is superficial. I might have accomplished more than twice as much as I have done during the last four years, & this with ease. I am expecting much of you. You are virtually older then I was four years ago. You must have more judgment than I had & with my experience before you, you may take every advantage of time & circumstances. I fear, however, you will be lazy in moving your body about. If a man is going to study to any advantage, he must have exercise of body as well as mind. You must learn to pick up your feet & walk off briskly, or, as a soldier, I shall have to complain of you when I come to walk with you "on furlow."

Let us see, you will graduate (if we live & are so fortunate) you will graduate only a year behind me. Supposing you had spent four years in College, how would you like the idea of entering the Military Academy of West Point to spend four years more? No matter how much knowledge a man may have, if he is not a natural mathematician he cannot do anything here. I have not the least doubt that many of my classmates who took a good stand in College as scholars, would be "found deficient" in mathematics, should they enter here & try the course. I was considered a good mathematician. So much so that the Sophs would come to me for assistance after I got to be a Senior. But here in "Davies Bourdon" amid roots, radicals & theorems I have to exert all my ability & all my persevering power & then I often fall short of the highest mark.

Next January comes the examination, which is to try our strength. Every man who cannot pass that ordeal will have the privilege of visiting his mother as long as he chooses. I am not sure but I shall envy some of the poor fellows after all. Those who are to be "found" are called "Immortals." The whole seventh section bear this name. I happen to be at the other end of the Class & therefore have no fears & but very little hope. Our next examination will be in June next, when Congressmen will examine us. By that time our class which now contains over 90, will be reduced at least one half.

Have you heard from home since Francis Lothrop arrived from California? He thinks Roland will return soon. When he gets home if he has made his thousands I shall put in for him to visit me. Every thing you learn from home, you must write me. I wrote a letter as I promised to our friend Mr. Sampson. If Jae & Bill Carey are at Yarmouth give them my best respects. My respects to Robinson, my love to John N.--

Good night. Yr affectionate brother Otis

[Envelope] Mr. Rowland B. Howard Yarmouth Maine

I should have shipped at the end of three pages, but is three pages of my writing is hardly worth to ets, I will try & fill up outher After Church. The nourafed Bugh is now sending fanth its entreny call. I must go to Church & lister to a very dry Dermon. This is poor soil for ministers Mulitary piety is an the whole rather day. In the first place There is but precious little event quant to a minister. We never gets any converts; y no sympathy ever trains his doul; but plenty of enclosed keeps how stroned The linerolent dispositions; but and almost always makes a man a little bit vered . Y perhaps I may Lay alittle bitter in his forthcoming komethnuste. Good luck to you till after Church. Thou think of a subjer that may interest on disquest you. The habits of findets. The lifon said Charch is over . There is searcely wer any Studying here Sutunday nights, and Isldan if ever any Sleeps. Catets keep sober, Istricky Meadily the whole week the saturday night, and then they make up for last time, The Sentinels and ways taken of Post at 10, In about the half an hour after inspection at 10. The wild ones are up ground". A set of miserable traturen Skulk into downe cove er corner with their boats full of Siquon. At first every thing Reemed to go straight ; but I find that wearly every salunday night over two thirds of the barges are essentially drunk. Every afficer on the Fourt doubles, and therefore they are not disposed to be over watchful. If an officer of the army should discover a fadet integreated he would most certain by, be obliged to leave the ford to report him . The ladets have been laging in stones for Okrestmas for themewor four weeks. There is now liquor enough stored away ander the floors I'm other unperietrable places, to get three Confes like

you day anything about toute. I preasure you make lease the dust is consistent fight the I have gove West Boint A. My. Deci22. 1850 .. massel have been brother as quality and have I have received two letters or rather one g a half since I wrote my last to you; and therefore I think it becomes me by this time to answer you . Friday brought me a letter pour home, from which I learned that Roland Alger had get safely & fairly home. ten the curring of the same day I wrote a letter home of & pages, which as exhausted my existetury treasury that you much not expect much of me. Berhapes I can do as many Gudets do in Rheborie: take some one idea of that a firsty good are; lad home it over yover, I present with all its different shades. What interests me farticularly is the prospect of having a good time on Chinistines, is, on Wednesday next. I made our To hilo-headed Gafettin & Superintendent a call the Murday. bearing him a note from lucle Ward. He did not make any objection to my going to Peeterkill, provided that I did not wish to be gove more than one day. He said that he would let me know time enough he for hand . -Muche John Otes wrote me a letter, that I received the other day. For said that I had as yet no demorit recorded ; that Cur adjutant, Brevel Capet Williams, of Augusta Maine, Said that I stood very well in my class; and that he expected To find my name among the five " at or after the next January examination. I hope he will too ; lend he probably will of I do not make a failure on the next examination. How are you I your letter claps making it in Virgil? I never have heard

you say anything about Greek. I presume you must have studied is somewhat before this . I hope you will love greek more than dever was disposed to dr. I made Marren Lothrop a call yesterday ofternoon. Hesaid that he had just received a letter from his brother Elicos . Elias does not expect to return to main before offring: he said that his health was somewhat improved. Theaking of Elias, made we think of Addison . Mother Sent me a letter which he wrote to her. In it he spoke of Charles Turner; Said that the latter was with him, bat had not as yet engaged in business : lend also that Leve. Lof of Wayne was there I very Lick , or batter had been very sick ; and that it was doubtful whather he would be able to do any work very soon. Poor Seri, He is the man you know, who drove as on the Husking I grapse expedition; whenin I lost my character for monality & sobriety. Did it we have some possions good times in that lette village? This matters we think of to y Josephine, of ropes, of Sycecons & of the gover little, early Monded Russel Nelson. Laura loo, fat jully & exquisite, you remember her, occupies no senale place in my recollection, but a perecións senale place in my affections. She was a strange child, but not more bewetching than the over-Afeminate Ellen, H. . But Macomber ; where is he? that man So soft so smoother, such a prepaseping bore ? But speaking above of clics I, made me think of Addison; Addison of his letter : his letter of Levi Jops; Leve Jopog wayne, of Wayne of our menteral interest in the place galdo of the thousand "Touvening clustering around the same. But al first them

was another branch to my reflections. Thisking of Addison Saggested Suggested to my mind aur Cousin Martha ann, his sister. What kind of a thing is she : large homely & agreeable? is beautiful, returning & disagreable? Is she fat , lagy . & generous ; or meager, active & selfish? I wish to know what kind of a combination of qualities serves to render our redoubte tile caution, So particularly interesting . - I used to have some high times with Lydia ther sister, before ale mais so fortunate as to get married. Once or twice the pian's gist would tothe latte me for a beau, y carry me to a mithodist inquiry meeting . I wonder if Elder Faller ever thought while I was at Wayne, that I was the very child, who are gave him such indefinite answers respecting the welfare of my loul. Hew many line the wicked Harriet B - & I would torment the your gire about things, that acquired delience & modesty would now forbid me to mention. How association will lead a man by the wase. Without being awave of it I have I perelle apar looking back, touthed you , events in Colifornia in wayne Leeds & Hallowelle. Either of which places, would farnish a train of reflections, & officient to file a common letter. But thought is a privaleged character, the is at liberty to sun over the world at pleasure, yreturn to give a man the blues , because he cannot the this fore I speedy. Have you been in Portland lately ! "What has become of Beleg ! I have not heard from him for a long . buy time ! Mr fearth writes me that you are doing mile : Ithat thereflere is with you. Time my love to him & tell him he must bry the asgent a scholar as he is adment boy.

very, drack three times over. I am in no great means measure pleased with this state of things but it is no more than any ane could expect of the coldest set of roques in the country. Things are carried on here mostly in secret. I never have said any thing in any letters home of this interesting feature in the life & character of air embryo officers. . The fact is neverthelep true, that I hever have found a more licentions, dissolute set of young men in my life. I do not wish mother or father to know of the exact state of things. I wrote my first in prepious & hours, convictions, and shall not correct them. Give my respects to John A. Tell him I shall write him after Christmas. Sive time my best wishes, for his school of for his comfort. Does he go into society any in germouth? This my respects, too, to the carry boys, if they are in Harmouth. Also remember me to the Dry his wife if They are there too . Cherry thing gow on here as far as I am

concerned, about right. Uncle Ensign wrote me a good long letter, one of the best I have received since I have been here. He spoke of you : Said that you were growing taller , but that you stopped a little . He caneful & keep those shoulders My yours straight for nothing tisfigures a man arone Than round hunding thoulders. And again you very well know that it is very essential to the health of the structure to keep strangted in every respect. I shall be glad when you get once fairly entered infor your Collegiate course. Se just as well prepared as you can. I experienced some considerable inconvenience from a poor preparation. Time my respects to ther Robinson - Good type for this time, your affectionate brother and find point and to Oliver & Howard Harmonth. Also there ander me to the Do y his wige if This was there too , Cherry thing good on here as far as I can

70 12/22/1850 *From:* Oliver O Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-034

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Dec. 22, 1850.

Dear Brother

I've received two letters or rather one & a half since I wrote my last to you; and therefore I think it becomes me by this time to answer you. Friday brought me a letter from home from which I learned that Roland Alger had got safely & fairly home. On the evening of the same day I wrote a letter home of 6 pages, which so exhausted my epistolary treasury that you must not expect much of me. Perhaps I can do as many Cadets do in Rhetoric: take someone idea & that a pretty good one; and turn it over & over, & present it with all its different shades. What interests me particularly is the prospect of having a good time on Christmas, i.e. on Wednesday next.

I made our white-headed Captain & Superintendent a call the other day bearing him a note from Uncle Ward. He did not make any objection to my going to Peekskill, provided that I did not wish to be gone more than one day. He said that he would let me know time enough beforehand.

Uncle John Otis wrote me a letter that I received the other day. He said that I had as yet no demerit recorded; that our Adjutant, Brevet Capt. Williams, of Augusta Maine, said that I stood very well in my class; and that he expected to find my name among "the five" at or after the next January examination. I hope he will too; and he probably will if I do not make a failure on the next examination.

How are you & your little class making it in Virgil? I never have heard you say anything about Greek. I presume you must have studied it somewhat before this. I hope you will love Greek more than I ever was disposed to do.

I made Warren Lothrop a call yesterday afternoon. He said that he had just received a letter from his brother Elias. Elias does not expect to return to Maine before spring. He said that his health was somewhat improved. Speaking of Elias, made me think of Addison. Mother sent me a letter which he wrote to her. In it he spoke of Charles Turner: said that the latter was with him, but had not as yet engaged in business: and also that Levi Foss of Wayne was there & very sick, or rather had been very sick: and that it was doubtful whether he would be able to do any work very soon. Poor Levi. He is the man you know who drove us on the "husking & grape expedition"; wherein I lost my character for morality & sobriety. Didn't we have some precious good times in that little village? This makes me think of Jo & Josephine, of ropes, of Lyceums & of the queer little, curly headed Russel Nelson. Laura too, fat Jolly & exquisite. You remember her, occupies no small place in my recollection, but a precious small place in my affections. She was a strange child, but not more bewitching than the overeffeminate Ellen H. But Macomber: where is he? That man so soft so smooth such a pre-possessing "bore"?

But speaking above of Elias L made me think of Addison: Addison of his letter: his letter of Levi Foss: Levi Foss of Wayne, & Wayne of our mutual interest in the place & also of the thousand "souvenirs" clustering around the same. But at first there was another branch to my reflections. Thinking of Addison suggested to my mind our cousin Martha Ann, his sister. What kind of a thing is she: large, homely & agreeable? Or beautiful, retiring & disagreeable? Is she fat, lazy & generous: or meager, active & selfish? I wish to know what kind of a combination of qualities serves to render our redoubtable cousin so particularly interesting.

I used to have some high times with Lydia, her sister, before she was so fortunate as to get married. Once or twice the pious girl would take me for a beau, & carry me to a Methodist inquiry meeting. I wonder if Elder Fuller ever thought, while I was at Wayne, that I was the very child, who once gave him such indefinite answers respecting the welfare of my soul. How many times the wicked Harriet B & I would torment the poor girl, about things that acquired delicacy & modestly would now forbid me to mention. How Association will lead a man by the nose. Without being aware of it, I have I perceive upon looking back, touched upon events in California in Wayne, Leeds & Hallowell. Either of which places would furnish a train of reflections, sufficient to fill a common letter. But thought is a privileged character. He is at liberty to run over the world at pleasure, & return to give a man the "blues", because he cannot be thus free & speedy.

Have you been in Portland lately? What has become of Peleg? I've not heard from him for a long, long time! Mr.

Jewett writes me that you are doing well: & that Vaughan is with you. Give my love to him & tell him he must try & be as good a scholar as he is a smart boy.

I should have stopped at the end of three pages, but as three pages of my writing is hardly worth 10 cts. I will try & fill up another after Church. The mournful Bugle is now sending forth its enticing call. I must go to Church & listen to a very dry sermon. This is poor soil for ministers. Military piety is on the whole rather dry. In the first place there is but precious little encouragement to a minister. He never gets any converts: & no sympathy ever warms his soul; but plenty of criticism keeps him stirred up. But you know criticism seldom awakens the benevolent dispositions; and almost always makes a man a little bit vexed & perhaps I may say a little bitter in his forthcoming home thrusts. Good luck to you till after Church

I now think of a subject that may interest or disgust you. The habits & principles of Cadets.

The aforesaid church is over. There is scarcely ever any studying here Saturday nights and seldom if ever any sleep. Cadets keep sober, & study steadily the whole week till Saturday night, and then they make up for lost time. The Sentinels are always taken off Post at 10. In about one half an hour after inspection at 10, the wild ones are up & "round". A set of miserable boatmen skulk into some cove or corner with their boats full of Liquor. At first everything seemed to go straight: but I find that nearly every Saturday night over two thirds of the Corps are essentially drunk. Every Officer on the Point drinks, and therefore they are not disposed to be over watchful. If an officer of the Army should discover a cadet intoxicated, he would most certainly be obliged to report him. The cadets have been laying in stores for Christmas for three or four weeks. There is now liquor enough stored away under the floors & in other impenetrable places to get three Corps like ours drunk three times over. I am in no great measure pleased with this state of things, but it is no more than anyone could expect of the wildest set of rogues in the country. Things are carried on here mostly in secret. I never have said anything in my letters home of this interesting feature in the life & character of our embryo officers. The fact is nevertheless true, that I never have found a more licentious, dissolute set of young men in my life. I do not wish mother or father to know the exact state of things. I wrote my first impressions & honest convictions, and shall not correct them.

Give my respects to John N. Tell him I shall write him after Christmas. Give him my best wishes, for his school & for his comfort. Does he go into society any in Yarmouth. Give my respects, too, to the Carey boys, if they are in Yarmouth. Also remember me to the Dr. & his wife if they are there too. Everything goes on here as far as I am concerned about right.

Uncle Ensign wrote me a good long letter, one of the best I have received since I have been here. He spoke of you, said that you were growing taller, but that you stooped a little. Be careful & keep those shoulders of yours straight, for nothing disfigures a man more than round humping shoulders. And again you very well know that it is very essential to the health of the student to keep straight in every respect. I shall be glad when you get once fairly entered upon your collegiate course. Be just as well prepared as you can. I experienced some considerable inconvenience from a poor preparation. Give my respects to Mr. Robinson. Good bye for this time.

Your affectionate brother Oliver O Howard