of I do as well in English Studies, as I did in mathematics on the examination. I Shall fill for Vol strong between this of next June ; but the doutful if I rise Mrabbor, He has never studied french, but he is a Splendid Latin & Greek scholar. There are fine or six men in our clup, that can speak Iranch, as well as they can speak English. Dont you think I shake have to be active? It is such a prominent place to Stand at the head of a Claphere, that then always will be pighting for its. I would give much to do is; but if I can't fear White me as soon as you can and tele me every thing you hear from home, I see by the papers that our States prison too, came sear burning up. Main is indeed unfortunate. How is banghan getting on ! Have you heard from Maria ! Where is William this Winter. I wrole a letter last evening to Mr lewett - My respects to Mr Robinson. Derhaps I shall get a letter from you this how. I hope to at any late. Jugic wrote me that the was an her way to Diversion. The wrote at her huch's in Lewiston. So you know whethis she has returned or If the made mother a visit? Muche Henry I leave is in forthand and with his family sounding at the United States Hotel . If you see deleg, just give him addressing for hot touswering my letter. - How huch money did K. A.G. Morte as down as you can brown affectionate bother. Repaired Proward 10 was Oliver C. Howard . I shade Stand Marthe matternaties of Congrand Standing

Any letter is do long & lections that cannot read it over to correct errors, please make celowanesber laging. -West Point A. 4. Jan 3ª 1851. the goard Dear Brother, as show as that surrey and How must be aware that & am now writing two letters to your one. Are you sick, bazy or seriously engaged in study ! If sick or lary you are inexcusable ; but if imperative duty prevents you from writing, I cannot complain. Since I have written Christmas & new year's have passed in succession. State you that lende Ward had witten a request to bur Superinten " Gapet Breweston, Mat his Cadet Nephew might visit him & Spend Chustmas with him yhis family. A day or two before hand I went with my permit to the white-headed old one. He took it read it over, shook his head and said : fam disposed to let you go on Christmas, but hardly the day before". Why Capt Brewer ton I have no recitation and am on no duty: Very well we will cowlider it. Me Howard . and the Howard takes his hat gleaves. I went again the day that I wished to go. Ito! Can't let you go till Christman day" le attoward bit his lifes, looked respectfully anyry I left his affice. In the afternoon after I had given up all hopes of going when I wished, The lefficer of the day, came to my soon with my permit. signed as follows hest fourt N. 4 Dec 24th 1830 Cadet C. G. Howard has permission to visit his huch at parkshill from 1/2 just 3' Colock on the 24th to 1/2 peet 7 on the 25th inst. Signed. Bilt delden ? M. Stewerton Com at Corps Catter ) Super Corps Catter.

Schanged my shirt I was offin less than no time for the perry geroped the river with two other Gadets to Cold Springs. One Me Kundell went down river with me. To our surprise we found that we could not go down that night in the cars on account of some breakinges in the tracke. Whereupon the got a horse & leigh. And what a lide It was more than half bare ground, and by the wad we work the distance was about twelve miles. Maine can't produce hills half do high or roads half so lough . The poir horas had to go, though. in my hands. Mr Rundell left me at my Uncle's & promised To call for the early the next evening . He came at the time , but Said that his mother chill not wish him to seture that night, that we could not crop the rever that night if we should return to bold springs . I gave up going that night, but not with a very good grace. However the evening passed very pleasantly. tene of the pretitiest young ladies of the village came in I we had a game of whist. your cousin Augustus continues to have those horrid fits or sposus five or six times a day and often during the night. He can get no heip. Car Consin Clijabeth is between 25' 80, as plain as any of The Howards, but good hearted, lively & aveiable. The letter, who is perhaps a year younger them you is a little fale boy. He has a bery situation in a store in his matine village. Uncle Sugs that he has been rich several times, but that he is non devilish favor". He is a Manneh all democrat " I believe a candidate for Representative to longreps .- I went to bed that night, only to dream of Courts Martial & of walking extra tours of quara duty. I arose about half part three Olloch, found Rundell & off we came . We reached

Gold prings about day light & immediately cerfred the Siver. I ran & reported my return to the Commandant. the adjutant of the Orderly Sergeant of afterwards to the Old Superintendent. They directed me to write an explanation, I did so after laver reported for absent without leave from tattoo on the 25th hele 7 A.M. on the 26 th. A good luck will have it I was excased. This dangerous businep, this staying over time. One young man for stepping into a room when he was on post (inguand as a sentinel), was sentenced to walk 12 towns of quart duty: 12 towns of Sunday quard. anty : gbe confined in the quard work from the time of coming off post tit tattos (at to delock at night). Some ane confined in the light preson , Some in the darts prison , Some are fund in assest, they in confirment, all according To the degree of the offence. If any left dement was the result of these punishments they would be endurable, but the demirit increases in due proportion. I have usafred as yet denicather. Mesterday the January examination commenced. The first section of the fourth flush was the first on the gloor. I was fortunate enough to do first rate in Matternaticks. In English Studies we have not yet been examined. Just before the examination, Mr libbot was 2 marks ahead of me, Mr Lee three teaths. Me Leed myself did better on examination than Mr & bot , but we cannot rise him this three. 3. is the mark given for a perfect resilation. From the first of November the whole muniber questations was 31. nence the maximum marts for the whole time is 93. As lebbot's mark was 91, Lee's 89. I Howard's 88, 7.

I shall stand No(3) in Mathematicas No (2) in General Standing

**RBH-035** 

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan. 3, 1851.

Dear Brother

You must be aware that I am now writing two letters to your one. Are you sick, lazy or seriously engaged in study? If sick or lazy you are inexcusable, but if imperative duty prevents you from writing, I cannot complain.

Since I have written Christmas & New Year's have passed in succession. I told you that Uncle Ward had written a request to our Superintendent Capt. Brewerton, that his Cadet Nephew might visit him & spend Christmas with him & his family. A day or two beforehand I went with my permit to the white-headed old one. He took it, read it over, shook his head and said: "I am disposed to let you go on Christmas, but hardly the day before". Why Capt. Brewerton I have no recitation and am on no duty: "very well we will consider it, Mr. Howard". And Mr. Howard takes his hat & leaves. I went again, the day that I wished to go. "No! Can't let you go till Christmas day." O.O. Howard bit his lips, looked respectfully angry & left his office. In the afternoon after I had given up all hopes of going when I wished, the "officer of the day", came into my room with my permit signed as follows:

West Point N.Y. Dec. 24th, 1850 Cadet O. O. Howard has permission to visit his uncle at Peekskill from ½ past 3 o'clock on the 24th to ½ past 7 on the 25th inst. N. Brewerton Superdt Corps Cadets Signed: BH Alden Comdt Corps Cadets

I changed my shirt & was off in less than no time for the ferry & crossed the river with two other Cadets to Cold Springs. One, Mr. Rundell, went down river with me. To our surprise we found that we could not go down that night in the cars on account of some breakages in the track. Whereupon we got a horse & sleigh. And what a ride. It was more than half bare ground and by the road we took the distance was about 12 miles. Maine can't produce hills half so high, or roads half so rough. The poor horse had to go though in my hands. Mr. Rundell left me at my Uncle's and promised to call for me early the next evening. He came at the time, but said that his mother did not wish him to return that night. That we could not cross the river that night if we should return to Cold Springs. I gave up going that night, but not with a very good grace. However the evening passed very pleasantly. One of the prettiest young ladies of the village came in & we had a game of whist.

Your cousin Augustus continues to have those horrid fits or spasms five or six times a day and often during the night. He can get no help. Our Cousin Elizabeth is between 25 & 30, as plain as any of the Howards, but good hearted, lively & sociable. The other, who is perhaps a year younger than you is a little pale boy. He has a very good situation in a store in his native village. Uncle says that he has been rich several times, but that he is now "devilish poor". He is a "staunch old democrat". I believe a candidate for Representative to Congress. I went to bed that night, only to dream of Courts-Martial & of walking extra tours of guard duty.

I arose about half past three o'clock, found Rundell & off we came. We reached Cold Springs about day-light & immediately crossed the river. I ran & reported my return to the Commandant, the Adjutant & the Orderly Sergeant & afterwards to the Old Superintendent. They directed me to write an explanation. I did so after I was reported for being absent without leave from tattoo on the 25th till 7 AM on the 26th.

As good luck will have it I was excused. It is dangerous business, this staying over time. One young man for stepping into a room when he was on post (i.e. on guard as a Sentinel) was sentenced to walk 12 common tours of guard duty: 12 tours of Sunday guard duty: & be confined in the guard room from the time of coming off post till tattoo (at 10 o'clock at night). Some are confined in the light prison, some in the dark prison, some are put in arrest, others in confinement, all according to the degree of the offence. If any less demerit was the result of these punishments they would be endurable, but the demerit increases in due proportion. I have escaped as yet unscathed.

Yesterday the January examination commenced. The first section of the fourth Class was the first on the floor. I was fortunate enough to do first rate in mathematics. In English Studies we have not yet been examined. Just before the examination, Mr. Abbott was 2 marks ahead of me. Mr. Lee three tenths. Mr. Lee & myself did better on examination than Mr. Abbott, but we cannot rise him this time. 3 is the mark given for a perfect recitation. From the first of November the whole number of recitations was 31, hence the maximum mark for the whole time is 93. Mr. Abbott's Mark was 91. Lee's 89 & Howard's 88.7. I shall stand No. 3 in mathematics No. 2 in general standing if I do as well in English Studies, as I did in mathematics on the examination. I shall pull for No 1 strong between this & next June: but it is doubtful if I rise Mr. Abbott. He has never studied French, but he is a splendid Latin & Greek scholar. There are five or six men in our Class that can speak French, as well as they can speak English. Don't you think I shall have to be active? It is such a prominent place to stand at the head of a class here, that there always will be fighting for it. I would give much to do it, but if I can't, I can't.

Write me as soon as you can and tell me everything you hear from home. I see by the papers that our State's prison too came near burning up. Maine is indeed unfortunate.

How is Vaughan getting on? Have you heard from Maria? Where is William this winter. I wrote a letter last evening to Mr. Jewett. My respects to Mr. Robinson. Perhaps I shall get a letter from you this noon, I hope so at any rate. Lizzie wrote me that she was on her way to Livermore. She wrote at her Uncle's in Lewiston. Do you know whether she has returned? Or whether she made mother a visit? Uncle Henry I learn is in Portland and with his family boarding at the United States Hotel. If you see Peleg, just give him a schooling for not answering my letter. How much money did R. A. G. bring home with him, 1800 (?).

Write as soon as you can. Your affectionate brother Oliver O. Howard

PS

My letter is so long & tedious that cannot read it over to correct errors. Please make allowances for laziness.

This striff any have to be the word for any or fortunale When there is one thing the south and in this course part be dead and thereas he denie bound to have it geain to him . And another thing about he does not know a thing prette : he often days to this waterieton & lawaret choir die ? This I delter do Inthill by tailthe of a blangerage, & if his by an indiced andrew approve he have good to have precisely an anderstored the president fight time to parts a set of the contract of the set denson I you much hardon me. You my love to all bour these intether speciet handely too never for I wand to fond the in good malthrows spirits next forme. Till below he writes Very legitly; I his broken to hepo soon to flader a long teller from the par . Tell here & Charlie to be proved days of team , is this can be down I half father all this can - for withing a cost of any thing is gaund by andusting & Handanas. Antrapa & shall prate trette tomorrow built be not deaptered if new your burn been no taleston the Excance ation is called

The mether not to be surprised at my stand in drawing I am your to size in that between this & gune. your affectioned built "hest Point. of the Josef 1857 the. hall, the war that by : have aid thougast and rand and the frage ? 15 good to the stand to get a grave to there y estering a with 13 Mother's & Dellie's and was Tome what the the that that . I for had been to lick; I thought you might here a nerry bad Stold Verigh . Is bid as to unfit you for your distins as I teacher start & did not integin that you had her so 1 Wouth The Het since you are convaliscent twice. " not long un cong thing but but hope that are this reaches 1 2 st you you will he entirely well. It may have for the V. J. mos st perhaps for your sectimente good mintate & for the State of the State in the great yurle contrained the that is shallose of work week of work tonger. The Examine the of own i V . . . That as in mathematics commented yesterday & ender the I collary: the standing in this tranch are sired out before the is future this reacting. Town have been donand to carrie town . I have he hagain in mathematics; It has not him as an pleased A go with some towner I have proveded into my head since bast-I have for spetention . 600 pages of Jense the the metices & The most of it I sil Interely new to me, which anound is not to the starting they i I hundered that or is at my tangal's and the les. This rise me 3 1 for two months in encession, and had pair to dislodge me from I have my position . He tree his witnesset but I me was another & theft Bis berg place alle the longer began to think Stranderow, gulat S for stagan to find many a he coming smile where I wast 13 3 sappected it, you can's imagin the interest betrayed among 1 - 1 Cadets respecting ins two, at the proceed & dearing this

this examination . all tipes mire when this this printer excited & hopefuly: mine I did not abdenne. When she came from the examination hall; the went met by ! How aid Howard do ! How did Lu do " How did you do ! How did See do ? Till I gut provaked & would answer none of them. We were both too much exected to do quite as well as usual : but excitement never drives leal Minutedge from my head; hence I did full as well if not a little wetter than See. Ais runded that I have studied balculie is therefore the only tope of Lis friends was that he wonly get above me this farmany ; for they said is would be useliss to by hereafter. You see sean full steadily when I do de Why I will not give up the Respair, but tome " a little harder .! you muy think it cold that I ful satisfied to be achened in .. mathematics alone, when two dement & adawing well throw me in general standing : But at ! we graduate a that This year & this counts towards. the final graduation . for Know all Lask is to be Ist or second two years hence. Mr Brinone has had another hand trial ; but he is again Somed; whilst three of his section mates are formed deficient. you can form no idea how that man well study as the examination drawa near. I have been over & ones again with problem after problem .... After taps bast night I questioned him through the course bying on my hel & he on his: He could answer everything, all the hardest most puggling questions, and after all he did prosty and The Examonation, and came back swearing he was found , But he was not he came out next to the foot? I dont plean? he shall be found deficient. While he is with me is the dues not lack in talents ; for if he that he could not get

This shiff any how ; but he is remarkably importunale. When there is are thing and of fine hundred in the counter that he does not know the seens bound to have it quie to him . And another thing, when he does not know a thing well ; he often days to his instruction I lannot do it Sir!" This I seldon do , I watter myteacher's eye & language, & offic by an indirect answer, appear perhaps not to have precisely com understood the greation - by the time he puts it again I have reflected afor it of he puts it plainer. often by some such expedients sawit betraying the true state gry hear: but of Ireally dust post know any thing about The question asked, I would plainly say I do not know -: but this has not occurred I thigh norme than once since last September. Sout you think your butter has got a little perseverance ? How you for fit the try a game as-West Somt If you will be no I'm mathematics , you cannot relay your efforts for a single mak I you ful diek; forget it ; if tired nevery mind it sif you hegin to ful discouraged. shake yourself, hold up your head A gon on . - But after all I enjoy this strife. I begin to take pleasure in taking my inteteet to its intervat this you dry I have hilled my letter with myself, but the time fan ly commation is a selfester season & you must hardon me. Fire my love to all, Sout Les thather exent hendelf too much; for I wand to bund her in good healthrand spirits next fune. Tell Dellie he writes very legibly; & his brother the heps down to placede a long letter from his pen. Fell him & Charlie to be good boys of leave all they can ghe sume I help father all they can for nothing is lost & every thing is gamed by undustry & Rindness. Serhaps I shall write mother tomorrow, but he not surprised if none gyon here boon metile after the Exemination is over

## 72 1/10/1851 From: Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

**RBH-036** 

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 10th 1851

Dear brother

I received your letter yesterday with mother's & Dellie's and was somewhat startled to find that you had been so sick. I thought you might have a very bad cold & cough, so bad as to unfit you for your duties as a teacher, but I did not imagine that you had been so much prostated. Yet since you are convalescent I will not assign any thing bad, but hope that you ere this reaches you, you will be entirely well. It may be all for the best, perhaps for your ultimate good mentally & physically to be thus tripped up & sent home.

Our examination is still in progress & will continue till the close of next week if not longer. Examination of our class in mathematics commenced yesterday & ended to-day. The standing in this branch was read out before the battalion this evening. Your humble servant came out best again in mathematics. It has not been accomplished with ease, however. I have crowded into my head since last September 600 pages of pure mathematics & the most of it entirely new to me, which amount is now so thoroughly mastered that it is at my tongue's end.

Mr. Lee has risen me for two months in succession, and bid fair to dislodge me from my position. He tried his utmost, but some way or other I kept my place. All the Corps began to think I was down, and I began to find many a welcoming smile where I least expected it. You can't imagine the interest betrayed among Cadets respecting us two, at the approach of & during this examination. All eyes were upon us. Lee's friends excited & hopeful, mine I did not observe. When we came from the examination hall, we were met by "how did Howard do? How did Lee do? How did you do? How did Lee do? Till I got provoked & would answer none of them. We were both too much excited to do quite as well as usual, but excitement never drives real knowledge from my head. Hence I did full as well if not a little better than Lee.

It is rumored that I have studied Calculus & therefore the only hope of Lee's friends was that he would get above me this January, for they said it would be useless to try hereafter. You see I can pull steadily, when I do all. Why! I will not give up in despair, but "bone" a little harder. You may think it odd that I feel satisfied to be ahead in mathematics alone, when demerit & drawing will throw me in general standing. But ah! We graduate in math this year & this counts towards the final graduation. You know, all I ask is to be 1st or second two years hence.

Mr. Browne has had another hard trial, but he is again saved, whilst three of his section mates are found deficient. You can form no idea how that man will study as the examination draws near. I have been over & over again with him problem after problem. After taps last night I questioned him through the course, lying on my bed & he on his. He could answer everything, all the hardest most puzzling questions, and after all he did poorly at the examination, and came back swearing he was "found". But he was not, he came out next to the foot. I don't fear he shall be found deficient while he is with me. He does not lack in talents, for if he did he could not get this stuff any how; but he is remarkably unfortunate. When there is one thing out of 500 in the course that he does not know, he seems is bound to have it given to him. And another thing, when he does not know a thing well, he often says to his instructor "I cannot do it sir!"

This I seldom do. I watch my teacher's eye & language, & often by an indirect answer, appear perhaps not to have precisely understood the question. By the time he puts it again I have reflected upon it or he puts it plainer. Often by some such expedients I avoid betraying the true state of my head, but if I really did not know anything about the question asked, I would plainly say I do not know, but this has not occurred I think more than once since last September.

Don't you think your brother has got a little perseverance? How would you like to try a game at West Point? If you will be No 1 in mathematics, you cannot relax your efforts for a single week. If you feel sick, forget it, if tired never mind it, if you begin to feel discouraged, shame yourself, hold up your head & go on. But after all I enjoy this strife. I begin to take pleasure in taxing my intellect to its utmost.

Thus you see I have filled my letter with myself, but the time of an Examination is a selfish season & you must pardon me. Give my love to all, don't let mother exert herself too much, for I want to find her in good health and spirits next June. Tell Dellie he writes very legibly; & his brother Otis hopes soon to receive a long letter from his pen. Tell him & Charlie to be good boys & learn all they can & be sure & help father all they can, for nothing is lost & everything is gained by industry & kindness. Perhaps I shall write mother tomorrow, but be not surprised if none of you hear from me till after the Examination is over.

When I folded this I did not know that I had any wrappers, but I found one. Ask father if he thinks of it, when he buys himself some letter stamps to send me some, for I am out & if he pleases to charge the same to the account of OO Howard, Cadet U.S.M.A.

We shall be examined in French next Wednesday or Thursday. Only 10 plebes were found deficient this January, two having anticipated the event by resigning. The class was very much smaller than ours to begin with.

Warren was well when I saw him last. He had a little ill-time, but very soon recovered from it a few weeks since. You will receive my standing at home very soon after the examinations. Write me as soon & as much and as often as you can consistently with those weak legs of yours.

Tell mother not to be surprised at my stand in drawing. I'm going to rise in that between this and June. Good bye, good luck & good health to you.

Your affectionate brother Otis

Sespect hive, because I think his intentions howest, y his principles good though unhending. He respectful & time to him and you will like him as an instructor gas a man. It you take as such interest in political news as your nsed to do? Uncle sends me papers almost every day. It appears that our sulers are not doing much. Momener, the more they reduce the postage of the sounder, the wetter for me I my friends at a distance. This is the husines which seens to be agilating the House, together with the existing Patent faws . Uncle John made quile a speech on the bill for the reduction of postage . Although not a production of great gerins, sull it is churacterized by good reasoning, & good common sense. Think you ar & will ever have The opportunity of raising a voice in the halles of longues? Perhaps we may : Such unaccountable things have Mappened. But we will not anticipate two much, especially as I am in a fair way to be a warrion, and you have first to get through Callege. My respects to all my friends & acquaintances . I heliene you saw you went into Dortland & returned, without making Liggie a call. All I have to day is I should it have done to. Vell me how you like Lizzie. I shall not he able to write more to day. Shelly hard, but lute sufficient everine. my and die as much better than your brother is you can, I while you are following in his track . This will please time I he of lasting herefit to your self. Mour Apertionale brother Choir. Q. Howard Please buit the A. B. in your direction.

I received your letter in good season this time, and another at the same time, both of which gave me much pleasure. I believe I have got all your letters; some of them however being much delayed . Sometimes I have written you a letter sealching you for not writing I the very nexts Mail has brought me one from you. My recitations, as well as yours are all in the fore noon. White the arrangement, since I can spend the afternoon in writing letters . Our lefter woons are , however, very short, is. if the call dinner, noon; as we dive a little after one, hardly ever getting fairly back to aur rooms till two. Gen parade is a little ofter four : So that I have two spare hours, in which I usually write towetimes read, at this times shedy. Itink Boland, whether he gets married or not; would hardly have the lourage to make another voyage to California. He will be taken considerable notice of in the town of Leads, where he will find to many eager listeners to falipornia tates, and to many admirers of the here who has visited that for famed country. This will please him . Our young ladies , few though they be, will meet & greet him with a sweet smile I ofsen anens. This charming flattery always makes a man swell with his own in portance I seldon fails to make him content with self, I on good terms with the world. How speake of mother, I have averaged more than one letter a forthight, Writter to her ; and seldom as I write less than four prayes, hence, you see I sunst erowd in a great many words, be the ideas what they may. I expect mother will be lovedone, bath of as being away. But she will be obliged to reconcile harvely to our absence; for I am very certain that I at least, am declined to opend but precious per days lit home again. While in Callege, you will go

Dear brother. West Point N. 1. Jan 19 157

home at least once in three months. Sous are sons; and of they are ambitions, the wide world must be their home. Bere, quiet & the family lirde must be renounced by the youth who would canve his fortune, or satisfy the erabings of ambitions spinit. Non gave the a few hints respecting your companions of the feelings that they entertain & sometimes show towards you. This is bad. your are independent. That I like . But sometimes when we aim at independence we oversteps the mark. The most independent man is he, who can moved others to his will; and to this end it is far better to have both the respect of the favor of others. you know how to gain both, and it is better to do is ; for un popularity. Weather a feeling that you are neglected, has first a bad effect upon your heart : it is attended with a cost of bitternep . which has an unfavorable reaction afor the whole edaracter Ja sensitive young man. I have noted its effect; batt here I to College, and thenfor I suck first the respect of them am careful not to excite the jealousy I enaity, which a very little action will sometimes excite. Here there is more jealousy than else there, because there is more rivalry. Almost any every action as well as every word of the man who stands at the head of the cless. has to be repected noticed I spoke of . He will be disliked the best he can do. and it is somewhat the same with those who stand near him. Shave however, as yet managed to get the good will of my classmatis. There is searce any don't of your being able to enter ballege next fale; but the better preparation you have, the easier will your College counder become. I the higher you can stand. Who is your them? If you see deleg, tele him I have already written him two letters, for which I have Secence no answers. I heard that Mr Jawett went into Portland

We hear a lecture from Grey Woods, but was disciplainted. (Wednesday for 21st) to you preview by my change of date, I have, somewhat after your fushion laid aside my letter half finished. and resumed it again, after skiping one day. I secerced a letter yesterday from Mr Sargart (Sarah's lover). Hee writes a fine letter, Sugs Silas is well & doing very well. I received a letter from Seley To day, filled to the firm, just as much as could be crowded into six pages. He writes after the same ald Jashim. You would he fortunate induced if you could get such a chem, to be your companion of friend through your College course. He says he has attended the forthand Sycenne several times, but has not been able you to lister to a man, who could equal our old President. Our section in mathematics is now maning over Geometry Danis Sequettre) at the rate almost of a book to a lepon . Every man but one in our section has studied is before. How I wish now that I hald been abliged to get mathematics in Callege, as we get them here. I could stand higher with half the exertion that I now an obliged to make. But what is past, is past, g isis the height of fully to be looking back with vain regards. There is handly any drow; the hill bare the weather like spring. The winter in fact does not begin with ours in Maine, as you may judge when I tell you that I have no great coat and have worn no vest. Remember me to Jewets. Berley thinks he will not stop in maine much longer. Sine my respects to Mr Robinson. I used to like Robinson very well, while we mere together in College. He is not however, very preparing nor at all times very agreeable, owing perhaps to a want of ease of manners, & more to a certain inflexibility of character, which he shows ofter when your views clash with his own. But the I

**RBH-037** 

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Jan 19th '51

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in good season this time, and another at the same time, both of which gave me much pleasure. I believe I have got all your letters, some of them however being much delayed. Sometimes I have written you a letter, scolding you for not writing & the very next mail has brought me one from you. My recitations, as well as yours are all in the fore noon. I like the arrangement since I can spend the afternoon in writing letters. Our afternoons are, however, very short, i.e. if we call dinner noon, as we dine a little after one o'clock hardly ever getting fairly back to our rooms till two. Our parade is a little after four, so that I have two spare hours, in which I usually write, sometimes read, at other times study.

I think Roland, whether he gets married or not, would hardly have the courage to make another voyage to California. He will be taken considerable notice of in the town of Leeds where he will find so many eager listeners to California tales, and so many admirers of the hero, who has visited that far famed country. This will please him. Our young ladies, few though they be, will meet & greet him with a sweet smile & open arms. This charming flattery always makes a man swell with his own importance & seldom fails to make him content with self, & on good terms with the world.

You spoke of mother. I have averaged more than one letter a fortnight, written to her, and seldom do I write less than four pages, hence, you see I must crowd in a good many words, be the ideas what they may. I expect mother will be lonesome, both of us being away. But she will be obliged to reconcile herself to our absence, for I am very certain that I, at least, am destined to spend but precious few days at home again. While in College, you will go home at least once in three months. Sons are sons, and if they are ambitious, the wide world must be their home. Peace, quiet & the family circle must be renounced by the youth who would carve his fortune, or satisfy the cravings of an ambitious spirit.

You gave me a few hints respecting your companions & the feelings that they entertain & sometimes show towards you. This is bad. You are independent. That I like. But sometimes when we aim at independence we overstep the mark. The most independent man is he, who can mould others to his will, and to this end it is far better to have both the respect & the favor of others. You know how to gain both, and it is better to do it, for unpopularity or rather a feeling that you are neglected has first a bad effect upon your heart. It is attended with a sort of bitterness, which has an unfavorable reaction upon the whole character of a sensitive young man. I have noted its effect, both here & in College, and therefore I seek first the respect & then am careful not to excite the jealousy & enmity, which a very little act will sometimes excite.

Here, there is more jealousy than elsewhere, because there is more rivalry. Almost every action as well as every word of the man who stands at the head of the class, has to be noticed & spoken of. He will be disliked the best he can do. And it is somewhat the same with those who stand near him. I have, however, as yet managed to get the good will of my classmates. There is scarce any doubt of your being able to enter College next fall, but the better preparation you have, the easier will your College course become, & the higher you can stand. Who is your Chum? If you see Peleg, tell him I have already written him two letters, for which I have received no answers. I heard that Mr. Jewett went into Portland to hear a lecture from "Prex. Woods", but was disappointed.

(Wednesday Jan 21st) as you perceived by my change of date, I have, somewhat after your fashion laid aside my letter half finished, and resumed it again after skipping one day.

I received a letter yesterday from Mr. Sargent (Sarah's lover). He writes a fine letter, says Silas is well & doing very well. I received a letter from Peleg today, filled to the brim, just as much as could be crowded into six pages. He writes after the same old fashion. You would be fortunate indeed if you could get such a chum to be your companion & friend through your College course. He says he has attended the Portland Lyceum several times, but has not been able yet to listen to a man, who could equal our old President.

Our section in mathematics is now running over geometry (Series Legendre) at the rate almost of a book to a lesson. Every man but one in our section has studied it before. How I wish now that I had been obliged to get mathematics in College, as we get them here. I could stand higher with half the exertion that I now I am obliged to make. But what is past, is past, & it is the height of folly to be looking back with vain regrets.

There's hardly any snow; the hills bare, the weather like spring. The winter in fact does not begin with ours in Maine, as you may judge when I tell you that I have no great coat and have worn no vest. Remember me to Jewett. Perley thinks he will not stop in Maine much longer. Give my respects to Mr. Robinson. I used to like Robinson very well, while we were together in College. He is not, however, very pre-possessing nor at all times very agreeable, owing perhaps to a want of ease of manners, & more to a certain inflexibility of character, which he shows often, when your views clash with his own. But still I respect him, because I think his intentions honest, & his principles good though unbending. Be respectful & kind to him and you will like him as an instructor & as a man.

Do you take as much interest in political news as you used to do? Uncle sends me papers almost every day. It appears that our rulers are not doing much. However, the more they reduce the postage, & the sooner the better for me & my friends at a distance. This is the business which seems to be agitating the House, together with the existing Patent Laws. Uncle John made quite a speech on the bill for the reduction of postage. Although not a production of great genius, still it is characterized by good reasoning & good common sense. Think you or I will ever have the opportunity of raising a voice in the halls of Congress? Perhaps we may. Such unaccountable things have happened. But we will not anticipate too much, especially as I am in a fair way to be a warrior, and you have first to get through College.

My respects to all my friends & acquaintances. I believe you said you went into Portland & returned, without making Lizzie a call. All I have to say is, I shouldn't have done so. Tell me how you like Lizzie. I shall not be able to write more today. Study hard, but take sufficient exercise. Try and do as much better than your brother as you can, while you are following in his track. This will please him & be of lasting benefit to yourself.

Your affectionate brother Oliver O. Howard

Please omit the A. B. In your direction.

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Dear Krother, A. G. Set 8th 1857 Saturday after noon has come again, after another week's toil . and it is surely welcome . I opened my portfolio just now and found no less than six unanswered letters : This superabundance of labor before me almost staggered me; for writing letters, although but a pleasant recreation compared with mattematical study requires time. I was in a dile ma too, not knowing where to begin, or rather reshow to write to first. But as I have already addressed myself to you , you chall have the first effusions of my lagy intellect. I took a letter of mother's from the Post office this noon, and an happy to find our family all well. How appear to have taken your mexpected rice to bortland rather cooly, notaith. Standing your dirty shirt and diskabille. I believe I told you how I once went to the same place. Somewhat out of order .in the outer man: when I started from Brunswick in the distcars; when the engine belehed forth muddy watery smut, and blackened my while coat. my while dickey . my while becom , and more guorae than all my new nice book just purchaced for a present - all this between Between the towns of Brunswick & Garmouth : how at Gurmouth a flad dy woman furnished me with a flad dy shirt; colar eight inches wide; han sutwithstunding my pride, I was Aliged to visit my lady love with a witted dickey I a Spiled present; how I same away is a little better this than I went .-Well: no matter about that for Dis an old story, While your pleasant surprise is of comparatively recent date. There is one part of your along that appears a little like exaggeration,

and that is, where you speak of walking very wifty up one Street & down another. The "swiftly" I object to, for that must. he (purchen me) a moral impossibility (?). Thele: you say Mr Perley comes, a propes, and takes you to a private Cheeleing, containing people, kind, huspitable; very good! What next ; you advise a miled tates officer ( in embry o) notto slight this place. This is funny ! Who thinks of alighting Those kind, hospitable strangers. After a sermon on half mile long on the settle sexpediency of patience well exerted, I find you among my dearest friends - and now The road becomes perfectly clear, for naturthestunding your dirty Shirts, you stay over sunday, Stay away from thurch, reading all day with disgie from religious books (!), and in The same breath tell me you are scarcely acquainted with Ther. I don't object to all this; but you must remember, that it is wise both in bast of in fiction to make your stories "hang well together : - -. You said Mr Jewett was sick ! Has he yet recovered ? Is seemes to be something unasseal for Servett to be the least indisposed, I hope for his sake that is has amounted to nothing more than a had cold. give him my best respects y hest wishes, I cold him a little for not Maining written me tately. Nes: most certainly I rensen ber spanding Pile of Webb. Give them my best respects if you be them. Mr thett is one of my especial favorites. I consider him a five scholar and smart fellow. Dike is a wild one - How does he earry himself at gunmouth? Mother describes her cold journey to Hallowell, her visit to the Reverend Jonation Party with Holand. It deems from this that the latter must have become a little more polite & domastre than of yone, since he can carry

mother to a donation harty of that at the Minister's. Mother laments Mr Martin's course, especially his unnatural, niggardly conducttowards his children. How different this man, from the humble sconfulously pions the Martin , Whom I used to revere ten years ago in his blue broad-cloth suit of bright hettons! Mother says she has been writing to you to get you to earry Lizzie home with you when your term is out - I have forgetter when that period is : - Liggle said she should visit mother when her school was done, but whether she would go before an not I don't know . --Muther writes also that it is removed that Ontille yennings (lele Jahn.) has marnied a lady owning slaves of that he finds the animals hery convenients to waite on him. de -Ill warrant you, if any fiend Orville is married, that they is something more than love at the bottom of the match he is thoroughly practical, I in such matters very printly to expediency. Mr Sargent's brother is Sarah's Fran this brother was here to see me last thursday from New yorke tity - His name is Epes- He has a medicine store of his own in the lity I is a fretty Amant young man. Silas is well I as steady as are tan expect. It appears that William this has not had very good luck with his school; It you know the Wintle .. Maria wrote me a letter from fothan which I received the other day .-The writes an easy pretty letter. The says the thall spend her Valution in Bath. - You never have said anything about Dr Caney's family het once: are William. Joseph, at youmouth? I cannot write any more this afterwood; So good by

yr liffeetwale mother O. U. H Q. C. Howard.

74 2	2/8/1851	From:	Oliver O. Howard	To:	Mr. Rowland B. Howard
RBH-( Source:	038 Bowdoin		West Point N.Y.		Yarmouth Me

West Point N.Y. February 8, 1851

Dear Brother,

Saturday afternoon has come again after another weeks toil, and it is surely welcome. I opened my portfolio just now and found no less than six unanswered letters. This superabundance of labor before me almost staggered me; for writing letters, although but a pleasant recreation compared with mathematical study, requires time. I was in a dilemma too, not knowing where to begin, or rather whom to write to first. But as I have already addressed myself to you, you shall have the first effusions of my lazy intellect. I took a letter of mother's from the post office, this noon, and I am happy to find our family all well.

You appear to have taken your unexpected ride to Portland rather coolly, notwithstanding your dirty shirt and dishabille. I believe I told you how I once went to the same place, somewhat out of order - in the outer man. When I started from Brunswick in the dirt cars, when the engine belched forth muddy water & smut, and blackened my white coat, my white dickey, my white bosom, and more & worse than all my new, nice book, just purchased for a present. All this between the towns of Brunswick & Yarmouth; how at Yarmouth a Paddy woman furnished me with a Paddy shirt, collar 8 inches wide; how, notwithstanding my pride, I was obliged to visit my lady-love with a wilted Dickey & a spoiled present; how I came away in a little better trim than I went. Well, no matter about that for it is an old story, while your pleasant surprise is of comparatively recent date. There is one part of your story that appears a little like exaggeration, and that is, where you speak of walking very swiftly up one street & down another. The "swiftly" I object to, for that must be (pardon me) a moral impossibility (?).

Well, you say Mr. Perley comes, a propos, and takes you to a private dwelling, containing people, kind, hospitable. Very good! What next? You advise a United States officer (in embryo) not to slight this place. This is funny? Who thinks of slighting those kind, hospitable strangers.

After a sermon one half mile long on the utility & expediency of patience well exerted, I find you among my dearest friends - and now the road becomes perfectly clear, for notwithstanding your dirty shirt, your stay over Sunday, stay away from Church, reading all day with Lizzie from religious books (?), and in the same breath tell me you are scarcely acquainted with her. I don't object to all this, but you must remember that it is wise both in fact & in fiction, to make your stories hang well together.

You said Mr. Jewett was sick! Has he yet recovered? It is something unusual for Jewett to be the least indisposed. I hope for his sake that it has amounted to nothing more than a bad cold. Give him my best respects & best wishes, scold him a little for not having written me lately.

Yes, most certainly I remember Spaulding, Pike & Webb. Give them my best respects if you see them. Mr. Webb is one of my especial favorites. I consider him a fine scholar and smart fellow. Pike is a wild one. How does he carry himself at Yarmouth?

Mother describes her cold journey to Hallowell, her visit to the Reverend Donation Party with Roland. It seems from this that the latter must have become a little more polite & domestic than of yore, since he can carry mother to a donation party & that at the Minister's. Mother laments Mr. Martin's course, especially his unnatural, niggardly conduct towards his children. How different this man, from the humble scrupulously pious Mr. Martin, whom I used to revere 10 years ago in his blue broad-cloth suit & bright buttons!

Mother says she has been writing to you to get you to carry Lizzie home with you when your term is out. I have forgotten when that period is. Lizzie said she should visit mother when her school was done, but whether she would go before or not I don't know.

Mother writes also that it is rumored that Orville Jennings (tell John) has married a lady owning slaves & that he finds the animals very convenient to wait on him &c. I'll warrant you, if our friend Orville is married that there is something more than love at the bottom of the matter. He is thoroughly practical, & in such matters very friendly

to expediency.

Mr. Sargent's brother i.e. Sarah's Frank's brother, was here to see me last Thursday from New York City. His name is Epes. He has a medicine store of his own in the city & is a pretty smart young man. Silas is well & as steady as one can expect. It appears that William Otis has not had very good luck with his school. Do you know the trouble? Maria wrote me a letter from Gorham which I received the other day. She writes an easy pretty letter. She says she shall spend her vacation in Bath.

You never have said anything about Dr. Carey's family but once. Are William, Joseph, at Yarmouth? I cannot write anymore this afternoon, so good bye.

Yr affectionate brother O.O. Howard

[Envelope] Mr. Rowland B. Howard Yarmouth Me [Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 11 FEB

Ol Howard Haren 13th 1854 1 had low to a farming and it heard ap your abriel I never late of I love now a very and finder from I don't have to get af at "heralle" ( morany late and) has allend any darfy except Academie & that gales from theirs , the are the good frontes I say acailant I thank would be protected to protect the source of the source . I told Mannes to parte. That my affing bear walking, but that I had to concaring the und rated in the proprieted & walked to present the court on the part of muther lite I and well : but it appears What I could not die it's allows afreeds soon It's Alace tille water fine. But tet this surgest der f. I am gear Charlinging with your, the day, any should the him . Lovery happenessed proof your affecte to apart houthing and ever after goon for fair thair Bill their this trattice to the wiskes It be have a fair velote I a finie man and of these days. Then the court informe all this think . If seem delpit, he prost not milete this tradition in one respect . he must by and lifed anyon and and findered to fin my love to the get to find cor. Held him I and de and and his gaad fing alle down. Murry works his head regards to game, I think that he is detter that I should have being them being afreak for boundery. Bohaper you and and and in alare for my place had got within but have to a pursue of halt a to dride ditter they but the is it as and

"med hip y muched which permission took and an West Point M.G. Mar. 23. 1851. Frar brother. Spercein by your letter to Marven that you were greenhafes are laboring under a sadmittake. I should have written to you at you and have wouth long before this had I not thought that you must have been at home when my first letter ansid them after I began to secover. I hever have been so that I could'et read or he read to. What in the world gave you the inforession that I was to have off? They put us in the Hospital here for a cut finger, or for a had head ache I have receted now over a weak & searcely any body in the class has got better marks. But for your especial information I will gure you a shout account of the time I have had. I was exercising as Warnen Said in the Jymmasium with a few others, Y trying on a pretty high pale portufor g peet from the ground are exercise which I often try. The pole humed I my head brought why on the ground full tilt- giving a gash protably from a charpolone of about four or fine meters in length. I got up pleeding profusely. Every hove was frightened, but all toward y singlely. I found that I was hunt dome what . belt my wound ti se if my skull was puchired. Thought it was not; called for my great coat; drank home water I started for the Hospital attended by two young men. I got there from the Surgeon - has my hear half thaved

somed up & dressed which operations took over an hour. I slept the bollowing night very hill ygo. upas bright as a dollar - studied some, wrote a letter to Surah See of three pages, thinking I was quind to be entirely well in a week or less. But as good or had fortune would have it. the erysipelas got into my head & bace grow put it out of its natural shape. The Das, for these were Two of theme, had to ent often my would which was already close & up, sun their prohes down. The well . Side of my head & made incisions . my head was do maccountably and offing that it would at he an The softest fillow . I could have had a legger ann Take of with half the pain swas obliged to deffer, from their warious operations. They want burnt my neck with caustic to keep the dangerous friend from visiting my chest. They burnet the this all up about the half an ench wide, They burnt the between the brows of on the side of my check. All this was done to by the timit's of the disease. Hell I had a serious Thme. My classificates watched with me & I was treated very kindly by all, especially by Dr Eseyfer, the principaly Surgeon. He staid with me two or More nights over half of the night. Muele Ward heard that I wears hant of wrote Laure to see me. Now I am in prost perfect health. Just as soon as I could cravel I hegged the Ir to let me return to the barractes, I go to recetations. He did not that I would sharty av recele. but I did. But I dead I soon made up what

I had lost of ment on fairly. My head being shared is a funny looking thing & pretty well ent up. I keep is bound up yet & mear a little figured skull lap. which I never take off. I am now a very independent man. I dont have to get up at "hereille" ( humany sole call) nor Mend any duty, except Academic, & that Selled from choice. These are the good fruits of my accident. I have written to mother have or three times. I told Warren to write that my injury was wothing, but that I had no conveniences to civile while in the Hospital. I wished to prevent all agriely on the part of mother, till I was well: but it apprears that I could not do A. News spreads from this place like wild fine. But let this subject drop. I am glad Charlies with you. Be very, neny kind to him. Every unpleasant word your speake to your brother will ever after you you pain. The him, his trather to to, wiekes to see him a bin scholar I a five man are of these days. Then he must improve all his time. If he can help it, he must not initate his brothers in one respect: he must my not toget augy and and of patience. Give my love to him of to John N. Tell him I shall answer his good long letter soon. Marren sends his hest segands to you, I think that hat is better that I should have you than he, g Speak low mydelf. Derhaps yan eand mike out the above, but my per has got anter, but here is a few words that I will write better. your brother is at well

but he has a queer looking head. Molffeetrovally O. Offerend.

## 75 3/23/1851 *From:* OO Howard

## *To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

**RBH-039** 

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Mar. 23, 1851

Dear brother,

I perceived by your letter to Warren that you were & perhaps are laboring under a sad mistake. I should have written to you at Yarmouth long before this had I not thought that you must have been at home, when my first letter arrived there after I began to recover. I never have been so that I couldn't read or be read to. What in the world gave you the impression that I was so badly off? They put us in the Hospital here for a cut finger, or for a bad headache.

I have recited now over a week & scarcely any body in the class has got better marks. But for your especial information I will give you a short account of the time I have had. I was exercising as Warren said in the Gymnasium, with a few others, & trying on a pretty high pole (perhaps 9 feet from the ground) an exercise which I often try. The pole turned & my head brought up on the ground "full tilt", giving a gash probably from a sharp stone of about four or five inches in length. I got up bleeding profusely. Every body was frightened, but OO Howard & myself. I found that I was hurt somewhat, felt my wound to see if my skull was fractured, thought it was not, called for my great coat, drank some water, & started for the Hospital attended by two young men. I got there, found the Surgeon, had my head half shaved, sewed up & dressed, which operations took over an hour.

I slept the following night very well & got up as bright as a dollar - studied some, wrote a letter to Sarah Lee of three pages, thinking I was going to be entirely well in a week or less. But as good or bad fortune would have it, the erysipelas got into my head & face, & soon put it out of its natural shape. The Drs., for there were two of them, had to cut open my wound which was already closed up, run their probes down the well side of my head & make incisions. My head was so unaccountably out of fix that it wouldn't lie on the softest pillow. I could have had a leg or arm taken off with half the pain I was obliged to suffer, from their various operations. They burnt my neck with caustic to keep the dangerous friend from visiting my chest. They burnt the skin all up about half an inch wide. They burnt me between the brows & on the side of my cheek. All this was done to fix the limits of the disease.

Well I had a serious time. My classmates watched with me & I was treated very kindly by all, especially by Dr. Cuyler, the principal Surgeon. He staid with me two or three nights over half of the night. Uncle Ward heard that I was hurt & came to see me. Now I am in most perfect health. Just as soon as I could crawl I begged the Dr. to let me return to the barracks, & go to recitations. He did not think I would study or recite, but I did. I soon made up what I had lost & went on fairly. My head being shaved is a funny looking thing & pretty well cut up. I keep it bound up yet & and wear a little figured skull-cap, which I never take off. I am now a very independent man. I don't have to get up at "Reveille" (morning roll call) nor attend any duty, except Academic, & that I attend from choice. These are the good fruits of my accident.

I have written to mother two or three times. I told Warren to write, that my injury was nothing, but that I had no conveniences to write while in the Hospital. I wished to prevent all anxiety on the part of mother, till I was well, but it appears that I could not do it. News spreads from this place like wildfire. But let this subject drop.

I am glad Charlie is with you. Be very, very kind to him. Every unpleasant word you speak to your brother will ever after give you pain. Tell him, his brother Otis, wishes to see him a fine scholar & a fine man one of these days. Then he must improve all his time. If he can help it, he must not imitate his brothers in one respect: he must try not to get angry and out of patience. Give my love to him & to John N. Tell him I shall answer his good long letter soon. Warren sends his best regards to you, & thinks that it is better that I should write you then he, & speak for myself. Perhaps you cannot make out the above for my pen has got outie, but here is a few words that I will write better. Your brother is well but he has a queer looking head.

Yrs affectionately OO Howard