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West-Doint N. y. Apr 15.1851
Sear brother,

Treceived yours of Charlies letter some time ago and aught to have answered 1. before, but as I seldow find more them a part of a day outof each week in which I may write letters. I have to neglect my friends by hims. Many of my old friends must centainly think me very remiss. I did not lose but a fortugat from my Shide's and am now as lengged as of old. You asked me if I lould not get a furlow I hiset Maine during my Evervalexeence. During my louvalexeence I was afliged to streety. Should I go to Maine I ahould was my Stand; this I would not think of unless & left for your. Now I am doing very well . Iwas lold that I had surraged the hest mark in the class in math. In math. I suce farmany - there is however, only a few leaths difference between the marks of Mr Lee. Mr Shead and my self. Mr Abot-has ballen for helow us all. In English Studies I am near the head I helieve Desoud, and in French dving very well. If I continue to do as well, my General Stand in June will be first or second - which I can't determine bether do I care - It depends much un buch: 9 The main object is to be registered at the fune Examination among the five. I reserved a letter from Mother the atherday. The says Steven

Ving is dead and that burch Jurner was engaged to him is all probability - Larah is indeed unlucky, I bisited Warren Lothrop a week ago lost Laturday afternoon. but four that I shall not be able to do So again, for while at his barracks I wet an atumy officer who was kind enough to report me for lang of limits - I die not know that of was off Limits the & theard I heard the report The next eve many read out. Howard off limits 3. of 4 J.M."- I gave typorance as my exerce. but old Bull (as we call the Commandant, capt Alden) Said I should have known; so I presume I shall have to take The dement & thelieve. They well not give me extra tours of quart duty or confinement. for the first offense - though I laid myself liable to get both - do independent is a man at West went . -Give my love to Charles - Tele him mother feels the want of his presence of assistance at home very much, and is impeateent for the time to come when he will return to her. My hair begins to grow, though I am yet quite Bald-I have got I assure I some Jevelly dup wars - enough I think, to seems me a pension, should I return from service. Did you know Charles Harville who used to line at Cal Lothoops - He is now here in The Supper's Corps - Some months ago he, all of a sudden, got married (privately), the next day he was taken. down with the Small pox - made and to just live Moranigh it I had hundly got well before his wife had

a child- He is an awful looking object. I would Dearcely have known him had I not known that he was there - I should say that he was very foolish and mighty infortunale all at the same time. I am glad to hearthat Willaine is doing to well in College. but hope that you will soon do betteryou must make up your mind to take a high stand, for you are capable ofs; and get a good substantial adulation. I secenced a letter from Sarah Lee a fewdays since from Hallowell - All our friends, The Land, were

hell - I hope grandmether sull continue to be as smart as now and live so that I may see her again on furlow.

Nother & Tiggie both write me that thelather has made a west to our fathers - The Said that The intended to stope of see you and Charlie, but for some reason or other could not then. Bemeinher me to Sewett of Robinson (Theliew the is now

your Latin & greate instructor) Write me as soon as you can - tell me how you I charlie one prospering in your stritues, and I will down have some to write you of him a hether letter -

My life chonale brother C. Q. Hourset. **76** 4/15/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard *To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-040 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Apr. 15, 1851

Dear brother.

I received yours & Charlie's letter some time ago and ought to have answered it before, but as I seldom find more than a part of the day out of each week in which I may write letters, I have to neglect my friends by turns. Many of my old friends certainly think me very remiss. I did not lose but a fortnight from my studies and I am now as rugged as of old. You asked me if I could not get a furlow & visit Maine during my convalescence. During my convalescence I was obliged to study. Should I go to Maine I should lose my stand; this I would not think of unless I left for good. Now I am doing very well. I was told that I had averaged the best mark in the class in math since January. There is, however, only a few tenths difference between the marks of Mr. Lee, Mr. Snead and myself. Mr. Abbot has fallen far below us all. In English studies I am near the head, I believe second, and in French doing very well. If I continue to do as well, my general stand in June will be first or second, which I can't determine - neither do I care. It depends much on luck, & the main object is to be registered at the June examination among "the five".

I received a letter from mother the other day. She says Stephen Wing is dead and that Sarah Turner was engaged to him in all probability. Sarah is indeed unlucky.

I visited Warren Lothrop a week ago last Saturday afternoon, but fear that I shall not be able to do so again, for while at his barracks I met an Army officer who was kind enough to report me for being off limits. I did not know that it was off-limits till I heard the report the next evening read out. "Howard off-limits 3 & 4 P.M." I gave ignorance as my excuse, but Old Bull (as we call the Commandant, Capt. Alden) said I should have known, so I presume I shall have to take the demerit, 8 I believe. They will not give me extra tours of guard duty or confinement for the first offense, though I laid myself liable to get both - so independent is a man at West Point.

Give my love to Charles. Tell him mother feels the want of his presence & assistance at home very much, and is impatient for the time to come when he will return to her.

My hair begins to grow, though I am yet quite bald. I have got, I assure you, some pretty deep scars. Enough I think, to secure me a pension should I retire from service. Did you know Charles Harville, who used to live at Col. Lothrop's. He is now here in the Sapper's Corps. Some months ago he, all of a sudden, got married (privately). The next day he was taken down with the Small Pox, made out to just live through it & had hardly got well before his wife had a child. He is an awful looking object. I would scarcely have known him, had I not known that he was there. I should say that he was very foolish and mighty unfortunate all at the same time.

I'm glad to hear that William is doing so well in College, but hope that you will soon do better. You must make up your mind to take a high stand, for you are capable of it, and get a good substantial education.

I received a letter from Sarah Lee a few days since from Hallowell. All our friends, she said, were well. I hope Grandmother will continue as smart as now, and live so that I may see her again on furlow. Mother and Lizzie both write me that the latter has made a visit to our father's. She said that she intended to stop & see you and Charlie on her way home, but for some reason or other could not then.

Remember me to Jewitt & Robinson (I believe the latter is now your Latin & Greek instructor). Write me as soon as you can. Tell me how you & Charlie are prospering in your studies, and I will soon have time to write you & him a better letter.

Your affectionate brother O.O. Howard

"hest Point N. S. July 2 ? 1851 ..._ Lear Brother. The property of the second sec man and the second of the seco The second of th W. Willand F. M. The state of the s Marie Land Conference and Marie Conference and the THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PERSON NAMED IN THE PERSON NAMED I 1-9.01 Feb. 5th Opothersame

My father my mother of Liggie have been here I gove leaving me alone in my glory; but I have not been left long enough to myself to feel their de parties very severely. How know my luck - I am now in hot water all The time. The majority of my class hate me for my good forhim or for my surloveable nature. They report me continually for the slightest mistatus & often where there are no mistakes, giving me Some little thing that I cannot well deary. Whi how very pleasent ones life can be made. by an over-affectional set of friends. To crown my vegations. The poor plebes hover sound me I my Nent is Margh I was the hest fellow in the world. A leas is a main, disagreeable place for a man only humor with himself I every body sound him - no place for reflection; but as would never mind. There are better times coming boy ?! I am now at the head of my class: a much eveled position: But I would be a thousand himes happier man, did I stand him files below the fort : for I would then he quilty esconced in my mother's kiletien surrounded with sypuls sympathing " frends with nought to regret I nothing to moura for but want of talent. Here I am I must take the brindof the hattle. I may be dent home an demerit. I Shall mules I spedily port a stop, to the insideous designings of my bitter enemics. I am very thankful to you for your miniature. I did not some that you was half so good looking: & I fear the artist has a little flattered you: but is hetter That he should err on the side he did (?) . - More the you

make it studying this warm weather I I west you all success. mother says Charlie's health is rather pour 10h! I hope he we will get he a strong hardy man: West Sunt is non a heartifed place; yet all the hearties of the place can havely make amends for for the tettions ness of a military life. He go on quara each Twice a week. I walk 8 hours out of the 24 & Sometimes more. In the heat of the day is is not pleasant bask to walk, backards & forwards, from Senting box to senting hoy, the host sun pouring un speringly when your head a little more of the bleased heat thous you relish: your heavy hat I ten times peanies gun, growing all the time heavier; with no chance to rest your meany legs or ease your blastering feet. Such is the fan of walking post by day, by night it salmost as had . You sansot sleep aring the hight more than how hours I then I hours be done with your big Carthage box upon your hack of hayand. Stabbard by your side, with the camp floor for your bed I your muches for a boon Companion. In the night no live man must be allowed to cross your post: Excepting the officers of the guand with The Countersiger. Day before yesterday I walked fourtours by day I four by night. I was hirned and several times hesides for other duty- got reported for saluting the Officer in Charge after retreat", that is, after the evening gun was fined. Thus werrineasy nexation combine to untate a foolesh boy. I wish it was so that you could some to see me this summas; but I cannot receive my friends decently here, and perhaps it is better that They Thould left me Struggle an with my small difficulties; I will come and bright yet , if can kuch my lunger!

Let me know how you are getting on in your shidies. I expect you to do very well after your get into College, where I shall be most likely to see you one year from this date. Tell me if you have a good time on the fourth of this mouth I how of when you spend it. Perhaps you will you into Portland & hear Liggie desemble her journey I West faint: which I pear was not very pleasant on the whole: I proposely was so full of ignorance of pt perplaying, juy & sear, muged up with everyther pulling your can in agine, that I scarce knew what-I was closing. But ther as ahr is a good gine, I am sure she will forgive me any heart of gallanta; whilst she censures the concumstances which rendered in forlish. Oh! how I did long to be perfectly free to do as I fell for one muk at least; would'ut share capered withjuy? Tell we what they day about their wisit . -Give my very best sigards to Sewett of lett him if he doesn't write To me I will flog him. While Mother was here I was seported for & visiting an improper part of the Hotel. The touth & I was lather short of ment to the sink " there. Trent lones saw med reported our for it : but my exeuse took of the seport I think . I gras not reported for young up stains as we thoughts. All right. I shall certainly love the nead of my class if & count stop this demerit: Write as soon as you can - V. Hemmenher me your very fortunale unfortunate brother. all Howard.

77 7/2/1851 From: O.O. Howard To: Mr. Rowland B. Howard

RBH-041 West Point N.Y. Yarmouth Maine

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. July 2d, 1851

Dear Brother,

My father, my mother & Lizzie have been here & gone leaving me alone in my glory, but I have not been left long enough to myself to feel their departure very severely. You know my luck. I am now in hot water all the time. The majority of my class hate me for my good fortune or for my "unlovable" nature. They report me continually for the slightest mistakes & often where there are no mistakes, giving me some little thing that I cannot well deny. Oh! how very pleasant, ones life can be made by an over-affectionate set of friends. To crown my vexations, poor plebes hover around me & my tent, as though I was the best fellow in the world. A tent is a noisy, disagreeable place for a man out of humor with himself & everybody round him - no place for reflection: but as usual never mind. There are better times coming boys!

I am now at the head of my class, a much coveted position. But I would be a thousand times happier man, did I stand ten files below the foot: for I would then be quietly ensconced in my mother's kitchen, surrounded with sympathizing friends with naught to regret & nothing to mourn for but want of talent. There I am & I must take the brunt of the battle. I may be sent home on demerit & shall unless I speedily put a stop to the insidious designings of my bitter enemies.

I am very thankful to you for your miniature. I did not know that you was half so good-looking, & I fear the artist has a little flattered you, but it is better that he should err on the side he did (?). How do you make it studying the warm weather? I wish you all success.

Mother says Charlie's health is rather poor. Oh! I hope he will yet be a strong, hardy man.

West Point is now a beautiful place, yet all the beauties of the place can hardly make amends for the tediousness of a military life. We go on guard each twice a week, & walk 8 hours out of the 24 & sometimes more. In the heat of the day it is no pleasant task to walk backwards & forwards from Sentry box to Sentry box, the hot sun pouring unsparingly upon your head a little more of the blessed heat than you would relish. Your heavy hat & 10 times heavier gun, growing all the time heavier, with no chance to rest your weary legs or ease your blistering feet. Such is the fun of walking "post" by day. By night it is almost as bad. You cannot sleep during the night more than two hours & then it must be done with your big cartridge box upon your back & bayonet scabbard by your side, with the camp floor for your bed, & your musket for a boon companion. In the night no live man must be allowed to cross your post, excepting the officers of the guard with the countersign. Day before yesterday I walked four hours by day & four by night, & was turned out several times besides for other duty, got reported for saluting the officer in charge after "retreat", that is, after the evening gun was fired. Thus weariness & vexation combine to irritate a foolish boy.

I wish it were so that you could come to see me this summer, but I cannot receive my friends decently here, and perhaps it is better that they should let me struggle on with my small difficulties. I will come out right yet, if I can keep my temper!

Let me know how you are getting on in your studies. I expect you to do very well after you get into College, where I shall be most likely to see you one year from this date. Tell me if you have a good time on the fourth of this month & how & where you spend it. Perhaps you will go into Portland & hear Lizzie describe her journey to West Point, which I fear was not very pleasant on the whole. I myself was so full of ignorance & perplexity, joy & fear, mixed up with every other feeling you can imagine, that I scarce knew what I was doing. But then as she is a good girl, I am sure she will forgive me any want of gallantry, whilst she censures the circumstances which rendered me foolish. Oh! How I did long to be perfectly free to do as I pleased for one week at least! Wouldn't I have capered with joy? Tell me what they say about their visit.

Give my very best regards to Jewett & tell him if he doesn't write to me I will flog him. While mother was here I was reported for visiting an improper part of the Hotel. The truth is I was "taken short" & went to the "sink" there. Lt. Jones saw me & reported me for it. But my excuse took off the report I think. I was not reported for going up

stairs as we thought. All right. I shall certainly lose the head of my class if I cannot stop this demerit. Write as soon as you can & remember me,

Your very fortunate unfortunate brother OO Howard

[Envelope]
Mr. Rowland B. Howard
Yarmouth
Maine
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 3 JUL 5

privates. and asked the sentuel his orders. The some operation is gans through with at each post. If a sentinel is hweel aslut being andel walk to towns of extra quard disty. while is equivalent to a dismissed in my mind. Our countersuper are wouldy the name of some beautiful lady or ? should say a pretty name, one night it was Ella. Mon must halt every body after taps, holding your buyout so as to pierce them through if they do not halt which the places generally earny out to The letter. If you could be here two days, and notice all operations from reveille tile reveille again, your would bind many odd things to interest you. We now have two company smills a day one fan hour & a half he fore breakfast and the other before evening parable as sunset - an artitlery drile from 10 tile 1. a past sleven. It is mighty hund work to drag three heavy pieces about in a not day I assume you. We have in camp a morning dress purade, just after breakfast. When the setwest mentaces is required. These parades I drill kupres pretty worthing moving. There as soon as you can gin my love to Sewett lele him I got his letter I shall answer him immedeate - by. Now with good hick to yourself. I bid your good age. your effectional Trother O.O. Howards arguent recurrency in place advances were no perti.

00 Howard du 28

West Point S. G. July 28. 54.

Sear brother, Sam ruther out of human This morning . At you must hardon any unusual dulness, recollecting always the real motive, which makes me write, which is not so much to interest you as to show that I am not unundful of you that I remember that we are brothers and should alway. Support & assist such other with mutual confidence and lowell. My situation has been for the last. few months most deplorably disagreable I degrading , but with friends at home and hope for a hester State of things, it plad along. But never muce my trouble which have got to be an old story. I presum you have some considerable auxiety with regard to the soming examination, for such a feeling is natural. Bet Them is not the least danger of a failure. My old lourse from Garmouth Through . Seems now almost like a tream , and & scally believe notably would summire that I had hein College Edweated, unless I tola There so. butnotwish standing my discipline and experience mules The historica I direction of Mose good old professors may have done me much good which is now searely perceptable, because there is nothing to call my pass knowledge Valguerrements into excercise.

I have now been away from home long enough to feel that it would be some thing more their a common pleasure to go back, leh! I would delighted to peop in all unexpected. Is see father sleeping over his paper as Though some was a stranger to him - he see Bookland A. Anying or humining in the staron way some air, a Tone evitation of his inward-self- sometimes morninged Sometimes. dark y disconsolate and less often cherful. always modulated according to the ethy flow of his spirits. Charlie will his abstracted look or his quellangh. Sellie more boisterous, and very little disposed to gratify father & mother by making ess noise -All seems to possess a more timely interest than ever before. I place there all in my loneeption in all the different positions, give the all the differentemployments that I have wer seen their engaged in . and dwell when the seems that I Evapor who now & then introducing myself in The midst - This is a part of my longiness when I walk hackwards of forwards on hoat - after the might has closed in, after the active wings around me have become hushed in sleep. The Encumpement is non over half over you ought to Come and live with see here in camps. your face would grow blacker & blacker every day, until you would be surprised that people ever called you a white man; and methods your bones would grow hard, or else you would not enjoy much rest. I believe I could not be an a bed I sleep it it was anyways soft.

I believe I told you, when we were on guard, and notwalking Post, we were obliged to remain at the Grand tent all the time with our cartridge stores . Enp boyes . buyones: suppored , I stells on we much. sleep with them on walk of sit with the same uncomfort . able appendages. The relief that I have been on goes on post lapust 10 & stays on tile be past 12 - again at 12 past 3 & stays till half half 5- and a somefuding 4 homes by night. This breaks up the sleep into ense portion. The leffices in Charge (an homy Officer) visits The Guard tent at bast once during the night: and The lefficer of the day once - at these times the gourd must We turned out & inspected, and of the least time is and of order, or any accommens wanting The delinguest a reported. The Executionest is about go yols with y go long - A path surrounds is-One sentinel walks isovers each end. and howmeeting half way whom each side. When the Officer inthange homes out the quard. He takes a Sergeant I has privates, The sergeant between the how privates, puto them ahead of him & goes what's colled the Grand rounds. When the Sential sees some one approaching, he must song out " who comes them? The answer is , grand hounds. He says advance sergeand with the launtersign, whereafour the latter advances and grass the required word: then sentinel says. "the tountersign is right, advance sounde". Then the Surgoant, resuming his place advances across his prost: or wants till the army officer has passed between the how

78 7/28/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard *To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-042 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. July 28,'51

Dear brother.

I am rather out of humour this morning, so you must pardon any unusual dullness recollecting always the real motive, which makes me write, which is not so much to interest you, as to show that I am not unmindful of you, that I remember that we are brothers and should always support & assist each other with mutual confidence and council. My situation has been for the last few months most deplorably disagreeable & degrading, but with friends at home and hope for a better state of things, I plod along. But never mind my trouble which have got to be an old story.

I presume you have some considerable anxiety with regard to the coming examination, for such a feeling is natural. Yet there is not the least danger of a failure. My old course from Yarmouth through seems now almost like a dream, and I really believe nobody would surmise that I had been College Educated unless I told them so but notwithstanding my discipline and experience under the tutor ship & direction of those good old professors may have done me much good which is now scarcely perceptible, because there is nothing to call my past knowledge & acquirements into exercise.

I have now been away from home long enough to feel that it would be something more than a common pleasure to go back. Oh! I would delighted to peep in all unexpected, to see father sleeping over his paper, as though care was a stranger to him, to see Roland A. singing or humming in the stair way some air, a true criterion of his inward-self, sometimes mournful sometimes dark & disconsolate and less often cheerful, always modulated according to the ebb & flow of his spirits. Charlie with his abstracted look, or his quiet laugh. Dellie more boisterous, and very little disposed to gratify father & mother by making less noise. All seems to possess a more lively interest than ever before. I place them all in my conception in all the different positions, give them all the different employments that I have ever seen them engaged in, and dwell upon the scenes that I conjure up now & then introducing myself in the midst.

This is a part of my business when I walk backwards & forwards on Post, after the night has closed in, after the active beings around me have become hushed in sleep. The encampment is now over half over. You ought to come and live with us here in camp. Your face would grow blacker & blacker every day, until you would be surprised that people ever called you a white man, and methinks your bones would grow hard, or else you would not enjoy much rest. I believe I could not lie on a bed and sleep if it was anyways soft.

I believe I told you, when we were on guard, and not walking Post, we were obliged to remain at the guard tent all the time with our cartridge boxes, cap boxes, bayonet scabbard & belts on. We must sleep with them on, walk & sit with the same uncomfortable appendages. The relief that I have been on, goes on Post 1/2 past 10 & stays on till ½ past 12, again at ½ past 3 and stays till half past 5, and a corresponding 4 hours by night. This breaks up the sleep into small portions. The Officer in Charge (an Army officer) visits the guard tent at least once during the night, and the Officer of the Day once. At these times the guard must be turned out & inspected, and if the least thing is out of order, or any accourtement wanting, the delinquent is reported.

The Camp ground is about 80 yards wide & 50 long. A path surrounds it. One Sentinel walks across each end, and two meeting halfway upon each side. When the officer in charge turns out the guard, he takes a sergeant & two privates, the sergeant between the two privates puts them ahead of him & goes what is called the "Grand rounds". When the Sentinel sees someone approaching, he must sing out "Who comes there." The answer is "Grand rounds". He says "advance Sgt. With the countersign", whereupon the latter advances and gives the required word; then Sentinel says "the countersign is right, advance rounds". Then the sergeant, resuming his place advances across his post, or waits till the Army officer has passed between the two privates, and asked the Sentinel "his orders". The same operation is gone through with at each post. If a Sentinel is "hived" asleep, being an old cadet he will probably be dismissed, or made to walk 20 tours of extra guard duty, which is equivalent to a dismissal in my mind. Our countersigns are usually the name of some beautiful lady, or I should say a pretty name, one night it was Ella.

You must halt every body after "taps" - holding your bayonet so as to pierce them through if they do not halt, which the plebes generally carry out to the letter. If you could be here two days and notice all operations from "reveille till reveille" again, you would find many odd things to interest you.

We now have two company drills a day, one of an hour & a half before breakfast, and the other before evening parade at sunset. An Artillery drill from 10 till ½ past eleven. It is mighty hard work to drag those heavy pieces about in a hot day I assure you. We have in camp a morning dress parade, just after breakfast, when the utmost neatness is required. These parades & drills keep us pretty constantly moving.

Write me as soon as you can. Give my love to Jewett, tell him I got his letter & shall answer him immediately. Now with good luck to yourself, I bid you good bye.

Your affectionate brother O.O. Howard

seemed to rack your main. I very ofthe write to you about Things which I think I have previously explained to you when in reality, the subjects have been heated of in letters to mother to. Now let this subject anop; Bedstuned I will even out bright or if I should ever find the Army too hot: Why: I know where to find friends, friends too, who will not be blown and by a breath of little slong, who will not fear to git me their sympathy & their lounsel, because my stor of pupularity is Towning. You have got into College - good, When you return he sure I give my refects to Froffen ons, Good in , Dackard . Whom & Books of the President whould stop your brother, tell for me inorder to make themselves averable with you, Infesor Maham When to talk with a young man about his father mother I bustiers if he knows them. The look me one day in the Senson Restation room of talker with me about his coming here. The gave me much good evanite which I have not forgotton. I have a feculiar revenue for my old instructors, which seems to increase, with time & was with the your more distant. Professor Cleaneland in particular, with his uge, his sprighttiess, his natural dignity - combined with his clear riders. will always drell you may so him some , as the model for men; I care not for The off repealed fish stories about him. Now, by dear brother your are about to onto upon a life, a little different from your privaces life as a stratent. You will be continually

Lear Inches,

You persone I have delayed and ering four later a such longer hime than would and you may well ask why. He wath is I can and find but precion wille time to do any thing regard my writing Boutine of Readenicy Military duties. He are in the restation soon reciting in Mathematics and French from half hast I Wilsele AM. Will soon: in the drawing room from El'clock till 4, 42 half of the week and at siding during the same lengt of time to the half at 4. we go to drill, where with handly enough how to prepare for parade, after which It is might. How must be that for a men who stands at the hand of this class of who would remain in the pien. of that slipping there: that the intermediate portions of time, is the evening of the morning must be spent in hally close andy. In fact I do the spend it. Shurden evening of winder shorning I allost to writing letters . In you need not grantle at it if your him does not come is often and med to do. I am I good murcher of the first section in Mathematics, hof to class in drawing and by of the class in seding this too cines me responsibility & someditional rouble. But every thing how goes on amouthy. I don't get any reports ; and have it in my power to give a creat many. I have have given one wat since I have been a hadet, not were were contined. The pare been to little out of fix this land a comments but I man his my troubles I

now are ready to carryle at my own dejetion. If the true State of my mind was known, then would have been found them hat very dette far Thought in favor of sesigning. It was it sont of expediency, a ruse if your please, to bring the afficery to term of weersen, that my fathers white consent to a very nation was to be obtained, I know that the Officers Fromlet never let me leave on the plea of not having justice done me . I knew that if I should leveler my resignation That the cause would be investigated; but this did to the herome necessary. How are right, I would not yield to Mentines; miles on reason showed me that those difficulties were insurmountable. I will tell you of a yours wire in this looper. His name is the ilforget where from there is not one individual in the whole losses whit ever speaks to him. He has no word of drympathy, to never admitted ist. the sports , werealtours of others. What times with him hobode visits him. Solitary in the midst of how hundred social beings, he is herer cheered by one friendly plane excepting; he makes friends of some plehe who very som muts fin with a peculiarly weldy distant look. This is what is called "hing ent" out by the Corps' -. This grang men two years ago is said to have been detected in "making an improper use of the visinity of his neighbors tent "The in early. I don't know that he has been gailly of an improper action lines: The is ent? More dane to risk themselves in the everily of such notoriet; fewever with they he is "ent" few same; the just is enough. Several Theres we in much the Dame Medicanient. This state of things last, follows a man into the armin, through like . It has

and must have of evense a degrading effect whom the man, smless, he has more their addinary force of character. If he has he man hold his head out his way to the right and to the left and relien the lost reputation. Mr Che " Character is gone - they say he denied the actalhitated to him: I that he bied in llong so; That he is mean spireted, as partieted a man. He is over light tate, well made, with a good rationed open countencinces the looks kind of for raken, but not better as I should look. So you wonder the that I Should feel a little shageined when I law friend after friend trop off; when a young war wind hardly lared to be sen in my Locing, for fear of his own reputation when at the Clance, if I would got it; put a damper whom the short, when young men of the highest families in the Union sould hat sit at the lable with me - when I hegan to meet Coldness in every look. Was I a criminal ? No! but this tothent began to health me feel like one. Well, let my lots to work - the question with me was; will it he for my Withmule good to bemain! Mas I Strong enough for all This! yes! I len times more could not make me swerve from a steathy Mraight you and evense. There every thing. every implied insult every hind every Munder, with a little inflatione smetime, but generally, with aparent carelessness. It began to take a turn. The furlough Class some back. heated me as a friend, a yearlinear, an equal-Those from Misine, always have stood for no - pointed out the foling of the accordance preferred against me. In fine I now get along as pleasanty a any one of these being about wenty, I have I sever speak to unless an chity. This here is

66 feward Obliged to be on your quard. I don't mean to bestime you; or advise you to avoid drinking, gambling, reating sexe, peculiar bad habits of bullege life i for I know you have got wet I principle enough to preserve you from these extremes of wice. But while you are a freshmen promise in promise yourself, not to get anyong, at every little word, which is not intended for you, but against your position. Bridle that little longine, Till you get to be each of the road: When you can say of do with impunity! I wally want you to do well . It stand high. To do is ference for must be industrious. Non me de not Follow my example in separal to seems societies: Month & Hinte it is heet in the end to be a newtral). After your column and yes anising dettled in your soon, you must would see, alling me with show you are ras ming to the Milen on wish to know any thing about in experience there, so that you make not accordingly avoiding my blunders, or patterning from my success, he sured write me Above all dowland buth a steady independent) whight course Then gover will not couly have the respect of your classmales in the and but the regult of your professors and this hereafter ignot in hollege will the of more advantage to you than you man pringing some In money matters I know you are La de cally more freedent than I It is my opinion that I might he over one however dollary better fly now, had I exercised in the more care. I am glad you hand with the levett with do high an oficion of him; for I believe sim far above the medicand of forming wen. His talents are superen but they do not

by any meuns equal his strong of Character. This latter is the seeset of his success in every position he is called to occupy; tis what gives people confidence in him. I have often cove ted natural incupandent Spirit which quides him quietly & steadily on . But it is not in me I showith from holdly contesting my right till I have nearly lost my goding. Then late I have to redouble in energies to gain Mu place, that I should have gained with little effort, had I her at first more independent I less timed. The toute-layers day it is endy to place the heavy binders if you go to work anight I was ever known to go to work about it the hurslest way I by home fonce make who for want forme & skile. Do he it: Each will frame his Meculiarities The ny love to Dellie Let his with, here mind the Cooks on the spelling, accorde comes with age - the love to Charlie los I have not received a letter from him for an age almost. The Fressons ala Hest Don't are now transfering & aranging the De he class - Mr Littlefield, was transfersed to the Cover section. He has poldulation I spear is now how ald to leave. There Allfred him some, but I think it Justery . he must be found. Their not so smant & energetic as pleasant situation as a soon would be. The studies very hand I'videring were solle. I have made out firett well but must do better. Miste Soon - Sime ing suffects to Hand Tiendall. He always means well of lourse material & handre possing he has a good heart. Remember me to in the old friends who in nine for me at B.C. Mow withing you good health Igover countrie I bidyon good be

79 9/13/1851 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-043 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Sept. 13, 1851

Dear brother

You perceive I have delayed answering your letter a much longer time than usual, and you may well ask why. The truth is I can find but precious little time to do anything beyond my ordinary routine of Academic & Military duties. We are in the recitation room reciting in mathematics and French from half past 9 o'clock A.M. till noon, in the drawing room from two o'clock till four, half of the week and at riding during the same length of time the other half. At four we go to drill, return with hardly enough time to prepare for parade, after which it is night. You must see that for a man who stands at the head of his class & who would remain in the vicinity of that slippery place, that the intermediate portions of time i.e. the evening & the morning must be spent in pretty close study. In fact I do thus spend it. Saturday evenings & Sunday mornings I allot to writing letters. So you need not grumble at it, if your turn does not come as often as it used to do.

I am squad marcher of the first section in mathematics, ½ of the class in drawing, and 1/4 of the class in riding. This too gives me responsibility & some additional trouble. But every thing now goes on smoothly. I don't get any reports, and have it in my power to give a great many. I never have given one yet, since I have been a cadet, not even as a Sentinel. Why I have been a little out of fix the last encampment but I magnified my troubles, & now am ready to laugh at my own dejection. If the true state of my mind was known, there would have been found there but very few thoughts in favor of resigning. It was a sort of expediency, a ruse, if you please, to bring the officers to terms if necessary, that my father's written consent to a resignation was to be obtained. I knew that the officers would never let me leave on the plea of not having justice done me. I knew that if I should tender my resignation that the causes would be investigated, but this did not become necessary. You are right, I would not yield to difficulties, unless my reason showed me that those difficulties were insurmountable.

I will tell you of a young man in this Corps. His name is Otis. I forgot where from. There is not one individual in the whole Corps who ever speaks to him. He has no word of sympathy, is never admitted into the sports & recreations of others. Nobody lives with him, nobody visits him. Solitary in the midst of 200 social beings, he is never cheered by one friendly glance, excepting when he makes friends of some plebe who very soon meets him with a peculiarly cold & distant look. This is what is called, "being cut." "Cut by the Corps". This young man two years ago is said to have been detected in "making an improper use of the vicinity of his neighbors tent"while in camp. I don't know that he has been guilty of an improper action since: "He is cut."

None dare to risk themselves in society of such notoriety. Few ever ask why he is "cut", few care. The fact is enough. Several others are in much the same predicament. The state of things lasts, follows a man into the Army through life. It has and must have of course a degrading effect upon the man, unless he has more than ordinary force of character. If he has, he may hold up his head cut his way to the right and to the left and redeem the lost reputation. Mr. Otis' character is gone. They say he denied the act attributed to him & that he lied in doing so. That he is mean-spirited, no particle of a man. He is over 6 feet tall, well-made, with a good natural open countenance. He looks kind of forsaken, but not bitter as I should look.

Do you wonder then that I would feel a little chagrined when I saw friend after friend drop off; when a young man hardly dared to be seen in my society, for fear of his own reputation. When at the dance, if I would go to it I put a damper upon the sport, when young men of the highest families in the Union would not sit at the table with me, when I began to meet coldness in every look. Was I a criminal? No! But this treatment began to make me feel like one. Well, I set my wits to work. The question with me was: will it be for my ultimate good to remain? Was I strong enough for all this? Yes! & ten times more could not make me swerve from a steady, straight forward course. I bore everything, every implied insult, every hint, every slander, with a little impatience sometimes, but generally with apparent carelessness. It began to take a turn, the furlough class came back treated me as a friend, a gentleman, an equal. Those from Maine, always have stood for me pointed out the folly of the accusations preferred against me. In fine I now get along as pleasantly as any one, there being about 20 whom I never speak to unless on duty. This perhaps will explain away all that strange mystery, which

seemed to rack your brain.

I very often write to you about things which I think I have previously explained to you when in reality, the subjects have been treated of in letters to mother. Now let the subject drop. Be assured I will come out right, or if I should ever find the Army too hot, why I know where to find friends, friends too, who will not be blown away by a breath of vile slang, who will not fear to give me their sympathy & their counsel, because my star of popularity is waning.

You have got into College - good! When you return be sure & give my respects to Professors Goodwin, Packard, Upham & Boody. If the President should stop you & ask about your brother, tell him he is well & doing well. They will be likely to inquire for me, in order to make themselves sociable with you. Prof. Upham likes to talk with a young man about his father, mother & brothers if he knows them. He took me one day in the senior recitation room & talked with me about my coming here. He gave me much good counsel which I have not forgotten. I have a peculiar reverence for my old instructors, which seems to increase as the time I was with them grows more distant. Prof. Cleveland in particular, with his age, his sprightlyness, his natural dignity combined with his clear ideas, will always dwell in my remembrances as the model of a man; I care not for the often repeated fish stories about him.

Now, my dear brother. You are about to enter upon a life, a little different from your previous life as a student. You will be continually obliged to be on your guard. I don't mean to lecture you, or advise you to avoid drinking, gambling, rioting &c. &c. the peculiar bad habits of college life, for I know you have got wit & principle enough to preserve you from those extremes of vice. But while you are a freshman promise me or promise yourself not to get angry at every little word, which is not intended for you but against your position. Bridal that little tongue, till you get to be "cock of the roost" when you can say & do with impunity. I really want you to do well, to stand high. To do it of course you must be industrious. You need not follow my example in regard to secret societies, though I think it is best in the end to be a neutral. After you return and get easily settled in your room you must write me, telling me with whom you are rooming &c. &c.

When you wish to know any thing about my experience there, so that you may act accordingly, avoiding my blunders or patterning from my success be sure & write me. Above all Rowland take a steady independent & upright course then you will not only have the respect of your classmates in the end, but the respect of your professors and this hereafter if not in College will be of more advantage to you than you may imagine now. In money matters I know you are more naturally prudent than I. It is my opinion that I might be over one hundred dollars better off now, had I exercised a little more care.

I am glad you part with Mr. Jewett with as high an opinion of him; for I believe him far above the medium of young men. His talents are superior but they do not by any means equal his strength of character. This letter is the secret of his success in every position he is called to occupy &'tis what gives people confidence in him. I have often coveted that natural independent spirit which guides him quietly & steadily on. But it is not in me. I shrink from boldly contesting my rights, till I have nearly lost my footing, then late I have to redouble my energies to gain the place that I should have gained with little effort, had I been at first more independent & less timid.

The wall-layers say it is easy to place the heavy binders if you go to work aright. I was ere known to go to work about it the hardest way & by pure force make up for want of care & skill. So be it. Each man will have his peculiarities.

Give my love to Dellie. Let him write, never mind the looks or the spelling accuracy comes with age. My love to Charlie too. I have not received a letter from him for an age almost.

The Professors (a la West Point) are now transferring & arranging the plebe class. Mr. Littlefield was transferred to the lowest section. He has no education & I fear is now too old to learn. I have helped him some, but I think it useless - he must be found. He is not so smart & energetic as Browne with whom I am living in a new nice room, as pleasantly situated as a room could be. The latter studies very hard & is doing very well. I have made out pretty well but must do better. Write soon. Give my respects to Kendall. He always means well, of coarse material & unprepossessing & has a good heart. Remember me to all the old friends who inquire for me at B.C.

Now wishing you good health, good courage, I bid you good bye.

Otis

Of Govaise Cel 26,61 Mat Soul NY Oct 26 1857 Dear brother. I have at-last found time to waite you, but to feel remarkably dull I hear my letter will partake of my spionis. I received your letter a day or two ago and am glad to freed from it that you are doing Is well at Sondon. Jam really anxious for you to take a high Stand there. This last much I have had a misit from Mry Mrs Sargent. I also from Dr Lord. They happened here the same day. Frank I his last was in their way to Milyonk: I the Dr was found for some town in this State Towards Buffelo - I don't recollect the name - Iwas fortunal enough to get exensed from recitations & Mutiliany duty The most of the time that they were here. Marrie returned from Maine the week before brought we a piece of Lydia Thermes Ishruld say perhaps Ming & sown's heating Eake. If I would ge a musband at her time of life swhat young lady ned despair - thatie as sent me his miniature. It is either not well taken or Charlie has grown ald very fast. I lant make it look very natural. But you need it write so to homer mother for he is densitive you know. I can't conserve how you could get a better one than the one you dent me. I would judge that you dress a little mater about the neck or as mother used to say have a little more ambition about your dress your person, than When he resed to be Slovens together . - Herek says you have grown taller. Iam sorry to hear you speak in such styling your lousins

William you know is reserved towards every body. Mus I never knew Maria to be so I am sum they like you. Illus Sporter very little of his explorts about town" while here; probably for how reasons one is that he knows That he would not find me much interested in such bootings & reartals - another that he was two much laker up with the place to think about his post high times. How are mistake if you think Illus is presedued of bad principles - The truth is he has home at all; heither good nor bad. He is governed by his companions and news to be too susceptible of influences from all quanters. These good hearted men who have no atrength of character, who are incapable of forming any resolutions by which they can abide an like the ship at see without any sudder - Thy may hat run aground; but in all probability they will to Italas will never make much of a man of evenue. yet I am in hopes he will be Refet is restrained check by his good friends & not become an unsprincipled rake like his father. You must us take info with all the tales they tele you about the professors, believing Then implicitly. Now I don't believe half thy say about-Good- Wham: that he files - tres to catch men by leading them off their quant - ye. be ... He has a fuentiar way of talking with you on any subjects: he would be very little to introduce it by telling you that he keven your father I mother, or your brother: I hener believed these introductory speeches had any particular object in wew. you need not fear his pumping you. He is lentandy the

Their release from morey a hand sentence - Taking his writings & what I can remember of his character from observation, into the account ! concerne him to be an upright I liberal muded man Time my respects to Hunday, low Howard. ye.ve-Zell any who inguine for Stevens or Kell that they are in good health and spirits after a glorious Justonigh & a high time Liggie wrote me that she was disappointed in not poring to the wedding. Sarah says the looks - fine health & spirits nows ... You must work me where you room, and with whom you are living. I believe you did not till me about your around of indefendence to Hunde how was is did you have difficulty? I am studying very hand. get no time to write-letters. dong will in every though but drawing. I do pretty well in that branch. Must others do infuelly better. They day land Aurelia has her shitting blook. Burthe has trown Milliam & Many Cera are the town - The rail. road is rather up a thump. The oversums in rather hot water & the Intervience might stutton. The Dr gone, I Tydia Turner merried give the climas to the important news from the place your naturely. Study hand I write often is the hear-price of advice I have for you. Your affectional brother O. C. Howard

most linient man at heart of all the professions.

He has interested for many young man of procured

80 10/26/1851 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

RBH-044 West Point N.Y. Bowd. College Maine

To: Mr. R.B. Howard

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct. 26, 1851

Dear brother.

I have at last found time to write you, but I feel remarkably dull & fear my letter will partake of my spirit. I received your letter a day or two ago, and I am glad to find from it that you are doing so well at Bowdoin. I am really anxious for you to take a high stand there. This last week I have had a visit from Mr. And Mrs. Sargent & also from Dr. Lord. They happened here the same day. Frank & his lady were on their way to N. York & the Dr. Was bound for some town in this state towards Buffalo - I don't recollect the name. I was fortunate enough to get excused from recitations & military duty the most of the time that they were here.

Warren returned from Maine the week before, brought me a piece of Lydia Turner's I should say perhaps Mrs. Brown's wedding cake. If she could get a husband at her time of life what young lady need despair.

Charlie sent me his miniature. It is either not well taken or Charlie has grown old very fast. I can't make it look very natural but you needn't write so to him or mother, for he is sensitive you know. I can't conceive how you could get a better one than the one you sent me. I would judge that you dress a little neater about the neck or as mother used to say have a little more ambition about your dress & your person than when we used to be slovens together.

Sarah says you have grown taller. I'm sorry to hear you speak in such style of your cousins. William you know is reserved towards everybody, but I never knew Maria to be so. I am sure they like you. Silas spoke very little of his exploits "about town" while here. Probably for two reasons one is that he knows that he would not find me much interested in such bostings & recitals, another that he was too much taken up with the place to think about his past high times. You're mistaken if you think Silas is possessed of bad principles. The truth is he has none at all, neither good nor bad. He is governed by his companions entirely, and seems to be too susceptible of influences from all quarters. These goodhearted men who have no strength of character, who are incapable of forming any resolutions by which they can abide are like the ship at sea without any rudder. They may not run aground, but in all probability they will. Silas will never make much of a man of course, yet I am in hopes he will be kept in check by his good friends & not become an unprincipled rake like his father.

You mustn't take up with all the tales they tell you about the professors, believing them implicitly. Now I don't believe half they say about Prof Upham, that he fibs, tries to catch men by leading them off their guard, &c. &. He has a peculiar way of talking with you on any subject. He would be very likely to introduce it by telling you that he knew your father & mother, or your brother. I never believed these introductory speeches had any particular object in view. You need not fear his pumping you. He is certainly the most lenient man at heart of all the professors. He has interceded for many young men & procured their release from many a hard sentence. Taking his writings & what I can remember of his character from observation, into the account, I conceive him to be an upright & liberal minded man.

Give my respects to Kendall, Joe Howard, &c, &c. tell any who inquire for Stevens or Webb that they are in good health and spirits after a glorious furlough & a high time.

Lizzie wrote me that she was disappointed in not going to the wedding. Sarah says she looks in fine health & spirits now.

You must write me where you room, and with whom you are living. I believe you did not tell me about your avowal of independence to Thomas, how was it did you have difficulty? I am studying very hard, get no time to write letters, and doing well in every thing but drawing. I do pretty well in that branch, but others do infinitely better.

They say Aunt Aurelia has been spitting blood. Everett has thrown William and Mary Ann on the town. The railroad is rather up a stump, the overseers in rather hot water & the subscribers mighty stubborn. The doctor gone, & Lydia Turner married gives the climax to the important news from the place of our nativity. Study hard &

write often - is the best piece of advice I have for you.

Your affectionate brother O. O. Howard

[Envelope]
Mr. R.B. Howard
Bowd. College
Maine
[Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 26 OCT 3