Alter as transformage & disting to free the string - I amon calend upon my takk chanfully, and then is my which doct into my words. But is water, about the delyest. groups a dehad incaster yourself. I do not tack in View Dorte of Call and Marcael that or programmed . In you have have dered then y your, but I source so and and differ the thank lang concepter. gang any is must been that have as much a descuded by Jule and grand love for the bar tatte Case of your health y write as often as you can. If they and at a horse I stargle, particles the enter to ofter your; I will not defind -1981 Stol 200 We Howard

I have already written five letters since yestenday scoon; but time you are so poorly off, as regards the comforts of life, I will try and file another sheet, Mon have got a large, and I fear a hard school before you . but the only real unpleasant thing that I see is that and cough. Get rich of it if prostible, for the incersant talking, which gales to every School. master's los irritates the lungs, as much as is consistent with health: without adding there to a bad tough. I was in hopes you were situated heaver Portland. for I know it would be very pleasant for you to spend the saturth with Mas Waite. Vizgin & deleg. It would seen almost like yoing home I the winter would glide away more swiftly. I wonld little to drop is whom you this winter after you gat well under weigh but it is not possible. You must pay as little attention to The gossife as you can, even though it he plattering . If you could keep my stand for me here. it would be almost a pleasure for me to keep your school; I might foot it with Sortand accasionally; but you know that I let neither passion nor pleasure conflict with duty. I might not to as well as you can now in the way of government - for I should expect in accordance with West Sound principles, implicit obedreise . When Detim house I shall be mostlittly to goon to Donnewick after you for have you prest me in Portland. We will decide that when the time comes wand.

West Point N. 19 Dec. 14.1 1657. Cear bother will and and and have back

I fear I shall not stand among the fives' This year, for I am now 412 in Drawing, and are likely to love the head in Mathematics. But never mind all this : we will come out right side yet. I had a letter from Dr Lord fiday or two since. He has established himself in the Town of Sancuster this state, near Buffalo- has a fine Situation & excellent prospects. I that's Dr ford more than an ordinary young man - but he appears uncouse -ins of his own merits. If he continues to observe, think and thirdy, with his wonted care I tact, he must certainly make a scientific man whether any tody Knows it or not. You sury you are boarding at a Public House: Is it sufficiently retired & the to suit your studious habits? Ane then any children, young men or youngludies at your boarding place? Siggie will be much disappointed if you do not go into Portland occasionally ; for the counted much when your going to Cape Elizabeth to teach. you can walk in sometimes of your health is good, or get abound of some all cadyer's last: of have you get to be proud? you must be pregal if you with to clear anything. Trynot to deslike teaching too much. Maker as easy as you can by making yourself happy in your work. Ane can go to The school room everyday, feeling that his school is a bone, or he can, hege his day's work with a cheerful heart and they when hegets weary, there is not added to his meaniness, discouragement- disgust, heart, sickness.

Asbad as Suce to fancy & disliked school teaching - I unally entered upon my task cheerfully, and threw my whole Soul into my work ... But no matter about this subject . yougare a school master yourself. I do not lack a Tact or judgment? Do you know how thick Kenny is thriving at Souttand! Jurite him once I have received an answer - My correspondence is already too extensive - I don't dure to increase is; for year that my friends will not any of the get a letter from me at all . Mr gutterfield, who graduated in William's class, words we a letter from Como. Me - said he had a young man a scholar, who we to enter here next fall, and wished to know, what studies he must be proficient in To answer this work a little more france my everesponding time. I have tried, but I can searcely get off a letter on anyother days excepting Saturday & Sunday. Mr Settlefield, the Hon Mr Settlefield's son has resigned and is an his way home - he may go to see you, but I think he will not stopin Dortland long enough. January is most here, that time so much dreaded by filebes - Your bye, goed luck to your - tathe care of your health I write as often as you can. If Diggie en get a horse & Aleigh, he haps she welle he after you ; I will not object your affectional brother

Or al Howard. all tourant

81 12/14/1851 *From:* O.O. Howard

RBH-045

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Dec. 14th, 1851

Dear brother,

I have already written five letters since yesterday noon, but since you are so poorly off, as regards the comforts of life, I will try and fill another sheet. You have got a large, and I fear a hard school before you, but the only real unpleasant thing that I see is that bad cough. Get rid of it if possible, for the incessant talking, which falls to every School-Master's lot, irritates the lungs, as much as is consistent with health, without adding thereto a bad cough.

I was in hopes you were situated nearer Portland, for I know it would be very pleasant for you to spend the Sabbath with Mrs. Waite, Lizzie & Peleg. It would seem almost like going home & the winter would glide away more swiftly. I would like to drop in upon you this winter after you get well "under weigh", but it is not possible. You must pay as little attention to the gossip as you can, even though it be flattering. If you could keep my stand for me here, it would be almost a pleasure for me to keep your school. I might foot it into Portland occasionally, but you know that I let neither passion nor pleasure conflict with duty. I might not do as well as you can now in the way of government, for I should expect, in accordance with West Point principles, implicit obedience.

When I return home I shall be most likely to go to Brunswick after you, or have you meet me in Portland. We will decide that when the time comes round.

I fear I shall not stand among "the fives" this year, for I am now 41st in Drawing, and am likely to lose the head in Mathematics. But never mind all this, we will come out right side up yet

I had a letter from Dr. Lord a day or two since. He has established himself in the town of Lancaster, this state, near Buffalo, has a fine situation & excellent prospects. I think Dr. Lord more than an ordinary young man, but he appears unconscious of his own merit. If he continues to observe, think and study, with his wonted care & tact, he must certainly make a scientific man, whether anybody knows it or not.

You say you are boarding at a public house. Is it sufficiently retired & still to suit your studious habits? Are there any children, young man or young ladies at your boarding place? Lizzie will be much disappointed if you do not go into Portland occasionally, for she counted much upon your going to Cape Elizabeth to teach. You can walk-in sometimes if your health is good, or get aboard of some old "codger's" cart, or have you got to be proud? Yes, you must be frugal if you wish to clear anything. Try not to dislike teaching too much. Make it as easy as you can, by making yourself happy in your work. One can go to the school room every day, feeling that his school is a bore, or he can, begin his day's work with a cheerful heart and then when he gets weary, there is not added to his weariness, discouragement, disgust, heart, sickness. As bad as I used to fancy I disliked school teaching, I usually entered upon my task cheerfully and threw my whole soul into my work. But no matter about this subject, you are a School-Master yourself, & do not lack in tact or judgment.

Do you know how Uncle Henry is thriving at Portland? I wrote him once & have [not] received an answer. My correspondence is already too extensive. I don't dare to increase it, for fear that my friends will not any of them get a letter from me at all. Mr. Butterfield, who graduated in William's class, wrote me a letter from Orono Me, said he had a young man, a scholar, who is to enter here next fall, and wished to know what studies he must be proficient in. To answer this took a little more from my corresponding time. I have tried, but I can scarcely get off a letter on any other days excepting Saturday & Sunday. Mr. Littlefield, the Hon. Mr. Littlefield's son has resigned and is on his way home. He may go to see you, but I think he will not stop in Portland long enough. January is most here, that time so much dreaded by plebes.

Good bye. Good luck to you, take care of your health & write as often as you can. If Lizzie can get a horse & sleigh, perhaps she will be after you, I will not object.

Your affectionate brother O.O. Howard

To: Mr. Rowland B Howard

Cape Elizabeth (via Portland) Maine

West Point N.Y.

[Envelope] Mr. Rowland B Howard Cape Elizabeth (via Portland) Maine [Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. [paid]3 DEC 15

since he never claimed to be anything but a the profiher from god & his only miracle the Veran . His Churacter powerer was inconsistent. He ceased to Emilate the character & ductrin of Burdavion as soon as prover took the place of persecution; and though a much hetter I much greater mor than my former knowledge would give the his the credit to be, bet he let a worldly I Ringly ambition enter his heart; and permitted the sword to take the place of those mile mecepts which he at pinst promulyated, and which it would be well for many christians to Emulate. _ Who knows but I may become a moslen ? There is a little too much of genaine unregenerate human wature in the Character of Makount under the most flattering point of view for carrying warnichon to my mind. Never mind talking about Mahomet I and wrote of him because her life is now presh is my mind. The my love to all _ lattor is heating -Jour offiction ate Mother Cell Howard I have it time to read this our & make The necessary connections, I will leave this task to you. My health & lounge the good. How are yours! There thing goes on will here I will of & ear only rise a few files in Drawing had reached a ten good hight. yourseffectionally at to A . It whele brouds from the unequation. I that , When Insulientound, in chreams & trances, he fances his own though revelations from God. It seems too that his followers & Michlen workers , have adorated to him more than he ever claimed

Sear brother, Rane I scally neglecter you a abliged to mait is for two way years only in dreams. But me have begun the second month of the new year - four mouths This pustheak & have studied your miniature Is flished where we that you were a very good looking buy discovering more than ordinary intelligence, & particularly that you mene my brother . An you blattend ! you need not be for while I was with you daily I never once dreamed that you mene kandsome : and a man need not fal clated because he is told that he looks intelligent ; for the wanterance I find herry often deceives the man of but common observance. he had flattered being like me very susceptible of the enter a moment into our estimate of each other - you are my brother" He is my brother in such terms trusty consists the measure your estern & tiffection, The word brother is simple & significant, and lithe the word mother should ever awaken

West Schit Grebman 1st - 1832 long time ! How come on your poor health . you were Convalescent : write next, well ! fon do not return to College tile the 1st ofthis month I believe, so I shall have to direct to you The Leids - Leids ! you clout know how a body longs to see his home his native place ; nor will you know the you have been more of solid thidy will bring he near very hear my home. Charlie would like to be praised - but I sile not under take - lest - a achisine spirit of sweet words. To as brothers, looks' should he wathing - talents, nothing . They should not be allowed to gentle Monghils & tender reminiscences. I have not got my mother's

miniature. I don't know why I have reglected to ask for it. but I must have one when I go home on purlough. My class has now completed mathematical drawing & commence Church's Balculus tomorrow; again comes boning'as the Cadet calls hard study. This wert to bone is a very sententions lyprepsion & of rasions application at West Doint. When the Gadet pinches himself; goes thread bare, with hales in his stockings. & Nents in his shirts, morder to lay by money for furlough; he is sand to bone furlough . If he keeps his trimmings bright & pohished. his pompon" (little plack plumi-sort of Slick - his saves thining I his wat tice, he is boning the a confurally, Seargency, Lientenanter, according to which he may be eligible. If he eursies favor, he is borning it : if he is very unding offable Hover obliging he is boning popularity se. Another very significant word is the wert to have" Acadet is hived, when he is discovered by a reporting officer in the act of realating any rule or segulation of the Institution, that is, when he lays hindely liable to a report Thes, two young men who got a codet officer to Excuse them at soll calls, I see that they were not hived absent, in order To "sure it "to New york on New year's day, were hiver in Nav youth big by an officer from thest Sound; and are now in arrest Waiting for their treal by Court martial: Whilst a few other wild birds who accompanied men not hived, but only suspected. Again if a cudet gets asked a question in the section soon that he cannot answer, he is said to be hived. One of the most common reports is that of visiting - Several lutets are hived insiting from in & rooms not their own every day. We cannot visit each other during cull to quarters that is are not allowed to do so. and if you wais acrops a Sentinel's bost with the consent of the Sentinel, you must

perform six extra tours of quard duty & the Sentinel sig; if without the Rnowledge you perform the whole right & the Sentinel gets reported for want of vigilance. I visit every day in my immediate sicility, but have never got hired meiting, or reported for letting a person resit on my loss when sentinel: & attribute is mainly to good buck. I an swelly careful about henturing out when There is any danger of an inspection. The nonice gets hived at every step-but The old eader hecomes wary & Reen. He knows every crook I turn, condictinguish the step of an army officer, & knows the peculiar rattle of the sword of the Officer of the day - and hides his pipe, or suns to his soon I becomes instantly deeply & Seriously engaged in his studies. I have now given you a particle illea of two important idiomatic expressions is our West Sound Docabulury - To bone & to him - morder to propane you to understand my language when I get nome. I have been reading I wing's life of Mahomet yesterday of to day; Seveld hardly make up my mind to leave it to write you this :- I had formed a very different idea of thahomet, than the Inspher there set forth . & did not know that the ever formed his doctrines & his conchestat the outset so hearly to those of christ, that he believed in one god youly one god and rejected all Idulaty. Your his history one would conclude that he kinself was a sincere believer in his own doctrines - That a peculiar disease had at times taken all bounds from his unagination. I that, like Huedenberg, in cheams & trances, he fancied his own though revelations from God. Is seems too that his followers & Moslem

writers, have ascribed to him more than he ever claimed

82 2/1/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-046

West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point February 1st, 1852

Dear Brother,

Have I really neglected you a long time? How comes on your poor health. You were convalescent, write next, well! You do not return to college till the 14th of this month I believe, so I shall have to direct to you to Leeds. Leeds! You don't know how a body longs to see his home, his native place! Nor will you know till you have been obliged to visit it for two long years only in dreams.

But we have begun the second month of the new year - four months more of solid study will bring me near, very near my home. This past week I have studied your miniature. It flashed upon me that you were a very good-looking boy, discovering more than ordinary intelligence, & particularly that you were my brother. Are you flattered? You need not be, for while I was with you daily I never once dreamed that you were handsome, and a man need not feel elated because he is told that he looks intelligent, for the countenance I find very often deceives the man of but common observance.

Charlie would like to be praised, but I will not undertake, lest he feel flattered being like me very susceptible of the delusive spirit of sweet words. To us brothers, "looks" should be nothing, talents nothing. They should not be allowed to enter a moment into our estimate of each other. "You are my brother"! "He is my brother!" And such terms trusty consists the measure of our esteem & affection. The word brother is simple & significant, and like the word mother should ever awaken gentle thoughts & tender reminiscences. I have not got my mother's miniature. I don't know why I have neglected to ask for it, but I must have one when I go home on furlough.

My class has now completed mathematical drawing & commences Church's Calculus tomorrow. Again comes "boning" as the Cadet calls hard study. This verb "to bone" is a very sententious expression & of various application at West Point. When the Cadet pinches himself, goes thread bare, with holes in his stockings, & rents in his shirts, in order to lay by money for furlough, he is said "to bone furlough". If he keeps his trimmings bright & polished, his "pompon" (little black plume, sort of) slick, his shoes shining & his coat nice, he is "boning" office - a corporalcy, Sergeantcy, lieutenancy according to which he may be eligible. If he curries favor, he is "boning" it; if he is very smiling, affable & over-obliging he is "boning popularity" &c.

Another very significant word is the verb "to hive". A Cadet is "hived" when he is discovered by a reporting officer in the act of violating any rule or regulation of the Institution, that is, when he lays himself liable to a report. Thus, two young men who got a Cadet officer to excuse them at roll-calls, & see that they were not "hived" absent, in order to "River it" to New York on New Year's day, were hived in New York City by an officer from West Point; and are now in arrest waiting for their trial by Court-Martial, whilst a few other wild birds who accompanied them were not hived, but only suspected. Again if the Cadet gets asked the question in the section room that he cannot answer, he is said to be hived.

One of the most common reports is that of visiting. Several cadets are hived visiting in rooms not their own everyday. We cannot visit each other during call to quarters, that is are not allowed to do so, and if you visit across a Sentinel's post with the consent of the Sentinel, you must perform four extra tours of guard duty & the Sentinel six. If without his knowledge you perform the whole eight and the Sentinel gets reported for want of vigilance. I visit every day in my immediate vicinity, but have never got hived visiting, or reported for letting a person visit on my Post when Sentinel. I attribute it mainly to good luck. I am pretty careful about venturing out when there is any danger of an inspection. The novice gets "hived" at every step, but the old Cadet becomes wary & keen. He knows every crook & turn, can distinguish the step of an Army officer, and knows the peculiar rattle of the sword of the Officer of the Day, and hides his pipe, or runs to his room & becomes instantly deeply & seriously engaged in his studies. I have now given you a partial idea of two important idiomatic expressions in our West Point vocabulary - "to bone" & to hive - in order to prepare you to understand my language when I get home.

I have been reading Irving's life of Mahomet yesterday & to day & could hardly make up my mind to leave it to

write you this. I had formed a very different idea of Mahomet, than the prophet there set forth. I did not know that he conformed his doctrines & his conduct at the outset so nearly to those of Christ, that he believed in one God & only one God and rejected all Idolatry. From his history one would conclude that he himself was a sincere believer in his own doctrines, that a peculiar disease had at times taken all bounds from his imagination & that, like Vandenberg, in dreams and trances, he fancied his own thoughts, revelations from God. It seems too that his followers, Moslem writers, have ascribed to him more than he ever claimed, since he never claimed to be anything but a prophet from God & his only miracle the Koran.

His character however was inconsistent. He ceased to emulate the character & doctrine of our Savior as soon as power took the place of persecution; and though a much better & much greater man than my former knowledge would give him the credit to be, yet he let a worldly & kingly ambition enter his heart; and permitted the sword to take the place of those mild precepts which he at first promulgated, and which it would be well for many Christians to emulate. Who knows but I may become Moslem? There is a little too much of genuine unregenerate human nature in the character of Mohomet under the most flattering point of view for carrying conviction to my mind.

Never mind talking about Mahomet. I only wrote of him because his life is now fresh in my mind. Give my love to all. Tattoo is beating.

Your affectionate brother O.O. Howard

I haven't time to read this over & make the necessary corrections. I will leave this task to you. My health & courage are good. How are yours? Every thing goes on well here & will if I can only rise a few files in Drawing.

Good night. Yours affectionately O.O.H.

an tomain aling & goales you non mother said much of that without or of this cances of this years . Soos to thank think or day much of Calefornia new If has been grith a long time some I have seen time granhafes see housed handly know seek office - but this , he was some nong presention tranks which three years could have fifteen - I through I reall know this no genetic as the sould me . - - Genton any book willing for his aparty wearing, if the is all already and When the reaches how . I am on Joand V Shall a Shiper for well post the maning so that you must speed and And the second of the second o gaine it that you had returned to forthey. He become though where that you have had proved in writing . Andealthe is sain "agoing" I fancy housen I am growing ald ally them call says however, that our father appares to have to be south dikes than I now no , also to first came to Myorke . Egyhorz monsth 30

who have dry fifter a potenties . Owent about hetter Im a little . It Pleast print N. 4 Fredranger 1852 Intended to have written your letter tast day lastor tomorrow; Ins Mr Brown had a hother & cousi there that day which eacaded me to put off my letter for a day or two. Ho day & received yours & mother's letter. Jambury still to find you so poorly. I dont know what to make of your tieness. Just as quick asit is possible for you to go out without danger from the cold, you must make it a point. to Take all the exercise you possibly can. Dont for moreys the let a want of energy & proper exention super your entire strength. I think mother's when of frequent batting I subbing far from bling a whindiced experiment. I know that that means Rept Beleg from lating new color & thus renewing the inflamation This lungs; & malit added ten fold is a very short time to his healthe & Strengthe. Mon must have sealed your letter with a double water for it was broken open the water apparently being splint. When I took it from the Office. Motably There was no money inclosed. Therefore no great logs. Attilism divnot visit me, & the Scason may have been that I did not express any weary urgent request in any of my letters that he mashaw seen to that Effect. The reason is this, That I can offer but poor hospiteling to a friend here at all & expecially is that the case at this time of year. I would shend but little time with him . Sunles he might be in love with racque seenery. The Pont now offers comparatively few attractions of any kind to the visitor

Steples all than here, who graduated too years hefore an al Boardan. Saturday, in that lade you would have received of one Either thes-

Septer A Hawkins, who graduated two years before me at Bowdon. was here Day & fore yesterday. I went about with him a little. It heing thoroughy versed in south how I well acquainted with the minutest details four four try's history, work much interest. & pleasure . in searching out the places of which he had sead-He visited all the fonts, redoutto, batteries, monuments ye -Saw & ever Everything with his big eyes for an incredibly short Time. He has a clapshiate here, Mr Jues in our present girgt-Clap. one of the prethest smartest & priest going men of the clap. He took Hawkins to the labratory, where mother went. with Langdon, to see some of the relies of attighty lintighty, and the more meent prizes of Muxico. Non will see lythe next monthly seport that my dement are again on the increase -Lieur Jones, 'alo hum ;' returned from his purlough , had a fit of Dicknep, from which I andorry to day many ladets expressed a hope that the never would secover . Those comes forthe as well as ever & ten times more military. He reported me about as soon as he got his head out of doors; although I had erept up & nown stains on tip the for a month for four of disherbing him or aggravating has fever. He seems to be my Evil genius. Ihave non about to demerit. Iwill take lov more to deprive me of a garlough . Lagelle our my former room motes, has been depreved of this furlough for heing eaught Alaying cards. They could deprive me of Anolonghe any way, because & will go, if Seannot go unconditionally, & ear go worditionally; 12 on a prich & ean leave West Point of the hopes of altentening for good. Your language about The division of the town I did not precisely understand; thoug. I could appreciate your remarkes upon the loquence of our quoit.

am consin Hoy o goald? you nor mother saw much of Rolandy sicknep. or of the causes of this fever. Joes Roland think or say much of California now? It has been quite a long time since I have seen him ; perhaps bee would hardly know sach other - but ther, he has same keny peculiar traits which three years could hardy efface - I think I would know him as guick as he would me . - you have my best wester for his opendy recovery, of he is not already well When this reaches him . I am on Guard Schall be theged to walk post this svening, Is that you must Excuse me of I do not file my taking wery wete full. him my home tomother father. Thave I Dellie, till them I am waiting impatiently for time to speed away that I may seture to Then I am glad that Charlie saks to improve so much I That Dellie a getting so sise is Remember me particularly the Grandmother when you see ther. Jake every save of your own hea to A shall not cease to be uneary till that is westuck ? I you yourself restructuted in your Clap. I received a cutatoque from Mr. H.C. Mood of Winthrop, requesting a register of this Inother Thom. I have notiged her able to procuse one. His hand writing resembled yours as much that I thought fefore of opened it that you had returned to folloge. The second Thought was that you had improved in writing. Myhealth is very Good. I fancy however I an growing old. Mrs Kundell says however, that our father appeared to her to be much alder than I now do when he first came to N. york. But she was the a child . I is now almost an old lady. My cousins above at Newburg. The misses Whilipps , cant manage to get of me, the wonderful child -- Arils soon

yours a fectionale Ote Howard.

83 2/27/1852 *From:* O.O. Howard

RBH-047

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y February 27 1852

Dear brother,

I intended to have written you a letter last Saturday. In that case you would have received one either Tuesday last or tomorrow; but Mr. Browne had a brother & cousin here that day, which caused me to put off my letter for a day or two. To day I received yours & mother's letter. I am sorry still to find you so poorly. I don't know what to make of your illness. Just as quick as it is possible for you to go out without danger from the cold, you must make it a point to take all the exercise you possibly can. Don't for mercy's sake! Let a want of energy & proper exertion sap your entire strength. I think mother's idea of frequent bathing & rubbing far from being a whimsical experiment. I know that. That means kept Peleg from taking new colds & thus renewing the inflammation of his lungs; & that it added tenfold in a very short time to his health & strength. You must have sealed your letter with a double wafer, for it (the letter) was broken open, the wafer apparently being split when I took it from the office. Probably there was no money enclosed, therefore no great loss.

Addison did not visit me & the reason may have been that I did not express any very urgent request in any of my letters that he may have seen to that effect. The reason is this, that I can offer but poor hospitality to a friend here at all & especially is that the case at this time of year. I could spend but little time with him, & unless he might be in love with rugged scenery, the Point now offers comparatively few attractions of any kind to the visitor.

Dexter A Hawkins, who graduated two years before me at Bowdoin, was here day before yesterday. I went about with him a little. He being thoroughly versed in erudition & well acquainted with the minutest details of our Country's history, took much interest & pleasure in searching out the places of which he had read. He visited all the forts, redoubts, batteries, monuments &. Saw everything with his big eyes in an incredibly short time. He has a classmate here, Mr. Ives, in our present first-class, one of the prettiest, smartest & finest young men of the class. He took Hawkins to the laboratory, where mother went with Langdon, to see some of the relics of antiquity, and the more recent prizes of Mexico.

You will see by the next monthly report that my demerit are again on the increase. Lieut. Jones, "old Ruin", returned from his furlough, had a fit of sickness, from which I am sorry to say many cadets expressed a hope that he never would recover & now comes forth as well as ever & 10 times more military. He reported me about as soon as he got his head out of doors; although I had crept up & down stairs on tiptoe for a month for fear of disturbing him or aggravating his fever. He seems to be my evil genius. I have now about 50 demerit. It will take 100 more to deprive me of a furlough. Lazelle one of my former roommates has been deprived of his furlough for being caught playing cards. They can't deprive me of furlough any way, because I will go, if I cannot go unconditionally, I can go conditionally: i.e. on a pinch I can leave West Point & the hopes of a Lieutenancy "for good."

Your language about the division of the town I did not precisely understand; though I could appreciate your remarks upon the eloquence of our quondam cousin Lloyd Gould. You nor mother said much of Roland's sickness or of the causes of his fever. Does Roland think or say much of California now? It has been quite a long time since I have seen him; perhaps we would hardly know each other, but then, he has some very peculiar traits which three years could hardly efface. I think I would know him as quick as he would me. Give him my best wishes for his speedy recovery, if he is not already well when this reaches him.

I am on guard & shall be obliged to walk post this evening, so that you must excuse me if I do not fill my letter very full. Give my love to mother, father, Charlie & Dellie. Tell them I am waiting impatiently for time to speed away that I may return to them. I am glad that Charlie seeks to improve so much & that Dellie is getting so wise. Remember me particularly with Grandmother when you see her. Take every care of your own health. I shall not cease to be uneasy till that is restored & you yourself reinstated in your class. I received a catalog from Mr. H.C. Wood of Winthrop, requesting a register of this institution. I have not yet been able to procure one. His handwriting resembled yours so much that I thought before I opened it that you had returned to College. The second thought was that you had improved in writing. My health is very good. I fancy however I am growing old.

To: Mr. R.B. Howard

South Leeds Maine

West Point N.Y.

Mrs. Rundell says however, that our father appeared to her to be much older than I now do, when he first came to N. York. But she was then a child & is now almost an old lady. My cousins above at Newburg, the Misses Phillips, can't manage to get sight of me, the wonderful child.

Write soon.

Yours affectionately O. O. Howard

[Envelope] Mr. R.B. Howard South Leeds Maine [Postmark] WEST POINT N.Y. 2 MAR make every effort ; Myon have such a standard, I hope it is some ways whend : - When a young mon days first & will get a College Education, without other ain or object never looking beyour, except to dream of the glowing, lacious graits, that he will pluck in the beautiful world; he will find himself, it is more than probable, full of moticages indecession or will, ogling fancies .- I like to see a young man like Dester Hawking, with a definite course manked out, which if Heaven permits he will pursue to the end. fewett too has his life time figed in a frame work, pensiled in out line, the design is in his brain - I time & labor are to perfect the meture. These young new have faults, & perhaps an ever consurable for their confident, self-confilement airs - buthe feel sure that they will make men I men of the first Mank. but good by this Theme. I read Charlies letter with pleasure the is ingenuous. I I hope always will be do -I like to read his simple naration of facts - ordinary events -. you can't think how it throws an interest into a letter, when it comes from home, for the worter to Enter auto detail whow all that is transfuring around him - Charlie teles an of the horses the cows - his work . de - Encourage his to write thus . Give my love to grandhother, if the is with you, tele her I shall certainly visit her on perlough & lavald at wonder if ligge accompanies me - give my love again to all - Tell father not to work he hard for he is getting to be an old man -or will haster the period, when we shall call his anaged man, if he continues to work so have as Charlie says be does .- I shall write to thathe tomorrow or next day-It is after lats as you may suppose - My quilt serve as a thick curtain - my ear as a sup quard ! I could be in bed in the and the least sound - Good hight Mili som. I do not let my opinious at all restrict your prevaction, for I am as liable to errors in judging of probabilities any other. You must think decide vact by your brother will and your as any other. You must think, decide Vacture is hower - They

I tisting sam and purchases for you where and the second the second Mest- Point Mld. Murch 19th 1852. Dear brother, I have just mailed a letter to you. but whice I have received one from you since, I owing to an unusually havy lefton in Calculus a few moments l'essure is left me . I will be thus early in my refely. Mother may be a little fealous - because I write you two letters, to her one; but you seem to be in a sorte of desagreeable uncertainty, touching yourself; & State of mind hens to possels you, in which duty, melination, pride, sell ill health. and perhaps a superfluity of advice on the heart of others - are all wrestling together & pulling you in different derections. you ask my opinion & which me to give it candidly ; recollecting the difference in our natures, so as not, the course which would be most advantageous to you with that I would follow under similar circumstances. Wher bother will not advise you, but will look at matters a little with you, season soften your setuation & the duties you are yourself at this enisis, when each step is of importance, it may be of the highest importances to your fature career. In the first place from your statement, I good ge, that you are totally unfit to Jursue your studies now - especially considering the additional labor of making Whe of course any wise man will place his health above his reducation, for without the former the latter will be of little avail & is often but a curse is What then! give life acquiring the benefit of which a college Education might confer, No: unless you are contented to do so. A College course is by no means essential (either in leterature, in the Julpit or at the bar to the highest degree of encels - But Knowledge must come from Some Source - for you I know Moture has done

much. Aberbative & leading have dom more perhaps; but you can seever make the man I wish to see you, unlep, by some means I dont care how, you can tring your intetteet under your own control if I may so speak; Enthusiasen, spirit & a confident bearing are exectimable qualities; they belong to the highest most brillians orations. I procane for them perchance more than half of their success. But the young man, with out influence, just setting whit when his cureer in the law, cannot trust to them; - He must be able to thank . I thank systematically ; he must be able to put This mind when he may be called to do it, with out consulting his fancy. - He must certainly be able to apply him self & that everysteally All this you know . you are very prond - ambetious . if you are in follage you bluch at medioerity, what would you do in your profession in after life ! Houng onen as gifted you will meet; Would you not feel it deeply, Should you find that an Education had placed them a few stops ahead of your when you felt conscious That they evalt not atterwise have risen above you I. All this you know, you know that mere reading pursishes you with facto & with statistion but that the understanding wants training, before it can combine them greproduce them forcelly Vadvantageousy - reading gives & polish rather than power; you had the defth, the bottom, on which you can caling rely under all emergencies. Now as I said it matters little hav, or where you purchas your armor. It would be the height of folly to think that you can live always in honor, without ever sucrepiering pride to your true & real interest ; This you unst do. Whey that you may command is our military lule. There to Suffer cropes for a time & you will soon rise about them. - But to the first . "What is the object of young to another everege! Will is make your tasks Easier ? will you have more friends ? more respect, more presidings than at Bowdom ? Think of it - Take pride away - stomp and of it Trenbles you . you can begin with another clap just where you ligt off - in a new class it is true, but what of that? Beleg, like you last a year, Many & Many a young man has been subjected to the Same misfortune. Brown University I know nothing of . - Haround I yale are too costy - I you would gain nothing in point of Education in Either in preference to Boundoin; you can study some what during This year - you know the thitles pursued - I you can with very little exertion prepare yourself to take a fair stand in another class & doit too without being obliged to overtask yourself. Here then is my opinion, that if you feel desirous of taking degree at College Mit? The hest way is to lay by quietty, study without overtasking yourself tile another year comes round; then return if yourare well & strong Vresame your studies at Bowdom. Let me know if this is not your honest consistion respecting the matter - if not till me why. Mon are mistake about the radical change in the estimate of worth at Callege since I was there. The superior Scholar would even conorge from insignificancy, yattan the emigersal respect, if not always the smiles of his fellow - students. None you be popular? Popularity at Callege I believe a curre : Extreme un popularity is, though not as dangerous, certainly to be stratedundesirable. But, my brother, do your best, do right - let whatwill come - & fear not for the consequence. I don't mean to rehearse to you idle maxims; only those principles which you & I must plant at the foundation of your the moral & intellectual structure which we parfeore to build; These we must cherish; the of mine is to fix my thendard & employ every proper means to attain boit you have your standard perobably, or at least a certain desire for

some definite good, for the acquinement of which you are ready to

To: Dear Brother [R.B. Howard]

RBH-048

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. March 19th, 1852.

Dear brother,

I have just mailed a letter to you, but as I have received one from you since & owing to an unusually easy lesson in Calculus a few moments leisure is left me. I will be thus early in my reply. Mother may be a little jealous, because I write you two letters, to her one; but you seem to be in a sort of disagreeable uncertainty touching yourself; a state of mind seems to possess you, in which duty, inclination, pride, ill-health and perhaps a superfluity of advice on the part of others, are all wrestling together & pulling you in different directions. You ask my opinion & wish me to give it candidly; recollecting the difference in our natures, so as not to confound the course which would be most advantageous to you, with that I would follow under similar circumstances. Your brother will not advise you, but will look at matters a little with you, reason upon your situation & the duties you owe yourself at this crisis, when each step is of importance, it may be of the highest importance to your future career.

In the first place from your statement, I judge that you are totally unfit to pursue your studies now, especially is this the case considering the additional labor of making up. Of course any wise man will place his health above his education, for without the former the latter will be of little avail & is often but a curse. What then? Give up acquiring the benefit which a college education might confer. No, unless you are contented to do so. A college course is by no means essential (either in literature, in the pulpit or at the bar) to the highest degree of success.

But knowledge must come from some source. For you I know Nature has done much. Observation & reading have done more perhaps; but you can never make the man I wish to see you, unless, by some means I don't care how, you can bring your intellect under your own control if I may so speak. Enthusiasm, spirit & a confident bearing are inestimable qualities. They belong to the most brilliant orators, & procure for them perchance more than half of their success. But the young man, without influence, just setting out upon his career in the law, cannot trust to them. He must be able to think, & think systematically. He must be able to put his mind where he may be called to do it, without consulting his fancy. He must certainly be able to apply himself & that energetically.

All this you know. You are very proud, ambitious. If you are in College you blush at mediocrity. What would you do in your profession in afterlife? Young men as gifted you will meet. Would you not feel it deeply, should you find that an education had placed them a few steps ahead of you when you felt conscious that they could not otherwise have risen above you

All this you know. You know that mere reading furnishes you with facts & with statistics, but that the understanding wants training, before it can combine them & reproduce them forcibly & advantageously. Reading gives polish rather than power; you need the depth, the bottom, on which you can calmly rely under all emergencies.

Now as I said it matters little how, or where, you purchase your armor. It would be the height of folly to think that you can live always in honor, without ever sacrificing pride to your true & real interest. This you must do: "obey that you may command" is our military rule. Strive to suffer crosses for a time & you will soon rise above them.

But to the point. What is the object of going to another college? Will it make your tasks easier? Will you have more friends? More respect, more privileges than at Bowdoin? Think of it. Take pride away, stomp on it if it troubles you. You can begin with another class just where you left off. In a new class it is true, but what of that? Peleg, like you, lost a year. Many & many a young man has been subjected to the same misfortune.

Brown University I know nothing of. Harvard & Yale are too costly & you would gain nothing in point of education in either in preference to Bowdoin. You can study somewhat during this year. You know the studies pursued & you can with very little exertion prepare yourself to take a fair stand in another class & do it too without being obliged to overtask yourself.

Here then is my opinion, that if you feel desirous of taking a degree at College, the best way is to lay by quietly, study without over tasking yourself till another year comes around. Then return if you are well & strong & resume your studies at Bowdoin. Let me know if this is not your honest conviction respecting the matter. If not tell me why.

You are mistaken about the radical change in the estimate of worth at College since I was there. The superior scholar would even then emerge from insignificancy, & attain the universal respect, if not always the smiles, of his fellow-students. Would you be popular? Popularity at College I believe a curse. Extreme unpopularity is, though not as dangerous, certainly very undesirable. But, my brother, do your best, do right, let what will come & fear not for the consequence. I don't mean to rehearse to you idle maxims, only those principles which you & I must plant at the foundation of the moral & intellectual structure which we purpose to build. These we must cherish. One of mine is to fix my standard ahead & employ every proper means to attain to it. You have your standard probably, or at least a certain desire for some definite good, for the acquirement of which you are ready to make every effort.

If you have such a standard, I hope it is some ways ahead. When a young man says first I will get a college education, without other aim or object, never looking beyond, except to dream of the glowing, luscious fruits, that he will pluck in the beautiful world; he will find himself, it is more than probable, full of indecision or wild ogling fancies. I like to see a young man like Dexter Hawkins, with a definite course marked out, which, if Heaven permits he will pursue to the end. Jewett too has his life-time fixed in a frame-work, penciled in outline; the design is in his brain, & time & labor are to perfect the picture. These young men have faults, & perhaps are even censurable for their confident, self-complacent airs, but we feel sure that they will make men & men of the first stamp. But good bye this theme.

I read Charlie's letter with pleasure. He is ingenious & I hope always will be so. I like to read his simple narration of facts, ordinary events. You can't think how it throws an interest into a letter, when it comes from home, for the writer to enter into detail upon all that is transpiring around him. Charlie tells me of the horses, the cows, his work &c. Encourage him to write thus.

Give my love to grandmother, if she is with you, tell her I shall certainly visit her on furlough & I wouldn't wonder if Lizzie accompanied me. Give my love again to all. Tell father not to work too hard, for he is getting to be an old man, or will hasten the period, when we shall call him an aged man, if he continues to work so hard as Charlie says he does. I shall write to mother tomorrow or next day.

It is after taps as you may suppose. My quilt serves as a thick curtain, my ear as a safeguard! I could be in bed in no time did I hear the least sound. Good night. Write soon. & Do not let my opinions at all restrict your free action, for I am as liable to errors in judging of probabilities as any other. You must think, decide & act & your brother will aid you all in his power.

Yrs -Otis

(Barren and some a second and to do not and and the participants soons from the prove way I there all the sistering or integers hall pear equipter as deterts any detering a hour and a stand of the advert the west of the property and PAID PAID Baltharea Marine Baltharea Marine Sten. Him gat be sand to I? That they and heater the survey at recease have freedow to excretion after it formande and take to go the A shall work how if the of your alter an hald . The is the and and and tothe parties to balle chelses, plus, how had y ale - dovie or grow show and the the harder interested . The sear lader and and by the I down proved therein a superior is sense a tot had and a sense

aller to and the fight Orar hottar, I presume you begin to grow Timed of waiting for a letter - Bet you need not The impatient for there is one forth coming, Soloon as West Sout &c is written; for I believe you & I always thave a sufficient amount of gas' scenetio is our pens, To make them fill the sheet that is placed under them, at any Yall times, under any & all circumstances. But Mr Rowland, you should not buter we on having 2 . gassifing correspondence, for & disclaim the honor most essentially, The Gostip That I repeated to jon cano from a different source than you asheeper fancied. Ruow now that my correspondents, sank higher then gassifes'-Our Examination commences Tuesday next- When you get this I will have been already Examined in Mathematics. Thatwondrows course, which is pooliskly supposed to test the young man's abilities will have been completed by your Animble Servant. Mane the best mark in that branch in The class & have the advantage of hering already at the head. Therefore if I do well I will remain where I am, that since I am but two tenths akead, a failure on the Examination would set me a going down. I have now all hold yo dement : a good amount is it not for one who had a dement last year? Thave striven there as hard this year not to get demerit, but it was of no use; all the good resolution all the precantionary measures that I have taken, have been rendered mul. Never mind. Thundrig does not make a man

Mast Bint P. May 30. 1852

, nor does the lop of a few files by demonth subtract from This knowledge or intelligence. My heart is not set upon it, though I make take a little pride in being first in my clap. Sew in the long rune take the who y downs' of life with a cooler or more philosophie spirit. You think perhaps that I gret & horry my reef over these little Anatters . I have to , but I have found that My housense got no sympathy & quit it. I can now regort a Jolly, brooke a disappointment or undergo a misfortune with a strical silence. This result in my impatient constitution has been effected by discipline . good ! how mise we are getting. The methouses you will find your brother the Same ald sixperce, brightened or tarnished, as you please, by various handling. Viggie wrote me you were in Portland_ This you booked so much to I ased to when I was in College that the had to stop I think befor the spoke to you when you came to the cloor. Two again, or as the Frenchman Days This bien ! How much you must have improved ! I year you must be now the hest looking man of the two. I console my vanily by the remembrance of former days when I was young. Mother says I was once a pretty boy. I had a letter from Frank Surgert, Jarch's husband The other day. He writes me that his business has been almost as good as nothing - that Addison has made him a tempting offer to induce him to set out for California very soon .. The Brad not determined to go. Starah wrote in the same letter that The feared he would go, did not fancy the idea, but she did not know but fit was for the blot. It sums to me I trould event myself very much to get huseness neaver home before

I would leave a young wife to soon after marriage for The uncertainties of a voyage to California. Those young men at the met Mall, are sentenced to be confined to their woons from the first day of gune till the battation go into Comp Walk post equipped as Sentinels every saturday after- noon from two V'elock untile setreal - Active pour six hours, in the but sun befor the barracker, without relief or rest. Then to the confined to the Chain of Sentinels in Campe & walk host in addition to Ordinary thity Every Saturday the the 18th July. Severe, is it not? Ayou would shoulder father's ale Alunderbus that was carried by thashing george in the Madawasky. war, And timiting your post - by the bars near the bee house I the soud where the post box used to Stand, tramping Steadily with a heavy hat on your head for " hours wethout speaking or stopping a moment, Ma all appreciate the pleasure of this extra dulyer yet lattets make nothing of it; a few watter muttered now and then against the Sphorepion Seems sufficient to sustain Them. Some get so used to it, that they walk out in the evening at release from quarters for exercise after iP. I presume you well be looking for me between the mentieth's twenty, and twenty fifthe; I shall work home after my Examination in Math. Hoping you are all well - with you to Dellie Mother, Jather, Rolper & all - I wree bud your good night. Received Thother's VI gellie's letter, with the money, which I deposited immediately. The new ladets are flocking in - I shall he detailed in a few days to Instruct, There in the funda-

mental tranches of leaving : being on that account exercise from all military duty . till Bleave for furlough . Good night _ Moor affectional boths - This

855/30/1852From: Otis [O O Howard]To: Dear Brother [R.B.
Howard}RBH-049West Point N.Y.South Leeds
Maine

West Point N.Y. May 30, 1852.

Dear brother,

Source: Bowdoin

I presume you begin to grow tired of waiting for a letter. Yet you need not be impatient for there is one forthcoming, so soon as West Point &c is written; for I believe you & I always have a sufficient amount of "gas" secreted in our pens, to make them fill the sheet that is placed under them, at any & all times, under any & all circumstances. But Mr. Rowland, you should not banter me on having a gossiping correspondence, for I disclaim the honor most essentially. The gossip that I repeated to you came from a different source than you as before fancied. Know now that my correspondence, rank higher than "gossips".

Our examination commences Tuesday next. When you get this I will have been already examined in Mathematics. That wondrous course, which is foolishly supposed to test the young man's abilities will have been completed by your humble servant. I have the best mark in that branch in the class & have the advantage of being already at the head. Therefore if I do well I will remain where I am, but since I am but two tenths ahead, a failure on examination would set me a going down.

I have now all told 70 demerit, a goodly amount is it not for one who had 0 demerit last year? I have striven twice as hard this year not to get demerit, but it was of no use. All the good resolutions, all the precautionary measures that I have taken, have been rendered null. Never mind. Standing does not make a man, nor does the loss of a few files by demerit subtract from his knowledge or intelligence. My heart is not set upon it, though I may take a little pride in being first in my class. Few in the long run take the "ups & downs" of life with a cooler or more philosophic spirit than I. You think perhaps that I fret & worry myself over these little matters. I used to, but I found that my nonsense got no sympathy & quit it. I can now regret a folly, brooke a disappointment or undergo a misfortune with a stoical silence. This result in my impatient constitution has been effected by discipline. Good! How wise we are getting. Still methinks you will find your brother the same old sixpence, brightened or tarnished, as you please, by various handling.

Lizzie wrote me you were in Portland, said you looked so much as I used to when I was in College that she had to stop & think before she spoke to you when you came to the door. Good again, or as the Frenchman says Eh! Bien! How much you must have improved! I fear you must be now the best looking man of the two. I console my vanity by the remembrance of former days when I was young. Mother says I was once a pretty boy.

I had a letter from Frank Sargent, Sarah's husband the other day. He writes me that his business has been almost as good as nothing, that Addison has made him a tempting offer to induce him to set out for California very soon. He had not determined to go. Sarah wrote in the same letter that she feared he would go, did not fancy the idea, but she did not know but it was for the best. It seems to me I would exert myself very much to get business nearer home before I would leave a young wife so soon after marriage for the uncertainties of a voyage to California.

Those young men at the Mess Hall, are sentenced to be confined to their rooms from the first day of June till the battalion go into camp, walk post equipped as sentinels every Saturday afternoon from two o'clock until retreat - between five & six hours, in the hot sun before the barracks, without relief or rest. Then to be confined within the chain of sentinels in camp & walk post in addition to ordinary duty every Saturday till the 1st of July. Severe, is it not? If you would shoulder father's old blunderbuss that was carried by Washington George in the "Madawasky" war, limiting your post by the bars near the bee-house & the road, where the post-box used to stand, tramping steadily with a heavy hat on your head for <> hours without speaking or stopping a moment, you could appreciate the pleasure of this extra duty. Yet Cadets make nothing of it, a few oaths muttered now and then against the oppression seem sufficient to sustain them. Some get so used to it, that they walk out in the evening at release from Quarters for exercise after it.

I presume you will be looking for me between the twentieth and twenty fifth. I shall write home after my examination in Math. Hoping you are all well, with my love to Dellie, mother, father, Roland & all, I will bid you

good night. I received mother's & Dellie's letter with the money the most of which I deposited immediately. The new Cadets are flocking in. I shall be detailed in a few days to instruct a section of them in the fundamental branches of learning, being on that account excused from all military duty till I leave for furlough.

Good night. Your affectionate brother Otis

[Envelope] Mr. R. B. Howard South Leeds Maine [Postmark] WEST POINT N. Y. 1 JUN 3.