



PAID

Mr. Richard B. Howard
Cape Elizabeth
(via Portland) Maine

Dec 19th 1851
De Howard

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 file 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 & Beleg. 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 4th 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 merits. 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 men or young ladies at your boarding place? Fizzie 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 proud 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 much Henry is thriving at Portland? I wrote him once & have 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 Crono. 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 Fizzie can get a horse & sleigh, perhaps she will be after you; I will not object.

Your affectionate brother

Do not forget A. O. Howland.

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

To: Mr. Rowland B Howard

RBH-045

West Point N.Y.

Cape Elizabeth (via Portland)
Maine

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

[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 ~~prophet~~
prophet from God & his only miracle the Koran.
His Character however was inconsistent. He ceased to
emulate the character & doctrine of Our Saviour 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 a Moslem?
There is a little too much of genuine unregenerate human
nature in the Character of Mahomet 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 — Father is beating —

Your affectionate brother

A. L. Howard

I have at 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 & well if I can only
rise a few files in drawing.

Good night. Yours affectionately

A. L. H.

West Point - February 1st 1842

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 15th 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 wait 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 post I think 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.
Charles would like to be praised - but I will not undertake - lest
he feel flattered, being like me very susceptible of the
deceptive spirit of sweet words. As 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!" in such terms trust 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 & commence 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 corporality, Serjeanty, Lieutenancy, according to which he may be eligible. If he carries 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, I see that they were not 'hived' absent, in order to "run 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 a cadet gets asked a 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 ~~from~~ in & rooms not their own every day. We cannot visit each other during call to quarters. That is we 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} ~~for~~ extra-tours of guard duty & the Sentinel six; — if without the ^{his} knowledge you perform the whole right & 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, conducting with the step of an army officer, & 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 Swedenborg, in dreams & trances, he fancied his own thoughts ^{-to} revelations from God. It seems too that his followers & Moslem writers, have ascribed to him more than he ever claimed

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.

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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.

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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.



Mr. R. B. Woodward
 North Leeds
 Maine

Paid.

Feb 27 1852
 R. B. Woodward

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 ~~of~~ one either this day last or tomorrow; but Mr Brown 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 Bely from taking new cold & thus renewing the inflammation of his lungs; & that it added ten fold in a very short time to his health & strength. You must have sealed your letter with a double wafer. for ^(the letter) it 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. Attilia 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 ragged scenery, the Point now offers comparatively few attractions of any kind to the visitor.

Sept. A Hopkins, 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 &c. - saw & ~~was~~ everything with his big eyes in an incredibly short time. He has a classmate here, Mr. Jones, is our present first class, one of the prettiest, smartest & finest young men of the class. He took Hopkins to the laboratory, where mother went with Langdon, to see some of the relics of antiquity, and the more recent prizes of Mexico. We will see by the next monthly report that my demerits are again on the increase. Lieut Jones, 'old Quin', 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 & ten 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 tip toe for a month for fear of disturbing him or aggravating his fever. He seems to be my evil genius. I have now about 50 demerits. It will take 100 more to deprive me of a furlough. Lazell and my former room-mates, has been deprived of his furlough for being caught playing cards. They can't deprive me of furlough in any way, because I will go, if I cannot go unconditionally, I can go conditionally; is on a pinch I can leave West Point & the hopes of attenteining 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 guard.

-am 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 ~~well~~ full. Give my love to mother, father, Charles & Nellie, tell them I am waiting impatiently for time to spend away that I may return to them. I am glad that Charles seeks to improve so much & that Nellie is getting so wise. Remember me particularly to Grandmother when you see her. Take every care of your own head. I shall not cease to be uneasy till that is restored. & you yourself restorated in your class. I received a catalogue from Mr. D.C. Wood of Winthrop, requesting a register of this Institution. I have not yet been able to procure one. His hand writing 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. Mrs. Knudell 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. E. Howard.

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

To: Mr. R.B. Howard

RBH-047

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds
Maine

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.

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: 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~~ ^{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, persued in out line; 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 goodbye this theme. I read Charles letter with pleasure. He is ingenuous, & 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 - Charles tells us 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 far longh & I would'nt 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 Charles 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 safe guard: 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. ^{all in his power} Your brother will aid you - ~~God~~ - ~~God~~ -

West-Point N.Y. March 14th 1852.

Dear Brother,

I have just mailed a letter to you - but ^{as} since I have received one from you since, I 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, ~~self~~ 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 ^{in this 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 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 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 highest most
brilliant orators, & procure for them purchase more than half
of their success. But the young man, with out 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 when he may be called to do it, without consulting his
fancy. - He must certainly be able to apply himself ~~to 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 after life? 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 ~~a~~ 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? Well, like you last
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 overtake yourself. Here then is
my opinion, that if you feel desirous of taking a degree at College
~~that~~, the best way is to lay by quietly, study without overtaking
yourself till another year comes round; 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 insignificance, & 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} ~~to be shunned~~ -
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 ~~our~~ 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

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

West Point N.Y. May 30. 1852

Dear Brother,

I presume you begin to grow tired of waiting for a letter. Yet you need not be impatient for there is one forth coming, as 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 baiter 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 ~~discreetly~~ fancied. Know now that my correspondents, 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 the examination would set me a going down. I have now all told 40 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



PAID

Recd.

Mr. R. B. Fernald.

For Mr. C. L. Fernald.

Maine

nor does the loss of a few files by denovit 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. You think perhaps that I fret & worry myself over these little matters. I used to, but I ~~have~~ found that my nonsense got no sympathy & quit it. I can now regard a folly, brook a disappointment or undergo a misfortune with a stolid 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 siffence, brightened or tarnished, as you please, by various handling. Pizzie 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 should 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 Map 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} to 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, ~~and~~ 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 12 hours without speaking or stopping a moment. You would appreciate the pleasure of this extra duty. Yet Cadets make nothing of it; a few cat's, snuffled now and then against the oppression 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 it. I presume you will be looking for me between the twentieth & twenty, and twenty fifth; I shall write home after my examination in 'Math.' Hoping you are all well - with my love to Dellie Mother, Father, Koller & 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 ^{although} 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 - John

85 5/30/1852 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

To: Dear Brother [R.B. Howard}

RBH-049

West Point N.Y.

South Leeds
Maine

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. May 30, 1852.

Dear brother,

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".

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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.

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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.

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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.