your visit profetable and interesting to you. It will lost you something but is need not much. Here comes tattor -This will make fourteen pages of letter proper, evered with my serand that I will send out by tomorrows mail -Serhaps you may think that I write very slowly from what I say . leh , no my per glides on firety rapidly unles I take pains, as I sometimes do, though seldow in my letters to you. I am not going to take pains tile you do. If you will sit down I write me the hear letter you law. I will give you a more careful reply of perhaps a better. I like nowever to read your free & easy style, when I do not have to stop too long on a queer character. I by so doing love the thread of the stong Mr Williams says. Mel. Fuller is clowing great Mings at Augusta as Editor. He thinks him a smart man. says he will always be called a smark man he thinks, but never, probably a distinguished man. I like to see our old Alma mater hum our worthy sons .- I hope you will do honor to her name by doing full justice to jourdelf. Is your health good , I hope in is. I am not going to write about my little ill-turns any more when I ger right decently sick I am going to mile home about it or get somebolly tou. not before It only gives mother useless anxieties he tell all my little ailments I am well now - May God bless you of prosper you is all things right my brother -Mrs affectionally altoward.

West Points . Mar 13. 1858.

My Clear Brother.

I am very sorry that I cho not keep my premise to you so that you might have a letter on your return to Thopean. I netended to have wrotten it last week, but instead I wrote a very long one In mother of Dellie, intending to have written yours, as soon as I had finished that, but I cannot write fast enough Talloo' comes now before I think gir. Cozzie wrote me that you were in Brostland on your way back. I wish you to tell me how she seemed if she looked as well as when I was on furlingh. I enspect the closs nor - Is is as pleasant calling there now that they have a big panily as before? The law you told her that Much Kenny talked of going to Australia, but you die not think he had the everage to go. Is all Bowdow very Anythy clased at the Elevation of one of her Sons ? President theree made a fine inaugural address. I think I will like him pretty well. He has given no a Secretary of war who will nor spire us much Jef. Davis. Already he has given orders that no more Evdets who are found deficient shall be turned back but must leave. The leave of his severity wise he that he is a graduote of this Institution himself. G.M. Gonrad was a splendid man for Eadels. Gesterday afternoon I called on a Graduate of Brwdin Jan Alhenaeur I believe, Horrace Williams Capt

Jeth Billiams brother, The latter is the adjutant of this Ross as I may have written you I my particular friend - a very fine man indeed. Herrace Williams has been to California & returned Wealthy. He sums about 25. He may be older. He was in the class That threw acid in Professor Goodwins eyas, He was at the celebrated bon-fire. I never met a more thorough gentlemen, or a more armable man in my life. How aw every body sum as home ! Is mother well - Charlie & Dellie growing out of my Knowledge! It is wieked to shut me wife here, so that I cannot run home and make a short visit, like you - but then I had my time -This month of March is an auful month as West Points. I believe is is about as but at Bruowwick Mongh the Lopshan must be a nicer place since the melles show I ice will flow down from its steek hills to the all Androseoggie - but here he have a chop snow one day a fair of warm day the next which generates liquifuetion & evaporation a little two rapidly for comfort, and the next a view rain, so that we tramp about in mud of water of snow the whole time. Why I have not had dry feet after ten velvek each deg for a fortnight, but it does not seem to hart-me. In passed your examination and you not before you went home! My cliploma is of no great consequence any how? you need not trouble yourself In engine about is then I med is I will easily ger in. What dis you find of interest as Leels besides our own Junily? Mus Auxilla Mere -? I presume you hall plentyof music du you not? Sont father Minto me have a

set of Lows in the Marin Segislature now! They nave Some greet times & see. The Advertizer & Argus seem to continue their political fends. But I perceive the Maine girls are getting brane - especially in the hour of Stillwater. If all young ladies would be as prompt at defending their honor I presume the country would not be as full as is is of dishonorable, eventemptable, sowardly rakes. No, I go to for the lountry is not full of them - but she contains a number sufficient to charge our terrestrial angels into friends, to people our lities with prothetutes than which nothing in human noture is more partiably wile. I like the honor of eaders of officers They always respect Jemale virture. and they diseased with contempt the man who does not respect in, and I believe many Southerners would put a bullet through his heart, though I regret to admit that vice in other forms is allowed yeven popular, stile this principle, and the deep of natitude regard for truth in an officer, lannot help impropring you with respect for him. This as I once imagined is not the worst servol in the world. There are many virtues acquired I cherished here, a peculiar drynity, manlines I high sense of honor enaracterizes almost every graduate. I hape indud you will some to be me next summer. I visit will do you much good besides the pleasure of meeting your trother, youlan Gain much information that will be of use to you, and will probably enjoy visiting places & seems that are already families on the page of history. I will leave nothing untrue to make

91 3/13/1853 *From:* O.O. Howard *To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-055 West Point

Source: Bowdoin

West Point Mar. 13, 1853

My dear Brother,

I am very sorry that I did not keep my promise to you so that you might have a letter on your return to Topsham. I intended to have written it last week, but instead I wrote a very long one to mother & Dellie, intending to have written yours, as soon as I finished that, but I cannot write fast enough "tattoo" comes now before I think of it.

Lizzie wrote me that you were in Portland on your way back. I wish you to tell me how she seemed, if she looked as well as when I was on furlough. I suspect she does not. Is it as pleasant calling there now that they have a big family as before? She said you told her that Uncle Henry talked of going to Australia, but you did not think he had the courage to go.

Is old Bowdoin very highly elated at the elevation of one of her sons? President Pierce made a fine inaugural address. I think I will like him pretty well. He has given us a Secretary of War, who will not spare as much Jeff Davis. Already he has given orders that no more Cadets who are found deficient shall be turned back but all such must leave. The secret of his severity to be is that he is a Graduate of this Institution himself. CM Conrad was a splendid man for Cadets. Yesterday afternoon I called on a Graduate of Bowdoin & an Athenaean I believe, Horace Williams, Capt. Seth Williams brother, the latter is the adjutant of this Post as I may have written you & my particular friend, a very fine man indeed. Horace Williams has been to California & returned wealthy. He seems about 25. He may be older. He was in the class that threw acid in Professor Goodwin's eyes. He was at the celebrated bon-fire. I never met a more thorough gentleman, or a more amiable man in my life.

How did everybody seem at home? Is mother well - Charlie & Dellie growing out of my knowledge? It is wicked to shut me up here, so that I can not run home and make a short visit, like you, but then I had my time.

This month of March is an awful month at West Point. I believe it is about as bad at Brunswick, though Topsham must be a nicer place, since the melted snow & ice will flow down from its steep hills to the old Androscoggin, but here we have a deep snow one day, a fair & warm day the next which generates liquifaction & evaporation a little too rapidly for comfort, and the next a nice rain, so that we tramp about in mud & water & snow the whole time. Why I have not had dry feet after ten o'clock each day for a fortnight, but it does not seem to hurt me.

You passed your examination did you not before you went home? My diploma is of no great consequence anyhow? You need not trouble yourself to inquire about it. When I need it I will easily get it.

What did you find of interest at Leeds besides our own family? Was Aurilla there? I presume you had plenty of music did you not? Don't father think we have a set of Sows in the Maine legislature now? They have some queer times to see. The Advertiser & Argus seemed to continue their political feuds. But I perceive the Maine girls are getting brave, especially in the town of Stillwater. If all young ladies would be as prompt at defending their honor I presume the country would not be as full as it is of dishonorable, contemptible, cowardly rakes.

No, I go too far the country is not full of them, but she contains a number sufficient to change our terrestrial angels into fiends, to people our cities with prostitutes than which nothing in human nature is more pitiably vile. I like the honor of cadets & officers. They always respect female virtue, and they discard with contempt the man who does not respect it, and I believe many Southerners would put a bullet through his heart, though I regret to admit that vice in other forms is allowed & even popular, still this principle, and the deep & habitual regard for truth in an officer, cannot help impressing you with respect for him. This as I once imagined is not the worst school in the world. There are many virtues acquired & cherished here, a peculiar dignity manliness & high sense of honor characterizes almost every graduate.

I hope indeed you will come to see me next summer. A visit will do you much good besides the pleasure of

meeting your brother. You can gain much information that will be of use to you, and will probably enjoy visiting places & scenes that are already familiar on the pages of history. I will leave nothing untried to make your visit profitable and interesting to you. It will cost you something but it need not much.

Here comes tattoo. This will make fourteen pages of letter paper, covered with my scrawl that I will send out by tomorrow's mail. Perhaps you may think that I write very slowly from what I say. Oh, no my pen glides on pretty rapidly unless I take pains, as I sometimes do, though seldom in my letters to you. I am not going to take pains till you do. If you will sit down & write me the best letter you can, I will give you a more careful reply & perhaps a better. I like, however to read your free & easy style, when I do not have to stop too long on a queer character & by so doing lose the thread of the story.

Mr. Williams says, Mel Fuller is doing great things at Augusta as Editor. He thinks him a smart man., Says he will always be called a smart man methinks, but never, probably a distinguished man. I like to see our old Alma Mater turnout worthy sons. I hope you will do honor to her name, by doing full justice to yourself. Is your health good? I hope it is. I am not going to write about my little ill-turns any more, when I get right decently sick I'm going to write home about it or get somebody to not before. It only gives mother useless anxieties to tell all my little ailments. I am well now. May God bless you & prosper you in all things right, my brother.

Yrs affectionately O.O. Howard

I have not time to read this over. Correct errors for me.

Mar me may be poster up on such a subject, so that me may not be dileveed by a seeffer or the touth. for want of Anowledge, and a second is Matty ins interest to the perusal of Bible history. leaving out of becomes the Solutions of many doubts of perfectities, which file the sent at times, Our new Commandant is making a complete revolution in the process of drilling it is almost impossible to go hi chile or purade withour getting reported. My or gernett (The Commandant) houself chois not report body, Mongh he makes no toe the line' but the Infantry instructions under him often seport to cover their own ignorance. is. they fane, they can make men learn to drile well by telling then that every mostate will be reported - bur ow nor knew how or do not The the honble like the Major to explain each motion in detail. I have got reported twicewither a few days for nor "cheping properly. You think her hopes that refers to elothingfor from ir, I was very nearly dressed as I always am but it refer to a want of accuracy in aliquing ones self on The men on your right or left at some company formation. Your my love to & harlie title time I will write this Soon. He wood me a very good letter. I want min by My have to as well. Tell for there is not the liver danger of his falling behind me in Scholarship, if he will but half try. Remember me to Allamo telle fine I would like to take a walk our home with him again - as I once dis. Som have a very goodsized selved is suns Donos work too hand. Graffeetward brother

West Points A.M. Mar. 80.53

My dear brother. The masen & have found home to maile you in the middle of the week is between you & me - Mat I am afflicted with one of Job's conforters of am in ensequence excused from will I dreft purade. I meant of trok a bath after returning from the Druwing Academy at four, and an now enjoying my self as mell as possible under the event tances, I received your good long letter of in a day or so afterwards one from Charlie - I was partio - wearly gratefied with the good news that you will wisis me next summer. I have not feen doing so well in my stricties as I eveld wish, expecially in Chemistry. When me come to review, taking four lessons at a time I earnor show away in my memory everything in detail com consequently get hime ' non y them. his it does not matter much I can not going to study myself out of the world for a file or two in standing I am glas you get my Diploma - President Monds was always disposed to flatter me somewhat but he remembered The on my return to Brunswick rather better than The majority of my ald friends and teachers, and sumer very glad to see me. (Mon will like him when you lome to resite the him, for he is a pleasunt as well as Superior metruetor. Did lite you the reception My old Griffin gave me when I waited Brunswick on furlough?

He thought I must be one of the Sortland Bund of Mindie because I had bright buttons. He told me he believed. he had seen my face before somewhere but he could not tell who I might be. Me'ken the Pollege treusurer made the same flothering mistate and nather than Nese any higher in the Aritheratio Alale. I wished that I had been more modestly attired. I intend to pur by the military meignie on my next furlongh. What is if I ear get a citizen's east that will button all the may who hi my throat. Each class before grallwoting. Some four or fine months before - is the allewed Mr privilege of engaging both uniform & citizen clothing - Mr Earl of Boston, or Myseen of New york, usually comes on here I take the measure of all who want blothing I has When ready made for the members of the Elias Some weeks before they leave. It wito nearly every man between three cond four hundred dollars to fix them houself our busy his uniform, his sword, his trunk . Ve. The Millary, Frank ears twenty five dellars - great cour forty. Now I am not going to submit to such prices for myself. I will bry just what I am obliged to here and when I get in Maine I law get the rest for helf the money. I wrote a letter to mother lass sunday - I presume you I charle find time to write oftever them & can. I received a letter from mother of Dellie last with which I answered Sunday drening. The is talking of visiting Wortland, and perhaps she is already there. I hope futhers business will

take him as for as N. Gork, for & believe it would do me a heap' of good as the Southernors say hise him. I am by the propers that the Maine Elaw has undergone revision, and that the reins are in no way loosened, low are rather Orann a little tropler. I en nor know what will be the final use of all these measures, but I hope Aux & hope they hele nor by reaction generale any retrograde movement in the land which they asserve to advance. Professor Sprole has made me as a monter of his Bible class a present of a book sutille Nelson on Infedelity. Nelson was originally an Infidel trimself- and he die so much evil by apreading his doctrines, that after his convertion he resolved to spend the remainder of his life in Turning aside men from installity. He was a very powerful & vigorous Speaker, and went from one part of the country to the other-Shipping & speaking wherever he found skeptiers in voque-The is no nigerous a writer as he is said to be a speaker - He sises up the geological infidel. and the learnes infidel, admirably. I have guined a great deal of information from realing the book, particularly with regard to the prophecies of our Levier, in Revolation which I do not under-Stand. He shows how to the letter there as well as mermerous prophecies of the all Testament name been fulfilled. For the sake of Assing no Christian partiality, he takes for his authority infidel & Heather writers in the majority of cases. I think you would like the book if you could manage to get it. There are two objects in reading a book of this character one

92 3/30/1853 From: O.O. Howard To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-056 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. March 30 '53

My dear brother

The reason I have found time to write you in the middle of the week is between you & me, that I am afflicted with one of Job's comforters & and in consequence excused from drill & dress parade. I went & took a bath after returning from the Drawing Academy at four, and am now enjoying myself as well as possible under the circumstances. I received your good long letter & in a day or so afterwards one from Charlie. I was particularly gratified with the good news that you will visit me next summer.

I have not been doing so well in my studies as I could wish, especially in Chemistry. When we come to review, taking four lessons at a time I cannot stow away in my memory everything in detail and consequently get "hived" now & then, but it does not matter much. I am not going to study myself out of the world for a file or two in standing.

I am glad you got my Diploma. President Woods was always disposed to flatter me somewhat, but he remembered me on my return to Brunswick rather better than the majority of my old friends and teachers, and seemed very glad to see me. You will like him when you come to recite to him, for he is a pleasant as well as superior instructor. Did I tell you the reception my old Griffin gave me when I visited Brunswick on furlough? He thought I must be one of the Portland Band of Music because I had bright buttons. He told me he believed he had seen my face before somewhere, but he could not tell who I might be. McKeen the College treasurer made the same flattering mistake and rather than rise any higher in the Aristocratic Scale, I wished that I had been more modestly attired. I intend to put by the military insignia on my next furlough, that is, if I can get a citizens coat that will button all the way up to my throat.

Each class before graduating, some four or five months before, is allowed the privilege of enjoying both uniform & citizen clothing. Mr. Earl of Boston, or Wyman of New York, usually comes on here & takes the measure of all who want clothing & has them ready-made for the members of the class some weeks before they leave. It costs nearly every man between three and four hundred dollars to fit himself out, buy his uniform, his sword, his trunk &c. The Military Trunk costs twenty-five dollars, Great coat forty. Now I am not going to submit to such prices for myself. I will buy just what I am obliged to have and when I get in Maine I can get the rest for half the money.

I wrote a letter to mother last Sunday. I presume you & Charlie find time to write her oftener than I can. I received a letter from mother & Dellie last week which I answered Sunday evening. She is talking of visiting Portland, and perhaps she is already there. I hope father's business will take him as far as N. York, for I believe it would do me a "heap" of good as the southerners say to see him. I see by the papers that the Maine Law has under gone revision, and that the reins are in no way loosened, but are rather drawn a little tighter. I do not know what will be the final issue of all these measures, but I hope they will not by reaction generate any retrograde movement in the cause which they assumed to advance.

Professor Sprole has made me as a member of his Bible class a present of a book entitled Nelson on Infidelity. Nelson was originally an infidel himself, and he did so much evil by spreading his doctrine that after his conversion he resolved to spend the remainder of his life in turning aside man from infidelity. He was a very powerful & vigorous speaker, and went from one part of the country to the other, stopping & speaking wherever he found skepticism in vogue. He is as vigorous a writer as he is said to be a speaker. He rises up the geological infidel and the learned infidel, admirably. I have gained a great deal of information from reading the book, particularly with regard to the prophecies of our Savior, in revelation, which I did not understand. He shows how to the letter these as well as numerous prophecies of the Old Testament have been fulfilled. For the sake of avoiding Christian partiality, he takes for his authority infidel & heathen writers in the majority of cases. I think you would like the book if you could manage to get it.

There are two objects in reading a book of this character - one that we may be posted up on such subjects, so that we may not be silenced by a scoffer at the truth for want of knowledge, and a second is that it gives interest

to the perusal of Bible history, leaving out of account the solution of many doubts & perplexities, which fill the soul, at times.

Our new Commandant is making a complete revolution in the process of drilling. It is almost impossible to go to drill or parade without getting reported. Major Garrett (the Commandant) himself does not report badly, though he makes us "toe the line", but the Infantry instructors under him often report to cover their own ignorance i.e. they fancy they can make men learn to drill well by telling them that every mistake will be reported, but do not know how or do not take the trouble like the Major to explain each motion in detail. I have got reported twice within a few days for not "dressing properly". You think perhaps that refers to clothing - far from it. I was very neatly dressed as I always am, but it refers to a want of accuracy in aligning one's self on the men on his right or left at some company formation.

Give my love to Charlie. Tell him I will write him soon. He wrote me a very good letter. I want him to try hard to do well. Tell him there is not the least danger of his falling behind me in scholarship, if he will but half try. Remember me to Adams. Tell him I would like to take a walk out home with him again, as I once did. You have a very good sized school it seems. Do not work too hard.

Your affectionate brother O.O. Howard

while after a realist of the second of the second second and Wesh Joint N.Y. Apr 17. 1853. had after the the time was a second of the time of the there have a transfer and now I want for fee so the dayles My clear Brother I noticed many in my other staymen, I see on a place the form and to make we said to be the said on a later to the said to have so and the format was the same of the same of the same of Things in your last interesting letter, in the one of The selection of species and some of shops of my agreety arole to Churlie immediately on the section of yours -The same of the sa I cannot realize their george is really gone to his Elevisle he have myself at the first so provided to propose in the home; that I never will again behold his mile of pleasant oventenance again while I live - And is it really so? Mow little one thinks when he is mingling in a little friendly come from the total and the state of the state of the state of and was open to alcare the is that I had which have I gar Social circle. Most that is the last Nome he is to see some one of those bright faces. bearing with intelligence, and in an diese on I grande the When you down to do not have many when I where we was the first of the bedrate , bespeaking an astive spirit within. Her every lody dies - and distant from the first things in the second was placed moderly thinks of the matter after a few tears a few words of regret, and a single thought that & low many be the next the state of the same of the s victim to the fell-destroyer's clart. Not so there are even here in this forgetful, care less world. those who are more deeply improped. there are affectionale hearts. left present pierced and bleeding-Whose wounds are not so readily healed by the basy things See the second to the second t of active life. Those who are thought valuable lessons by these Afflictions, who leave not to that their trust in earthly hopesthe state of the same of the s shortly was a few population of the contractions The did you ever think of it in your hours of gladups. When the sight of the state of the state of the state of the state of Every man seemed kind of friendly - clin you ever think that Marie affect of the first of th These same smiling faces would smile on when you were taken they have have a first transfer the talk made her they to her from them. A word of preise, one shadow of regret I you are gone Morning to the state of the state of the special of the from their remembrance! It is not a pleasant theme for reflection

and I will change to another . hoping that George is in a hetter & brighter world than this and leaving it to a merciful god to assuage the wounded spirits of his parents of friends. We will pass to think of other things. Since I wrote you my military relations have Andergone a wondrow change from being a private in ranks I have some to be the second officer in my slass. At Parade last evening he heard the following order. The following appointments are made to take effect from this date - all Howard is hereby appointed Guartermaster Sergeans vier Colquis resigned - itud So it is. Now you have a curiosity to know something of the duties of responsibilities of my office. You have had some idea of The hard ships I have had to undergo at times and the continual routine of innumerable of inevitable lettle duties that I have had to her form which in the aggregate lousume much true and offer procuse dement: all these things are nich of. My duties are as follows inspect to & harraches every friday might for damages - open the store rooms every other Sunday morning - go to sunday morning inspection when it is fair . So that we can have it on the plain. I have a pair of therrons one to Each arm just below the Shoulder of the form of which may judge by the accompanying figure or bester- The durk part is black broad cloth of the yellow stripes are gold lace. The vertex is put uppermoss and just trusking the life of the Shoulder and the Cower Nart reaches from seam to seam. I do not have to when way wellas, ony ciriles, or purades. I can sleep our reneille, hime a light after laps. Besides my academic

duties, siding and Artillery & have nothing to do I have the hest office for cotion cam dightate "in the Confes. It is add, I have been a private and now I rank above all the At Lorgeants in my class bur one. I die out expect this ponor and it makes me right joyour. Perhaps you can get a reply to your letters more readily their you have for some time past. Monday Evening The buttallion is as drill and I am hery strange to day enjoying the dignity of my Office. I will be guartermaster next year of & be have myslef. will have no guard-chily to perform while I am here - I have no musket but a swood of bash - Egova new pair of Cherrono to day. They cost three chollars - and a sash Will east 14 or 19 dollars. This is but, but I should have to get one as soon as I graduate. When you love to de me & lan How go where I choose , crop Sentinel's post of he saluted, moters of Saluting - Capt Williams Days he was new gladder of anything on his life. He thinks I never have that truly a chance and thinks I will now show a brighter side. It sums could not his he obliged he pump onto hea at the Three taps. not to start aps morn on my clother as reville not to go to drill while the others are being four through I can tale you. I Mongher from sertain favorable Numons that I would be made an officer next year but I did not Wream of this souther & high promotion. I never Knew the Corps of Cadets to manifest so much parsure at anything of the Mind refore. You my love to Charles. I presum he thought his letter was never lowing. It has reached him though before Remember me to Swilla & MrcAdaws.

93 4/17/1853 From: Otis [OO Howard] To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-057 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. April 17, 1853

My dear Brother

I noticed many things in your last interesting letter, in the one I wrote to Charlie immediately on the reception of yours. I cannot realize that George is really gone to his Eternal home; that I never will again behold his mild & pleasant countenance again, while I live. And is it really so?

How little one thinks when he is mingling in a little friendly social circle, that that is the last time he is to see some one of those bright faces, beaming with intelligence and bespeaking an active spirit within. Yet every body dies and nobody thinks of the matter after a few tears, a few words of regret, and the single thought that I too may be the next victim to the fell-destroyers dart. Not so there are even here in this forgetful, careless world those who are more deeply impressed. There are affectionate hearts left pierced and bleeding, whose wounds are not so readily healed by the busy things of active life. Those who are taught valuable lessons by these afflictions, who learn not to put their trust in earthly hopes. Still did you ever think of it in your hours of gladness, when every man seemed kind & friendly. Did you ever think that these same smiling faces would smile on when you were taken from them. A word of praise, one shadow of regret & you are gone from their remembrance? It is not a pleasant theme for reflection and I will change to another, hoping that George is in a better & brighter world than this, and leaving it to a merciful God to assuage the wounded spirits of his parents & friends, we will pass to think of other things.

Since I wrote you my military relations have undergone a wondrous change, from being a private in ranks I have come to be the second officer in my class. At Parade last evening we heard the following order. "The following appointments are made to take effect from this date - O. O. Howard is hereby appointed Quartermaster Sergeant, vice Colquit resigned". And so it is. Now you have a curiosity to know something of the duties & responsibilities of my office. You have had some idea of the hardships I have had to undergo at times and the continual routine of innumerable & inevitable little duties that I have had to perform which in the aggregate consume much time and often procure demerit. All these things are got rid of. My duties are as follows: inspect one half barracks every Friday night for damages, open the storerooms every other Sunday morning, go to Sunday morning inspection when it is fair, so that we can have it on the plain.

I have a pair of Chevron's one on each arm just below the shoulder of the form of which you may judge by the accompanying figure or better. The dark part is black broadcloth & the yellow stripes are gold lace. The vertex is put uppermost and just touching the lip of the shoulder and the lower part reaches over in front from seam to seam. I do not have to attend any roll-calls, any drills, or parades. I can sleep over reveille, have a light after taps. Besides my academic duties, riding and Artillery I have nothing to do. I have the best office for "otium cum dignitate" in the Corps. It is odd, I have been a private and now I rank above all the 16 sergeants in my class but one. I did not expect this honor and it makes me right joyous. Perhaps you can get a reply to your letters more readily than you have for some time past.

## Monday evening

The battalion is at drill and I am here strange to say enjoying the dignity of my Office. I will be Quartermaster next year if I behave myself, will have no guard-duty to perform while I am here. I have no musket but a sword & sash. I got a new pair of Chevrons today. They cost three dollars, and a sash will cost 17 or 18 dollars. This is bad, but I should have to get one as soon as I graduate. When you come to see me I can now go where I choose, cross sentinel's post & be saluted, instead of saluting. Capt. Williams says he was never gladder of anything in his life. He thinks I never have had half a chance and thinks I will now show a brighter side. It seems odd not to be obliged to jump into bed at the three taps, not to start up & hurry on my clothes at reveille, not to go to drill while the others are being put through, I can tell you. I thought from certain favorable rumors that I would be made an officer next year but I did not dream of this sudden & high promotion. I never knew the Corps of Cadets to manifest so much pleasure at anything of the kind before.

Give my love to Charlie. I presume he thought his letter was never coming. It has reached him though before

this. Good night. I will write you soon. Remember me to Aurilla & Mr. Adams.

Your affectionate brother Otis

a man be his nature what it may who a mileting Character of some Knid. I believe my tacks of hubits will always verge this way whatever I may hereafter do-Whitever field & may attempt to entirate. Ince I wrote the last sentence I have been to church, returned, has a Medlegical discussion en surrest on if not a learner one; have here to dinner returned & lighted my sulumet. - is his got a red for a handle and a merchanne bowl -Did you wer see auch a one? . We are having a smart recen more. Cadets prefer that it should rain on well-days - They Hink they do not gain very much if it vains on sunday. We had a very good servicen to day a fart of is Rouched upon propose Swearing. a new which you may know is rather prevalent here. This very thing lends hi prejudice usiting & Strangers more against the met howon Man any offer one thing: Met ladels never use can outh in the presence of ladies or of their officers. For many in my class come trying to treak themselves of the ungentlemonly health I am glad to . see even an attempt, for it is vertainly more inexervable. Then any other form of deportedity. Give my live to Charlie, tele him he shall have a letter soon -Bementer one to Adams - write soon - tell me all thats new I shull export to hear from you all this week and I hope willed to find that mother is well again Intivity. May god bless you - supplying you with health. Strength & a goodly frontion of happinep. In affectionate brother O. A. Howard.

Mush Points N.M. May 8 1853

I have expected a letter from you this past week, I have been anxious to get a letter either from you or from home, since mother was seek & The fur from being well when she wrote me; but I clid not get a letter from a living soul for the whole week Something somusual for me that my auxily is increased. I hold you I had been made an officer in my last letter, and entrespected having an abundance of time for corresponding with you. The prost weeks a half I do have to myself ouring battalion doills Nor Ince I have been obliged to go to Artillery chall every evening between four & six. The time I had I spent in painting, reading & writing, but now as the Examination draws recar I have to be preparing you It as usual. I am very pourly prepared for this examination not because & have been idle but because me have Asich an extensive course to the examined on. Thos Mousend pages of philosophy & chemistry are not easily returned on the mend ar once - you may it is true name a great many ideas about them. many Rubyels may he as familiar as your alphabet, but it is hard to return on accurate knowledge of Everything in detail. Will & not reforce when this ordeal is frust - Two more such and another lource is completed. I wish

yours was as near its termentation. I am eventing very Strongly on seeing you next summer. I may go to Maine myself if Droj. Eleanland will write for me to some and take my Diploma, I mean my second degree. Otherwise is would he useless to try to get a leave. How is thereis much now and mothers. I few too Locai may be sick bor she did morarile me all last week, I would, get a letter seturday tour I was desappointed yesterday in briding none for me. My health is firety good - I have not much flesh, but I am getting a better complexion by bathery in ever water every morning. We have ten small bathery apartments with a bathing this in each into which we can let cold water as warm at will. When I over mened bylong down in pure evil spring mater. I would jump our as quick as a plush - but none it does not chill me more there it close to wash my face - It is worth while to take a sold wath you feel so finely all the cly after. You think is requires nerve Vewerege, but it was not - I used to ery I withe when Jather would wash his little hoys face a pleasure to wash. I believe I have not told you I was electer tice - president of the Dialette Society three weeks ago. I have had to act as firesident for two meetings. It's quite a dignifice position here-buris is rather is known with its responsibilities. I suppose they will elect me presidents bur I do not lave whether they do in not. If they do & also elect me arator for the fourth of July the honors

will be put on rather too. Thick. I would accept the latter for it would make me new with and prepare myself hi do partice justice at least to the occusion. You asked me Sometime Since What Coffice Unele Ward has. I do not know I have not heard from him for a very long time, nor have I heen fortunale enough to met with this name in any paper. Vesterdy Wer Class was taken our to measure the Merger of Fort four by voing the borometer. You may be awase there is a long list of observations and subsequent taleulations to be made. I make it 322 but above The level of the places, It is about five hundred feet above the level of the viver as high water. It is alternately will and warm here, the weather changing anddeal, and going In extremes. has vegetation has advanced rapidly. Alread, Mi therry wees have blossomed - & ecrofiped their white lovering The trees and leaving - The bolinge & the ground look fresh and green. I them kyou would be delighted with theel ( Wort for a time at least. I will gow you some how Tramps & show you some heartiful seening. I presume Charlie Rights of wishes to come to. I would that he Eveld. Some time he shall go to thest four. I may line him - Sirhafes I shall evere back here as an metructor. if so when I get a mone a little Northe Se - he shall some and live with me; since he probably with his peaceful him will never be a ladet. I do not wish him to be one retton. It is sure to transform

94 5/8/1853 From: O. O. Howard To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-058 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. May 8, 1853

My dear brother,

I have expected a letter from you this past week. I have been anxious to get a letter either from you or from home, since mother was sick & still far from being well when she wrote me; but I did not get a letter from a living soul for the whole week, something so unusual for me that my anxiety is increased.

I told you I had been made in officer in my last letter, and anticipated having an abundance of time for corresponding with you. The first week & a half I did have to myself during the battalion drills but since I have been obliged to go to Artillery drill every evening between four & six. The time I had I spent in painting, reading & writing but now as the examination draws near I have to be preparing for it as usual. I am very poorly prepared for this examination not because I have been idle but because we have such an extensive course to be examined on. Two thousand pages of philosophy & chemistry are not easily retained in the mind at once. You may it is true have a great many ideas about them, many subjects may be as familiar as your alphabet, but it is hard to retain an accurate knowledge of everything in detail. Will I not rejoice when this ordeal is passed. Two more such and another course is completed.

I wish yours was as near its termination. I am counting very strongly on seeing you next summer. I may go to Maine myself if Prof. Cleaveland will write for me to come and take my diploma, I mean my second degree. Otherwise it would be useless to try to get a leave.

How is Charlie's health now and mother's. I fear too Lizzie may be sick for she did not write me all last week. I usually get a letter Saturday, but I was disappointed yesterday in finding none for me. My health is pretty good. I have not much flesh, but I am getting a better complexion by bathing in cold water every morning. We have ten small bathing apartments with a bathing tub in each, into which we can let cold water or warm at will. When I commenced lying down in pure cold spring water, I would jump out as quick as a flash, but now it does not chill me more than it does to wash my face. It is worthwhile to take a cold bath, you feel so finely all the day after. You think it requires nerve & courage, but it does not. I used to cry & writhe when father would wash his little boy's face & comb his head, but it was not long before it became a pleasure to wash.

I believe I have not told you I was elected vice-president of the Dialectic Society three weeks ago. I have had to act as president for two meetings. It is quite a dignified position here, but it is rather irksome with its responsibilities. I suppose they will elect me president but I do not care whether they do or not. If they do & also elect me orator for the Fourth of July, the honors will be put on rather too thick. I would accept the latter for it would make me read, write and prepare myself to do partial justice at least to the occasion.

You asked me some time since what office Uncle Ward has. I do not know. I have not heard from him for a very long time, nor have I been fortunate enough to meet with his name in any paper. Yesterday our class was taken out to measure the height of Fort Put by using the barometer. You may be aware there is a long list of observations and subsequent calculations to be made. I make it 322 feet above the level of the plane. It is about five hundred feet above the level of the river at high water.

It is alternately cold and warm here. The weather changing suddenly and going to extremes, but vegetation has advanced rapidly. Already the cherry trees have blossomed & dropped their white covering. The trees are leaving. The foliage & the ground look fresh and green. I think you would be delighted with West Point for a time at least. I will give you some fine tramps & show you some beautiful scenery. I presume Charlie sighs & wishes to come too. I would that he could. Sometime he shall go to West Point. I may live here. Perhaps I shall come back here as an instructor. If so when I get a home, a little wife &c. he shall come and live with me; since he probably with his peaceful turn will never be a Cadet. I do not wish him to be one either. It is sure to transform a man be his nature what it may into a military character of some kind. I believe my tastes & habits will always verge this way whatever I may hereafter do, whatever field I may attempt to cultivate.

Since I wrote the last sentence I have been to church, returned, had a theological discussion, an earnest if not a learned one, have been to dinner, returned & lighted my calumet - it has got a reed for a handle and a meerschaum bowl. Did you ever see such a one?

We are having a smart rain now. Cadets prefer that it should rain on week-days. They think they do not gain very much if it rains on Sunday. We had a very good sermon to day - a part of it touched upon profane swearing, a vice which you may know is rather prevalent here. This very thing tends to prejudice visitors & strangers more against this institution than any other one thing. Yet Cadets never use an oath in the presence of ladies or of their officers. A few in my class are trying to break themselves of the ungentlemanly habit. I am very glad to see even an attempt, for it is certainly more inexcusable than any other form of depravity.

Give my love to Charlie, tell him he shall have a letter soon. Remember me to Adams. Write soon, tell me all that's new. I shall expect to hear from you all this week and I hope indeed to find that mother is well again, entirely. May God bless you, supplying you with health, strength & a goodly portion of happiness.

Your affectionate brother O. O. Howard

Examination; When he came on the floor a lickness came over him I he was sent to the Hostulal. Ever some he has been growing worse of now his there near the point of death. I sat up with him last week one night. I from the robust man a weak. helplep imbecil child. He has no sensey to energy. His curion is a longestion of the brain. He has a long body of well developed. the is muscular. No man could find a men better sucted to manual labor, I here with an every worthy of a better sweets he Stretied him self into his grave. Whe men never leave better Main to send such young men here. They land get through and if they could they one not fit for american officers. My Contin such as it is to completer of committee, I waiting No stor up the potrection of thest formers. I shall have To speak to a crowd. There is chance for much exedit of I acquit myself well - I for much shaw if I should fail to do so. Myspuch is not good I am young to make Up for deficiencies of speaking is well. I shall mor get the evelet that I obtained from Mr Barrows a year agos but I would rather speak here thou to a Leed's audience. Mrs Muse had how grand speeches here duringthe Examination one from May Have of Llovida, a splended Extentioners effort of a second wrether oration of Mr Regmen of M. Carolina. My Mird hok much notice of me. after my Examination in Philosophy. He came to see me in lamps twice. It walkers I talked with him many times. He is one of the most perpalar men in Floreday, Mongh he got beater when up for M.S. Senator. He fought for Sevetts Election. Oh! What a spenker! I die Name no idea of what was meant of an eloquent Strings spenker before I heard him - Good night I must moduly of hi the lingung

Mest Points N. G. June 26. 33

My awar frother

Sam almost as haves to write you, it is so long since I have close so, I project that racetions have an end until reminew for ye Detter from Charlie Which tolome from return. Our Examination closed with the close flash week. We moved into Carrely last Saturday mukious southernors see or mi our longen a mech ago bast saturdy, and are now making the most of Pamps life, emder But Garnett as Commandant. He is a hyrant. One of one he is enting off our privileges, and The aneampment melend of being as it has been intended a time of recreation, is to be a person of emprisonments. I shall not The able to visis Maine Mis summer. Perhaps I might, had For Miken wither for me to some I take my degree, but as is is, he only signified Mat I would have A.M. by Enclosing More culloss, which amount I have not in the will work, or or loust at Mest Point, I do not thinks I can go. Tot if you Home you cannot pay me a visit. I must hear the unhappy Mought of not swing any of my friends for another year and perhaps not then. But I will not be low spirited. Ocho wish hi see Sizie for many reasons, and I am yes in hopes that some of you may some to New York I bring hor. Terhaps you are weeking to know the result of the Examination I came our 2 no phil. 5th a Chewisty of glt in Drawing which honed have made me 2 in gen. Standing of I had had no demend do it was I came our third in general Standing. I was not made

Cader quartermaster bur a Vientement. First Sient of C. Comp. I have hi smile plebes at the manual of arms an hour before truckles - fast, and an hour y a half in the afternoon. I have to go on as Officer of the day once in & days. His duties are now made very inksome, since he has to be on the all watch all day I all sught. I has he report every violation of the thousand y one regulations. He hus hi lastify to the Commandant that he has reported every Violation of the regulations That he has abserved & discharged his duly faithfully during his tour. This he has to give in writing sonder his argustine. He has to be present at all roll lules, to turn our of mapest the queed by deg of by night, to inspect Every relief of sentinels after they have been posted. ye-ve-The most disagreable of all duties is to report latels for swearing, Wis he smet do, in repre to sign the certificale in which care The world he reduced to ranks of have I'l demerit relorded against him. Fortunity, Callets avoided me while I was on as Officer of the day, and they seldow swear very much in my society any how, so I do not get a report of that kind . I only hundes in four reports, one a plet for attempting to premp water from the Sun dial. Two for Capi bisons our of uniform and one for an absence from Reveille roll-call. I shall now to Excheise my military talents every dy now for the whole year. I believe new Cudets like me, since I treat then as gartemen & do not put them in the grand tent, They have to move though When I am drilling them, I those whose tents I suspect have to have things in order. He who are officers have some privileges which we can apprecial better than you. We have a good large tent. can have a light after later as I have now, hem a tatele & a clask. Ve. army officers treat as with much difference. Thelaw crop the

Justs of Sentinels of he satured between Reveille & retreat thus is from & O'clock A.M. tile Sun-set. No estizent are allowed to come mo our company grounds or tents. They have built a reception tent, as which any lady or gentleman who wishes to see a each is sent, while a member of the quard ques for the Cades in question. Every ender except Court officers, have to report at the great list When they leave lamp of when they return - where they are going ve-They saw only go to the library & the Sink. Now if this is not begrowing what is! I enr acrop the post of sentinels I'go where I please of shall the the order somes that first class officers will report at the quand lent their departure, purpose of return. Inelye good enow. The father of John N. y The lette als man", was here I brought John with him. The Old gent introduced me to all the mentions of the board, many of them both all the notice of me I could wish I more Not I bean'd their daughters of nices, that they were view Enough to bring with them, and not study, but has good luck of one well on the Examination; This June much sad have in our class, they eur off or of our fellows all of whom are good five young men. There are now waiting for orders from Mashington to set out for home. He hat to part with them. On young man from theledelphia has been my particular friend. They found how I think unjustly; He knew almost as much about themesty as I did I yet they found him in that. They have been here so long it will rain many of them. Another very awiable, good previoled young man from Vermont Mir Hylle was found deficient, One in the fourth Class from Maine, Mr offstank, who has over here sem askable for mhealif - of mind, Studied minself almost to death to pass the law

**95** 6/26/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard *To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-059 West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. June 26,'53

My dear brother

I am almost ashamed to write you, it is so long since I have done so. I forgot that vacations have an end until reminded of it by a letter from Charlie which told me of your return.

Our examination closed with the close of last week. We moved into Camp last "Saturday-muk" as Southerners say or in our tongue a week ago last Saturday, and are now making the most of Camp life under Bob Garnet as Commandant. He is a tyrant. One by one he is cutting off our privileges, and the encampment instead of being as it has been intended, a time of recreation, is to be a period of imprisonment.

I shall not be able to visit Maine this summer. Perhaps I might, had Joe McKeen written for me to come & take my degree, but as he only signified that I would have A.M. by enclosing three dollars, which amount I have not in the wide world, or at least at West Point, I do not think I can go. So, if you think you cannot pay me a visit, I must bear the unhappy thought of not seeing any of my friends for another year and perhaps not then. But I will not be low spirited. I do wish to see Lizzie for many reasons, and I am yet in hopes that some of you may come to New York & bring her.

Perhaps you are wishing to know the result of examination. I came out 2nd in Phil. 5th in Chemistry & 9th in Drawing, which would have made me 2nd in Gen. standing if I had had no demerit. As it was I came out third in general standing.

I was not made Cadet Quartermaster but a Lieutenant, first Lieut. of "C" Camp. I have to drill plebes at the manual of arms an hour before breakfast, and an hour & a half in the afternoon. I have to go on as officer of the day once in 8 days. His duties are now made very irksome, since he has to be on the watch all day & all night & has to report every violation of the thousand & one regulations. He has to certify to the Commandant that he has reported every violation of the regulations that he has observed & discharged his duty faithfully during his tour. This he has to give in writing above his signature. He has to be present at all roll calls, to turn out & inspect the guard by day & by night, to inspect every relief of sentinels after they have been posted &c. &c.

The most disagreeable of all duties is to report Cadets for swearing; this he must do, or refuse to sign the certificate, in which case he would be reduced to ranks & have 12 demerit recorded against him. Fortunately, cadets avoided me while I was on as officer of the day, and they seldom swear very much in my society anyhow, so I did not get a report of that kind. I only handed in four reports, One a plebe for attempting to pump water from the Sundial, two for cap visors out of uniform and one for an absence from Reveille roll-call. I shall have to exercise my military talents every day now for the whole year. I believe new cadets like me, since I treat them as gentlemen & do not put them in the guard tent. They have to move though when I am drilling them, & those whose tents I inspect have to have things in order.

We who are officers have some privileges which we can appreciate better than you. We have a good large tent, can have a light after taps as I have now, have a table & a desk, &c. Army officers treat us with much defference. We can cross the posts of sentinels & be saluted between Reveille & retreat, that is from 5 o'clock A.M. till sun-set. No citizens are allowed to come into our company grounds or tents. They have built a reception tent, at which any lady or gentleman who wishes to see a Cadet is sent, while a member of the guard goes for the Cadet in question, Every cadet except Cadet officers, have to report at the guard tent when they leave camp & when they return, where they are going &c. They can only go to the library & the <Rink>. Now if this is not tyranny what is? I cut across the post of sentinels & go where I please & shall till the order comes that first-class officers will report at the guard tent their departure, purpose & return.

Judge Goodenow, the father of John H & "the little old man" was here & brought John with him. The Old gent introduced me to all the members of the board, many of them took all the notice of me I could wish & more too. I <fenn'd> their daughters & nieces, that they were wise enough to bring with them, did not study, but had good

luck & did well on the Examination.

This June made sad havoc in our class, they cut off 8 of our fellows, all of whom are good fine young men. These are now waiting for orders from Washington to set out for home. We hate to part with them. One young man from Philadelphia has been my particular friend. They found him I think unjustly. He knew almost as much about chemistry as I did & yet they found him in that. They have been here so long it will ruin many of them. Another very amiable, good principled young man from Vermont, Mr. Hyde was found deficient.

One in the fourth class from Maine, Mr. Frank, who has ever been remarkable for imbecility of mind, studied himself almost to death to pass the June Examination. When he came on this floor a sickness came over him & he was sent to the Hospital. Ever since, he has been growing worse & now lies there near the point of death. I sat up with him last week one night. I found the robust man a weak, helpless, imbecil child. He has no sense & no energy. His disease is a Congestion of the brain. He has a large body & well-developed. He is muscular. No man could find a man better suited to manual labor, & here with an energy worthy of better success, he studied himself into his grave. Will men never learn better than to send such young men here. They cannot get through and if they could, they are not fit for American officers.

My Oration, such as it is, is completed & committed, & waiting to stir up the patriotism of West Pointers. I shall have to speak to a crowd. There is chance for much credit if I acquit myself well, & for much shame if I should fail to do so. My speech is not good & I am going to make up for deficiencies by speaking it well. I shall not get the credit that I obtained from Mr. Barrows a year ago, but I would rather speak here than to a Leed's audience. We have had two grand speeches here during the Examination; one from Maj. Ward of Florida, a splendid extemporaneous effort & a second, written oration by Mr. Raymer of N. Carolina. Maj. Ward took much notice of me, after my examination in Philosophy. He came to see me in Camp twice, & I walked & talked with him many times. He is one of the most popular men in Florida, though he got beaten when up for U.S. Senator. He fought for Scott's election. Oh! What a speaker! I did have no idea of what was meant by an eloquent stump speaker before I heard him.

Good night. I must indulge in the luxury of a few hours sleep on a soft plank floor.

Yr affectionate brother O.O. Howard

I cannot read it over - it is so late. All been written since taps ten o'clock.

Remember me to my friends. I spent very pleasant memories with John H. Goodenow. It is pleasant to meet a familiar face.