

Cate - I wish you would "take my second degree"
I pay the price, for you see I have not the three dollars
to enclose if I cannot go to get it myself.

Since it will be such a tax upon your finances, I must not
urge you to visit me this summer. I wish to see you
very much & I wish to see Lizzie too. But I must think

of your interest as well as of my pleasure. How long has
Lizzie been sick & how sick has she been. They do not
tell me such things. I expect it is because I myself
am apt to be silent about my ailments unless I am
very ill. Remember me to all my friends. Tell the
President if you should happen to talk with him
that I wished much to spend this next Commencement
at Bowdoin, but it is impossible. I hope you will
do very well. but I fear to have you study too hard.

I wrote a letter to the last Advertiser giving an account
of the death of Cadet Frank of Maine. The Editor Mr
Currier prefaced my letter by some appropriate remarks -

He himself was here two years - went home on
for long of ~~some~~ certain circumstances prevented
his returning. Perhaps he got married. I do not
know. At least that is a circumstance which would
wonder his return most effectually - Goodby

I cannot read this over - write soon. From
your affectionate brother

O. Q. Howard.

New Point N. H. July 15th 1853

My dear brother

Yesterday I got excused
from drill on account of a cold and I wrote a long letter
to mother. To day I am also excused on the same plea
and I will endeavor to make you out one. Now should
nothing would be more gratifying to me than to correspond
with you regularly, but if you do not get a letter you
may not imagine that you are forgotten - for a day
never passes but I think of you - but you must
remember that I am in camp and that the whole time
is taken up from morning till night. At present from
about ten minutes after four till ten minutes of five I have
to myself, and if it did not come in the afternoon, I
could employ it in writing, but the afternoon is a bad time
for me to attempt to write anything, and I get so
exceedingly tired every day that I cannot think of
writing after tea. Nevertheless I will do my best to
fulfill my part. For the last few days we have had
some very hard & dirty work to do at the Laboratory. Each
set of three makes a fire-ball. We first take of coals
roll up our sleeves to the elbow & grease our hands
& arms. Then we pulverize 10 lbs of sulphur (Sulphur
petre) 6 lbs of sulphur & two or three lbs of antimony &
mix them together - melt 1 lb of tallow & pour the
former mixture into it. Then we take large pieces of

coverings of Sashmuth then with boiling turpentine oil &c
I lay them together. Then we dry these pieces till they are as hard
as leather & sew them after the Shoe-makers fashion into
the form of a large ball with a narrow neck, this we then
put into boiling water, till it is soft & with our hands turn
the thing ~~over~~ inside out. If it is harder & dirtier work
than skinning a slippery eel, in a satin vest. Then
we place the ball in a block with a mould just big
enough to contain the ball, the block being secured with
iron hoops. Through the neck that first composition is inser-
ted about a pint at a time - after every dipper full we
have to strike twenty one blows with mallets about as
heavy as our old Sledge Hammer, upon the end of a piece of
wood inserted in the neck. This takes a long time. When
we get the ball full, it is taken out of its case - looking right
plump & round; then we suspend him by the neck and plait
around ^{him} a net work of tanned rope - &c. This when
complete is what is called a fire ball. It can be fired
from a mortar to any elevated position where it will
burn for some time with an intensely bright light -
or it can be thrown into a place, the object being to set
something on fire. we have besides these to make
cartridges of all kinds - 300 or 400 a piece - rockets - Roman
candles - matches - Grape & canister shot &c. My
Class are now drilling at the mortar battery - as soon
as they return, I will have to go with them to the laboratory
& work till noon. In the afternoon we have to receive in
laces, infantry one day & artillery the next, we get
30 or 40 pages at a lesson, and have to get it right after

dinner when a man is heavy headed & sleepy. Why I do not
get time to read at all. I thought I would have a fine
time reading this encampment, but I was mistaken.

I did not know that Lizzy had been sick till you wrote me
I received a letter from her at the same time. I could not tell
why I had received no letter for so very long time. They
are firing at the third class battery now - and also at the
first class mortar battery. The latter are firing shells
to a barrel set up on a post for a target just to the
right of the Encampment Camp. You can hear the shells
whistle along as they come over. A part of them weigh 90 lbs.
In war they have put into them about two lbs of powder - as
to burst them just after they reach their destination, but we
only put in four oz's just sufficient to blow out the fuse.

The third class are making music - firing just as fast
as they can one after another. It would amuse you to
see ladies jump at the firings, and it does not help the
silly disposition at all to tell them there is not the least
danger. I have received all the papers you have sent me
and read them with pleasure. It is queer that I have
not told you of it. You know I cannot send you papers in
return unless you would like to have the Portland
Advertiser, which would get to be an old paper by the
time it got to you through me. I believe I gave you
an account of my success on the fourth of July.
I do not know, whether it was to you or Charlie
that I wrote that. At any rate I got more than the
usual amount of flattery - had a bouquet sent me by
the ladies from Poffen's Hotel &c. &c. It is not too late

96 7/15/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-060

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N. Y. July 15th, 1853

My dear brother

Yesterday I got excused from drill on account of a bile and I wrote a long letter to mother. To day I am also excused on the same plea and I will endeavor to make you out one. Now Rowland nothing would be more gratifying to me than to correspond with you regularly, but if you do not get a letter, you may not imagine that you are forgotten -for a day never passes but I think of you, but you must recollect that I am in Camp and that the whole time is taken up from morning till night. At present from about ten minutes after four till ten minutes of five, I have to myself, and if it did not come in the afternoon, I could employ it in writing, but the afternoon is a bad time for me to attempt to write anything, and I get so dreadfully tired every day that I cannot think of writing after taps. Nevertheless I will do my best to fulfill my part.

For the last few days we have had some very hard & dirty work to do at the laboratory. Each set of three makes a fire ball. We first take off coats, roll up our sleeves to the elbow & grease our hands & arms. Then we pulverize 10 lbs. of niter (salt-peter), 6 lbs. of sulfur & two or three lbs. of antimony & mix them together. Melt 1 lb. of beeswax & pour the former mixture into it. Then we take large pieces of canvas & saturate them with boiling tar-pitch-oil &c & lay them together. Then we drive these pieces till they are as hard as leather & sew them after the shoe-makers fashion into the form of a large ball with a narrow neck. This we then put into boiling water, till it is soft & with our hands turn the thing inside out & it is harder & dirtier work than skinning a slippery eel, in a satin vest. Then we place the ball in a block with a mould just big enough to contain the ball, the block being secured with iron hoops. Through the neck that first composition is inserted about a pint at a time. After every dipper full we have to strike twenty-one blows with mallets about as heavy as our old sledgehammer, upon the end of a piece of wood inserted in the neck. This takes a long time. When we get the ball full, it is taken out of its case, looking right plump & round, then we suspend him by the neck and plait around him a network of tarred rope &c. This when complete is what is called a fireball. It can be fired from a mortar to any elevated position where it will burn for some time with an intensely bright light, or it can be thrown into a place, the object being to set something on fire.

We have besides these to make cartridges of all kinds, 300 or 400 apiece, rockets, Roman candles, matches, grape & canister shot &c. My class are now drilling at the mortar battery. As soon as they return, I will have to go with them to the laboratory & work till noon. In the afternoon we have to recite in tactics, infantry one day & artillery the next. We get 30 or 40 pages at a lesson, and have to get it right after dinner when a man is heavy-headed & sleepy. Why I do not get time to read at all. I thought I would have a fine time reading this encampment, but I was mistaken.

I did not know that Lizzie had been sick till you wrote me. I received a letter from her at the same time. I could not tell why I had received no letter for so very long time.

They are firing at the third class battery now, and also at the first-class mortar battery. The latter are firing shells to a barrel set up on a post for a target just to the right of Camp. You can hear the shells whistle along as they come over. A part of them weigh 90 lbs. In war they have put into them about 2 lbs. of powder so as to burst them just after they reach their destination, but we only put in 4 oz. just sufficient to blowout the fuse. The third class are making music, firing just as fast as they can one after another. It would amuse you to see ladies jump at the firings, and it does not help the silly disposition at all to tell them there is not the least danger.

I have received all the papers you have sent me and read them with pleasure. It is queer that I have not told you of it. You know I cannot send you papers in return unless you would like to have the Portland Advertiser, which would get to be an old paper by the time it got to you through me. I believe I gave you an account of my success on the Fourth of July. I do not know, whether it was to you or Charlie that I wrote that. At any rate I got more than the usual amount of flattery, had a bouquet sent me by the ladies from Cozzen's Hotel &c. &c. If it is not too late I wish you would "take my second degree" & pay the price, for you see I have not the three dollars to enclose & I cannot go to get it myself.

Since it will be such a tax upon your finances, I must not urge you to visit me this summer. I wish to see you very much & I wish to see Lizzie too. But I must think of your interest as well as of my pleasure. How long has Lizzie been sick & how sick has she been. They do not tell me such things. I expect it is because I myself am apt to be silent about my ailments unless I am very ill.

Remember me to all my friends. Tell the President if you should happen to talk with him that I wished much to spend this next commencement at Bowdoin, but it is impossible. I hope you will do very well, but I fear to have you study too hard.

I wrote a letter to the last Advertiser giving an account of the death of Cadet Frank of Maine. The editor Mr. Carter prefaced my letter by some appropriate remarks. He himself was here two years, went home on furlough & certain circumstances prevented his returning. Perhaps he got married. I do not know. At least that is a circumstance which would hinder his return most effectually.

Goodbye. I cannot read this over. Write soon.

From your affectionate brother
O.O. Howard

West Point NY Aug. 3^d 53

My dear Brother,

You ought to have had a letter before, but as you know very well the reason of my not writing you oftener, you will excuse it. When I get again in Barracks I will surely write more frequently. Everything at West Point goes on as usual. I am Officer of the day to day, for the day & night following I rank every cadet in the Corps & have the wonderful privilege of reporting. It is however no longer a privilege but a duty since we have to certify in writing that we have faithfully discharged our duty during our tour in accordance with the Academic Regulations &c. I had a letter from Lizzie yesterday. She says she is almost well, that her mother are just about starting for Liviston for their health. She said she had just written you a few lines so you know all about the journey probably. How are you getting on in College now, schays? How does studying in warm weather agree with you? I hope better than with me. Our studying comes in the afternoon from 1/2 past 4 till 4. and during this time I take Sunday naps I go to recitation with a lesson that is hardly possible. One afternoon I got to sleep after asking somebody to wake me a few minutes before 4. He forgets to do so & I

PAID
WEST POINT
NY

PAID

James H. W. P.

Mr B. Howard

Brunswick
Maine

D. O. Leonard

got an absence, which is three or six demerits. This is all the demerit I have recorded as yet. I have been remarkably fortunate thus far; We have as I have told you parties Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings of each week. I go to them very regularly, I never do anything but petitions, but I like to talk with people. It tends to relieve the monotony of our every day life. We shall very soon return to Barracks and will have to study even harder than ever before for we have more to get. I take things very easily now, and although I have a long lesson to get every afternoon, I scarcely exert my mind at all. I fear to get into indolent habits, which may hang on after me get to studying in good earnest. That it is not best to borrow trouble. I have not given up all hopes of seeing you this summer or fall. Lizzie is not able to visit me now. I am not certain, but I think it would be full as pleasant to visit me after we go into Barracks as before, only you could not see so much of me. Now you could see me in camp several hours every day. To day, you might have been with me all day - excepting when I was forming classes & visiting the sentinels. Sawtelle has a mother & sister here now, and I visit them often when not on duty. She (Miss Sawtelle) says I have been engaged 8 years, thinks me a wonderful prodigy of constancy. She is of course mistaken about the 8 years, and I hope I am not such a prodigy as she

would have me. Being a Cadet Officer I have to make new acquaintances every day, and I find some of them very pleasant. One day I got introduced to some ladies from Cuba - next from Ohio - next from Maine - next from Philadelphia. &c... It is now late in the evening tattoo is just beating & I must leave you to see that no one is absent from the roll call. Nobody was absent. I got acquainted with a lady the other day Mrs. Bliss of Philadelphia. She is the mother of a classmate of mine, took quite a fancy to me - and sends me all kinds of nice things, cakes, apples, peaches &c - once she sent me a bunch of Havana cigars. Dr Carr the father of my tent mate from Virginia also gave me a bunch of night-rose ones. I will tell the countessign - you can come into camp if you will come before morning. It is seventy six - now you must not tell anybody. If you conclude to come - the Sentinel will challenge you; 'Who comes there?' answer friend with the countessign. He will say; answer friend with the countessign. If you are right military he will let you pass. Thinking you are some officer - but if he halts you & calls the Corporal - tell the latter you wish to see the the officer of the day - and he will be forth coming rubbing his eyes & wondering who can ^{be} calling him - Good night I have not much to tell you - except I am well - I want to hear that Lizzie is entirely well - God bless you

Yr affectionate brother
B. L. Howard

97 8/3/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Mr. RB Howard

RBH-061

West Point N.Y.

Brunswick, Maine

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Aug. 3d '53

My dear Brother,

You ought to have had a letter before, but as you know very well the reason of my not writing you oftener, you will excuse it. When I get again in Barracks I will surely write more frequently. Everything at West Point goes on as usual. I am Officer of the day today, for the day & night following. I rank every cadet in the Corps & have the wonderful privilege of reporting. It is however no longer a privilege, but a duty since we have to certify in writing that we have faithfully discharged our duty during our tour in accordance with the Academic regulations &c.

I had a letter from Lizzie yesterday. She says she is almost well. She & her mother are just about starting for Lewiston for their health. She said she had just written you a few lines, so you know all about the journey probably. How are you getting on in College nowadays? How does studying in warm weather agree with you? I hope better than with me. Our studying comes in the afternoon from 1/2 past one till four and during that time I take sundry naps & go to recitation with a lesson that is hardly passible. One afternoon I got to sleep after asking somebody to wake me a few minutes before four. He forgot to do so & I got an absence, which is three or six demerit. This is all the demerit I have recorded as yet. I have been remarkably fortunate thus far.

We have as I have told you parties Monday, Wednesday, Friday evenings of each week. I go to them very regularly. I never dance anything but Cotillions, but I like to talk with people. It tends to relieve the monotony of our everyday life. We shall very soon return to Barracks and will have to study even harder than ever before for we have more to get.

I take things very easily now and although I have a long lesson to get every afternoon, I scarcely exert my mind at all. I fear to get into indolent habits, which may hang on after we get to studying in good earnest. But it is not best to borrow trouble. I have not given up all hopes of seeing you this summer or fall. Lizzie is not able to visit me now. I am not certain, but I think it would be full as pleasant to visit me after we go into barracks as before, only you could not see so much of me. Now you could see me in Camp several hours every day. To day you might have been with me all day, excepting when I was forming classes & visiting the sentinels.

Sawtelle has a mother & sister here now, and I visit them often when not on duty. She (Miss Sawtelle) says I have been engaged eight years, thinks me a wonderful prodigy of Constancy. She is of course mistaken about the eight years, and I hope I am not such a prodigy as she would have me.

Being a Cadet Officer I have to make new acquaintances every day, and I find some of them very pleasant. One day I get introduced to some ladies from Cuba, next from Ohio, next from Maine, next from Philadelphia, etc.

It is now late in the evening, tattoo is just beating & I must leave you to see that no one is absent from the roll call. Nobody was absent. I got acquainted with a lady the other day Mrs. Blix of Philadelphia. She is the mother of a classmate of mine, took quite a fancy to me, and sends me all kinds of nice things, cakes, apples, peaches &c. Once she sent me a bunch of Havana cigars. Dr. Carr the father of my tent mate from Virginia also gave me a bunch of right nice ones.

I will tell the countersign. You can come into Camp if you will come before morning. It is seventy-six. Now you must not tell anybody. If you conclude to come, the Sentinel will challenge you: who comes there? Answer: friend with the countersign. He will say: Advance friend with the countersign. If you are right military he will let you pass thinking you are some officer, but if he halts you & calls the Corporal, tell the latter you wish to see the Officer of the day, and he will be forthcoming, rubbing his eyes & wondering who can be calling him.

Good night. I have not much to tell you, except I am well. I want to hear that Lizzie is entirely well. God bless you.

Yr affectionate brother

O.O. Howard

[Envelope]
Mr. RB Howard
Brunswick, Maine

much in the tone and manner of her letters. I have conjectured
 everything - imagined that something I had said, written or
 done, was the cause - She has often expressed the wish that
 she was only my ^{Sister} ~~brother~~. Now of course I would get in a
 passion - but when I found from every indication that
 her love for me was in no way diminished. I would get over
 it. Now this change commenced at the time Perley's departure
 & separation from Annie Bartlett ~~again~~ took place. I could
 not suspect her loving him, but she spoke in terms of Jezebel that
 did not arouse my jealousy, but made me fear that she was
 not sufficiently guarding a heart that should be mine - I told
 her so and forbade her to speak thus again - She said it
 was wrong & she would not & that she did it merely that
 I might write just such a letter as I did. This is merely
 preliminary to give you some idea why I would feel badly - from
 this following. The next day after you left I took from
 the office a telegraphic dispatch, directed to Cicie in my
 care. I feared something unusual had happened & I opened
 it. It contained these words: "Act deliberately without
 regard to me, I have done wrong!" P. I was astounded.
 How to interpret such a message I knew not. At first
 I was angry. Upon reflection I concluded it must have
 been had reference to some business of which I was ignorant
 and which did not concern me. Else he would not have been
 so impudent as to have directed the same to my care - and after
 all, I asked, was he not the best friend I had out of my own
 family? The next day I received another dispatch with these
 words - "I fear my note of yesterday will be misunderstood consider it had
 never been said!"

I receive the Catalogue of the A. S. Soc. that lists of her name &
 progress was quite satisfactory I hope. Her present members are
 all the same time with their own
 I for establishment
 I hope my name is
 which, I hope to
 give the best
 respect - or is
 the days - Remember
 me to her kindly -
 Tell Howard if
 he thinks of coming
 here (I believe he
 is with you yet)
 to go
 when he is in
 first class or rather
 lower class -
 Report getting thro.
 here in with you
 or of the great
 advantage - especially
 of the Spect.
 I am off. of the day today
 and being stationed here in the Guard room, I can find no
 better employment during my short intervals of leisure
 than writing you a few lines. I have not written you
 since you returned home. and probably you are already
 blaming me for my negligence. I have been expecting every
 day to hear from you. I wished you to give me a detailed
 account of your journey. I did get a few lines from Cicie
 soon after she reached home - She said little about her
 journey. Said "Kowland will tell you what a poor miserable
 girl I am." Your visit here was not so pleasant as it
 ought to have been. Tho. I had considerable time to
 see you at the Hotel, I did not show you round West
 Point so much as I wished I had previously intended - yet
 you will forgive us as you know how my hands were
 tied. You have formed a good idea of my situation & of
 West Point generally. You visited the Crystal Palace, and
 seen a little of the city of New York - and perhaps
 on the whole your visit paid pretty well, if it left your
 health unimpaired as I hope it did. You have long
 before this in all probability resumed your studies at Bowdoin -
 and are now like me poring over your books. I have
 had anything but good luck in my studies since you left. The

N. Y Oct 11th 1853

(Civic)

finished, engineering the first of last week (over the first time) and commenced the first class drawings. The first thing we draw is a canal lock in plan, elevation & cross section.

To give you some idea of my success in this department I will describe to you in a word my week's work. We commenced suddenly morning and drew daily from 8 till 11. Three hours. I was apparently doing fine. To be sure I had made about every other line & over twice or three times and ~~one~~ one less experienced in my drawings than myself might have had difficulty in determining "which line was which". At any rate I had some hundreds of lines drawn - when yesterday I discovered that a couple of my principle lines were slightly out of place. I carried ^{them} to my instructor & told him of my mistake & asked what I should do. "Put out all your work Sir & begin again!" I did so - drew three or four lines - the bugle blew & we left the academy.

Here I am today on duty as officer of the day: a week behind the whole class with my drawing paper creased all up with deep pencil marks. Now you see I have broken of smoking some time since have nothing to console me - Yes I have somewhat. Next June pups getting nearer & nearer. Nil desperandum! I will come out somewhere & live just as long as if I had done this year as well as I ought to have done & was expected to do. (Thursday, Oct. 13.) I could not get time to write you more while on duty until I was altogether too tired to think or to write. Inspecting barracks so many

times almost uses me up. But I am ready now & embrace the first opportunity to finish my letter and acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you which I got yesterday. I was very happy to get your letter, but was a little disappointed because you said so little about your journey. This however is only because I am so silly. I remember Prof. Hoody with all his eccentricities or, if you will, with all his faults. We see the Professors in a little different light after we are free from their oversight immediate supervision, and come to look upon them at a distance. Their failings vanish into air - or are remembered as pleasant distinguishing peculiarities which hardly are thought of when we estimate the men under whose tuition we have been. I wish I could never know a worse man to deal with than our Rev. Rhetorician - Pompousness & vanity - can be pardoned, while it is laughed at, when it can do you no harm - but in one of our instructors here or Governors, it becomes more malignant and oppressive. There is a little matter Rowland that lies close at my heart, that I would like to confide to you. I did not mean to do it and for the world I would not have you mention it to any person living. I am almost ashamed to touch the subject, because my character is open & unsuspecting & I would least of all impress my brother with a contrary opinion, but I will not excite your curiosity. It is this. Lizzie has been for a long while very unhappy - different from her former self - She has acknowledged the fact - but has not as she should have done done confided to me the cause. She has changed much, very

98 10/11/1853 *From:* [O O Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-062

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct. 11th 1853

My dear brother

I am Off. of the day to day and being stationed here in the Guard room, I can find no better employment during my short intervals of leisure than writing you a few lines. I have not written you since you returned home, and probably you are already rating me for my negligence. I have been expecting every day to hear from you. I wish you to give me a detailed account of your journey. I did get a few lines from Lizzie soon after she reached home. She said little about her journey, said "Rowland will tell you what a poor miserable girl I am."

Your visit here was not so pleasant as it ought to have been. Tho. I had considerable time to see you at the Hotel, I did not show you round West Point so much as I wished & had previously intended. Yet you will forgive it as you know how my hands were tied. You have formed a good idea of my situation & of West Point generally. You visited the Crystal Palace, have seen a little of the city of New York, and perhaps on the whole your visit paid pretty well, if it left your health unimpaired as I hope it did. You have long before this in all probability resumed your studies at Bowdoin, and are now like me poring over your books.

I have had anything but good luck in my studies since you left. We finished (Civil) Engineering the first of last week (over the first time) and commenced the first class drawings. The first thing we draw is a Canal lock in plan elevation & cross-section. To give you some idea of my success in this department I will describe to you in a word my week's work. We commenced Wednesday morning and drew daily from 8 till 11, three hours. I was apparently doing finely. To be sure I had made about every other line over twice or three times. And one less experienced in my drawings than myself might have had difficulty in determining "which line was which". At any rate I had some hundreds of lines drawn, when yesterday I discovered that a couple of my principle lines were slightly out of place. I carried them to my instructor & told him of my mistake & asked what I should do. "Rub out all your work Sir & begin again." I did so, drew three or four lines. The bugle blew & we left the Academy.

Here I am to day on duty as Officer of the day; a week behind the whole class with my drawing paper creased all up with deep pencil marks. Now you see I have broken of smoking some time since have nothing to console me. Yes I have somewhat. Next June keeps getting nearer & nearer. Nil desperandum! I will come out somewhere & live just as long as if I had done this year as well as I ought to have done & was expected to do.

(Thursday, Oct. 13)

I could not get time to write you more while on duty until I was altogether too tired to think or to write. Inspecting barracks so many times almost uses me up. But I am rested now & embrace the first opportunity to finish my letter and acknowledge the receipt of a letter from you which I got yesterday. I was very happy to get your letter, but was a little disappointed because you said so little about your journey. This however is only because I am so silly.

I remember Prof. Boody with all his eccentricities or, if you will, with all his faults. We see the professors in a little different light after we are free from their immediate supervision, and come to look upon them at a distance. Their failings vanish into air, or are remembered as pleasant distinguishing peculiarities which hardly are thought of when we estimate the men under whose tuition we have been. I wish I could never have a worse man to deal with than our Rev. Rhetorician. Pomposity & vanity can be pardoned, while it is laughed at, when it can do you no harm. But in one of our instructors here or Governors, it becomes more malignant and oppressive.

There is a little matter Rowland that lies close at my heart, that I would like to confide to you. I did not mean to do it and for the world I would not have you mention it to any person living. I am almost ashamed to broach the subject, because my character is open & unsuspecting & I would least of all impress my brother with a contrary opinion, but I will not excite your curiosity. It is this. Lizzie has been for a long while very unhappy, different from her former self. She has acknowledged the fact, but has not, as she should have done, confided to me the cause. She has changed much, very much in the tone and manner of her letters. I have conjectured everything,

imagined that something I had said, written or done was the cause. She has often expressed the wish that she was only my sister. Now of course I would get in a passion, but when I found from every indication that her love for me was in no way diminished, I would get over it. Now this change commenced at the time Perley's difficulty & separation from Annie Bartlett took place. I could not suspect her loving him, but she spoke in terms of Peleg, that did not arouse my jealousy, but made me fear that she was not sufficiently guarding a heart that should be mine. I told her so and forbade her to speak this again. She said it was wrong & she would not & that she did it merely that I might write just such a letter as I did.

This is merely preliminary to give you some idea why I would feel badly from the following. The next day after you left I took from the office a telegraphic dispatch directed to Lizzie in my care. I feared something unusual had happened & I opened it. It contained these words: "Act deliberately without regard to me, I have done wrong. P-." I was astounded. How to interpret such a message I knew not. At first I was angry. Upon reflection I concluded it must have had reference to some business of which I was ignorant and which did not concern me. Else he would not have been so imprudent as to have directed the same to my care, and after all, I asked, was he not the best friend I had out of my own family? The next day I received another dispatch with these words "Fear my note of yesterday will be misunderstood. Consider it had never been said."

I received the catalog of the Ath. Soc. [Athenaeon Society] That history of her rise & progress was quite interesting. I hope her present members will cease wrangling & promote her interests at the same time with their own by helping her to fulfill the legitimate object of her establishment.

Chap my roommate wishes me to give his best respects, or as he says - remember me to him kindly.

Tell Wood if he thinks of coming here (I believe he is with you yet) to pay great attention to his first-class or rather senior course. Before getting through here he will find it of the greatest advantage, especially all he may know of the exact sciences.

[No closing]

West Point N.Y. Oct 20th 58.

My dear brother,

I received your reasonable letter this noon, I am sorry that what I wrote you should have troubled you. For I know that the student above all human things should have a clear head & a mind unoccupied by things foreign to his studies. Do not imagine my dear brother for an instant that I believed you would trifle with my feelings. When I have been serious with you I have never known you otherwise. What I meant was what I wrote - that I would as lief you laughed as not. You know one in my circumstances may suffer himself to be carried away by his feelings - and I thought perhaps you might look upon the matter I presented to you in a less serious light ^{than} I was disposed to view it. I meant to imply nothing. I always smile at Lizzie's idea of your predisposition to ridicule or to criticism as she ~~uses~~ terms it. I received a letter from her yesterday - she said "I will say a few words on a subject I could not touch if things were not just as they are. You must not entertain hard or unkind feelings in the least towards him. I can say that he has never done anything to injure you in any way: although some things may look dark & suspicious to you, to me they are perfectly plain and no blame can be attached to him. Believe what I have said, and did you know more you would say if any one is faulty it is wholly I. and you would not repeat "I have unshaken confidence in you Lizzie." This is all she wrote in

answer to my letters. Her letter was long and a good one. She has been confined to her bed the most of the time since you were there. Her cough is much worse. What will become of the poor child I know not. If she were well and able to hear it you know what my reply would be - for tho. it tore my heart strings asunder I would write - Lizzie. You do not consider me worthy of confidence and unless you explain to me all from the moment of your reception of this we are separate. I would do it at once but I dare not lest perchance I may be deceived. and she could not bear the shock - No, you must not ask her to tell you. I would not wish to know that way. It must come from her lips or her pen directly to me. There is really no deception in Lizzie's character - She could not deceive me did she purpose it. I have followed it all. I have known the untoward influences under which she has been thrown. I have in part caused her to love Percy or caused her sisterly affection for him to assume its present aspect; because I was hasty and perhaps irascible - sometimes even peremptory. Yes Rowland I have driven her heart from me and for this I am to blame - She knows however, that I would sacrifice my life for her - that I love her with a whole heart. She still has an affection for me - if I could be with her I could soon by gentleness & kindness win back her entire confidence. But I am too independent in spirit to share her affection with another.

I will tell you honestly that as much as I love Lizzie I still tho. the bands are tight around my heart. Tho. she is part & parcel of every hope, of every thought. Still if it

could be brought about I would be willing to see her the happy wife of D. S. Derley. For I know that of she loves him it is for her happiness, and my happiness is of little account in the balance. I do not hate him. I cannot. I have written him a short letter demanding an explanation. He will give it for he knows me too well to refuse it. Say nothing to anybody, to Mother or Charlie. I shall always act with judgment, for when I am in a rage I will not write - I shall continue to write to Lizzie. Perhaps differently than before, but if she does not love me over much she will scarcely observe the change. Do not think I intend any continued deception - no I am open as the day - but I would not harm her. Let her course be what it may.

In thus confiding in you I do no wrong for if I did not confide in you in whom should I. It would frighten Mother to death. For she does not know my stability of character or my fixedness of purpose like you or if she knows then she will always let over-anxiety destroy her peace. Not long can any reverses keep my spirits down. I am not like Derley. I do not need his sympathy as he ever did mine or his advice & conversation to keep me up. - This life is before me and an Eternity towards which I am verging or rather the beginning of which is now. I must be an upright & useful man. Let not dissipation or gloom overwhelm my spirit. But oh! the hopes the dear cherished hopes of a domestic character - almost were they fulfilled & God in his wisdom sees fit to dash that cup of happiness from my lips. Maybe not - My likeness is still on her bosom - hundreds of letters - the outpourings

of a heart full of affection & earnest love are in her little box. She cannot move without being reminded of the past - unchangeable and unchangeable I have stood by her. She cannot point to a single unkindness or neglect. Before me is my treasure box crammed full of those gentle messengers that have allayed all sorrows in my path, that have made my spirits sprout forth exultant & my soul bound with joy - that have lightened my task & bade me onward; night onward! The book of poems marked for my eye alone - the little bible that I have loved to peruse; when not for itself because it was the word of God: for her sake it has not been neglected. Administration to me so beautiful lies quietly before me in my box - I cannot move but I am reminded of Lizzie. Why! Why should this dream be broken. It may not. Yet my brother I am a man. I will act as a man. This trial may be the making of me - it may teach me not to idolize anything but Him who is pure & holy. My little brother is wiser than I. He has fortified himself thus early against all contingencies. He will if he lives make a good & useful man. He said in his letter to me that he should write to you. He is very happy - not excited for it is not his nature - but he is a Christian, with enthusiasm in its place, possessing a steady & calm determination to lead a Christian's life. Do not be anxious for me. Let what will turn up I shall remain as I am - with a heart full of affection for my brother - neither over-gloomy - & not in the least misanthropic. Your affectionate brother - *W. Howard*. My room - much wishes to be remembered to you kindly.

99 10/20/1853 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Dear Brother [RB
Howard]

RBH-063

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Oct. 20th 53

My dear brother,

I received your seasonable letter this noon, I am sorry that what I wrote you should have troubled you, for I know that the student above all human beings should have a clear head & a mind unoccupied by things foreign to his studies. Do not imagine my dear brother for an instant, that I believed you would trifle with my feelings. When I have been serious with you I have never known you otherwise. What I meant was what I wrote, that I would as lief you laughed as not. You know one in my circumstances may suffer himself to be carried away by his feelings, and I thought perhaps you might look upon the matter I presented to you in a less serious light than I was disposed to view it. I meant to imply nothing. I always smile at Lizzie's idea of your predisposition to ridicule or to criticism as she terms it.

I received a letter from her yesterday. She said: "I will say a few words on a subject I could not broach if things were not just as they are. You must not entertain hard or unkind feelings in the least towards him. I can say that he has never done anything to injure you in any way although some things may look dark & suspicious to you, to me they are perfectly plain and no blame can be attached to him. Believe what I have said, and did you know more you would say if anyone is faulty it is wholly I, and you would not repeat "I have unshaken confidence in you Lizzie." This is all she wrote in answer to my letters. Her letter was long and a good one. She has been confined to her bed the most of the time since you were there. Her cough is much worse. What will become of the poor child I know not. If she were well and able to bear it you know what my reply would be, for tho it tore my heartstrings asunder I would write: Lizzie, You do not consider me worthy of confidence and unless you explain to me all from the moment of your reception of this we are separate. I would do it at once but I dare not lest perchance I may be deceived, and she could not bear the shock.

No, you must not ask her to tell you. I would not wish to know that way. It must come from her lips or her pen directly to me. There is really no deception in Lizzie's character. She could not deceive me did she purpose it. I have followed it all. I have known the untoward influences under which she has been thrown. I have in part caused her to love Perley or caused her sisterly affection for him to assume its present aspect; because I was hasty and perhaps irascible - sometimes even peremptory. Yes Rowland I have driven her heart from me and for this I am to blame. She knows, however, that I would sacrifice my life for her, that I love her with a whole heart. She still has an affinity for me, if I could be with her I could soon by gentleness & kindness win back her entire confidence. But I am too independent in spirit to share her affection with another.

I will tell you honestly that as much as I love Lizzie Waite, tho the bonds are tight around my heart, tho she is part & parcel of every hope, of every thought, still if it could be brought about I would be willing to see her the happy wife of P.S. Perley, for I know that if she loves him it is for her happiness, and my happiness is of little account in the balance. I do not hate him - I cannot. I have written him a short letter demanding an explanation. He will give it for he knows me too well to refuse it. Say nothing to anybody, to mother or Charlie. I shall always act with judgment, for when I am in a rage I will not write. I will continue to write to Lizzie, perhaps differently than before, but if she does not love me over-much she will scarcely observe the change. Do not think I intend any continued deception, no I am open as the day, but I would not harm her, let her course be what it may.

In this confiding in you I do no wrong for if I did not confide in you in whom should I. It would frighten mother to death, for she does not know my stability of character or my fixedness of purpose like you or if she knows them she will always let over-anxiety destroy her peace. Not long can any reverses keep my spirits down. I am not like Perley. I do not need his sympathy as he once did mine or his advice & conversation to keep me up. This life is before me and an Eternity towards which I am verging or rather the beginning of which is now. I must be an upright & useful man. Let not dissipation or gloom over shadow my spirit. But oh! The hopes the dear cherished hopes of a domestic character, almost were they fulfilled & God in his wisdom sees fit to dash that cup of happiness from my life.

Maybe not. My likeness is still on her bosom, hundreds of letters, the outpourings of a heart full of affection &

earnest love are in her little box. She cannot move without being reminded of the past, unchanged and unchangeable I have stood by her. She cannot point to a single unkindness or neglect. Before me is my treasure box crammed full of those gentle messengers that have allayed all asperities in my path, that have made my spirits spring forth exultant & my soul bound with joy, that have lightened my task & bade me onward; right onward! The book of poems marked for my eye alone, the little Bible that I have loved to peruse; when not for itself because it was the word of God, for her sake it has not been neglected. Her miniature to me so beautiful lies quietly before me in my box. I can not move but I am reminded of Lizzie. Why! Why should this dream be broken. It may not. Yet my brother I am a man. I will act as a man. This trial may be the making of me, it may teach me not to idolize anything but Him who is pure & holy.

My little brother is wiser than I. He has fortified himself this early against all contingencies. He will if he lives make a good & useful man. He said in his letter to me that he should write to you. He is very happy, not excited for it is not his nature, but he is a Christian with enthusiasm in its place, pressing in steady & calm determination to lead a Christian's life.

Do not be anxious for me. Let what will turn up I shall remain as I am, with a heart full of affection for my brothers, neither over gloomy & not in the least misanthropic.

Your affectionate brother
O.O. Howard

My room-mate wishes to be remembered to you kindly.

conquered myself will be when I have to give them up. She may come back to me I can fancy she loves me in good when she is before me the consequences of all this. When she thinks of the scandal it will create - but what right is it or no the end of happiness in it is palpable that I have created & expected her to give me my life.

Perhaps it will be better for me I for her in the end. It will cost us many a wife's reason - I do not wish you or Mother or Charlie to think hardly of her I you will not if you know her character as well as I - I know it is unkind to say so in my fit to speak like this - but it is as I feel - She has intended to judge me soon to the letter I should have done so with a more complimentary but certain she cannot it otherwise.

Be not troubled for me - you shall find me the same as you always know I should prefer to be from discouraged. I shall appear as I am. '33.

I saw three letters, one to Mother one to Charlie & one to you. The two former I ought to write first because I received them first - but as it is Sunday afternoon & I have a bad cold I can write you better than them - for I have made a confidant of you & not of them, respecting the recent occurrences which I confess have been slightly tinged with romance. I must again insist that you mention nothing of what I tell you on this matter. Though you felt you were doing the same for my good. The second letter I wrote Percy he did not receive before he had replied to my first. The first reply was couched in a style similar to the letter he was answering, which was not written in a very mild or conciliating spirit, but the second one which I received a few days after was very different, and showed in a striking manner how miserable this unhappy affair has made them both. He says "I have just read your kind manly & more than frank letter and the tone of it so frank, so friendly, so forgiving & forgetful of self brought tears to my eyes burning tears, and sadness & self reproaching thoughts to my heart &c &c. And now Howard I will tell you the truth so far as I can make it appear to you & so far as I shall attempt now, for I cannot tell you all I feel & think and know about it tonight. &c - I was

not aware that Lizzy loved anything for me till a day or two before she went up to Leeds preparatory to her setting out for great Britain. This is the fact. I had long known that she was interested in my welfare, felt attached to me as her friend & your friend, but I never suspected that she loved me till then. I never dreamed of the thing, that such could possibly be the case, till one evening just as I was going to the office Lizzy was unwell & I stopped into the parlour to see how she was. I found she had been crying & insisted on knowing the cause; and then she thought which she would not own broke upon me: I said 'for God's sake what have you been loving me for'. She said she could not help it, revealing to me the fact fairly and I broke down, giving away in a burst of grief for her & for you as I thought of the unhappiness & suffering that might be in store for her & perhaps still more for you, such as I never indulged in for myself. &c -

After I had discovered that she loved me, that her heart was not wholly yours as it ought to have been, I must confess, mourning somewhat on my past faithfulness. I suffered myself rather in spite of myself I could not help a love awakening for her in return I sorry and to say it I did not conceal from her the fact. - He acknowledges this & then, tells me of the conflict he had before the right gained the mastery in a very affectionate & touching manner. "I did wrong, Howard, to give way for a moment to a love which came to me so unexpectedly & at a time when I thought it existed not for me, but bitterly have I atoned for the wrong & now my aim is to make you reparation by endeavoring to restore her health & by taking her thoughts from herself and fixing them on objects without her to break up the morbid & monotonous tone of her ideas. I do look, Howard, to her happiness & to

I will tell you if I hear more from them - keep close - I will tell Mother & Charlie my self in my own way if the matter is cleared as I anticipate.

yours, and I know that I could never be happy; that she could never be so, without the consciousness of having done right &c. &c. - I wish Lizzie to love you - I know she does much - &c. - I will strive to teach her to give you her whole heart once more or of all I do you not reject her love." I answered this letter some portions of which I have copied. I made a greater effort in doing it than I ever did before in my life. I had already written a long letter to Lizzie stating plainly the whole thing, and how much misery was in store for us if things continued as they are & then I asked her three questions. 1st if she wished to continue our connection &c. 2^d if she loved me I would be happy that our union should take place - & third - if she loved me more than her cousin. These were the questions in substance which I insisted on her answering if she was able. I felt while I was writing that it was the last or nearly the last letter I should write to the one I had idolized so much - When I answered Derley's letter - I showed him how futile were his kind efforts in my behalf - how they would produce just the result he wished to avoid - He said this had made him resolve to leave Pooland. I showed him how useless that step would be - I did not let him see my heart at all - but employed all the reason I could muster - to prove to him if possible in what direction his duty now lies. I told him that my course would not affect Lizzie's consciousness of having done right or wrong - to assure her that no great unhappiness would be in store for me situated as I am - I could fill my mind with other objects &c. - I told him that ^(Lizzie's & mine) our connection was dissolved & warned him not to spend his time in trying to turn me, for I saw in what my duty to Lizzie & myself consisted - had made up my mind that we must part. The last sentence of my letter was the hardest to write - "You cannot think you

are robbing me of my own, for Lizzie M. is no longer mine - I told him to seize an opportunity when Lizzie best could hear it & break this news to her, to save her the pained & bitter task of answering my letter. She received my letter Wednesday or Thursday & he got the one I wrote him Friday or Saturday. - I do not, I pray you, speak of Lizzie as indelicate &c. She was trying to do her duty as she conceived it. Derley's kindness to her while she was ill & at all other times won her affection, though she struggled against it. And had he been other than kind to her I would have resented it. It is an unfortunate & an unhappy phase in our lives but I trust Providence will overcome it to our best good. I want none to know the cause of our separation, except that I have done it. And it will not injure, but she could not bear to have the report go forth that she had jilted me - or Derley that he had betrayed the confidence & placed in him & supplanted me. This might be the construction that others would put upon the matter - but the truth is here - I discovered that it would not be for our ultimate happiness for Lizzie & myself to marry & so I break the connection. Now if she should wish it or demand it I will keep my engagement - for I hold my promises sacred - but Richard I presume - it is over - I loved her deeply & truly - but I have seen she left scars where they - and my cup has been left bitter - I have been schooled in bearing disappointments & having my wishes overruled. I have forgiven Lizzie her weakness - and Derley never has willingly done me an injury. I do not yet fully realize the step I have taken - for I have all her letters, her miniature - the book of poems & the little Bible with hundreds of little keepsakes - the last struggle I will have before I have entirely

100 11/13/1853 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-064

West Point N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

West Point N.Y. Nov. 13th '53

My dear brother

I owe three letters, one to Mother, one to Charlie & one to you. The two former I ought to write first because I received them first, but as it is Sunday afternoon & I have a bad cold I can write you better than them, for I have made a confidant of you & not of them respecting the recent occurrences which I confess have been slightly tinged with romance. I must again insist that you mention nothing of what I tell you in this matter though you felt you were doing the same for my good.

The second letter I wrote Perley he did not receive before he had replied to my first. The first reply was couched in a style similar to the letter he was answering, which was not written in a very mild or conciliatory spirit, but the second one which I received a few days after was very different, and showed in a striking manner how miserable this unhappy affair has made them both. He says "I have just reread your kind, manly & more than frank letter and the tone of it so frank, so friendly, so forgiving & forgetful of self brought tears to my eyes, burning tears, and sadness & self reproaching thoughts to my heart &c. &c. and now Howard I will tell you the truth so far as I can make it appear to you & so far as I shall attempt now, for I cannot tell you all I feel & think and know about it tonight &c.

I was not aware that Lizzie cared anything for me till a day or two before she went up to Leeds preparatory to her setting out for West Point. This is the fact. I had long known that she was interested in my welfare, felt attached to me as her friend & your friend, but I never suspected that she loved me till then, never dreamed of the thing, that such could possibly be the case, until one evening just as I was going to the office Lizzie was unwell & I stepped into the parlor to see how she was. I found she had been crying & insisted on knowing the cause; and then the thought which she would not own broke upon me. I said "for God's sake what have you been loving me for". She said she could not help it, revealing to me the fact fairly and I broke down, giving away to a burst of grief for her & for you as I thought of the unhappiness & suffering that might be in store for her & perhaps still more for you, such as I never indulged in for myself, &c. After I had discovered that she loved me, that her heart was not wholly yours as it ought to have been, I must confess, presuming somewhat on my past faithfulness, I suffered myself rather in spite of myself I could not help a love awakening for her in return & sorry am I to say it did not conceal from her the fact--"

He acknowledges this & then tells me of the conflict he had before the right gained the mastery in a very affectionate & touching manner. "I did wrong, Howard, to give way for a moment to a love which came to me so unexpectedly & at a time when I thought it existed not for me, but literally have I atoned for the wrong & now my aim is to make you reparation by endeavoring to restore her health & by taking her thoughts from herself and forcing them on objects without her to break up the morbid & monotonous tone of her ideas. I do look, Howard, to her happiness & to yours, and I know that I could never be happy; that she could never be so, without the consciousness of having done right &c. He says, I wish Lizzie to love you. I know she does much etc. I will strive to teach her to give you her whole heart once more as of old & do you not reject her love." I answered this letter some portions of which I have copied. I made a greater effort in doing it than I ever did before in my life.

I had already written a long letter to Lizzie stating plainly the whole thing, and how much misery was in store for us if things continued as they are & then I asked her three questions. 1st if she wished to continue our connection &c. 2d if she loved me & would be happy that our union should take place & third if she loved me more than her cousin. These were the questions in substance which I insisted on her answering if she was able. I felt while I was writing that it was the last or nearly the last letter I should write to the one I had idolized so much. When I answered Perley's letter, I showed him how futile were his kind efforts in my behalf, how they would produce just the result he wished to avoid. He said this had made him resolve to leave Portland. I showed him how useless that step would be. I did not let him see my heart at all, but employed all the reason I could muster, to prove to him, if possible, in what direction his duty now lies. I told him that my course would not affect Lizzie's consciousness of having done right or wrong - to assure her that no great unhappiness could be in store for me situated as I am. I could fill my mind with other objects &c. I told him that our (Lizzie's & mine)

connection was dissolved & warned him not to spend his time in trying to turn me, for I saw in what my duty to Lizzie & myself consisted., Had made up my mind that we must part. The last sentence of my letter was the hardest to write. You cannot think you are robbing me of my own, for Lizzie W is no longer mine. I told him to seek an opportunity when Lizzie best could bear it & break this news to her, to save her the pain the bitter task of answering my letter. She received my letter Wednesday or Thursday & he got the one I wrote him Friday or Saturday

Do not, I pray you, speak of Lizzie as indelicate etc. She was trying to do her duty as she conceived it. Perley's kindness to her while she was ill & at all other times won her affection, though she struggled against it. And had he been other than kind to her I would have resented it. It is an unfortunate & an unhappy phase in our lives but I trust Providence will overrule it to our best good. I want none to know the cause of our separation, except that I have done it. Me it will not injure, but she could not bear to have the report go forth that she had jilted me, or Perley that he had betrayed the confidence I placed in him & supplanted me. This might be the construction that others would put upon the matter, but the truth is here. I discovered that it would not be for our ultimate happiness for Lizzie & myself to marry & so I break the connection.

True if she should wish it or demand it I will keep my engagement, for I hold my promises sacred, but Rowland, I presume it is over. I loved her deeply & truly, but I have shed less tears than they, and my cup has been less bitter. I have been schooled in bearing disappointments & having my wishes controverted. I have forgiven Lizzie her weakness and Perley never has willingly done me an injury. I do not yet fully realize the step I have taken, for I have all her letters, her miniature, the book of poems & the little Bible with hundreds of little keepsakes, the last struggle I will have before I have entirely conquered myself will be when I have to give them up. She may come back to me & even fancy she loves me as of old when she sees before her the consequences of all this, when she thinks of the scandal it will create, but whether this be so or no the cup of happiness in its fullness that I have coveted & expected has been dashed from my lips.

Perhaps it will be better for me & for her in the end. It will teach us many a useful lesson. I do not wish you or Mother or Charlie to think hardly of her & you will not if you know her character as well as I. I know it is unusual for one in my fix to speak thus, but it is as I feel. She has intended to fulfill her vows to the letter & would have done so without a word of complaint, but fortune has ordered it otherwise.

Be not troubled for me, you would find me the same as you always have - cheerful, hopeful, & far from discouraged.

Yr affectionate brother
Otis

I will tell you if I hear more from them. Keep dark. I will tell Mother & Charlie myself in my own way if the matter is closed as I anticipate.