I shall love my high hopes of, my impulses that more generous thowards all will become deadened, and my whole soul turned whom me & mine -Undoubtidly, a copper will soon increase i balue I a challan eaver this muscles of they have to contract-I will en I do su already what moves conder trans it suns the chief and and aim of almost every main life. Sont think I have already got penareous, for I have not eget gor up the foundance - but you know you who me one what a Treasure I have . She will be a check when me not as you may suggest My Darping. no, no, don't do this or about do that has because she is that sort of a breaking , that requires & encourses which my devotion of I may now such a lover like word I believe this H. mon is not set yet) - With something to care you hereides myself, sung extravagance mile abote. I will stop Nure. There was much I was going to write you - but gas has filled up aker I aughlanted no, take the place of that solid common serve Atras my Mean Doint Education prosticuling Injune. But good night god help you - There is almost aship - days down poles is up tonght for & whit to write a little in the morning: your affection to that the

write two letters tonight you cannot expres me to finish a third. your lust letter was received today-I liked it very much, but to own ap, I did not fee more pleased with it than with the former over which Lizzie and I had quite a domestic contention of a hearty langh. you depende our strong predelection to platting & go straight to northe to make your brother pleased with husseld. This is hardly fair. I will not call is flatting for you Sum too candid, but do not my dear brother draw too many companieous & contrasts. you can always make yourself low in the estimate, but be mile assured that you have no reason - your & I toth sum precisposed accusionally to underrate ourselves, though of you could get at the actual comment of self- when you would not find it So very "small . - Monday evening - You pirceine by this intertopping phanse monday evening that

Water vliet arsenal April 8 - 185'5-My dear Grother. abready having helped

I did not finish your letter yesterdays lowing. Now I confers if I had been a backelon I should have done so, for I should have highted my pape or sigar and gos mined, but I and his polate the smoke in ladies wenty and our smoking room in the other tenement is not a fit place to write in, I hoto up your letter just non & reread the first page - Now the question with me is; is it earnest or not your Say took the corner part of your former letter for fun & view neren. On the contrary I work neither the one part or the other for somest, though andoubted under the quise of pollity there were a few sly hits. Now my answer from it's very commencement, was inter. der as a serie evenie concern, pretending to abuse I complain of abase. abase there was none in yours. This last I have written as if your 1st page who is good sober harnest. Yes. I lay no imperious condition whow you nor do I returned to pala off Mor you a hursh & Juintless joke - (you en Trace my chaquin in that underscoring) - Thow. That bundinge is a sort of pust time between me I my companions, and that method of humbugging which bonsists in aping simplicity, and answering a she

or ent, as through it was had no more meaning than it' literal interpretation would warrant, is of every day occurrence. So you need nor interpret all that I say as dead in remet. An say Arthy a man much look forward to a Jungreps to some direction or he will love his contition" & I tould add his energy. But I year this goodfor mothing quick life will make me unfix for anything. I an getting elever, tome, kindly diepused. affectionaled lazer. In short I am what this call in the army somewhat of an old Jogy. But is you suggest there is what ought to be one of the thief ains of a man chomestic comport. . How say "you must be emserious of a cleaner & /www. of mental vision which I shall always he a strange to." You are mistake, Mour head is as elear as min and very section do I realize in the least that my mind has been disciplined more that it was when I started for Bounswick the first time. Thally I do not Ful so energetie as I did then, I don't sun to be accomplishing what my heating heart the was elsenning over I cheristing as something a little more than arctimany As age enerps on ofter having been deceived, hundrigged cheater of disciptiontes, after having become acquainted

with the palsity ingratitude I fully of man, I presume

RBH-083

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal April 8th, 1855

My dear brother,

Already having helped write two letters tonight you cannot expect me to finish a third. Your last letter was received today. I liked it very much, but to own up, I did not feel more pleased with it than with the former over which Lizzie and I had quite a domestic contention & a hearty laugh. You deprecate our strong predilection to flattery & go straight to work to make your brother pleased with himself. This is hardly fair. I will not call it flattery for you seem too candid, but do not my dear brother draw too many comparisons & contrasts. You can always make yourself low in the estimate, but be well assured that you have no reason. You & I both seem predisposed occasionally to underrate ourselves, though if you could get at the actual amount of our self-esteem, you would not find it so very "small".

Monday evening. You perceive by that interloping phrase, Monday evening, that I did not finish your letter yesterday evening. Now I confess if I had been a bachelor I should have done so, for I should have lighted my pipe or cigar and got revived, but I am too polite to smoke in ladies society and our smoking room in the other tenement is not a fit place to write in.

I took up your letter just now & reread the first page. Now the question with me is, is it earnest or not. You say I took the earnest part of your former letter for fun & vice versa. On the contrary I took neither the one part or the other for earnest, though undoubtedly under the guise of jollity there were a few sly hits. Now my answer from its very commencement was intended as a serio-comic concern, pretending to abuse & complain of abuse. "Abuse" there was none in yours.

This last I have written as if your 1st page was a good sober earnest. Yes, I lay no imperious condition upon you, nor do I intend to palm off upon you a harsh & pointless joke. (You can trace my chagrin in that under scoring [harsh & pointless were underlined]). Know that <fundinage> is a sort of past-time between me & my companions, and that method of humbugging which consists in aping simplicity, and answering a slur, or cut, as though it had no more meaning than its literal interpretation would warrant, is of every day occurrence. So you need not interpret all that I say as dead in earnest.

You say "truly a man must look forward to a progress in some direction or he will lose his ambition." & I would add his energy. But I fear this good-for-nothing quiet life will make me unfit for anything. I'm getting clever, tame, kindly disposed, affectionate & lazy. In short I am what they call in the Army somewhat of an old fogy. But as you suggest, there is what ought to be one of the chief aims of a man domestic comfort.

You say "you must be conscious of a clearness & power of mental vision which I shall always be a stranger to." You are mistaken. Your head is as clear as mine and very seldom do I realize in the least that my mind has been disciplined more than it was when I started for Brunswick the first time. Really I do not feel so energetic as I did then. I don't seem to be accomplishing what my beating heart then was dreaming over & cherishing as something a little more than ordinary.

As age creeps on, after having been deceived, humbugged, cheated & disappointed, after having become acquainted with the falsity, ingratitude & folly of men, I presume I shall lose my high hopes, my impulses that were generous towards all will become deadened and my whole soul turned upon me & mine. Undoubtedly a copper will soon increase in value & a dollar cause the muscles of my hand to contract.

I will see & do see already what money can do, how it seems the chief end and aim of almost every man's life. Don't think I have already got penureous, for I have not yet got up to prudence, but you know you told me once what a treasure I have. She will be a check upon me, not as you may suggest by saying no, no, don't do this or don't do that, but because she is that sort of a treasure, that requires & unconsciously solicits my devotion if I may use such a lover-like word. (I believe this H. moon is not set yet.) With something to care for besides myself, surely extravagance will abate.

I will stop here. There was much I was going to write you, but gas has filled my shee, & supplanted, no, taken the place of that solid, common sense that my West Point education particularly enjoins.

But good night, God bless you. Lizzie is almost asleep, says don't fold it up tonight for I want to write a little in the morning.

Your affectionate brother Otis

[Written by Lizzie] I am only going to say that I don't love you because you laughed at me when I called you brother on my wedding night.

The toat from St. Gook mics delayed by the high water & Jay. I got to the first juck after the and of The little brack had furcher off. The brack men head to sching for me. He has done so me or this he for it appeared, so he emerled this impatience by eurang like a travper I forbore to knock his down, but lowker will g mility is his face while the atured In I replies not. He extranter his notchalan of walk and nowed on, splashing us, (some luchis mere with me in the boat at the time & mere frightenes -9 quietes the reached this wherefor the Boat had arrived, and was letting At the furningers an a ten Jurany staging - the wharf Inoper with all its opportunanes being under water. I looked up and down stains and in the ludies satis but found in Laura, The Rip Vom Minkle (the baat name) Mad to go over to the opposite those to deposite her pright I Thought I would have a ride and save two sents -Aurriage - You shall hear the result of my econing . The Rip ment along side of a When there were approvently three nearels in a row, The toat after snorting & splasting a long time gos close to the upriver vessel a fair chance, I jump abourd Daption eries you lost get back. I losk about me, water on all sido Amer or four words to show, wharf everid - no wat-· laptin man & hory on toard this crape - Caption says law get ashow sir; from this wessel totay - See a shift in the distance - call after it no attention is paid, goes our of Sight - myself all - talk a with Coplain, about

The much property of the second secon wednesday and were emprised to learn that you has been sick and recovered without our hunging heard a word about it. I know a botter of this com forts of thing eich and from him and friends and can polly sympathize with you I this you well thirty mp and recover your strength. It is bad indeed to have a vacation spoiled with that appropring thangate ever in your minde vis making up" It never set well upon me but your happy distantion can perhaps prevent anything that concerns This feature from taking of the plach. It is good fobilitions langh & gron fat. I House you were wire to deceine So the hunor that they would extend to you at Service I am glad that my labors were so weight - in this, That you may goon win Amargh my Jally. Jaura is with us, She came thursday and we intruce to kup her some little time, as long as the behaves well and enjoys herely no and delight ful society. I worde Unch Ensign a short letter while Laura name resting after the fatigues of his junning & sentir before she know and to about it. Please there communication to E. Ohr log. In wife Sortion is ar his seins the fallowing

Vertation (Laura's evidence) "I received John's letter last tuesday evening at 6 O'clock and find the monay safely enclosed Istarter the next maring for Tray, which I arrived safe and sound. (I will add which Jama is tilling and and anothaps to Lizzie, That Sama's saming has let loose Lizzies spirits. My gours nones forming to quice office ning with the prusical langh & tonguey- vibrations of the two anited leh: how they puster me with the spring fashing tis burnets shands. Skints delucions ye ve to say nothing of the quier may they blacktall there girls who don't wear the right kind of things.) . June addes with some heritancy fa peculiary till - tate langh: I am soming home sometime some monday. The two seem to decide - (your Acour Mins 14- is decider.) I ask what more anne, I dord' Senow; nothing important; O' aunt Martha will Sary why don't she some " I will anticipate and you the desired answer in forenthins [Every bady at Luit knows me "Thatmanths mulis" I will not lit his go till are have had a visit-] he lays that the mud you speak of is fright the. They are "nice" people, these Whiledulphinis you serve mos Morses' fut clean. Laura has forgother an inspertant item, an item that women and men smiting dabble in, In a certain nothing that is so light and arry that its going marks its coming, yet so heavy as to loving the ford lover an this teners or prostate a juri fellow on his back so affection as to make Then sigh I wan a . ery - hand I change as the pance

with the big first book the whereas all completely Coursed with the aler. the lower strains of houses near the river filled with water the appen parts of here wowed theory half a mile up niver on this sich and then high a diagonal course to may, When! did nV me go

takes them, I read. The girls (hig parcion) the ladies guess - Lizzie affection, and Lanra Love - Non I have a night to draw a sage conclusion from this - They arener quickly The words on the longue are the ones whe parmost in their hearts. I don't conformed the how terms as I wand to - they conclusion is that the state of appretion poleows are seguent to the State of love. What Think you - gives aver flow with love marianis with affection, primarily for the husband, while he is young yrilding and attentive, subsequently for the children, scarcely our with the elightest alteration or diminution of intensety which tipe last. I work - a little to Dellie a short time since I mentioned energy body but you. I did in Struck you could be at home. I had some gues times . in going after Loura - I was to such her at the wharg in Frenze exactly when I did not te now so I went to meet three sucception arrivals. The forst day last saturday proming. I wont to my at about In prest 5 A.M. Martis lite after seven, Insturned; this siver was so high I smips that they eved not can The mondows hering might. I ment in a little shift we at & started back. The

119 4/29/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-084

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal April 29th, 1855

My dear brother

We received your letter last Wednesday and were surprised to learn that you had been sick and recovered without our having heard a word about it. I know a little of the comforts of being sick away from home and friends and can fully sympathize with you. I trust you will hurry up and recover your strength. It is bad indeed to have a vacation spoiled with that oppressive thought ever on your mind, viz "making up". It never set well upon me, but your happy disposition can perhaps prevent anything that concerns the future from taking off the flesh. It is good philosophy "laugh & grow fat."

I think you were wise to decline the honor that they would extend to you at Lewiston. I am glad that my labors were so useful in this, that you may grow wise through my folly.

Laura is with us. She came Thursday and we intend to keep her some little time, as long as she behaves well and enjoys herself in our delightful society. I wrote uncle Ensign a short letter while Laura was resting after the fatigues of her journey & sent it before she knew ought about it. Please then communicate to E. Otis Esq., his wife Martha Otis, his heirs the following verbatim (Laura's evidence) "I received John's letter last Tuesday evening at five o'clock and found the money safely enclosed. I started the next morning for Troy, where I arrived safe and sound. (I will add while Laura is telling over our old mishaps to Lizzie, that Laura's coming has let loose Lizzie's spirits. My rooms formerly so quiet often ring with the musical laugh & <tonguing>-vibrations of the two united. Oh! How they pester me with the spring fashions - tis bonnets shawls, skirts, "delusions" &c. &c. to say nothing of the quiet way they blackball those girls who don't wear the right kind of things.)

Laura adds with some hesitancy & a peculiarly telltale laugh: "I am coming home sometime, some Monday. The two seem to decide. (You know Mrs. H is decided.) I asked what more, answer, "I don't know; nothing important. O! Aunt Martha will say why don't she come?" I will anticipate and give the desired answer in parentheses (Everybody at Leeds knows me "Obstenantus Mulis". I will not let her go till we have had a visit.) She says that the mud you speak of is frightful. They are "nice" people, those Philadelphians. You never see dirt there. I think they must mop the streets & keep their horses' feet clean.

Laura has forgotten an important item, an item that women and men sometimes dabble in. Tis a certain nothing that is so light and airy that its going marks its coming, yet so heavy as to bring the fond lover on his knees or prostrate a poor fellow on his back, so affecting as to make men sigh & women cry or laugh & <> as the panic takes them. I read. The girls (beg pardon) the ladies guess - Lizzie affection, and Laura love. Now I have a right to draw a sage conclusion from this. They answer quickly. The words on the tongue are the ones uppermost in their hearts. I don't confound the two terms as I used to. My conclusion is that the state of affection follows as a sequent to the state of love. What think you. Girls overflow with love, madams with affection, primarily for the husband, while he is young, yielding and attentive, subsequently for the children, scarcely ever with the slightest alteration, or diminution of intensity while life lasts.

I wrote a letter to Dellie a short time since. I mentioned every body but you. I didn't think you could be at home. I had some queer times in going after Laura. I was to meet her at the wharf in Troy, exactly when I did not know, so I went to meet three successive arrivals. The second day last Tuesday morning, I went to Troy at about ½ past 5 A.M. waited till after seven, & returned. The river was so high & swift that they could not land with the big ferry boat, the wharves all completely covered with water. The lower stories of houses near the river filled with water, the upper parts of the windows being visible. I went in a little skiff. We were rowed nearly half a mile up river on this side and then took a diagonal course to Troy. Whew! Didn't we go [bottom of page cut off] started back. The boat from N. York was delayed by the high water & fog. I got to the ferry just after one of the little boats had pushed off. The boat man had to return for me. He had done so once or twice before it appeared, so he consoled his impatience by cursing like a trooper. I forbore to knock him down, but looked mildly in his face while he abused me, & I replied not. He exhausted his vocabulary of oaths and rowed on, splashing us, (some

ladies were with me in the boat at the time & were frightened) I quieted the boors by inquiring their employers name. I soon reached the wharf. The boat had arrived, and was letting off its passengers on a temporary staging, the wharf proper with all its appurtenances being underwater. I looked up and down stairs and in the ladies cabin but found no Laura. The Rip Van Winkle (the boat's name) had to go over to the opposite shore to deposit her freight. I thought I would have a ride and save two cents ferriage.

You shall hear the result of my economy. The Rip went along side of the wharf, where there were apparently three vessels in a row. The boat after snorting & splashing a long time got close to the up-River vessel, a fair chance, I jump aboard, captain cries you can't get back. I look about me, water on all sides three or four rods to shore, wharf covered - no boat - Capt. Man & boy on board the craft. Capt. Says can't get ashore sir from this vessel today. See a skiff in the distance, call after it, no attention is paid, goes out of sight. Myself [bottom of page cut off] shore and get me a boat, give him a quarter so to do. Bad rule paying before your work is done. Boy didn't get ashore. Crows on the land laugh & jeer. Asked how much baggage have you aboard that craft. One steps forth & says what will you give to get ashore. I told him, get me ashore & I will pay, if you do not intend to try you need not trouble yourself. He was a rowdy sort of man, laughed & hooted, got a couple of joists - constructed a <skimpsy> raft & it knocked himself about a long while trying to get to the vessel. He did not think I could go ashore on that but to his surprise I jumped on almost whacking him & we went ashore together & I gave him a 1/4 more and hastened to Lizzie to tell her of the dangers to which her beloved had been subjected.

Your br Otis

give his metruction. He will be likely to be garace Loon nor than prevere moi, but I don't believe the will be so strated as to have a sweet wife this Anany years. Jutites of dout sugare in you know hut I are glod to see your zeor & cannot hep In such things. I bouk upon Frank Sierce the a different eight from yourself. He has used The any well and I lave find no material fault with this general administration - of I entered the I political arena against kine, the whole face of Things would be changed - but now I hardly lan remember the flows That are proted - It's Cabinet They strange as it may seen they suit me well crough - my hun " why there accounts I believe full of humbug - I have not the least doubt he acted as chily proverpted. You that me narrow minded . interested in the army I watting more. At the don't mistake me I stand above party fuling completily I think upon such matters enting indepardent of self interest. I believe the Country will be no worse off at the close of Frank Quees administration than at the beginning-Infutur Somerighty notwithstructing. I hand glady have you expreption freely though & may not he politikas enough to arear them all are will as how by lost accounts-Jizzie his lift in for hed gains her love to her Worker I supero mon I is preset she is slucky Good night, your Methouset bother a graduate of a dage - Int his party & express and

The torse - Asia my - with the Waterolut Arsenac committed tool and should use in the Alley 20th 1855 and may have them potenets lived you sith post with as Myllian Pro There and a second should not a A have just finisher rearing alond - The prist volume of Pendennis when it poper not my heard Rowland ought to have a better, and as I am quick at acting, especially after original inggestions of This lind, here is at you. how letter has needed about a week since there welcomed I say or by your admining how the V lister - Entre more it is and of your susting weakingus, a common with Consi France Juin their hearting in praises and forehorings of meets except when they are antiquestically against my own Jucciliar weathresp and draw compensions to sug ras I in jealous egotion forey, to my own disportenents. But you renow me of ald, and that next to myself even in the requiry of tatent there is no one that I place above my brother. I fine une in the and now every to re The above lines, the which extended, would fill an letter. but your kind letter so full of information I hould be ill repair I poorly auswend. But I cannot houte since an nonsense tile I get a new free. I mad happy to learn that user thathe those M. - was in Is good health, and is hatile that his philasophy I he which make one conform with a happy heart

to all the sugardes of farture and yary profile. Again another court destrict way they norther may and in harder to ship yourself very much of a mon, and I always

to all the vagaries of fortune and young perfile. Agains another secret between us - My mother may arnsider herecep Jostunale is getting such a doughter. you such a sister and Inch a mile and went not your think this Wait fortunate nay, him than portanche, could you take post with us a few short days - and see the manistines budding and bluesoning in her some law. I chut lite to brace and especially not to you, but & do consider impells as a model of a knowned - but more of this anon I am a praid Some you of the opposite sex might lothe exceptions to This position - I had better he down at the office where bright eyes are no courtraint, and the diffiduce of a yielding nature has a respite. Tizen a near me, the links as the weed to I mout praise her, but the should by some nichap read it I get van. I dout "Want a vain wife). "The has her birds, her war in the por and his numerous flowers and gloors to amuse him her huchand to entity her I read bout to her when he is not about in portant duties - She has her duties too gues shopping makes wisits when she ever helpin. for the prepers home society and make firings por The family. Thes the make expense? what an unromante question. This very night the has taken a card concred whe side with figures much som plately, and says this mill enver my turn mer fit-out. Good Gracious! That's all meregoing to albany tomorrow. I should like to have had a brief accurate of "I farries Hore, the injured Anchand " I can not recorde the inca of a man being an injurie motion and the being about to pay a visit to

Showneton. May be ni retatution he two did errong, Howeked down the injurier com withit account of batting an his wife or some other moved female in his ruge (?) I have heard from Sentey The twice. The wrote in good finits decimed to the getting on finely. The says he gains in self confidered which you know he receded much. It is addifferent thing he servertes, to stand up and plead where he now is, where he awas per equals I no superious i Mnowledge, from what it would be among old heads at the East, where you one evuserous of peorful that every opinion your ochname is heing entrange I will be completely anithetated as soon as you sit down. But it deems to me if I wus a young Law yer with a head as large as his I should be apt to dection a meate eveny and proper to clash shit with the strong and brane that again I will the silent for you understand my precouty. you speak of Henry Clay Ward - I would not like to go with the army this without Inquiration hut he will soon leave, the duties that appentic to his porticular empany. He will make with cropes I inknow outres and have fame that a West. Punter would not thinks out all an pleasant; and his ignorcine of hung rightations, tacties, as well as of any life, in toto, may cause some of those who have been more fortunate to longh in then Acenes at his mistakes I be a little lautalizing to a graduate of textlege - but his young & expinence will

120 5/20/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-085

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal May 20th 1855

My dear Brother,

I have just finished reading aloud the first volume of Pendennis, when it pops into my head, Rowland ought to have a letter, and as I am quick at acting, especially after "original suggestions" of this kind, here is at you. Your letter was received about a week since, it was welcomed & eagerly read by your admiring brother & sister. Entré-nous, it is one of your sisters weaknesses, in common with cousin Laura to style yourself very much of a man, and I always join them heartily in praises and forebodings of success except when they run antagonistically against my own peculiar weakness and draw comparisons as I in jealous egotism may fancy, to my own disparagement. But you know me of old, and that next to myself even in the regions of talent there is no one that I place above my brother. I presume there is truth and nonsense enough in the above lines, the which extended, would fill one letter, but your kind letter so full of information would be ill repaid & poorly answered. But I cannot write sense or nonsense till I get a new pen.

I was happy to learn that our mother Mrs. W was in so good health, and exhibited that true philosophy of life which makes one conform with a happy heart to all the vagaries of fortune and young people. Again another secret between us. My mother may consider herself fortunate in getting such a daughter, you such a sister and I such a wife, and wouldn't you think Mrs Waite fortunate, nay more than fortunate. Could you take posts with us a few short days and see the mannishness budding and blossoming in her son-in-law. I don't like to boast and especially not to you, but I do consider myself as a model of a husband, but more of this anon. I am afraid some few of the opposite sex might take exceptions to this position. I had better be down at the office where bright eyes are no constraint, and the diffidence of a yielding nature as a respite.

Lizzie is near me, she looks as she used to (I won't praise her, lest she should by some mishap read it & get vain. I don't want a vain wife.) She has her birds, her nose in the jar and her numerous flowers out-of-doors to amuse her, her husband to edify her & read books to her when he is not about important duties. She has her duties too, goes "shopping", makes visits when she can't help it, for she prefers home-society and makes fixings for the family. Does she make expense? What an unromantic question. This very night she has taken a card, covered one side with figures most completely, and says this will cover my summer fit-out. Good gracious!

That's all, we're going to Albany tomorrow. I should like to have had a brief account of "Harvey Rose, the injured husband". I cannot reconcile the idea of a man being an injured husband, and of being about to pay a visit to Thomaston. May be in retaliation he too did wrong, knocked down the injurer, committed assault & battery on his wife or some other innocent female in his rage (?)

I have heard from Perley twice. He wrote in good spirits & seems to be getting on finely. He says he gains in self-confidence which you know he needed much. It is a different thing he intimates to stand up and plead where he now is, where he owns few equals & no superiors in knowledge from what it would be among old heads at the East, where you are conscious or fearful that every opinion you advance is being criticized & will be completely annihilated as soon as you sit down. But it seems to me if I was a young lawyer with a head as large as his, I should be apt to despise a weak enemy and prefer to clash steel with a strong and brave, but again I will be silent for you understand my precocity.

You speak of Henry Clay Wood. I would not like to go into the Army thus, without preparation, but he will soon learn, the duties that appertain to his particular company. He will meet with crosses & irksome duties and hard fare, that a West Pointer wouldn't think at all unpleasant, and his ignorance of Army regulations, tactics, as well as of Army life, in toto, may cause some of those who have been more fortunate to laugh in their sleeves at his mistakes & be a little tantalizing to a graduate of College, but he is young & experience will give him instruction. He will be likely to be general sooner than pauvre moi, but I don't believe he will be so situated as to have a sweet wife this many years.

Politics I don't engage in you know but I am glad to see your zest & earnestness in such things. I look upon

Frank Pierce in a different light from yourself. He has used the Army well, and I can find no material fault with his general administration. If I entered the political arena against him, the whole face of things would be changed, but now I hardly can remember the flaws that are picked. "His Cabinet." Why strange as it may seem they suit me well enough. "Greytown". Why those accounts I believe full of humbug. I have not the least doubt he acted as duty prompted. You think me narrowminded, interested in the Army & nothing more. Oh no. Don't mistake me. I stand above party feeling completely & think upon such matters entirely independent of self-interest. I believe the country will be no worse off at the close of Frank Pierce's administration than at the beginning. Popular sovereignty notwithstanding. I would gladly have you express your opinions freely though I may not be politician enough to answer them.

All are well at home by last accounts. Lizzie has left me for bed. Gives her love to her brother & says no more. I expect she is sleepy. Good night.

Your affectionate brother Otis

have vere time reaperted their old upremacymy Vacation was puped without any speciel Adigious influences. hobody reemed to care particularly sure about these Things & doubtless Christians die not late that interest me That they nould have done if I have informed them of my state of mind. but I have told no one out of leolege weeps thailes and yourself not even my Mother I have attended my blap Buyer meetings here and mean to continue to do to. many of my Clapmates & other friends have beened to later a deep interest in my conversion and I know that they feel pained that my interest has in any may about -I might give you very many reasons Frank, beside the above for this declementerbut I know you do not care to hear them. For your answer would be as every Christian Moule - Male there Things "separate you from The love of Christ ! you will bug, think what you lose, and shur you are ecchanging it for! This consideration always Maggers me

Bond. Ceole May. 23, 1855

My dear Frank L' don't know but that ?

might as well answer your kind and vilcome letter while the first imprepsion from its perusal is there wice. About This matter of Religion I will tele you frankly my part & present imprepious & Moughts in regard to it. I have had during mylife deveral reasons of deep consistion. I have fell that I was doing arong in the light of hod and in my non consciousnessbut I never made know these feelings to my me until I was deeply affective by a view which was presented in a Luturely mights discourse on the folly and withlipselp of erenthe very best & highers of Earthely Goods - The new remed to me a clien one, and the arguments nere to my mind mansnerable and from trinking of the Subject. I was soon hed to tim h of myself and to ask myself revered questions which I could not answer without doing noter a to my self-respect - I said to myself - If there things are so, may do I ach to I do? If the World I help are to mean and contemptable objects of pussit, why do I center my whole thoughts in them? If how & this Religion are only worthy of a time man. Why do I ignore them ? I say, I could not ausner these questions without myning my self uspect - for I had to alknow ledge That I was that fool & that Coward in dealing with these matters that I would be in acquiel to no others - I did not meet and follow my convictions of Right I Duty in regard to there matters as I did even in regard to the common avocations of life -I felt ashamed & rebuked & revolved to no longer lead a life that ness at variance with mach plain principles & reasonable requirements after trying to pray (an almost min attempt) I lought a clapmate whom I have alwage believed to be a hundle, bincere, consciencion Unistion, and convened with him on my

own State - I built open all my beelings and was met with truly much & Christian Opinit. He calked with me. Juaged with me, and I felt a new lar nestings in my endeavor. while under his sinfluence. We reparation I I counted with a number of my belofmates who propersion Religion - I had a very interesting and instructive interview with hof. Hitchcook I kept up my hebit of prequent huger and readings of the Bible until I was taken sich - The Dr. said I was very lick-I The dick are proberbally relief . At any sute my thought's gradually drew them eclass in from lord. Religion & Elevinity & became more centered in myself. my personal pains, mants. houses de The young man who staged with me fand he curedifi me like a brother deroting his whole time and attention to me night &. elig) was not a praging man. I gelt some diffidence about perming my duties on his presence. These things combined led me to neglect them in a measure I did not as as first beel their obligation & necession a they

and I revolve anew not to abandon the ferrice of and for the mean and and pilique things of the Earth. What I feel now the most neur N is a devine bor, and a pleasure in religious duties. The Mible & Prager New hard to approach and hard to enjoy. I that I feel convinced that my heart Alite crares the Ance of the tweers, and is burne in the selfish nefs of the morece -The staity belafs pragermentings are to commence loor and I have about Anade up any mind to attend them -The occurrences of the Term are preculiarly distracting - For probably When you that I was up for Residents - Of the Attrenaccon - I this fact and my knowledge of bociet matters. with the recens troubles has kept me employed all of the time labely that was not recupied with my thistics. If you know the

high Mate of feeling which there elect tions excite in levelege you nould understand the dippically of my position but I have prets much concluded today that I mile find room for my Religion an hory for the miffertunes of House ; and though be more h for your take did you not In to look upon the matter as a junces your left to talinly and philosophically Eusy duties I huppy hours in you Frank, wheren your lot muy fall - I have not ansmered much in four letter that I would like to but have fileed my theer with the subject is which you man fest wo much lively interest & real sympathy-Hure I done right! Had a letter from blis tonight - He speaks of lim self as the happy Ausband of a happy wife . considers domestic blifs the crowning delight If a mus like de Remember me to your friends I always hand as your time their poward

From: Rowland [RB **121** 5/23/1855 Howard] Bowd. Coll. **RBH-086**

Source: Bowdoin

Bowd. Coll. May 23, 1855

My dear Frank

I don't know but that I might as well answer your kind and welcome letter while the first impression from its perusal is still vivid. About this matter of Religion I will tell you frankly my past & present impressions & thoughts in regard to it. I have had during my life several seasons of deep conviction. I have felt that I was doing wrong in the sight of God and in my own consciousness, but I never made known these feelings to anyone until I was deeply affected by a view which was presented in a Saturday nights discourse on the folly and worthlessness of even the very best & highest of Earthly Goods. The view seemed to me a clear one, and the arguments were to my mind unanswerable, and from thinking of the subject, I was soon led to think of myself and to ask myself several questions which I could not answer without doing violence to my self-respect. I said to myself - if these things are so, why do I act as I do? If the World & Self are so mean and contemptible objects of pursuit, why do I center my whole thoughts in them? If God & His Religion are only worthy of a true man, why do I ignore them?

I say, I could not answer these questions without injuring my self-respect, for I had to acknowledge that I was that fool & that coward in dealing with these matters that I would be in regard to no others. I did not meet and follow my convictions of Right & Duty in regard to these matters as I did even in regard to the common avocations of life.

I felt ashamed & rebuked & resolved to no longer lead a life that was at variance with such plain principles & reasonable requirements. After trying to pray (an almost vain attempt) I sought a classmate whom I had always believed to be a humble, sincere, conscientious Christian, and conversed with him on my own State. I laid open all my feelings and was met with a truly meek & Christian spirit. He talked with me, prayed with me, and I felt a new earnestness in my endeavor, while under his influence. We separated & I conversed with a number of my Classmates who professed religion. I had a very interesting and instructive interview with Prof. Hitchcock.

I kept up my habit of frequent Prayer and readings of the Bible until I was taken sick. The Dr. said I was very sick & the sick are proverbially selfish. At any rate my thoughts gradually drew themselves in from God, religion & eternity & became more centered in myself, my personal pains, wants, troubles &c. the young man who stayed with me (and he cared for me like a brother devoting his whole time and attention to me, night and day) was not a praying man & I felt some diffidence about pursuing my duties in his presence. These things combined led me to neglect them in a measure. I did not as at first feel then obligation & necessity and they have never since reasserted their old supremacy.

My vacation was passed without any special religious influences. Nobody seemed to care particularly about these things & doubtless Christians did not take that interest in me that they would have done if I had informed them of my state of mind, but I have told no one out of College except Charles and yourself not even my mother. I have attended my class prayer meetings here and mean to continue to do so. Many of my classmates & other friends have seemed to take a deep interest in my conversion and I know that they feel pain that my interest has in any way abated.

I might give you very many reasons, Frank, beside the above for this declension, but I know you do not care to hear. For your answer would be as every Christian should. Shall these "things" separate you from the love of Christ"? You will say, think what you lose, and what you are exchanging it for! This consideration always staggers me and I resolve anew not to abandon the service of God for the mean and pitiful things of the Earth.

What I feel now the most want of, is a desire for, and a pleasure in religious duties. The Bible & Prayer seem hard to approach and hard to enjoy, so that I feel convinced that my heart still craves the success & the honors, and is buried in the selfishness of the World.

The daily class prayer meetings are to commence soon and I have about made up my mind to attend them. The occurrences of the term are peculiarly distracting. Tom probably told you that I was up for president of the

Athanaean & this fact and my knowledge of society matters, with the recent troubles has kept me employed all of the time lately that was not occupied with my studies. If you knew the high state of feeling which these elections excite in College you would understand the difficulty of my position, but I have pretty much concluded today that I will find room for my Religion.

I am sorry for the misfortunes of your house, and should be more so for your sake did you not seem to look upon the matter as regards yourself so calmly and philosophically. Easy duties & happy hours to you Frank, wherever your lot may fall. I have not answered much in your letter that I would like to, but have filled my sheet with the subject in which you manifest so much lively interest & real sympathy. Have I done right? Had a letter from Otis tonight. He speaks of himself as a happy husband of a happy wife, considers domestic bliss the crowning delight of a man's life &c.

Remember me to your friends & always Frank as your true friend.

Howard