

literature and philosophy - point at the geniuses who  
have figured there. I will not reply apologetically for I  
shall get tiresome. But admit facts prejudicial.

Statesmen unpatriotic. Soldiers only brave - for these  
are the objectionable qualities. It is an unwise  
& unlogical ~~and~~ deduction to <sup>infer</sup> tell the great world  
unworthy of confidence. and you don't mean  
it so; this hasty glance only gave me to understand  
the manner you arrive at your conclusions -  
but I beg of you to review candidly the several  
classes you name. The prejudice of the past may  
be redeemed. The want of patriotism as a sweeping  
assertion is too broad and the only applied to the  
soldier's bravery objectionable. But too much  
argumentation doesn't begin a letter or my  
profession so here's your right & God bless you  
and set you right, when perhaps you may  
be wrong, Lizzie sends her love. Her mother  
sounded, but has gone to bed. I gave her a  
ride to day after our horse. She is much  
pleased with him, my love to Charles if he is back  
hope mother is well. How did she look while  
at Brunswick? Your affectionate Brother

Chas

My  
Hatewhist Arsenal N.Y.  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 1855.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due  
season and you will perceive by my date that  
I am pretty prompt in my reply. Just as I was  
on the point of writing you that I did not know  
when Lizzie's mother would start for Troy.  
She arrived. She came last Friday evening.  
Had written us a letter which came the next  
day after had telegraphed in Boston, which  
message did not come at all. So we were taken  
completely by surprise. She had company through  
to Albany but journeyed from Albany to this  
place alone. So you are about to become a citizen  
"which I never was". Don't you remember the time I did  
not vote for Murrell. Then I was a Citi to all intents  
and purposes for a short space of time. There isn't so easy  
much comfort in being your own man as there would be  
if you were to come into some large estate or to have  
some what, wherewith to prop up your increasing  
dignity. But no! I have been writing for five minutes  
without thinking. "Comfort in an estate" - it is folly, if there



is comfort in anything short of a lively religious faith, it rests in the consciousness that you are in your proper place. That there is a peculiar adaptation between your inward self and your outward life. If one has so studied himself that at 21 he can fix upon his proper sphere of action, and lay down a chart of his future field of labor. he is fit to become a citizen, provided of course ~~that~~ he has the requisite stability to back him. A quick genius that readily adapts himself to every vicissitude to every change of wind & tide does not always attain the most. The one that is far reaching & anticipatory is the superior. Without elaborating this idea I wish to turn abruptly to another. You say you are a reader and a pretty close thinker. I never have been a great reader and don't know whether I am a thinker or not. I am not much of a visionary or speculator now. I think you are a little of both. What begets a want of confidence in the integrity of men? I presume it is finding them false when you expected to find them true. As long as you are conscious of integrity, it is fair to suppose that there <sup>are</sup> others ~~are~~ who are like you. and on the contrary if you are false hearted, your judgment ceases to be clear and candid. It is very well in ascertaining physical laws to argue from particular facts to general principles. But even here you can never arrive at more than probable

conclusions. But be cautious about basing your social condition upon conclusions thus drawn. Surely you were erroneous if you expected perfection in any man either existent in the flesh or in history. But you have made a too sudden transition to the other extreme. If James is hypocritical it does not follow that John is so. Believe me, there are honest men. They are not always uppermost surely, and not necessarily geniuses. I would not have my brother go into the world unprepared to meet vice in all its forms. but I would guard against a premature contempt (if I may speak so) for the people of this busy world. "Seek how you may use them." Others have done so. but Providence has over-ruled them. Seek to benefit them. You reap your reward. Struggle for truth and your conscience is your support. What I say is true I know. but one cannot too often be cautioned against a wrong bias. You exhibit your own idea of greatness in the language you use to show that the so-called have not attained it. Give men a fair judgment and you will find many a one whose misdeeds were but miscarriage. The whole aim of whose labors were for the cause of truth, and whose final exit was attended with more blessings than curses. First you take under a 'coup d'oeil' the realms of



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128 10/15/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-093

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
Oct 15th 1855

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due season, and you will perceive by my date that I am pretty prompt in my reply. Just as I was on the point of writing you that I did not know when Lizzie's mother would start for Troy, she arrived. She came last Friday evening, had written us a letter which came the next day after & had telegraphed in Boston, which message did not come at all. So we were taken completely by surprise. She had company through to Albany but journeyed from Albany to this place alone.

So you are about to become a citizen "which I never was." Don't you remember the time I did not vote for Morrell. Then I was a cit. to all intents and purposes for a short space of time. There isn't so very much comfort in "being your own man" as there would be if you were to come into some large estate or to have some what wherewith to prop up your increasing dignity. But ho! I have been writing for five minutes without thinking. "Comfort in an Estate" - it is folly, if there is comfort in anything short of a lively religious faith, it rests in the consciousness that you are in your proper place, that there is a peculiar adaptation between your inward self and your outward life. If one has so studied himself that at 21 he can fix upon his proper sphere of action, and lay down a chart of his future field of labor, he is fit to become a citizen, provided of course that he has the requisite stability to back him. A quick genius that readily adapts himself to every vicissitude, to every change of mind & tide does not always attain the most. The one that is far-reaching & anticipatory is the superior.

Without elaborating this idea I wish to turn abruptly to another. You say you are a reader and a pretty close thinker. I never have been a great reader and don't know whether I am a thinker or not. I am not much of a visionary or speculator now. I think you are a little of both. What begets a want of confidence in the integrity of men? I presume it is finding them false when you expected to find them true. As long as you are conscious of integrity, it is fair to suppose that there are others who are like you, and on the contrary if you are false-hearted, your judgment ceases to be clear and candid. It is very well in ascertaining physical laws to argue from particular facts to general principles, but even here you can never arrive at more than probable conclusions. But be cautious about basing your social condition upon conclusions thus drawn. Surely you were erroneous if you expected perfection in any man either existent in the flesh or in history. But you have made a too sudden transition to the other extreme. If James is hypercritical it doesn't follow that John is so. Believe me, there are honest men. They are not always uppermost surely, and not necessarily geniuses. I wouldn't have my brother go into the world unprepared to meet vice in all its forms, but I would guard against a premature contempt (if I may speak so) for the people of this busy world. "Seek how you may use them." Others have done so but Providence has over-ruled them. Seek to benefit them. You reap your reward. Struggle for truth and your conscience is your support.

What I say is trite I know, but one cannot too often be cautioned against a wrong bias. You exhibit your own idea of greatness in the language you use to show that the so-called have not attained it. Give men a fair judgment and you will find many a one whose misdeeds were but miscarries – the whole aim of whose labors were for the cause of truth, and whose final exit was attended with more blessings than curses.

First you take under a "coup d'oeil" the realms of literature & philosophy – point at the geniuses who have figured there. I will not reply specifically for I shall get tiresome, but admit facts prejudiced, statesmen unpatriotic, soldiers only brave – for these are the objectionable qualities. It is an answer & unlogical deduction to infer the great World unworthy of confidence, and you don't mean it is so; this hasty glance – only gave me to understand the manner you arrive at your conclusions, but I beg of you to review candidly the several classes you name – the prejudice of the fact may be redeemed, the want of patriotism as a sweeping assertion is too broad and the only applied to the soldier's bravery objectionable. But too much argumentation doesn't befit a letter or my profession so here's good night & God bless you and set you right when perchance you may be wrong.

Lizzie sends her love, her mother would, but has gone to bed. I gave her a ride to day after our horse. She is much pleased with him. My love to Charlie if he is back. Hope mother is well. How did she look while at Brunswick?

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

"Waterbury General N.Y.

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 1854

Dear Brother

Major Symington  
will leave this place Wednesday to  
inspect Champlain & St Lawrence  
Arsenals. He will probably pass  
through Brunswick some time  
next week - I shall send a package  
by him to you. He will give the  
same to the Conductor. If you are  
at the Cars. between yourself, the  
Conductor & Major Symington  
you may make a mutual  
acquaintance. I wish if you can  
arrange it to do so that you  
might accompany him to Augusta.  
But that's no matter. Look out  
for him & the package -

Description of the Major - Upwards  
of 50 - light brown hair <sup>straight &</sup> not gray - very  
prominent nose & red. This feature



is remarkable - yet he is always  
mistaken by strangers for a hard  
drinker. but he never takes a drop.  
He is a pleasant looking man. straight  
rather slender. about your height.  
This with his having the package  
will identify him -

May love to Charlie - hope  
he is back & well -

Love to Howard from Lizzie  
& Mother

Respectfully yours

O. V. Howard

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129 10/22/1855 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [RB  
Howard]

RBH-094

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
Oct 22nd 1855

Dear Brother,

Maj. Symington will leave this place Wednesday to inspect Champlain & Kennebec Arsenals. He will probably pass through Brunswick some time next week. I shall send a package by him to you. He will give the same to the Conductor. If you are at the cars, between yourself, the Conductor & Major Symington you may make a mutual acquaintance. I wish if you can arrange it to do so that you might accompany him to Augusta. But that's no matter - look out for him & the package.

Description of the Major - upwards of 50, light brown hair, straight & not gray, very prominent nose & red. This feature is remarkable - by it he is always mistaken by strangers for a hard drinker, but he never takes a drop. He is a pleasant looking man, straight, rather slender, about your height. This with his having the package will identify him.

My love to Charlie, hope he is back & well.

Love to Rowland from Lizzie & mother.

Affectionately yours,  
O. O. Howard



Waterbury Arsenal N.Y.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 1855

Dear Brother

I received your letter  
this morning. after waiting for  
a week with no little anxiety.

I am glad you and Charlie are  
so well & in so good spirits.

I have been making inquiries this  
morning. to find some employ-  
ment that could induce you  
to come to me for the winter.

I think the schools are engaged in  
this section of the country. but

Mr. Wither our Chief of Workmen  
& President of West Troy - says

he thinks he can get a place  
for you to do up the writing

for some large establishment.

I told him how little was your  
experience while I launched your general



submit. I hope he will make  
it his business to make inquiries  
if we don't will succeed in finding  
a vacancy. Do not engage your-  
self to a school permanently until  
you hear from me. They pay here  
from 30 to 50 dollars per month in  
the village schools. They are said  
to have an excellent law school  
at Albany. All send love to you  
& Charles. Tell Charlie we don't have  
any Thanksgiving day here - as we  
own the property of the United States.  
But we can have a Feast  
most any time. Mrs. Wain  
says she will eat a Thanksgiving  
Turkey with the wine. I am anxious  
for you to come to spend the  
winter with us but your  
own interest must be consulted.

You will hear from me  
again shortly - affectionately  
Yr brother  
O. H.

P.S. Remember me to Chamberlain  
Charles' teacher in Greek. Ever  
W. H. S.



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130 11/7/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-095

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N.Y.  
Nov 7th 1855

Dear Brother

I received your letter this morning after waiting for a week with no little anxiety. I am glad you and Charlie are so well & in so good spirits.

I have been making inquiries this morning to find some employment that could induce you to come to us for the winter. I think the schools are engaged in this section of the country, but Mr Witbee our chief of work men & President of West Troy, says he thinks he can get a place for you to do up the writing for some large establishment. I told him how little was your experience while I lauded your general merit. He says he will make it his business to make inquiries & no doubt will succeed in finding a vacancy. So don't engage yourself to a school permanently until you hear from me. They pay here from 30 to 50 dollars per month in the village schools. They are said to have an excellent law school at Albany.

All send love to you & Charlie. Tell Charlie we don't have any Thanksgiving day here, as we are the property of the United States, but he can have a Turkey most anytime. Mrs. Waite says she will eat a Thanksgiving turkey with him. I am anxious for you to come to spend the winter with us but your own interest must be consulted.

You will hear from me again shortly.

Affectionately yr brother  
Otis

P.S. Remember me to Chamberlain, Charles' teacher in Greek, Everett Webb &c.



will be coming, to cause our spirits to  
fall. I do feel more and more the responsibility  
of a man depending upon me - but I trust  
that I shall be equal to them - through the  
care and guidance of the human soul  
gradually unfolding itself by the reception  
of knowledge is a trust that one might <sup>be</sup>  
~~be~~ to undertake. Still as in all things  
else, do your best and you will not fail  
of reward. Charlie is expecting to meet you  
some ~~time~~ a week from next Saturday.  
Don't fear you will trouble us by coming.  
I hope mother will be down soon - you  
can bring her then if Father can't before.  
We are very comfortably situated - have  
a fire in the grate in Lizzie's room besides  
we can open the register of the furnace at  
pleasure - the former renders the room very  
cheerful. The people are very attentive. The  
ladies on all hands are willing to do anything  
for us - soon glad that somebody from  
Maine has come to the Annual - Some are  
bitterly angered that I have closed the little  
gate and shut up the common thoroughfare through  
our grounds. Lizzie said she would be delighted

with often as you can - Affectionately - Geo. Crooker

Winnipeg Annual  
Augusta Me. Dec 14. 1855.

Dear Brother,

Charlie was here and  
wrote you on Sunday night - and as I  
had other letters to write, I thought I would  
let yours slide till a more convenient  
opportunity offered itself. I received your  
congratulating epistle this evening and  
did not observe your warning till I had  
read it through to Lizzie. She said tell  
him the warning was too late. Your letter  
so good and so characteristic pleased her  
very much, so much that she made me  
read it to her a second time. She is a  
little tired to night - from nursing her baby -  
and has gone to sleep. Charlie went back to  
his school Monday morning. I carried  
him, He seems in very good health - likes  
his situation and is very much liked by  
scholars & people. I went into his school  
room on Friday afternoon and staid long  
enough to see how he conducted matters,



He boards a fortnight in a place, which is better than a change every week. I stopped some little time at Mr Wiggins, where he sojourned the first two weeks, and I never visited a pleasanter family, than his seemed. He is now at a Mr Appletons - a man who came here yesterday to buy one of my colts. He has not decided yet whether to take him or not. The people of Concord will not let our soldier's children go to school in the town - not even by paying a proportional part for their schooling - After trying <sup>in vain</sup> to flatter the neighboring people of the district out of their selfishness - I have permitted the seven scholars of the post to study at my office and I bear their expence myself. This with my duties proper keeps me pretty busy. None of the friends at Hallowell have called upon us - I fear we are forgotten by them, or they are still expecting me to carry Lizzie "right there" as they requested. I believe I have now been tantalizing enough - in so disposing my letter as to keep from you what you most wished to learn, and what Laura is waiting to hear

till the last. Lizzie did have a hard struggle on Sunday - plus que je puis penser - But her strength & courage were ever uppermost. Since, she has continued quite well - She looks a shade paler than usual, but her eyes are bright - and she is very happy with her little one. She will soon be able to sit up - Our Doctor who is a kind, careful man and a physician of extensive practice, says he never saw one in a more favorable condition than Lizzie is now. The little boy weighed eight pounds, has a very good formed head already and is withal as promising as any one's first born - Tell Uncle Emory that my head is never upset - With the assistance of my Heavenly Father, I hope to preserve my equanimity in good and ill - fortune - but according to Mr Lyden's Thanksgiving Sermon, I must say that I have reason to be especially thankful, that no ill - luck betides. My Orders coming at so unreasonable a time & causing so much excitement & so long a journey in winter might have made a hot sanguine temperament tremble for the consequences. But the female has thus far given us joy & we trust that no reverses



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131 12/19/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-096

Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Kennebec Arsenal  
Augusta Me Dec. 19, 1855.

Dear Brother,

Charlie was here and wrote you on Sunday night, and as I had other letters to write, I thought I would let yours slide till a more convenient opportunity offered itself. I received your congratulating epistle this evening and did not observe your warning till I had read it through to Lizzie. She said tell him the warning was too late. Your letter so good and so characteristic pleased her very much, so much that she made me read it to her a second time. She is a little tired tonight from nursing her baby, and has gone to sleep.

Charlie went back to his school Monday morning. I carried him. He seems in very good health, likes his situation and is very much liked by scholars & people. I went into his school room on Friday afternoon and staid long enough to see how he conducts matters. He boards a fortnight in a place, which is better than a change every week. I stopped some little time at Mr. Wiggins, where he sojourned the first two weeks, and I never visited a pleasanter family, then his seemed. He is now at a Mr. Appleton's, a man who came here yesterday to buy one of my colts. He has not decided yet whether to take him or not.

The people of Augusta will not let our soldier's children go to school in the town, not even by paying a proportional part for their schooling. After trying in vain to flatter the neighboring people of the district out of their selfishness, I have permitted the seven scholars of the post to study at my office and I hear their lessons myself. This with my duties proper keeps me pretty busy. None of the friends at Hallowell have called upon us. I fear we are forgotten by them, or they are still expecting me to carry Lizzie "right there" as they requested.

I believe I have now been tantalizing enough, in so disposing my letter, as to keep from you what you most wished to learn, and what Laura is waiting to hear till the last. Lizzie did have a hard struggle on Sunday - plus que je puisse penser. But her strength & courage were ever uppermost. Since, she has continued quite well. She looks a shade paler than usual, but her eyes are bright and she is very happy with her little one [Guy Howard was born Sunday, Dec 16, 1855]. She will soon be able to sit up. Our Doctor who is a kind, careful man and a physician of extensive practice, says he never saw one in a more favorable condition than Lizzie is now. The little boy weighed eight pounds has a very good formed head already and is withal as promising as anyone's first born. Tell Uncle Ensign that my head is never upset. With the assistance of my Heavenly Father, I hope to preserve my equanimity in good and ill fortune, but according to Mr. Snyder's Thanksgiving sermon, I must say that I have reason to be especially thankful, that no ill-luck betides.

My orders coming at so unseasonable a time & causing so much excitement & so long a journey in winter, might have made a less sanguine temperament tremble for the consequences, but the finale has thus far given us joy & we trust that no reverses will be coming to cause our spirits to fall. I do feel more and more the responsibilities of a man dawning upon me, but I trust that I shall be equal to them, though the care and guidance of the human soul gradually unfolding itself by the reception of knowledge is a trust that one might tremble to undertake. Still as in all things else, do your best and you will not fail of reward.

Charlie is expecting to meet you home a week from next Saturday. Don't fear you will trouble us by coming. I hope mother will be down soon. You can bring her then if Father can't before. We are very comfortably situated, have a fire in the grate in Lizzie's room besides we can open the register of the furnace at pleasure. The former renders the room very cheerful.

The people are very attentive. The ladies on all hands are willing to do anything for us, seem glad that somebody from Maine has come to the arsenal. Some are bitterly angered that I have closed the little gate and shut up the common thorough-fair through our grounds.

Lizzie said she would be delighted to see you but feared the baby would not be pretty in a fortnight. Write often as you can.



Affectionately yr brother  
Otis



Leeds Dec. 24. 1855

My dear Frank

I wish you a happy  
very happy new Year! and that  
is all I'm going to say now in  
in a general way.

This note written in  
a great hurry, is to request  
me your favor in a business way.

I ~~wish~~ wish for a "Young Folks  
Blue Book" - Will you call at  
some of your music dealers &  
obtain it - or if they do not have  
it, they can order it of the Priests.

If you can obtain it - I should  
like to have it forwarded to  
Leeds Center - by Wainman & Co's  
Express - Without knowing how  
I shall ever repay you for this  
& similar troubles - I still am

your friend  
R. B. Howard



[illegible]



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132 12/21/1855 *From:* RB Howard

*To:* Frank [Gilman]

RBH-097

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Dec. 21, 1855

My dear Frank

I wish you a happy very happy new year! And that is all I'm going to say now in a general way.

This note written in a great hurry, is to request one more favor in a business way.

I wish for a "Young Folks Glee Book". Will you call at some of your music dealers & obtain it, or if they do not have it, they can order it of the Pubs.

If you can obtain it, I would like to have it forwarded to Leeds Center, by Winslow & Cos. Express. Without knowing how I shall ever repay you for this & similar troubles, I still am your friend.

RB Howard