blusters and philosophy - print as the genines who have Jigured there. I will not uply a peopleally for & Shall get tresome. But admit foods prejudiced. Matesmen impatrishe. Istitions only brane - for their are the objectionable gralities. His an unwier I unliqued en deduction to sold the great Mores unwarthy of confidence and you don't mean it so, this husty glance only game me to under stand The manner you arrive at your conclusions but I hig of you to review candidly the several Classes you name - the prejudice of the Jevel may be reduced - The want of patriotism as a sweeping assertion is two broad and the only applied to the soldier's bravery objectimable. But his much argumentation does int befor a letter or my Junglession so heres your right a God bliss you and set you right when purchance you may her wrong, Jizzie sends her love - her mother would hust has gone to had. I gave her a with to day after our horse. The is much pleased with him, my how is Thurter of he is Buch hope mother is well from der In look while at Brunswicks! Your affectionale Brother and were a contained to his hims of

Platenties Aromal A.4. Cet 15th 1855.

Dear Brother,

I received your letter in due Season and you will perceive by any date that I am justing ferom get in my reply. Seist as I was on the point of writing you that I did not know when Lizzies mother would start for Groy. Ahr arrived. The came last Finday Evening. had written no a letter which came the next day after had telegraphed in Boston, which message did not some at all. Do 112 were taken completely by surprise. The had company through to albany but journeyed from Allany to this Muce alone. To you are about to become a citizen which I never was" Don't you remember the time I die not vote for Murrell. There I was a Bit 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 of you were to owne outo some large estate or to have Some what wherewith to prop up you ineversing dignity- But ho! I have been wreting for five minutes without Himking. Comfort in an Estate - it is folly if there

is confort in anythoug where of a lively well and further, it

is comfort in anything short of a linely seligious furth, it rests in the consciousness that you are in your proper place. That there is a Juculiar ordaptation between your inward self and your autoward life. If one has so studied himself that at 21 he can fix whom his proper Applice of action, and lay down a chart of his future fille of labor. he is fit to become a citizen, provided of course Mas he has the requisite stability to back him. A quick genies that readily adapts himself to Every vicititude to every change of wind I tide does not always attain The most the one that is far reaching & antecepations is the Inferior, Without Elaborating Mis idea I wish to him 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 Minker or not . Same not much of a visionery 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 time. As long as you are conscious of integrity, it is fair to suppose that there then are who are like you and on the contrary of you are Jules hearted, your judgment clases to be clear and Eandid, It is very will in ascertaining physical laws to argue from gearticular facts to general principles has Even here you can never arrow at more than probable

conclusione. But be cantions about basing your social Condition whom continuous their drawn. Turely you were enviewn of you expected perfection in any man either existing in the flish or in history. But you have made a too sudden transition to the other extreme. If James is hypoveritical it does not gollow that John is So. Believe mi. There are honest men. They are not always uppermost surely and not necessarily geniuses. I would as have my brother go into the world unprepared to mest view in all its former. but I wonld quard against a premature contempt of 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. Suk to benefit them you reap your remard. Thinggle for truth and your conscience is your support. What I say is trate I know . but an cansest too often be cantioned against a mong hias - You extilis your over idea of greatings in the language you was to show that the societe have not attamed it. The men a fair judgmentand you will find many a one whose misdeeds were but miscarrys. The whole aim of whose laters were for the cause of truth, and whose friend exis was attended with more blessings than sunses. First you lake under a comp d'oil the realmo of

**128** 10/15/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-093 Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 is'nt 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 does'nt follow that John is so. Believe me, there are honest men. They are not always uppermost surely, and not necessarily geniuses. I would'nt 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 miscarrys – 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'oel' 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 does'nt 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

Waterotus Greenal My Per 22 m 1853. Dear Brother May Tymington will liave this place Wednesday to inspect Champlan V /tinnher assends. He will forbally ful Mongh Brunewick some time next week - Ishall und a package by him to you. He will give the same to the Conductor. If you am at the cars between yourself the Conductor I Major Fyrnington you may make a mutual acquaintance. I wish of you can arrange is to do so that you might accompany him to Augusta. But that's no matter look out for him & the package -Sescription of the Major - Wheness of 50 - light from hair not gray very prominent - nose I red - This featine

is umarkable byit he is always mistaken by Strangers for a hand Minker but he never laters a chrop The is a pleasant backing man stringht ruther stender. about your height. This with his having the package will identify him-May low to Charlie - hope In is buck I well -Jam to Kontind from Elezin y mother fuffectionality Jours O. U. Howard forthe man marker at secretary acquaintainer. I will if for can marghet discount from their the whom

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

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

**RBH-094** 

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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

"I Meader in the Thomas harles Hateroliet asenal A.y. Thinks tereto in Joseph Event Nov. 7th 1855 Dear Brother I seceived your letter this morning after wasting for a work with her little anxiety. Sam glast you and Charlie are So well I'm so good Spirits. I know her making inquires this morning to find some employmunt that could nothing you hi some to me for the winter. Ithough the schools are engaged in This section of the country. but Mr Stille our sone of work war I President of Heat Trong - says In thinks he lan get a place for you to do up the writing Jur some large establishment-I told how how tolde was your experimen while I landed your general

merit. The cays he will make it his hudeneph make myneries I wo don't will enceud in priding a vacinery. To don't Engage yourself to a school permanently until you hear from me - They pay here from 30 h 60 dellers purments a The village schools. They are said In have an excellent law chove at albany - all and love to you I charle - Tell Charlie me don't have any thanks giving day him - as we come the property of the horas States. but he law home a Finkery most any time . This Wath says the will eat a thoulesquing horkey with him. Fam anxions for you to come to spend the wenter with us but your and interest must be evasuable. you will her from me again shortly appectmately Mr brothers

O.S. Hersember om to Characherlin Charles teacher in Greeks Eventh Mett de **130** 11/7/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-095 Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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 ful more and more the responsibilities of a mon dawning whom me - but I trinst us the pint has header, and I was That I shall be equal to them - Horagh the lane and quidance of the human soul of knowledge is a trust that one might to freshe to undertaker. The as in all things Ilse, do your best and you will sut fail of seward. I harlie is expecting to mut you him my a week from next-saturday. Don't fear you will trouble us by coming. I hape mittee will be clown soon - your Ear bring her than if Father ear I before. The are very comfortably setucted - have a fine in the good in Lizzies worm bereites me saw open the segister of the furnace at pleasure. The former minder the room very charful. The Justile are very attention. The Lachies on all leands are willing to do any thing for in - sum glad that some body from Marrie has even to the areen al - Some are betterly angered that I have eloud the little gate and that up the lammon thorough Jane Mongh our grounds - Lizzie said she would be delighted

breed a fortugal of a place which is M'/ Tennelee Assence Augusta Me. DEC 19-1855.

Dear Brother,

I harlie was here and mote lyon an Sunday night and as & had other letters to worth, I thought I would let yours stick till a more convenient apportunity offerred trill. I received your longratulating efistle this evening and did not abserve your warning tell I have read it through to Lizzie. The said till him the marning was too late. Your letter Do good and so than activistic pleased her very much , so much that she made me read it to her a second time. The is a little tined to night from nursing her babyand has gone to sleep. Wharlie went back to his servel morday morning. I carried from, The same in very good health - likes tes situation and is very much liked by setwelows of prople. I went into his school room an frieday afternoon and stain long enough to su how he enduct matters,

He boards a fortnight in a place, which is hetter than a change every week. I stopped some lette time at Mr Wiggins, where he sygurmed the first two weeks, and I near visited a pleasanter family, them his sumed. He is now at a Mr Appleton's - a man who same here yesterday to hory one of my colts. It's has not decided yet whether to take him an not. The people of Congarder will not let our soldiers etildren go to setwol in the how. not even by praying a proportional part for their schooling -After trying to flather the nightering people of the district out of their sulfishmets -I have per mitter the seven scholors of The post to study at my office and I hear their lepons myself. This with my duties proper keeps me just busy. None of the friends at Hollowell ham ealled whom us - I four me am porgotten by them, or they are Still expecting me to reary Sizzie "right there as they reguested. I believe I have now there tantatizing enough - in as disposing very letter as to keep from you what you most wished to learn, and what Laura is waiting to hear

till the last. Lizzie and how a hard stronger won Sunday - plus que je pripe penser - Bus her stringth of courage were ever uppermost. · Lines, she has continued quite well - The looks a Shall paler them usual, but her eyes are bright and the is very happy with her little one. The will even be able to sit up -Our Dactor who is a knill, lawful man and a physician of lytimin practice soups he hener saw and he a more povoroble condition than Lizzuis now. The little boy meighed Eight ferunds, has a very good formed head already and is withat as promising as any ones first boon - Tell level Emergn. Mut my head is never wheet with the assistance of my Accord Frather, I hope to preserve my equanimity in good and ill partine - but according to Mr Inyders Hanks giving Sermon, I must say that I have meson to be especially Hankfull . Hat mill-luck betides. My diders coming at to unseconablitatione of couring so much exestiment of so long a journey in winter. might have made a left sanguine temperament built for the esusequences. but the finale has thus for gown us prey I me trust that no reverses **131** 12/19/1855 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

**RBH-096** 

Kennebec Arsenal Augusta Me.

Source: Bowdoin

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

Levels Dec. 21. 455 My dear heart I wish you a heppy very luppy new your! and that is all I'm gringto lag non in This note puilter in a great lung, is to request me nene fover in a bus in of may. blee Book - Will you call as vous of your music dealers & obtain it - a if they do not have it, they can order it of the Viels. If you can obtain it I amel like to have it forwarded to Levels Center - by Winslow & leves Express without knowing lever I Weell over repeny you ger this a cimelar timoles. I still an your priend 1812 Howard

ceils Dec 3d Upsis very luffy very you! and that to all who going to las dies in wa generale man -This with pertition of a great huns, is the respondent pine Just in to bushing in wish for a thermy Holding the thirty will you enly al from of your mission dealers of Marie to a if they do never have they can order it of the Rado. who to have it forwarded to Levels Center - long Windows & levy " George Williams We would heaven I line our repeat the good their orinisten limella galle un nous misures 1812 Hunares

**132** 12/21/1855 *From:* RB Howard *To:* Frank [Gilman]

RBH-097 Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

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