

in the Bible, sometimes a little also in some other book. & then pray. At noon or near it I generally read & pray by myself and at night about sunset, now, read & pray again. When I go to Colonel Sworn's room in the evening, we read & pray together. I have been disappointed in Wilson, one of my men, He was conformed, to all appearance gladly, to my wishes and attended constantly at prayers. This morning I found that he had decanted & taken away with him. Twenty five dollars & a gold breast pin, that he had borrowed of another man. But his sins will find him out & he may yet repent & turn to God. Here he had kind treatment, extra pay & an honorable position, all of which he has forfeited.

I must write to Charlie before the next mail leaves. It is a bad time for me to get away - much to do; mustering out the Independent Volunteers & in again gives me work. A new Regiment must be supplied with Equipments in a few days.

The Colonel may not think I can go now - but I have strong hopes of a favorable answer -

I give you and Nellowell, remember me kindly to Aunt Ellen, Laura & husband, Josie, & Uncle's children - I trust we shall meet soon - I want to see the little daughter. Guy & not least Lizzie -

My love to Ella - She too will pray for me. God is very good to us & we will praise him. He has a purpose in our family - Oh! for Humility & Love.

Your affectionate brother  
Otis

Ordinance Depot

Fort Brooke Fla

July 18<sup>th</sup> 1857.

My dear Brother,

It is ten minutes after ten, but I feel like writing you a few words tonight before I retire and especially as I have had a little smoke of palmetto roots in my room this evening and thus driven out the mosquitoes. I hope the next mail will bring me good news from Lizzie. Her poor mother's death, my letters about going on an expedition to the Indian country & the other causes of excitement I fear may have a bad effect upon her, but it is the blessing of God to give her a lively hope of Heaven just at this time. He afflicts because He is merciful and if it is His will He will sustain & strengthen her for every trial.

You are a kind, good brother indeed and God is rewarding you. I feel strong for Christ has made me so, to continue his servant & to do his will. I do stick to the Scriptures & to prayer, I feel now that these are privileges rather than duties. It isn't always so bright & clear. Satan puts thoughts in my head. Like, "haven't you deceived yourself with a phantom after all. One good young man tells me, a man can make himself believe anything, another laughs at my delusion, and no doubt thinks it strange that one who seems to exhibit good sense in other things, should be so misled himself.

in this; but thank God, He gives me an assurance that they know not of. I knelt before my Maker and ask for strength for clearness of sight. I can point myself to the speech when I was made to delight in Him. As you say, I love to read the Bible, I love to pray, I love to be with Christians & to talk about Christ. I have a present peace & enjoyment that neutralize little troubles & prepare me for great ones. In very brief. I am conscious that I am a changed man, but still, my Brother, a very beginner in the course of a Christian, weak in this matter, disturbed by small temptations. I still say some ill-natured things about others, am still conformable in a measure to worldly things. So I ask your continued & earnest prayers for me. Don't drop me now. Intercede for me constantly at the Throne of Grace, that I yield not to temptation, that I may wear at all times & in all places the Christian garments, that I may be known to be a Child of God. Yesterday, I joined the Methodist Church on probation & was baptized. I have taken the public stand & have been consecrated to the work of a follower of Christ, my Lord. Now I need your prayers for me. Ah! let me tread on briskly & boldly in the way of truth, my Heavenly Father. Make of me such a servant as Thou wouldst have me. Teach me my duty & help me O! Lord by Thy power. Mother M. was gone to her rest. She loved me & mine & was a devoted friend. Poor woman, her life was not all strewn with flowers. I have not always done right by her, and it is not strange for I myself was in a mist

Duty was not plain. I was trying to climb up to Heaven some other way. I don't know now just what to think of my past life; but this I know that I never loved my Saviour till recently. The minister puts me forward considerably. I have led at a prayer meeting & discoursed from the Scriptures. I have been called upon to make a prayer & read at the opening of the Sabbath School. & to pray for the Minister at the Church in the commencement of the day service. As I don't want to shrink from any Christian duty, I have done these things & I hope & trust the words that have fallen from my lips have been dictated by the Spirit of God, but it is hard to maintain the proper degree of Christian humility. The love of human approbation, the fear of offending & the vanity-loving contrasts that my mind draws sometimes check my growth in godliness & clove up the avenues of the soul. Satan is subtle. He knows his man & tries him accordingly. Again, I say, pray for me that I fall not into the snare. O God, may I love truth, truth in self-examination & in my thoughts, truth in my expression; let the stripe be to know Christ. Let what will come, praise or blame, joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity, may I not deny him, may more, may I constantly affirm, He is the Lord. I have applied for a leave of absence to Colonel Sumner. I think he will grant it, but don't know. If he does, God willing, I shall see you shortly & can talk with you about all these things. I will tell you my daily course. I rise about six, wash & dress, at half past. My men then in number come into my office. I read a chapter or more according to the navigation

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154 7/13/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-117

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla  
July 13th, 1857.

My dear Brother,

It is ten min. after ten, but I feel like writing you a few words tonight before I retire and especially as I have had a little smoke of palmetto roots in my room this evening and thus driven out the mosquitoes. I hope the next mail will bring me good news from Lizzie. Her poor mother's death, my letters about going on an expedition to the Indian country & the other causes of excitement I fear may have a bad effect upon her, but it is the blessing of God to give her a lively hope of heaven just at this time. He afflicts because He is merciful and if it is His will He will sustain & strengthen her for every trial. You are a kind, good brother indeed and God is rewarding you.

I feel strong, for Christ has made me so, to continue his servant & to do His will. I do stick to the Scriptures & to prayer. I feel now that these are privileges rather than duties. It isn't always so bright & clear. Satan puts thoughts in my head like, "haven't you deceived yourself with a Phantom after all". One good young man tells me, a man can make himself believe anything, another laughs at my delusion, and no doubt thinks it strange that one who seems to exhibit good sense in other things, should be so beside himself in this; but thank God, He gives me an assurance that they know not of. I kneel before my maker and ask for strength, for clearness of sight. I can point myself to the Epoch when I was made to delight in Him. As you say, I love to read the Bible, I love to pray, I love to be with Christians & to talk about Christ, I have a present peace & enjoyment that neutralize little troubles & prepare me for great ones. In very brief, I am conscious that I am a changed man, but still, my Brother, a very beginner in the course of a Christian, weak in this matter, disturbed by small temptations. I still say some ill natured things about others, am still conformable in a measure to worldly things. So I ask your continued & earnest prayers for me. Don't drop me now, intercede for me constantly at the Throne of Grace, that I yield not to temptation, that I may wear at all times & in all places the Christian garments, that I may be known to be a Child of God.

Yesterday I joined the Methodist Church on probation & was baptized. I have taken the public stand & have been consecrated to the work of a follower of Christ, my Lord. Now I need your prayers for me. Ah! Let me tread on briskly & boldly in the way of truth, my Heavenly Father. Make of me such a Servant as thou wouldst have me. Teach me my duty & help me O! Lord by thy power.

Mother W. has gone to her rest. She loved me & mine & was a devoted friend. Poor woman, her life was not all strewn with flowers. I have not always done right by her, and it isn't strange for I myself was in a mist. Duty was not plain. I was trying to climb up to heaven some other way. I don't know now just what to think of my past life, but this I know that I never loved my Savior till recently.

The minister puts me forward considerably. I have led at a prayer meeting & discoursed from the Scriptures. I have been called upon to make a prayer & read at the opening of the Sabbath School & to pray for the minister at the Church in the commencement of the day Service. As I don't want to shrink from any Christian duty, I have done these things & I hope & trust the words that have fallen from my lips have been dictated by the Spirit of God, but it is hard to maintain the proper degree of Christian humility. The love of human approbation, the fear of offending & the vanity-loving contrasts that my mind draws sometimes check my growth in Godliness & close up the <enemies> of the soul.

Satan is subtle. He knows his man & tries him accordingly. Again, I say, pray for me that I fall not into the snare. Oh God, may I love truth, truth in self-examination & in my thoughts, truth in my expression. Let the strife be to honor Christ. Let what will come, praise or blame, joy or sorrow, prosperity or adversity. May I not deny him, nay more, may I constantly affirm, he is the Lord. I have applied for a leave of absence to Col. Loomis. I think he will grant it, but dont know. If he does, God willing, I shall see you shortly & can talk with you about all these things.

I will tell you my daily course. I rise about six, wash & dress, at half past. My men three in number come into my

office. I read a chapter or more according to the narrative in the Bible, sometimes a little also in some other book, & then pray. At noon or near it, I generally read & pray by myself and at night about sunset, now, read & pray again. When I go to Col. Loomis' room in the evening, we read & pray together.

I have been disappointed in Wilson, one of my men. He has conformed to all appearance gladly to my wishes and attended constantly at prayers. This morning I found that he had deserted & taken away with him twenty-five dollars & a gold breach pin, that he had borrowed of another man. But his sins will find him out & he may yet repent & turn to God. Here he had kind treatment, extra-pay & an honorable position, all of which he has forfeited.

I must write to Charlie before the next mail leaves. It is a bad time for me to get away - much to do, mustering out the independent volunteers & in again gives me work. A new Regiment must be supplied with equipment in a few days. The Colonel may not think I can go now, but I have strong hopes of a favorable answer.

If you are at Hallowell, remember me kindly to aunt Ellen, Laura & husband, Josie & uncle's children. I trust we shall meet soon. I want to see the little daughter, Guy & not least Lizzie. My love to Ella. She too will pray for me. God is very good to us & we will praise him. He has a purpose in our family. Oh! For humility & love

Your affectionate brother  
Otis



Glads when you write & pray that my heart may grow bigger - Spirit. Yes, my brother, preach the Gospel, faint not, never  
play. Christ is strong. He that has not his spirit is none  
of his, and all his strivings will accomplish nothing.  
In Christ Oh! how much may be wrought. I shall, by his  
help study God's word & work for him, beseeching continually  
his Grace & Mercy. Whether I shall preach or not, I don't  
know, if He would show me that this I could best  
serve Him I would. I am in the Church on probation -  
I have a strong belief that God influences by all means that  
are brought to bear the hearts of His Creatures, but He  
does not control them. "O Jerusalem — How often would  
I have gathered you — but ye would not." Christ died for  
all. All may come, are begged to come, — God willeth not the  
death of any — If after careful inquiry I find that the  
Methodist belief is mine, ought I not to join them? I am  
rejoiced that you & Charlie have done as you have done —  
You will be educated & prepared for your field. Would  
I better seek out the poor & lowly, and work for them?  
You know you once said I spoke like a Methodist  
minister, would I better be one? My real belief is just  
like yours and if I could have been with you on that  
day, I should have partaken with you of the joy, the  
satisfaction, & the joy of our Lord, but the Providence of  
God has led me to do as I have done. I must go to  
Church. (Evening) I have not time to write — I dined in town &  
have been speaking to the Colored people, & praying with  
them — Oh! you ought to see them, when once they begin to  
praise God. It is eight o' clock & I must write to my dear  
wife — I like Grace — Give my love to David Ellen & all — To

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155 7/19/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-119

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ord. Depot Fort Brooke, Fl.  
July 19th, 1857

My dear Brother,

I have read your letter that I got on Wednesday last giving an account of Lizzie when you left home & of you & Charlie joining the Church. I have read it several times. I have read some of your letters to the Methodist preacher. He says he loves you. I have just returned from Sabbath school, where I have spent two very pleasant hours with my class. It only consists of three, & one of them was absent today. But two others sat in one seat to listen. I have a little time before Church. You were baptized one week before me. You & Charlie. I went forward alone & gave the Minister my hand, was asked the usual questions & think I answered them from my heart, and was baptized, then the Minister laid his hands on my hand & called down on me the blessing of God.

I didn't shed any tears - I have'nt shed many only through sympathy with the mother, who lost her son & was almost in despair. I went to see her the other night and though not well, still she is very cheerful. My Sundays are spent much like yours. You know God wouldn't lead me to put my shoulder to the wheel & then paralyze my strength. O! I do not rely upon my strength, still thank God he has gifted me with an energetic spirit. I don't do enough but my humble prayer is for more & more of his holy spirit. Yes, my brother, preach the gospel, faint not, never flag. Christ is strong. He that has not his spirit is none of his, and all his strivings will accomplish nothing. In Christ Oh! How much may be wrought. I shall, by His help study God's Word & work for him, beseeching continually his Grace & Mercy. Whether I shall preach or not, I don't know, if He would show me that thus I could best serve him I would. I am in the church on probation. I have a strong belief that God influences by all means that are brought to bear the hearts of his Creatures, but he does not control them. "O! Jerusalem— how often would I have gathered you, but ye would not." Christ died for all. All may come, are begged to come. God willeth not the death of any.

If after careful inquiry I find that the Methodist belief is mine, ought I not to join them? I am rejoiced that you & Charlie have done as you have done. You will be educated & prepared for your field. Hadn't I better seek out the poor & lowly, and work for them? You know you once said I speak like a Methodist minister, hadn't I better be one? My real belief is just like yours and if I could have been with you on that day, I should have partaken with you of the joy, the baptism, & the supper of our Lord, but the Providence of God has led me to do as I have done. I must go to Church.

(Evening) I haven't time to write. I dined in town & have been speaking to the colored people & praying with them. Oh! You ought to see them, when once they begin to praise God. It is after six & I must write to my darling wife. I like Grace. Give my love to aunt Ellen & all, to Ella when you write & pray that my heart may grow bigger.

I didn't mean when I began this morning to give you a poor apology for a letter, but know that I have been working for God. May he give his blessing. I think likely when I go North I shall unite with the same church. Aunt Francis - Sabbath School <> South Church, Sky Gilman, Mr. Simmons Mr. Page. I remain for them all. God bless them. Same to cousin Laura & husband. Tell them grandma's last wish as she threw her arms around my neck has been fulfilled.

God guard you. Your own & affectionate brother  
Otis

Should not cease to put up our petitions for Roland  
& his wife. How does it sum with him? Have you  
talked with him? Is Father interested at all in this  
union of our family, with one mind & one faith in Christ.  
Oh! how I wish I could go home, and see everything just  
as it is. I want to hear from the babies. I haven't got any  
news from Sub since you wrote me after you had reached  
Hallowell; and Lizzie, I do hope she is gaining in strength.  
I don't think I shall make up my mind as to  
the Church I will finally join, or whether or no  
I shall leave the service & become a preacher, until  
I see you all. I can continue to study the Bible -  
to work with the Methodist pastor, & live near  
my servants. Don't think there is no religion South.  
Now let any man say it. The negroes of Georgia, many  
of them enjoy religion. An old man met me, says I have  
had that joy, you told of, those 15 years. You should have  
seen how happy he was. A good many of them were  
eager to hear me Sunday. Their singing is peculiar &  
very hearty. Some of them shout, & some look very  
happy. It is rather peculiar for a man who has often  
by said he was a Black Republican, to be permitted  
to address a house full of Slaves. I have charity  
for both sides here. Many love Christ, many take their  
servants by the hand & lead them to the throne of  
Grace. The influence of the Holy Spirit has its  
legitimate effect, wherever it gets possession of the  
heart. Give my love to Aunt Ellen & the children. Do  
they live at the Grant House. Ask Ben Pappas Father if he

Remember me to all the  
family - Henry,  
Anna, John &  
Joseph - My  
love to them  
when you  
next return -  
I haven't heard  
from Chas  
Mulliken  
since I wrote  
him all  
I love what  
My Samson  
had done for  
me & Sister  
must be  
married &  
on his way to  
the East. Write  
soon - He  
Lillian  
reminds his  
sister -  
I trust the  
over to  
Ellen & John  
in my love to  
My Samson  
Ellen & John  
to see if he  
has any  
news from  
Anna & Samson

obliged to send you two pages only. There were many  
things I wanted to consult with you about, but did not  
for the want of time. Now it is Wednesday and in the  
morning and I don't know that I shall have an  
interruption. You are about choosing your profession or rather  
you have chosen, but have not yet entered upon the  
duties of any. I have learned a profession & have  
been three years engaged in it. It is one of responsi-  
bility, of good standing among men and gives me &  
my family a handsome support. For a worldly point  
of view I am pleased and satisfied with it. But recently  
I have embraced the religion of Jesus Christ. It opens my  
heart to a new source of joy. My understanding is quickened  
and the desires, nay the longings of my soul are to be the  
servants of My Lord. to do just what He would have  
me do, to do whatever will tend to his honor & glory.  
I have a regular system of daily worship, morning, noon  
and evening. I love to study God's word & pray unto  
him. You work later than you & Charlie. I felt it a duty to be  
baptized, and to please the pastor I consulted with the  
Church on probation, being very willing to put myself  
on the Lord's side, (for by his Grace He had made me so). I have  
had in prayer meetings. You know the inclination of my  
natural heart is to be a little precipitate in action. I must



through the exercises of a regular sermon on Sunday afternoon.  
to the blacks, God was with me in speaking & in prayer, so  
I thought. Last night I was requested to lead the prayer meeting.  
I read the 24. chapter of Isaiah and spoke upon different  
portions of it. and prayed twice, I think; Colonel Loomis  
spoke beautifully about the Saviour's love & compassion.  
After the exercises, the pastor proposed to the Church to  
give me authority to Exhort. by means of a License - He  
had spoken to me about it before, I had asked the advice  
of Colonel Loomis. He said that he shouldn't discourage  
me from such exercises for they would strengthen me -  
Now, it looks to me rather precocious for a young Christian,  
who only knows that he loves his Saviour, & to whom  
the Old Testament is almost a sealed Book, to become  
a teacher & leader, so soon, in the Church of Christ, I am  
in no way certain that I am a Methodist. But I begin to  
think, that there is more difference in the words than in  
substance between one branch of the Evangelical Church &  
another. All have the same Bible to take as it is & to explain.  
The Natural man don't believe this & that. but believe, he  
canters, the Word of God says so. This Book, <sup>the</sup> light of the  
Spirit of Truth to help me to understand explain & apply,  
Must be my spiritual teacher. Christ must be my  
Guide & my beautiful Standard. I have told you all  
these things. not to boast of anything, but to get you to pray  
for me that I be puff'd up in nothing, that I may have  
a bigger heart, that you may write me when you  
think about my duties to my Saviour, who has showered  
his blessings upon me all my life. Now you think I can

James 1<sup>st</sup> 27. answers me thus:  
best serve him: "Pure Religion & undefiled before God &  
the Father is this, to visit the Fatherless & widows in  
their affliction & keep himself unspotted from the world."  
I fear I shall not be able to get a leave of absence  
very soon. I wish I could talk with you face to  
face, about responsibility, duty, fields of labor, the  
army, the ministry &c. I can hardly conceive of  
my darling Sizzie, with love to her Saviour swaying  
her heart & shortening her life. I know she used to  
think her husband had better leave speaking alone. I  
don't know now how she would feel to see him  
stand forth to persuade men, with Christ to help him.  
I tell you, if it were right & proper & I could know it  
to be my duty, I could go into the ministry with a  
good deal of zeal & pleasure. Colonel Loomis has just  
been in to eat a melon with me. I have had a fine lot of  
Water & Musk melons in my garden. Tomatoes also in  
abundance, corn & potatoes. As I have not been keeping  
purses, I have had to give away nearly everything I  
have raised. The Sergeant gets the benefit of the  
garden, mostly. But I can send a melon to a friend now  
& then, & stuff myself full of them without their hurting  
me. At Waterbury Sizzie, used to laugh at me for eating  
such a quantity of musk melons & Cantelopes. As today is  
Wednesday I shall be looking out for several letters -  
Charlie has not written in a long time. I got a letter from  
Jillie, one week ago today. Jillie too is full of Religion.  
He sings, he talks with those who are unconverted &  
goes to his room & prays for them. He desires that we

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156 7/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-118

Ordnance Depot  
Fort Brooke Fla

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Ordnance Depot (Office)  
Fort Brooke, Fla, July 22nd /57

My dear Brother

I commenced to write you Sunday & was obliged to send you two pages only. There were many things I wanted to consult with you about, but did not for the want of time. Now it is Wednesday and in the morning and I don't know that I shall have an interruption.

You are about choosing your profession or rather you have chosen, but have not yet entered upon the duties of any. I have learned a profession & have been three years engaged in it. It is one of responsibility, of good standing among men and gives me & my family a handsome support. In a worldly point of view I am pleased and satisfied with it.

But recently I have embraced the religion of Jesus Christ. It opens my heart to a new source of joy. My understanding is quickened and the desires, nay the longings of my soul are to be the servant of My Lord, to do just what He would have me do, to do whatsoever will tend to his honor & glory. I have a regular system of daily worship - morning, noon and evening, I love to study God's Word & pray unto Him. One week later than you & Charlie, I felt it a duty to be baptized, and to please the pastor I united with the Church on probation, being very willing to put myself on the Lord's side (for by His Grace He had made me so). I have led in prayer meetings.

You know the inclination of my natural heart is to be a little precipitate in action. I went through the exercises of a regular Sermon on Sunday afternoon to the Blacks, God was with me in speaking & in prayer, so I thought. Last night I was requested to lead the prayer-meeting. I read the 8th Chapter of Isaiah and spoke upon different portions of it, and prayed twice, I think. Colonel Loomis spoke beautifully about the Savior's Love & compassion. After the exercises, the pastor proposed to the Church to give me Authority to Exhort by means of a License. He had spoken to me about it before. I had asked the advice of Colonel Loomis. He said that he shouldn't discourage me from such exercises for they would strengthen me. Now, it looks to me rather precocious for a young Christian, who only knows that he loves his Savior, & to whom the Old Testament is almost a sealed book, to become a teacher & leader, so soon, in the Church of Christ.

I am in no way certain that I am a Methodist. But I begin to think, that there is more difference in the words than in substance between one branch of the Evangelical Church & another. All have the same Bible to take as it is & to explain. The natural heart don't believe this & that, but beware, be cautious, the word of God says so. This Book with the light of the Spirit of Truth to help me to understand, explain & apply, must be my spiritual teacher. Christ must be my Guide & my beautiful Standard. I have told you all these things, not to boast of anything, but to get you to pray for me that I be puffed up in nothing, that I may have a bigger heart, that you may write me what you think about my duties to my Savior, who has showered his blessings upon me all my life. How you think I can best serve him: James 1st-27 answers me thus: "Pure religion & undefiled before God & the Father is this, to visit the fatherless & widows in their affliction & keep himself unspotted from the world."

I fear I shall not be able to get a leave of absence very soon. I wish I could talk with you face to face, about responsibility, duty, fields of labor, the Army, the ministry etc. I can hardly conceive of my darling Lizzie, with Love to her Savior swaying her heart & <chastening> her life. I know she used to think her husband had better leave speaking alone. & I don't know now how she would feel to see him stand forth to persuade men, with Christ to help him. I tell you, if it were right & proper & I could know it to be my duty, I would go into the ministry with a good deal of zeal & pleasure. Colonel Loomis has just been in to eat a melon with me. I have had a fine lot of water & musk melons in my Garden. Tomatoes also in abundance, corn & potatoes. As I have not been keeping house, I have had to give away nearly everything I have raised. The sergeant gets the benefit of the garden, mostly. But I can send a melon to a friend now & then, & stuff myself full of them without their hurting me. At Watervliet Lizzie used to laugh at me for eating such a quantity of musk melons & cantaloupes.

As today is Wednesday I shall be looking out for several letters. Charlie hasn't written in a long time. I got a

letter from Dellie, one week ago today. Dellie too is full of Religion. He says, he talks with those who are unconverted & goes to his room & prays for them. He desires that we should not cease to put up our petitions for Roland & his wife. How does it seem with him? Have you talked with him? Is father interested at all in this union of our family with one mind. Have faith in Christ. Oh! How I wish I could go home and see everything just as it is. I want to hear from the babies, I haven't got any news from Leeds since you wrote me after you had reached Hallowell; and Lizzie, I do hope she is gaining in strength. I don't think I shall make up my mind as to the church I will finally join, or whether or no I shall leave the Service & become a preacher, until I see you all. I can continue to study the Bible, to work with the Methodist pastor, & live near my Savior. Don't think there is no religion South. Never let any man say it. The Negroes of Tampa, many of them enjoy Religion. One old man met me, says, I have had that joy, you told of, these 15 years. You should have seen how happy he was. A good many of them were eager to hear me Sunday. Their singing is peculiar & very hearty. Some of them shout, & some look very happy. It is rather peculiar for a man who has openly said he was a Black Republican, to be permitted to address a house full of Slaves. Do have charity for brethren here. Many love Christ, many take their servants by the hand & lead them to the throne of Grace. The influence of the Holy Spirit has its legitimate effect, wherever it gets possession of the heart.

Give my love to aunt Ellen & the children. Do they live at the Grant house. Ask Ben Page's father if he remembers me, Ed Mayo, Stinchfield, Fred Mason & others. Remember me to them. Henry, Laura <> & Joseph. My love to them when you visit them. I haven't heard from Chas Mulliken since I wrote him all about what my Savior had done for me. Perley must be married & on his way to the East by this time. He seems to have recovered his equanimity completely & I trust he owes it to Christ's Spirit in his heart. My love to Ella - I ought to write to her.

Yr brother  
O. O. Howard

Keallomell Aug 29. '57.

Dear Charles

I forgot to mention  
in Mother's letter yesterday that  
I want you to send me that  
letter of Olin's by Father - I want  
you to be particular to send  
it as I need it - You had  
better fall in with my sug-  
gestion about the Prayer meeting  
if practicable - You can go & see  
Mr Gilbert - Mr King - Mr Parker &  
Mr Wright - This ought to reach  
you tonight - A letter from  
Ella that I received last night  
is full of joy at the conversion  
of her most intimate friend  
Mary Sprague of Mendonham.  
They were riding together when  
the first found a hope in  
Christ - What day will you

If you don't get this in time to send the letter by Father send it by mail.

return to Brunswick? I  
was sorry to hear from  
Father that your "Leproscription"  
succeeded no better - but the  
Markets has been glutted -  
If Mother don't come with Father  
you might - I should be very  
glad to see you - but I never  
her to take the ride - I think  
the news be better for it -  
I talked with Hinchfield after  
I mailed my letter last evening  
and he says there is no probability  
of their getting through the cars  
that come on Monday, till Thursday  
night - & Wednesday is soon  
enough for Father to come  
anyway - Let us seek a near-  
ness to God - see Mother & be  
active in duty -

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

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157 8/22/1857 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Charles [CH  
Howard]

RBH-120

Hallowell

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Hallowell Aug. 22, '57.

Dear Charles

I forgot to mention in mother's letter yesterday that I want you to send me that letter of Otis's by father. I want you to be particular to send it as I need it.

You had better fall in with my suggestion about the Prayer meeting if practicable. You can go & see Mr. Gilbert, Mr. King, Mr. Parker &c. tonight. This ought to reach you tonight. A letter from Ella that I received last night is full of joy at the conversion of her most intimate friend Mary Sprague of Bowdoinham. They were riding together when the first found a hope in Christ.

What day will you return to Brunswick? I was sorry to hear from Father that your "subscription" succeeded no better, but the market has been glutted. If mother don't come with father you might. I should be very glad to see you, but I want her to take the ride. I think she would be better for it.

I talked with Stinchfield after I mailed my letter last Tuesday and he says there is no probability of their getting through the cars that came on Monday, till Tuesday night & Wednesday is soon enough for father to come anyway. Let us seek a nearness to God, dear brother & be active in duty.

Yours affectionately  
Rowland

If you don't get this in time to send the letter by father, send it by mail.

I will soon be send over - "never you mind" the  
mistakes  
shall write to Ella soon) West Point N.Y.  
Dec 2 18<sup>th</sup> 1857.

My dear Brother,

I have not <sup>written</sup> you for a long time  
and mean to spend an hour or more in that  
very employment tonight. It is now in the  
evening and I am thinking I shall have to  
begin & give you after dinner letters else you  
will not get any very often. My Wednesday  
evening lecture has grown into a regular  
exercise and I prepare myself regularly beforehand.  
I am now discoursing on Our Lord's prayer, making  
each ~~sentence~~ <sup>a</sup> the groundwork of the lecture.  
Aunt Ann has been with us since week ago  
last Monday. I have enjoyed her visit very much  
since I can see her from a new standpoint. It is  
wonderful how much superior is her Christian  
nature or life to her social or world life. It  
is more than interesting to follow her through all  
her trials & heart rending disappointments and see  
how directly God has prepared her for every new  
accipion trouble. Her yearning & prayer for the  
conversion of her children are constant & I trust  
she will be so blessed. Mark & Sarah are now  
at Nassau. We have got the news of their safe  
arrival. though they had rather a narrow escape  
in a storm just before reaching the Island. I don't

get any news from home. I hope mother is well, but I  
am anxious when I think of the advancing years of  
herself & father. I never have honored mother enough,  
and don't think I ever have manifested much love  
to her, but why I cannot tell, for I recognize  
her devotion to her boys & her self-abnegation for  
us. But habits are everything. When a little boy I don't  
remember any endearments from either father or  
mother. I remember reproofs & whippings, but few  
loving demonstrations, and I am sorry it is so, for  
I am not now enough drawn towards my  
my mother by the chords of sympathy & love.

I think Maryland the man I visited at the  
Hospital has died since I wrote you. He  
testified before his death to the truth of the Gospel  
of Christ, & said he died at peace. I know a  
little drummer boy in my camp now studying the  
Bible. He comes up once & sometimes twice a week.  
He attends my bible class & seems much interested  
in the Scriptures. I was reading Aunt Ann  
last night somewhat of my "Diary in Florida"  
and I couldn't help contrasting the difference of  
results there from here. However, when I had the  
complete control of my official business, had a  
minister of the Gospel to work with me, he exposts  
& entreats & receives into the Church. Here it is wholly  
different. Through there is little outward demonstration,  
still the seed is sown & by the blessing of God will



bear fruit in His own good time. However, I may lack  
 in faith, if not in labor. I have written to Oliver O.  
 Woodman and got a reply - amongst other things  
 were words like the following: "Having been early thrown  
 on the world to baffle with its cares and troubles I have  
 not stopped to look to what my judgment & heart  
 prompt me to know is the only true aim of life. I  
 have only thought to act justly by all men and to fulfill  
 my duty to myself and mine without thinking as I should  
 of my God." He says he has prospered in this world's affairs  
 to a certain extent but has never known what real happiness  
 was. Oliver's heart is soft & tender and as he seems to  
 make more of an acknowledgement than I did in answer  
 to your letter which told me of your experience, I hope he  
 will be led on to patience & peace. I trust he will  
 have eventually more love & gratitude towards his Gracious  
 Redeemer. Do think of him Rowland how kind he has  
 been: how how all his bright visions have vanished  
 & his bubbles burst. He is truly in prosperity - yet in  
 the midst of adversity. I shall write to him again, pray  
 with me for God's blessing upon my letters. Aunt Ann  
 has been with me to two lectures & helped sing. Now  
 I wish I had wasted time in learning to sing. Lizzie is  
 just getting ready for bed, it being almost eleven. I hear her  
 coming to my room, probably, to send her love to you before  
 she retires. Now she has set down & don't seem to have anything  
 in particular to say. She said this evening she wished she  
 could write; and that she was a miserable sinner, growing  
 worse she feared instead of better. I am glad she is earnest, for

more grace in the heart. Lizzie has less chance for religious  
exercise than I. She suffers me to make all the audible  
prayers, but she does have the enjoyments of religion &  
I trust is growing in the knowledge & grace of Christ.  
This growth is not always perceptible to oneself. Give  
my love to Johnny Sewall & all my friends that you  
meet with. Pray for this little field: that souls may be  
saved here. God grant me strength & wisdom equal to  
my duties & responsibilities - We have our family prayers  
three a day, when I can get my family up in season in the  
morning. Lizzie is pretty good about getting up, but we  
get to bed rather late every night & it is hard for her  
to get on with a half night's rest & broken as that ever  
or twice by little Grace. Guy is hearty & good. We can say  
almost anything now & quite plainly - Little Grace is  
beautiful, fresh as a rose, plump & pretty - Her hair is  
a fine brick red, what Lizzie calls "black". Lizzie is pretty  
well, though not very strong. I was down stairs when  
the drummer boy left, found Aunt Ann reading Medley's views -  
I read for her & we kept intertarding his letters & with con-  
versation till after ten, then we read a chapter in Deut. & had our  
evening prayer. Be assured we remember you at the throne of  
Grace pray for me & write when you can. I asked Lizzie what  
message she had for Newland she says, tell him to pray  
for me.

Very affectionately your brother,

Chas

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158 12/18/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-121

West Point, N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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West Point N.Y.  
Decr. 18th, 1857

My dear Brother,

I have not written you for a long time and mean to spend an hour or more in that very employment tonight. It is now in the evening and I am thinking I shall have to begin & give you after dinner letters else you will not get any very often. My Wednesday evening lecture has grown into a regular exercise and I prepare myself regularly beforehand. I am now discoursing on Our Lord's Prayer, making each sentence the groundwork of a Lecture.

Aunt Ann [Ann (Otis) Lee, the sister of Otis' mother Eliza] has been with us since week ago last Monday. I have enjoyed her visit very much since I can see her from a new standpoint. It is wonderful how much superior is her Christian nature or life to her social or world life. It is more than interesting to follow her through all her trials & heart-rending disappointments and see how directly God has prepared her for every new accession trouble. Her yearning & prayer for the conversion of her children is constant & I trust she will be so blessed.

Frank & Sarah [Sargent; Sarah is Ann's daughter] are now at Nassau. We have got the news of their safe arrival, though they had rather a narrow escape in a storm just before reaching the Island.

I don't get any news from home. I hope mother is well, but I am anxious when I think of the advancing years of herself & father. I never have honored mother enough, and don't think I ever have manifested much love to her, but why I cannot tell, for I recognize her devotion to her boys & her self-abnegation for us. But habits are everything - when a little boy I don't remember any endearments from either father or mother. I remember reproofs & whippings but few loving demonstrations, and I am sorry it is so, for I am not now enough drawn towards my mother by the chords of Sympathy & Love.

I think Haviland the man I visited at the Hospital has died since I wrote you. He testified before his death to the truth of the Gospel of Christ & said he died at peace. I have a little drummer boy in my room now studying the Bible. He comes up once & sometimes twice a week. He attends my Bible class and seems much interested in the Scriptures. I was reading Aunt Ann last night somewhat of my "Diary in Florida" and I couldn't help contrasting the difference of results there from here. However, then I had the complete control of my official business, had a minister of the Gospel to work with me, to exhort & entreat & receive into the church. Here it is wholly different. Though there is little outward demonstration, still the seed is sown & by the blessing of God will bear fruit in His own good time. However, I may lack in faith, if not in labor.

I have written to Oliver O. Woodman [the son of Ephraim Woodman and Sarah B Otis. Sarah was the sister of Otis' mother Eliza and died in 1822] and got a reply amongst other things were words like the following: "Having been early thrown on the world to baffle with its cares and troubles I have not stopped to look to what my judgment & heart prompt me to know is the only true aim of life. I have only thought to act justly by all men and to fulfill my duty to myself and mine without thinking as I should of my God." He says he has prospered in this worlds affairs to a certain extent but has never known what real happiness was. Oliver's heart is sore & tender and as he seems to make more of an acknowledgment than I did in answer to your letter which told me of your experience, I hope he will be led on to find mercy & peace. I trust he will have eventually more love & gratitude toward his Gracious Redeemer. Do think of him Rowland, how kind he has been: how have all his bright visions have vanished & his bubbles burst. He is truly in prosperity & yet in the midst of adversity. I shall write to him again. Pray with me for God's blessing upon my letters.

Aunt Ann has been with me to two lectures & helped sing. Now I wish "I had wasted time" in learning to sing. Lizzie is just getting ready for bed, it being almost eleven. I hear her coming to my room, probably, to send her love to you before she retires. Now she has sat down & don't seem to have anything in particular to say. She said this evening she wished she could write: and that she was a miserable sinner growing worse she feared instead of better. I am glad she is earnest for more grace in the heart. Lizzie has less chance for religious exercise than I. She suffers me to make all the audible prayers, but she does have the enjoyment of religion & I

trust is growing in the knowledge & grace of Christ. This growth is not always perceptible to oneself.

Give my love to Johnny Sewall & all my friends that you meet with. Pray for this little field, that souls may be saved here. God grant me strength & wisdom equal to my duties & responsibilities.

We have our family prayers twice a day, when I can get my family up in season in the morning. Lizzie is pretty good about getting up, but we get to bed rather late every night & it is hard for her to get on with a half night's rest & broken at that once or twice by little Grace. Guy is hearty & good. He can say almost anything now & quite plainly. Little Grace is beautiful, fresh as a rose, happy & hearty. Her hair is a fine brick red, what Lizzie calls "black". Lizzie is pretty well, though not very strong. I was down stairs when the drummer boy left, found Aunt Ann reading Hedly Vickers. I read for her & we kept interlarding his letters & c with conversation till after ten, then we read a chapter in <Drub> & had our evening prayer. Be assured we remember you at the throne of grace. Pray for me & write when you can. I asked Lizzie what message she had for Rowland. She says, tell him to pray for me.

Very affectionately your brother  
Otis

No time to read over. "Never you mind" the mistakes.

Shall write to Ella soon.

Banyan Theol. Sem. Apr. 5, 1858.

Dear Mr. Cleaveland

I was very glad to hear from you so promptly & that you were feeling so well & succeeding so well in your studies. The Revival takes pretty much all the time that I can spare from my studies & sometimes more. You know I have charge of a S. School & indeed I am doing the work of a Pastor for the whole neighborhood where it is located. I visit Wed's & Sat. after noons from house to house - converse & pray with the people as best I can. I have two meetings Sunday & Wednesday evenings. & last week I attended the funeral - (the first I ever did) of a little girl of eight years there. The meetings are fully attended. but I do not as yet hear the ringing of that I listen for, "Where shall I do to be saved?" The only girl in my noon S. School also was not pious - came out bright & clear about two weeks since. The whole City - is given up to religious influences many have seen of found hope & very many are inquiring. Not less than 1500 attend the morning meetings for prayer, which are now in their fourth week & there is great call for personal enumeration & effort. I was wonderfully sustained by a blessed presence of the Spirit in my heart last week - Thursday - which we observed for fasting & prayer. I can truly say was one of the most blessed of my whole life. My Lament was in everything, blessed by his holy name. Did I tell you that Sister Lee also used to board with us at West Troy has at last written me. "I have formed Jesus

I am glad to hear from Nettie - If I could feel  
that she was a humble & devoted follower of our  
Master - how I would love her - & yet she must not  
consecrate herself for me - nor for you - but for  
Christ's sake! It is only in the deepest humiliation  
in view of our sin that we are acceptable to God.  
I wish I could have Delle with me - but I feel  
that such a course is not for my best good & I  
doubt whether it is for his. I.E. to come here - If he  
would follow my advice - I would not fail to give  
it - but I often feel that I can only pray for him -  
O that he might be cleansed from all sin by  
the blood of Christ & then whatever trouble might  
arise - he could say - "I am innocent" - If he has  
filthy - immoral - or impure habits - but I can't  
believe that he has - rather I should dread to  
make him an undesirable companion - Charles, there  
must be something in it - from what we heard from  
Andrew and all! Speak out plain - Delle seems  
disposed to write me too much in "sounding gen-  
eralities" - O that he would be a simple minded, simple  
hearted Christian! Whatever I can I do, I am willing.  
Ella is very happy in the revival at Bath - in which  
a ~~lot~~ of her friends are participating - We have  
long been praying for her Father - O that he  
might come to Jesus - I have heard from Chris  
for a great while - God is pouring out his Spirit  
in our Church at Keelwell - At London Hill they  
have a daily evening prayer meeting & carry the  
book of the Covenant from house to house - Mr.  
Mutterfield is deep in the work - I had

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159 4/5/1858

*From:* [RB Howard]

*To:* Dear Bro. Charles [CH Howard]

RBH-122

Bangor Theol. Sem.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Theol. Sem. Apr 5, 1858

Dear Bro. Charles

I was very glad to hear from you so promptly & that you were feeling so well & succeeding so well in your studies. The Revival takes pretty much all the time that I can spare from my studies & sometimes more. You know I have charge of a S. School & indeed I am doing the work of a Pastor for the whole neighborhood where it is located. I visit Wed & Sat afternoons from house to house, converse & pray with the people as best I can. I have two meetings Sunday & Wednesday Evenings & last week I attended the funeral (the first I ever did) of a little girl of eight years there. The meetings are fully attended but I do not as yet hear the inquiry that I listen for, "What shall I do to be saved?" The only girl in my noon S.S. Class who was not pious came out bright & clear about two weeks since. The whole city is given up to religious influence, many have recently found hope & very many are inquiring. Not less than 1500 attend the morning meetings for prayer, which are now in their fourth week & there is great call for personal conversation & effort. I was wonderfully sustained by a blessed presence of the Spirit in my heart last week - Thursday - which we observed for fasting & prayer, I can truly say was one of the most blessed days in my whole life. My Savior was in everything, blessed by his holy name.

Did I tell you that Lieut. Lee who used to board with us at West Troy has at last written me. "I have found Jesus." I am glad to hear from Nettie. If I could feel that she was a humble & devoted follower of our master - how I would love her & yet, she must not consecrate herself for me, nor for you, but for Christ's sake! It is only in the deepest humiliation in view of our Sin that we are accepted to God.

I wish I could have Dellie with me, but I feel that such a course is not for my best good & I doubt whether it is for his - i.e. to come here. If he would follow my advice, I would not fail to give it, but I often feel that I can only pray for him. O that he might be cleansed from all Sin by the blood of Christ & then whatever trouble might arise, he could say "I am innocent". If he has filthy, immoral or impure habits, but I can't believe that he has, either class would deservedly make him an undesirable companion. Charles, there must be something in it from what we heard from Andover and all! Speak out plain - Dellie seems disposed to write me too much in "succeeding generalities". O that he would be a simple minded, simple hearted Christian! Whatever I can I do, I am willing.

Ella is very happy in the revival at Bath, in which a no. of her friends are participating. We have long been praying for her Father. O that he might come to Jesus. I haven't heard from Otis for a great while. God is pouring out his Spirit on our church at Hallowell. At Linden Hill they have a daily evening prayer meeting & carry the Ark of the Covenant from house to house. Mr Butterfield is deep in the work. I had

[Missing Page]

I used to wonder that you could not see it  
in my face - that people would speak to  
me just as they used to do! The Unconverted  
would say - "Mrs Rowland, you think you are good;  
No. I don't. I know better - but blessed be  
God. I know that Christ is good & full  
& Everlasting -

O that I had a thousand hours to give!  
that I could give for Father & Roland & Elizabeth  
and many other dear sinners - whom my  
Saviour loves so well & calls so sweetly  
"After - "How oft would I have gathered you  
"but ye would not" O the partings & the tears  
of that great day to which we hurry -

Give my love to Father & to the neighbors  
& to all my friends - I have my anxiety  
for them all - professors or not. viz. that  
they would give up the world & come to Jesus.

Such cases as Gen Stevens in this city & Pileg Benson  
& Dr Stanley in Wintthrop - recently converted, &  
about his age make my heart go right  
out for Father - O he is not so old - nor too  
young - nor too hard hearted. I have become  
just such a vent talk like dear children in these  
meetings - I don't visit on any thing  
I meant to - but I must write again  
Love  
Your affectionate Son  
Rowland

Bangor Apr. 13, 1858

Dear Mother

I was very glad to get your  
kind letter & glad to see that you were  
feeling a little better in the last of  
it than the first. You being thus rep  
to deprives you of many enjoyments, but  
nothing can deprive <sup>you</sup> your bible & your Saviour.  
Yes - I am well aware how necessary sym-  
pathy is to Christian enjoyment & growth -  
yet I don't believe it essential - first think  
of Missionaries - entirely beyond the limits  
of civilization - I heard one say that "among  
the Sarages of South Africa - when he came home  
or night - he felt that he would not exchange  
places with Queen Victoria" - He said unusual  
grace seemed to be granted to him there - & so  
it is - if we trust & pray & watch - "It all  
day our strength shall be" I have heard  
from none of our friends except Ella since  
I wrote - I had a letter from her last  
night - she speaks in a kind, sympathizing  
way of your deprivations. Her sister Anna  
Heattie came home from meeting, crying -  
& said she wanted to be a Christian the  
night before - she is 14 - O help us pray



for her. Her Father seems to me to be fighting against his convictions with all his might. O he must yield.

I am at work every day here - & I need great Endowments of Gods grace to keep me humble & watchful over my own heart. I often feel the force of the word - "lest a promise being given you of entering into Rest you should seem to come short." O if I am not a Christian by Gods grace - I mean to be - Hardly a day passes but there are indications of the special presence of the Spirit among us. Obed Millett has been over here at work for a short time & he was up to see me last Saturday & staid two hours. He is now in earnest in religion & like me, & I hope many others, praying that Gods Spirit may visit our native town & it will come - In his own time - in his own way - with means, or without - if you will be faithful to your Lord you shall see the Salvation of the Land - Obed's daughter is here at School & in an L. School - I must write to John & Laura - I am not idle being but my hands are very full of business & study - I have now two Essays to write One - "on the Miracles" & the other on the

"Larious prayer in Gethsemane" - I am sorry to hear that Aunt Ann must suffer so. O her life has been more unhappy than yours my dear Mother. O may she feel the presence & power of her Saviour - I am anxious to hear from Seville - I do hope he did not have a fever up there - My health is pretty good except this chest difficulty - & that, I never expect to entirely overcome - I am going to try to keep fast day this year as I think will be most acceptable to God.

O Mother - I can't bear to think that Father has given himself up now in his old age to be contented with his condition & die without being reconciled to God. How few years before death! How many beyond! O how shall I sternly be pursued? If you can't have a prayer meeting - Mother, use all your influence to induce Christians to pray by themselves for an outpouring of the Spirit. Always remembering that it is not much use to act wise when we are not practicing -

Today is just a year since I went out to work in our Garden & Christ first came in all his brightness into my soul. How well I remember how every decayed shrub & every bird & bush - whispered sweetly "Christ" "Christ" - O how can we be thankful enough!

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160 4/13/1858 *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* Dear Mother [Eliza  
Gilmore]

RBH-123

Bangor

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bangor Apr. 13, 1858

Dear Mother

I was very glad to get your kind letter & glad to see that you were feeling a little better in the last of it than the first. Your being shut up so deprives you of many enjoyments, but nothing can deprive you of your bible & your Savior. Yet, I am well aware how necessary sympathy is to Christian enjoyment & growth, yet I don't believe it essential. Just think of missionaries, entirely beyond the limits of Civilization. I heard one say that "among the Savages of South Africa, when he came home at night, he felt that he would not exchange places with Queen Victoria". He said unusual grace seemed to be granted to him there, & so it is, if we trust & pray & watch. "As our day in strength shall be."

I have heard from none of our friends except Ella since I wrote. I had a letter from her last night. She speaks in a kind, sympathising way of your deprivations. Her sister Anna Hattie came home from meeting, crying, & said she wanted to be a Christian the night before. She is 14. O help us pray for her. Her father seems to me to be fighting against his convictions with all his might. O he must yield.

I am at work every day here & I need great endowments of God's grace to keep me humble & watchful over my own heart. I often feel the force of the word - "lest a promise being given you of entering into Rest you should seem to come short. O if I am not a Christian, by God's grace, I mean to be. Hardly a day passes but there are indications of the special presence of the Spirit among us.

Obed Millett has been over here at work for a short time & he was up to see me last Saturday & staid two hours. He is now in earnest in religion &, like me, & I hope many others, praying that God's Spirit may visit our native towns & it will come. In his own time, in his own way, with means, or without, if you will be faithful to your <Christ> you shall see the Salvation of the Lord. Obed's daughter is here at School & in our S. School. I must write to John & Laura. I am not idle any, but my hands are very full of business & study. I have now two Essays to write. One "on the Miracles" & the other on the "Saviors prayer in Gethsemane".

I am sorry to hear that Aunt Ann must suffer so. O her life has been more unhappy than yours my dear mother. O may she feel the presence & power of Our Savior. I am anxious to hear from Dellie. I do hope he did not have a fever up there. My health is pretty good except this chest difficulty & that, I never expect to entirely overcome. I am going to try to keep Fast Day this year as I think will be most acceptable to God.

O Mother, I can't bear to think that Father has given himself up now in his old age to be contented with his condition & die without being reconciled to God. How few years before death! How many beyond! O how shall eternity be passed? If you can't have a prayer meeting, Mother, use all your influence to induce Christians to pray by themselves for an Outpouring of the Spirit. Always remembering that it is not much use to advise what we are not practicing.

Today is just a year since I went out to work in our Garden & Christ first came in all his brightness into my Soul. How well I remember how every decayed shrub, every bird & bush, whispered sweetly "Christ", "Christ". O how can we be thankful enough? I used to wonder that you couldn't see it in my face, that people would speak to me just as they used to do! The unconverted would say, "Now, Rowland, you think you are good." No I don't. I know better, but blessed be God. I know that Christ is good & full & everlasting.

O that I had a thousand hearts to give? That I could give for Father & Roland & Cynthia and many other dear Sinners, whom my Savior loves so well and calls so entreatingly. "Often. "How oft would I have gathered ye &c" "but ye would not". O the partings & the tears of that Great Day to which we haste.

Give my love to Father & to the neighbors & to all my friends. I have only one wish for them all, professors or not - viz that they would give up the world & come to Jesus.

Such cases as Gen Stevens in this city & Peleg Benson & Dr Stanley in Winthrop, recently converted & about his age make my heart go right out for Father. O he is not too old, nor too proud, nor too hard-hearted. I have heard just such men talk like dear children in their meetings. I haven't said many things I meant to, but I must write again.

From your affectionate Son  
Rowland