in the Bible, sometimes a little clas in some Man book. I then pray. It nown or near it I generally read & pray by myself and at might about annel, now, nead I paray again. When I go to Colonel Swomis room in " the evening, me read of pray tryether. I have been Obsappaintice in Milson, one of my men, He has Conformed to all approxume gladly to my wishes and attended lunetantly as prayers. This morning I found that he had described I taken away with him. Twenty fine dullans I a gall breast pen, that he had borrand of another man. But his sins will find him out of he may yet repent store to God. Hem he had kind treatment extra Jeny & an promovable position, all of which he has forfeiter. I must with to Charlie before the next mail leanes It is a but time for me tragel away. much to sto, musting out the Independent balen terns & in again gives me work- a new Regiments must be supplied with Equipments in a few days. The Colonel may not think I see go now. but I have strong tropus of a favorable ausure -Type and of Mallowell, remember me kindly to land Ellen, Janna & husband, Jose Henelis Children - I trues me shall med soon I would to on the little dangliter guy and least Lizzie -My love to Ella. In the will pray for me - you is very good to as & me well praire him. Har has a purpose in our family- Oh! for mimility & Love

Fort Brook Har 1857.

My dear Brother,

This ten minutes after ten, but I feel like writing you a few words tonight before I retir and especially as I have had a little smoke of palmetto wols in my room this evening and thus driven out the musquitos. I hope the next mail will bring me good news from Siggir. Her from mother's death, my letters about going on an expedition to the Indian bounting of the other comes of Exertiment I few may have a buch effect when her, but it is the blessing of God to give her a lively hope of Heaven just at this time. He appliels I because The is mereight and if it is His will be will sustain & Strengthen her for every tral. you are a kind good brother indeed and God is rewarding you. I ful strong for Christ has much me Do, to continue his servant to do his will. I do thik In the Simplions to prayer, I ful now that these are privileges rather than detters. It isn't always or bright & Clear. Satur funts thunghts in my heart. like havins you deceived yourself with a phanton after all. lene good young man tills me, a man can make homeely believe anything, another langtes out my delivoion, and me doubt thinks it strange that on who sums to exhibit good sense in after things. Immerche so hisiel humself

in this ; has their to lood, the give our an aparone think the

Amore need of Much before they drawer and oak for thing

in this; hus thank how, He gimes me an aprirance that they Know not of. I kneel before my maker and ask for strength for clearus of sight. I can point myself to the speech when I was mode to delight in Him. Es you say, I lane In read the Bible, I love to pray, I love to be with Christians & to tolk about Christ, I have a present peace I enjoyment that neutralize bille buildes & prefune me for quat ones. In very brief. I am conscious that I am a changed man, but still May Brother a very beginner in the course of a Christian, meak in this maller, distribed by small templations. I still say sume ill matured Things about others, am Still ensformable in a musure To worldly things. Is I ask your continued & carnest prayers for me . Fout drop me more intereced for one Constantly at the Moron of Grace, that I yield not to Umplation, that I may men at all times & in all places the Christian garments, that I may be known to be a blild of lood. "restirday I joined the methodies Church on probertion & was bafitized. I have taken The public stance of home been conscerated to the work of a follower of Christ, My Surd. Now I new your prayers for me. Oh! let me tread an briskly & boldly in the many of buth, My Muning Fulter - Maker of me such a Servant as thou wouldsthave me. kuch me my unty thelp me of Tond by they power-Within M. has gone to her rest. The loved me & mine & was a devoted friend . Four woman, her ap was not all shinn with flowers. I have not always come right by her, and is ions stronge for I myself was in a mist

July was not glain. I was trying to climb end to Heaven some other may. I don't know now just what to think of my past life; but this I know that I never lovere my Suriour till weently. The minister puto me furmend considerably. I have lid at a prayer muting of discoursed from the Seriftures. I have bun called whom 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 went to whrink from any Christian duty & hom down then things & I hope & tress the words that how fallen frankylifes have been dietated by the Spirit of and, but it is man to montain the proper degree of Thristian humility: The love of human approbahon, the fear of offending of the bonity loving contrasts that my mind draws sometimes thethe my growth in Godliness I close up the avenus of the Soul. Setem is solthe. The knows his man & tries him accordingly. again, I say, July for me that I fall not into the Inan. O. Took, May I love buth, truth in self examination of in my thoughts touth in my expression: Let the strip be to honor Chrise Let What will come, proise or blam, juy or surrow, prosperty or adversity. May I not deny him. hay more, may I can-Startly affirm, he is the Lord. I have applied for a lean of absence to Colonel Townis. I think he will grand it, but down know . If he day, God milling & clince Su you shorty year talk with you about all this Things. I will tell you my daily course. I vise about six, wash & dress, at half pust, my men three in number orane into My Office. I mad a chapter or more occurring to the nantime

154 7/13/1857 From: Otis [OO Howard] To: Dear brother [RB

Howard]

RBH-117 Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

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

The state of the s I got on tredusing last giving on account of Liggin When you left horne & of you & Charlie joining the Charles. I have und is several times. I have now some or you. When to the Muthodis preacher, The says the loves your I hum just wheread from antibath school where I hand spent his way pleasures hours with my class. It only convists of those, ben of them was about today! But his others sat in on seat to listen. I have a little time before Church. The mire buftized the works before? me. You & Charlie. I went provered alone & gave the minister my hand, was asked the usual questions & think I answered them from my heart, and was bujuliged then the Minister land his hands on my hand & colled down on me the blessing of hot. Ididn't shed any lears I haven Shed many only Marrigh sympathy with the Mother who lost her son twee olinost in despris. I went to se her the other night and though not mall, still the is very Churful. My sundays are spent much like yours you know but mouldn't level me to feel my stroulder to the wheel & than paralize my stringth. O! I do not they return my stringth. Still thank ged he hear gettet me with an energetic spirit. I others do enough link my humble prayer is for more & know of his holy

Spirit. Bes, My trother, proch the Gustel, fair not news play. Thist is strong. He that has mus his spirit is some of his, and all his strings will accomplish nothing. In Christ Oh! how much may be wrongled. I chall by kis full string hots word & work for him, beserting westernally Whis Errer & Murey. Whether I shall ferench or more, I done hower, if the world show me that this I could here serve thim I would. I am in the Church an probation-I have a strong belief that god influences by all means that am brought to bear the hearts of his treatures, but he Aus mit contral them. O'Sermalin _ Thom after month I have getteend you - but ye would not." Christ die for all. All may come an legged to come . For willett now the death of any , If after compile ingening I find that' the Multiodist belief is mine, angles of not to jain them? Form rejoied that you thanki how down as you have done you will be esterated of prepared for your pill. Howns I better out out the poor & lowly, and mork for them? you know you once said I ofwh. like a methodish minister, harry I butter be am ? My wal belief is just like yours and if I evall have been with you on that day, I should have partaken with you of the juy, the bullitoon, & the Suffer of our Love, hat the Provisioner of God hus led me to do as I have done. I must gods Church . - (Evening) There is time to work - I don't in brown & I have been speaking to the Golow I people & praying with Men - Wh! Man ought to en Them, when and they begin to from you. It is what dix 4 I must not to my ducking surpe - Ilke mace - Ein my love to sand Ellen Vace - to

155 7/19/1857 From: Otis [OO Howard] To: Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-119 Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

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 who and petitions for toland His wife. Now does it sum with him! Hem you talked with him? Is father interested at all in this union of our family with one mind wave faille in Christ Oh! how I wish Ferred go home and see everything just to is, I want to hear from the babies, I hunar gor any news from Such some your with me offer you had reached Hallowell; and Liggin; I do hope she is gaining in Strongth I don't think I shall make up my mind as to The Church I will finally from - ar whether ar no I shall beam the Service Abecome a preacher until I see you all. I can worting to study the Better to work with the methodist postor. I live near my Soviano. Fort think them is no religion South. hum let any man say is. The hegroes of Tompa many of them enjoy Religion. On old man met me suys I have and that joy, you told of this 15 years. You should hour sun have happy he was. A good many of them were cages to hear me sunday. Their singing is peculiar & very hearly. Som of them shoul I some look very Supply It is within prenting for a man who has open-I saw he was a Black Republican to be permitted to address a prime Jull of Slaws. To how charity for brothere here . Many line Christ . many lake their Servents by the hand of les them to the throwing Grace. The influence of the Holy Spirit how its legetimate effect wherear is gets propries of the heart. The my love to link Eller & the children. Do they live as the Grant House - Ask Ben pages Father of he

The same of the sa I I I I I sommened to with you sunday I was Miget to send you how payer only. There were many things I wanted to consult with you about, but did int for the word of time. Now it is wednesday and in the serving and I close those that I shall have an interruption. You are about charging your profession or eather you have chosen, but have not get onterest whom the duties of any. I have lawred a perfession & have bun then years engaged in it. It is one of response. bility of good standing among men and gives me to my family a hundsome support. For a worldly frint of view I am pleased and satesped with it. But wently I have embraced the religion of Jeans Christ. It open my heart to a new source of joy. My understanding is quickened and the disins my the longings of my stand are to be the servants of the Soul. to as just what he would have I see do, to de whatsown will lind to his honor & glong. I have a unilar system of doily working. Morning noon and evening. I love to study god word & pray unto Him. On week later than you & Charlie. I fell it a duty to be baptaged, and to plan the paster I write with the Church on protection, being very willing to put myself on the Lords sides for by his wave the hard made in so). I have sed in proopermentings. You know the inclination of any Moternel heart is to be a little precipitate in action. I went

Morryh the exercises of a regular termon in sunday afternoon. Is the Blacks, however with me in speaking & in Jereyer, so I thought. Last night I was requested to lead the frages meeting. I wind the II. Chapter of Isaiah and spoke whow different sportions of it and prayer three Ithink: Colonel Sormis Sporke beautifully about the Sanian's Som Trosuparsion. After the exercises, the pastor proposed to the Church to give me asthorty to Exhart by means of a License - 14e had spoken to me about it before, I had asked the advice of Colonel Lorinis. He said That he should'us discourage me from each exercises for they would strengther me. Now it looks to me rather percocions for a young christian. who only knows that he laves his Saviour, It to whom the Old Testament is almost a scaled Book to bearm a leather & leader, so soon, in the Church of Cohrist, I am in my certain that & am a Methodist. But & begin to think that there is more difference in the words that in substance between on branch of the Evangeliel Chenrel & another. All ham the same Bible to late as it is & to explain. The Moture heart down believe this & that. but bewere, he Cunting the More of God Says so. This Book affer light of the Spirit of hath to help me to understand explain & apply, Must be my spiritual leacher. Christ muste be my mide & My hartiful Standard, I have told you all These things. Not to boust of anything but to get you to pany for me that I be juffer up in mothing, that I may have a bigger heart, What you may write me what you Think about my duties to my Savier. Who has showered His blessings upon me all my life. How you think I can

best serve him: "Pure Keligion & undefiled before God & the Father is this, to visit the Fatherless & widows in their affliction & Kup himself waspolled from the world. I from I shall not be able to get a leave of absence very soon. I wish I could talk with you free to free about responsibility, duty, piles of Lolor, the army, the ministry de. I can hardly everein of my durling Siggir, with Some to her Saviour swaging her heart & obustoning her life. I know the word to Whink her husband had better live speaking alone. I I don't know more how the worker fee to en him Stand forth to personade men with Christ to belf him I tell you, if it were right & proper & doubt know it to be my duty. I would go into the ministry with a good deal of ged & pleasure. Colonel Lovenis has just bun in to lest a melon with me. I have had a fine lot of Wester & musk melous in my Garden. Tomalous also in abundance, loss & polities - As I have not been keeping hower, I have how to give away nearly everything & hum rows. The Tergeant gets the benefit of the garden, mostly. But I can send a melon to a green and I then, Istuff myself full of them without their tenting me. It Water list Liggie, west to laugh at me for Eating such a greantity of much melous & Cartelopes. As lotting is wednesday I shall be looking out for several letters-Okurli has in withen in a long time. I got a little pour Fillie, one week ago brown. Bllir loo is full of Heligion. The says, he talks with those who are unconverted to goes to his norm offerings for them. Me desires that me

156 7/22/1857 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dear brother [RB Howard]

RBH-118 Ordnance Depot Fort Brooke Fla

Source: Bowdoin

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

Headen Believeles

Jew Celineles

Jegger to mention
letter yes texcleg that Healtenell Cery 22. 37. I new you to rever me that I letter of Olis by Father - 2 neur of you to be how the when he send it as I need it - You have } better fall in with my lug-I gertien about the Ruger meeting 13 Me tilbert- Me Ming. In Parker Le tright - this oright to reach 3 you wright - Reletter from Elle Una I received low right is feele of joy at the commision I y ber mon- intimate priend Mary Aprague of Bendimbam. They were riding together relien the first forme a hope in ptelinist - What day will you

return to Mun wich & ? nor rong to hear from Luther that your Leepscription Incceeded no better- but the Munket has been glutten of Mother dur. come with halle you mugher I thinks be very glad to ree you - leve I news ber to lutar the vide - 2 think the moved be better for in-I when with truckfield after I mailed my letter last- Ecciny and he seeps there is no probability of their jetting through the cares that come on Mendag, lile Hunday night + Ned werday is som Enough for thather to come lugaras - Let ur lich a mean. rep to god - seen Brotter & he active in cles-Juns affection white

157 8/22/1857

From: Rowland [RB Howard]

To: Dear Charles [CH Howard1

RBH-120

Hallowell

Source: Bowdoin

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.

Avoline to send over - "hever you wind" the Mostatas Shall prite to Ella Som) West Bours Als Tre = 18th 1857. My Mer Brother, I have sury you for a long time and mean to spend an how or more in that very employments tonights. This now to the evening and I am thinking I shall have to begin & give your after dinner letters else you will not get any very often. May wednesday evening believe has granen into a regular exercise and I prefer myself ugularly beforehand. I am now discouring an Our Lord's Grayer, making each summer the grandwork of the Sicher. Gunt leun has been with us since week ago last monday. I have enjoyed her visits very smuch sener I can see her grown a new standfroms. It is worderful 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 treats & heart rending disappointments and me how direlly God has prepared her you every new accepion trouble. Her yearning of prayer for the conversion of her children are constant & Thurst She will be so blessed. Munk & Sarah are now at Nassan. He have got the news of their sage. 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, bus I am anxious when I think of the advancing years of herself of father. I never have horosed mother swengt. and down think I ever have manifield much love to her but why I cannot tell, for I recognize her devotion to her boys the self al myahon for us. But hatit are everything - when a little boy I don't remember any endearments from either father on mother. I remember reproofs & whippings har few loving demonstrations, and I am surry it is so for I am not now enough drawn towards my my mother by the Chards of Sympathy Vone I think Hariland the man I visited at the Hospital has dud Sene I wol you. He testified begon his death to the truth of the Enopel of Ehrish San he died at Juace. I know a little drummer boy in may soon now studying the Sible. He comes up once & Sometimes truce a week The alterns my both class & sums much interesties in the Scripbures. I was reading turn tion last night somewhat of my Grang a Herida" and I coulding help evaluating the difference of result them from here. However, then I had the complete control of my official busines, har a minister of the Enspel to work with me, to exhart & entrant treceion into the Church. Hem it is wholy different. Through there is little autward demonstration. Still the seed is sown thy the blessing of God well

3º page bear fruit in His own good time. However, I may luck in faith. if not in labor. I have written to bliver !. Moodmen and got a riply amongst other things. were words like the pleaning: Having been early thrown on the world to happle with its eases and troubles I have not stopped to look to what my judgment & heart promps me to know is the only how arm of life . I know only thought to act justly by all men and to fulfice My duly to myself and min without thinking as I should of my Gall! The says he has prospered in this world's affairs is a certain extent but has never known what real happiness was. Oliver's heart is son I tender and as he eccans to make mon of an acknowledgement their I dive in arraw to your letter which told me ofyour Expresioner, I hope he will be led on to promercy & peace. I trust he will have eventually more live & Frateticle towards his Crucions Redumer. Do think of him Rouland how kind he has bun: how how all his bright visions have variabled This bubbles burst. The is truly in prosperty oyer in the midst of adversity. I shall write to him again, Peny with me for Earls blessing whom my letters. Aunt ann hus bun with me to two lectures thelped song. Now I wish I had wasted time in learning to sing. Liggie is just getting ready for best, of being almost Eleven. Thear her coming to my room, probably, to send her love to you before She reteres. Now the hour soit down & dent sum to have anything in particular to Jay. The said this earning she wished she could write; and that the was a miserable sinner growing worse the feared mother of better. I am glad the is corners for

more grace in the heart. Siggie has less chance per religious exercise than I. The suppers me to make all the audible prayers, but the down have the enjoyments of religion to I trust is growing in the tonowledge of grace of Chining. This growth is not always perceptible to onesself. Sime my love to foling Sewall tall my friends that you mut with. May for this letthe pela. that souls may be Suren here. God grant in strength griadom equal to my outis tresponsibilities - We have our family prayers there a day, when I can get my family wif in season in the morning. Liggie is feelly good about yelling up, but we get to bed within late every night til is hard for her to get an with a half nights rest Abroken at that over or hier by little Grace. Guy is hearly agoud. The can say almost anything now & quite plainly - Selle Green is heartiful fresh as a nose hoppy therity. Her hain is a fin brick ned, what Liggin ealls block. Angin is fruits well, though not very Strong. I was down stown when the Urmmer boy left, pound aunh ann reading Hedly lieurs -I mud for her I me kept interturing his letters se with eonversation till after len then we nead a chapter in Drub. That an evening prayer. Be assured he themember you at the throne of maer pury for me tweete when you can. I asked higger what message she har for Kunland the Lugs. till him to pray for me. Very affectionally your brother.

Olig .

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

To: Dear Brother [RB Howard]

RBH-121 West Point, N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

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.

Deer Am telem les - was war her the 1858 beard the supported to the follower of Our for to promptly & their you new feeling to well laties fretty much ale the true than I can there pour my Mulier & Investices none you know I live thought to I Showl & milecel & an clone the wish of a laster for the silvole neighborhood where It is located of mis med & day after overis from have to heure courened prog with the people or fell I can I have mo meetings tunckley * Medicados Evenings. + lais week I attended the feweral - (the first I Free dies) of & little girl of light years there. The meetings are faile at tender live 2 du not les yet hear the riequiry level I lesten for Mens floal & de to be laisel the rely git in my noon of telef siles was not Juines cauce our highet & eleen about his necks times the relieble lega is given ref in religious suffuences me have seeen of found hope & say many are description, nor les than 1500 allend the neuring such & there is grear call for personal commentations Effect - I van sem derfull huslainen to a blefred Thursday Which we observed for Justin & frager, Ican truly lay mon we of the most thepect in mice blepect in mice whole lafe. My Lanun was in Everything bleped by his live reame. Diel I lett you that tiens: Lee silvo rested to beard with us as treet Though les at last mitter me. I place formes ferres

I am glad to been from nettie - If I center fece West the war a leamble + devoteer follower of Our Martin - leve I remed leve ber t yet. the much non consecrate beinelf for me - new for your beer for Chairs Lake! It is only in the deepres teremiliation in new of our his that we the acceptable to fact I with I could have Dellie with me- bur I feel that much a course is not fer my best good & ? doubt whether it is fer his. I.E. to come here . If he muchel follow wee actives I writer not fail a gove it-but I flex feel that I can only pray for tim-O dine be wight be cleaured from all timbs the blood of Claist I then alurain hunter might terise- be cured lag-I am muroccur of he has filthy rumal a mepure habits but I cont believe that be lies - wither class much deservedly make him an undesitable companion- teliantes, their week be tweething in ig- from what me beaut from There and all ! Heat oper plan Dellie recus disposed to mile here too truech in Leweling genexclidies - O that be wild be a might mixture, might luarted Chiertian! Whatever I can I do I am milling. Ella is very hopping in the reinal de Math in which a not of les primes are participation; - the laye unight came to ferres I have be from Ohis a great while - fact is preming our his theres. as an clevel as Healdwell- les Lender trèle the were a deel Evening prayer weeting I care the la le of the Evenaus from levere to levere. Mr. Metterfield is deep in the real. I have

159 4/5/1858 *From:* [RB Howard] *To:* Dear Bro. Charles [CH Howard]

RBH-122 Bangor Theol. Sem.

Source: Bowdoin

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 level to reneder that you could not see it in my faces that people muchel speak to The pin or they used a de. The lenementer nevell beig - Mrs Kirland, you think you are good, W. 2 doris - I know better - but blefred he fall I know that lebrist is good & full I Char I had a thousand beauti to give Ulat I emed give for hather + Roland + legisthin and many other dear Linners - relion may Surion loves to well & cales so Entreatingly after - Hear oft runed I have gathered gate "but you untell not - to the partings & the teams of that great Day to which we harri-Give my live to feather & to the are your I to all my princes I have my anasid for them ale - propers or not misthey until give up the reall & come to years Luch cures as Gen flerens in this city & feleg Benon & Dr Hauley in Wirtheop-recently concerted & about his age make my heart go night Our fu Frather to be is new wor our ver too Junel - un los hand becaucer. I have brune just such men talk like clear children in there meetings - I liams raid many things I meant to but I must mile again Jon zon affectionale Senpendency

Januar Cept, 13, 455

Dem Mother

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knice letter + glad to ne that you men

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An her- Her Father weens to me to be fighting against his courietiens with Ele his might. 6 the must yeld. am at much Buy day here - + I weed quest Endinments of Galls grace to been me leuntele & metablue ou my our heart-I often feel the face of the rend- lest a primine heing given you of Entering with Rest you shower seem to come thers: A of I am not a Christian by facts prace-I mean to be - Heardly a day paper but there are rulientions of the special presence of the Third among les- Olded Millett has been ever here at with for a closer him the was ref to be, we lear datenday I thaid the levers. Her is non in Earnell in religion +, like me, + I hope many others, fraging that Joels Spirit may Mist are mative line. + it will come - In his own time - in his am may with means, or withour if you will be faithful to gun closet you shall see the Lectration of the Lord - Chied's daughter is live at Sclewe & in un Lochool - I must mile to folin & Laura - I am not rille serge but my liances are very full of bucings I thinly - I have now the Estage to mile Our- ai the Miracles" + Chooker on the

Larions prager in Getterewave - I am long 1- heur that terns lever much suffer do. O ber life has been were rentrappy than yours my dear Mother. O may the feel the presence I pener of lur Lanin - I am auxins ho hem from dellie I de hope he did not have a fever up there. My health is pretty good becelt this cheer difficult - I that, I men lepear in Entreel, oren come - I am going We try In buch fact Day this year as I think will be most acceptable to fuel-Il Mother. I can't bear to-think that detter lear given binnely refe run in his veel age to be contented with his condition & die without being reconciler to fuel. Her few years before death! Hear many begins! le How Mull Eterning be paper? of you cour leave a prager meeting - deother, we all your rufluence to richese Christians to peage les themrelies for an outperring of the Spirit- always levelentering that it is now weich rise to all. rise when we are not prastien; doday is just a year linee I new out to Nech in our faciler & telient first came in ale his highlings with my ful. Hen well I remember hun ring decaged thrub I Every bird & but - whicheved breetly "Chint "Client"- (lem can we Be Chanhful Enough!

From: Rowland [RB To: Dear Mother [Eliza **160** 4/13/1858 Gilmore]

Howard]

Bangor **RBH-123**

Source: Bowdoin

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