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West Point N.Y. Dec. 12 '58

My dear mother,

I can write you but a few lines now, but I thought I would say a word, lest you should think I might be ill, or that some misfortune had befallen me. Last Saturday evening our Society decided that they would have a public meeting in one week and extended the invitation to me to deliver an address. I would not have accepted it if I could well have avoided it; but as it is customary for the President to deliver at least one address after coming into Barracks & I had delivered none, I resolved to do the best I could in the limited portion of time they have allowed me. There are several other exercises besides mine so that I will not have to get up a lengthy production. This is the reason I did not write you yesterday as I intended. We are on general review in engineering, and as that department seem disposed to grant me no favors I will have to study very hard to hold my own against them. The Professor treated me quite badly the other day which convinced me that his mind has been poisoned against me, since his words attacks were entirely uncalled for. He made me boil with

anger at the time & so I congratulate myself that
"I held my tongue. I made no reply as I am apt to
be under excitement. I went to him the next day
privately & showed him that I had never intended
to controvert his authority as he seemed to previous day
to imply. This last occurred on Friday - on Saturday
Professor Atkin had the section to himself, as Capt
Smith was away. He called me up gave me a hard
problem - I did it and he let me go through with
my demonstration without interrupting me for once
& treated me kindly - so I think my prospects are
improving. I am well & doing pretty well in every
thing - I saw Warren a short time since - he was in
good health. I have not heard from Rowland for
a long time what has he come of him? I wish
to comply with Sellies request & write him a letter
& also Charles but may not be able till after the
January Examination which you perceive is
drawing near. My love to all - a better & a longer
letter soon - In haste

Yr affectionate son

A. O. Howard

33333

PAID
~~Answered~~

Mr John Gilmore

~~Leicester~~ Vermont

Maine

