

My Dear Richard — Haverford 12th mo 1853

My Dear Richard,

I received your kind and very acceptable letter yesterday morning and I was glad to hear that you were enjoying yourself. I wrote to Charley Miller last week, and I expect to have an answer before long. The last letter that I received from him he said he was going to a Boarding school with his little Brother I believe some place down in Jersey. This is Sunday afternoon and I have been learning my scripture lesson which we have to recite every Sunday afternoon. I expect you have fine fun with the pretty girls, or are you separated from each other, you must give my love to the prettiest girl that is their of my size 11 in, now dont forget and tell me if you did in the next letter you write to me. If you have a catalogue of your school I wish you would send it to me, and I will send you one of ours. Then you write please tell me what you play and how many acres bounds you have. Dick if you have any good place to play foot ball I will tell you how to make one that will last a good while. if you have a good bladder, first get a round leather case made, and have an opening in it so as you can put the bladder in and then lace the opening up that you put the bladder in, but before you put it in blow it up and get it as large as you can, and then press all

The air out and then put it in the leather case and blow it up and after you have blown it up tie it around the neck of the bladder a string so as to prevent the air from coming out and after you have that done, lace the opening up in the leather and then you have your foot ball complete, you must get four or five fresh bladders out of pigs or cows just after they have been killed and put them in salt and water so as to keep them fresh, some time the bladders burst as you are blowing them up or when you have just had it in the case for one day these for it is better to have four or five bladders on hand, you can get the shoe maker to make you a case. We had snow here last sixth day night but the ground was so wet that it would not lay, but it layed on the board walk and yesterday morning we got a couple of the boys sleighs and we ran up and down it. The thermometer has gone down very much at noon it was 38 and this evening after supper it was 27, and it is pretty cold out. Dick I wish I had you here to take walks with. I must write to danny hip pretty soon and I hope he will answer it. Joe Lively still goes to our school and is the same old fellow. Dick please tell me when you write what you are studying, and how you are getting along, and the rules of your school. I expect you have it nice boarding at your Cousins, how far is the school from your Cousins. Is there any fellows that board at the school. One of the other boys and my self tossed up, and I think my side got the most points, and we had a fine ball, it lasted us 7 days.

2nd day

It snowed very fast this morning for a little while and then stopped but not sufficient to cover the ground. About a dozen of us boys went down to our dam this morning and it was all frozen over excepting one little place but it would not bare. You are a bout forty or fifty miles from home are you not, or are you farther. In vacation I went to riding school and I liked it very much. Now dick if you will write me as long a letter every time as you did this last time I will be very much obliged to you. I was sorry to hear that you had such a pain in your head, but I hope it is better by this time. What is your Cousins name that you are staying with. What is the name of the book keeping that you are studying, I hope you like the study. Who do you mean by coon I. You asked me in your last letter if I remembered him. Remembered that sham fight that Jim Muckle and Horace Bennett had that night, did they not fool us pretty. Dick when you write tell me all the pretty girls names that you know, I expect you know lots of them, do you not? They have a patent here for drying out clothes by steam and all of our clothes are dried by it. We have not had our traps set for a couple of days but last night we went around to them all and set them, but we did not catch any last night, we have only got six traps and we have had four stolen from us, I would like to catch the fellow that did it. When you write to me again which I hope will be next first day please tell me the time of your school hours, and how you like the teachers, and every thing about the school. Ducks
Rest to you all,

Have you had many apples this season, we have had them
for Sunday evenings, two a piece, and we have got two more
barrels of them. We have had some fine times this noon kicking
the ball. I have only one lesson this afternoon, and that occupies
the time from three to four, and now I ought to be studying but I
guess I know my lesson so I will try and finish this letter, but I do
not know whether I can or not, I can write till half past two any
how. Dick I am reading the Testament through and I have got as
far as John's chapter. It is very hot out this noon and the thermometer
is forty three. We expect to have a holiday next fifth day
as it is monthly meeting day. Have you written to Frank
Adams yet. I expect to go in town in a couple of weeks and have
my teeth fixed, our Superintendent goes in every week, and gets
study books and bundles for the scholars. Dick I will enclose
a piece in here for you to read it is a first rate one. I have just
come out of my class, and I got through my lessons bully. Is
Syracuse a very large place or no. I expect you enjoy yourself
very much, do you not? I got turned out of Chemistry and
put in history, I do not care though for I will be up to my
class by the end of this session. Please write soon and give
me all particulars. With dear love to you I remain as ever

Yours Truly

William Miller
Richard Houser

William Miller