Dear President Sills,

It was my intention to speak to you after Commencement exercises last Saturday, but I had only a few minutes, and in the bustle around the Chapel I missed you. I was in Brunswick for only a few hours, but did slide in just after the exercises began and stayed through until the end. One of my principal reasons for writing you is to say how much it meant to me to be in those familiar places, to hear again the well-remembered words of the exercises. Sitting back there in the balcony of the Chapel alone was enough to give me strong reassurance of the validity of the ideals for which Bowdoin stands. Like many other college men, the experience of the war and life in the armed forces have seemed to underscore the value of the things we mean when we speak of a liberal education. Certainly there is much room for improvement in our educational system – but I’m sure that it can come only with the strengthening and revitalizing of the liberal arts, and not in their abolition.

I think this is the first time I have written to you since my graduation. It seems scarcely possible that about five years have passed since then. It is difficult to put into words all that one feels when he thinks of College. The things that seemed most wonderful about those days at the time do not always continue to have that first place in ones memory. As the years go by, it is the quiet recollection of the everyday routine that is most rewarding; the chapel, the library, ones classes, and ones friends.

Perhaps I shall get down to Brunswick again later this spring. My leave of last week was only a few days. In March Alice and I expect to greet another new member of our family, and I hope to be able to get more substantial leave at that time. Please remember me most kindly to Mrs. Sills – I was glad to be able to see her briefly the other day.

Yours Sincerely,

Neal Allen, Jr.