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569 10/15/1854 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Master Rodelphus H  
Gilmore

OOH-0522

Yarmouth

Wayne

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Oct 15th 1854

My dear brother

I suppose you are ere this anxiously awaiting a letter from me, and I own I have been rather dilatory. But I have no time to write except Sat. or Sundays & I skipped last Sunday so have not written yet till now. I have been engaged as usual in my studies as I suppose you have. We recite 250 lines at a lesson in Virgil, which takes much time to get.

It is getting to be towards Winter, the frost has often visited us, & has robbed our trees of their foliage. How do you keep warm these cold nights & mornings? Have you a fire in your room? We have had a fire more or less for a fortnight for about that time ago I procured two feet of wood 4 feet long, which we cut as often as we need it. People are now gathering their apples. I wish I could enter a well filled orchard about these times & enjoy a feast upon some such as I have seen in days past & gone. But still I am not so badly off for apples for Winter & I have at times boughten a peck, which lasted well.

I was into Portland to the Fare a week ago last Saturday. There I saw all sorts of articles that are made by mechanics & also other works of art some of which were very beautiful. I saw specimens of steam Engines, printing press, ploughs, a mowing machine &c of iron. Waggons & Chaises of beautiful form, color & material with harnesses & Lights, bedsteads & washing machines which were very curious. And also a Sewing machine with which a woman could by turning a crank sew very fast, mending a chore in about a minute. These were of wood & iron. But I saw so many thousand things that I could not begin to mention them all. Among other things some most excellent paintings & drawings & daguerreotypes. Some beautiful pianos on which I heard some excellent playing & fine music. It took me a long time to look at all the things to be seen at the are & I returned to Yarmouth in the Evening.

We have very good prayer meeting at the Academy building under the direction of the students only & they who are pious take turns in taking the lead of these meetings. I shall take the lead next time. My duty will be to open the meeting by reading a chap & prayer, then read a hymn & all sing who can. After this the meeting goes on as usual, the time being occupied in speaking & praying & singing.

Do you attend the meetings now? I suppose you do, & hope you enjoy them better than ever before. But I have not written to the Society yet, as I thought I should. How have you prospered? Does not Davis make a proper president or do you now have any difficulty? Or do things go on smoothly & pleasantly? Tell them (if I do not get time to write), that I hope they will get along well & happily till I get home when we shall all meet again & have a joyous meeting with old friends & a profitable time for us all.

Write & tell me all about it Dellie. And your own feelings in regard to religion. Also how do Roscoe & Josephine prosper, in the new road which they have started in? Which I trust leads to Heaven, & they will get there (as must you) if they follow it till the end of life, & <> - Jesus Christ our Savior as their example & guide. Oh be a good boy & love & serve your God & you will have your reward Dellie.

We have about 90 scholars here now. Miss Fay came here yesterday from Wayne Village. Do you know her? Says she has been staying with her Grandfather Owen I believe of Wayne Village. She is a girl about 17 years old of black eyes & hair.

But how did you enjoy the Cattle show? You must write all about this. And how far you have got and are likely to get in your studies. I heard a lecture on Government last Friday night, which was very good & I have bought for you a very useful & interesting school book to study this winter. "The Governmental Instructor". This I shall carry home with me. You & I will meet at home at Thanksgiving.

Yr Affect br  
Chas. H. Howard

Master Rodelphus H Gilmore  
Wayne

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570 10/15/1854 *From:* Chas. H. Howard

*To:* Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0523

Yarmouth

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Yarmouth Oct 15th 1854

My dear Mother

It seems long, very long since I heard from you. I did not write last Sunday, for I was in hopes to get a letter before writing. And I have not had time to write week days on account of my studies. But another Sabbath has arrived & the day has passed & I have received no letter yet nor have I written any. But I hope that you are in good health & spirits to night although 'tis strange that I have not had a letter since I left home.

I am quite well & have been since I last wrote, getting along well in my studies although I have to study pretty steadily to get all my lessons well. We are ranked in all our studies & our rank is to be reported at the close of the term. Also we are to have an exhibition at the close of the term at which those who stand best in the classes will have most honorable parts. We are ranked on Declamation and composition also, so you see we have quite a prize to strive for.

We get quite long lessons and I never went so thoroughly as I do this term. We have very good Philologian meetings this term & I often have a part to perform in these. I am appointed to prepare a Dissertation for the next meeting which takes much of my leisure time. My subject is The Study of Greek & Latin in our schools & colleges.

We have quite an interesting paper connected with the society for which nearly all contribute. My Chum Winter is Editor & there is an Editress. We have our prayer meeting regularly every Tuesday night, at which there are none but students. Thus have I been spending my time since I last wrote, studying, writing, declaiming, attending Prayer meeting & Philo. I also visit my acquaintances some, & have been into Portland to the Fare I believe since I wrote, of which you have probably heard through Rowland, & that he was here & tarried awhile last Sat. eve, then went to Portland with Frank Gilman, stayed over Sat., saw Aunt Martha Jane & Lizzie, returned Monday forenoon stayed at dinner with me, then went to Brunswick in half past one train. I enjoyed my visit into Portland very much, saw sights worth the time & expense, for the time was only Sat afternoon & the usual expense was lowered one half.

I read at Lizzie's a letter from Otis, written at Philadelphia & I have, as I suppose you have, rec'd a letter from him since he arrived at Troy. I am glad to find that he likes his situation thus far, for if it pleases him he will be much happier for the coming year if he is there as long as that.

Rowland was well as usual, tells me he expects to teach in Topsham this winter & may not go home at the close of this term. I wish he would be at home to Thanksgiving for I shall be there as I see by yesterday's paper that it is the 30th of Nov one week after the close of this term. Have you yet found out who will keep our school this Winter? I hope we shall have a good school for Dellie's sake.

Warren Mower has written me to get Esther Frost to keep his school but she could not go as she is intending to keep in New Jersey this winter. Has Warren got any one yet? I suppose I shall have to return here this winter after a vacation of two or three weeks. Rowland thinks this is the best course to take if I am going to College next Fall as I intend to & I think I better get a good fit.

I have not answered Dellie's last letter yet but must do so tonight, for he has been real good to write this term, for which I am very much pleased. I also owe to Otis a letter which I must compose at first opportunity, but meanwhile I hope to hear from home, & hear all about Mother & father, brother, friends, neighbors & all. Dellie I suppose will tell me about the society. How goes on the farming & I am utterly ignorant of picking apples, digging potatoes, getting in & husking corn, pumpkins, turnips, garden sauce, garden seeds, plants & flowers, chickens, lambs, Boys & Girls, Men & Women, old & young of Leeds at this time. Where is Roland Alger? & where is Katie, Nancy, Roscoe & others of acquaintances intimate.

Please mother give my love to all & write very soon if alive & well. Now good night & remember Your Affectionate Son

Chas. H. Howard

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

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571 10/26/1854 *From:* Otis [O O Howard]

*To:* Brother [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0524

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal

Oct. 26th 1854

My dear Brother,

I have a good mind to reprimand myself for not writing you before, but now you come to have a letter for I have set about it in good earnest. Yesterday, I went to the shops and got a piece of pine, of cylindrical shape & about nine inches long. Around this I wrapped my picture and directed the same to Col. Jno. Gilmore. After all this preamble I wish to ask a simple question. Have you got the piece of pine? Tell mother, I hardly think the production worth a frame. To make it look respectably she must put it in the middle of a blank sheet of drawing paper, sticking it at the corners with wafers, or all along the edges with Gum Arabic. Even if it was framed it would not look well unless it was widened by a white sheet.

You will notice the building with a clock upon it - that is the Stone Arsenal and our house is off to the right as you face the Arsenal. The road commences just after crossing the canal bridge and runs up between our house & the Arsenal. The other building you see in the distance is a stone house for Heavy Artillery Carriages on the lower story and for implements & harnesses &c on the 2nd floor.

I live in the tenement towards the Arsenal. We are at the moment in the front Chamber, that has three windows two on the front and one on the side. The parlor is immediately beneath the kitchen in the part of the house that runs back from the main body. The entire structure is built of granite. The Canal runs parallel with the fronts of the House & Arsenal, but I couldn't well take in the grounds quite to it. Maj Symington's Quarters are just as far to the left as ours are to the right of the Arsenal. The road that runs between those two posts in front of the Arsenal leads to his house.

You must write me and tell what satisfaction you have derived from my productions of art. I presume Rowland and Charlie have left you and perhaps you yourself have left for school. Have you and your brothers had grand good times? Music in plenty? How is Warren Lothrop's health? Has he left the Army for good? Write me if you know. I expected to see his name among the appointments to the new Regiments - was looking for it. Lieut Boggs went to West Point on a Court Martial - said when he returned, that he saw Lothrop and that he looked completely broken down. Next I heard from Rowland that he was at home. I wish to hear from you, whether you are going away to school or intend to stay at home this fall and keep mother company. You must remember me to all friends who inquire for me and write me when you can.

Lizzie sends her love to Dellie. Give our love to Mother. (I am going to write her this week) and also to Father, Roland & all.

Trusting that you are all in the best of health, I remain as ever

Your affectionate brother

Otis.