

and I were having a grand ride. The
woman with the borrowed child, said she
was afraid I would carry it off. it was
such a dear little thing. all the while

I'd been thinking what the devil I
should do with it. without your doing
when night came; I could put it on
the back & lay it on its little —
(that part that aches so when the baby
has eaten too much or got worms.)

Well the little one gave me a kiss and
the borrower a multiplicity of thanks
as my 'Bess' ride was brought to a close.
I got a good hearty welcome at Cousin
Allies. She wanted to see you. Sent her
love to you & says till Lizzie she
must come right here when she returns.
I got a good welcome too from Mr Hazzard
when he came to dinner. He brought his
horse to take his baby to ride. He gave it
up to Ellie & Roddie, who took me to ride
to visit Cousin (Martha) at Old Cambridge
and go to ride where we pleased. He paid the

Waterbury Arsenal

May 26th 1855

My darling "little wife"

This is the first
note I have commenced to you since our
marriage, the first time I have written
that appellation. That struck me both as
Uncle Arin Whitman's and caused the blushes
to mantle your cheek. That one I mean
that Aunt Lucy spoke of suggested by
the title of a book, "The little wife". I hoped
to have found a letter, will get it tomorrow
probably. You know I am full of hopes
& fears like a fond husband that I am
but I will not bore you with a rehearsal.

I will not say much about the sense of
loneliness that came over me when I
entered the familiar quarters. Now I was
almost of a mind "to gloom" a little - no I
will tell you of these things that are felt
& not easily described when you get back -
Now to the point. I left you, with a kiss or so

in your eyes - you know where I was. I
went immediately in search of Mr Pease's
office - Tremont St. for Uncle. Nobody there
but an old man who takes care of the
rooms. He let me put my bag in the
office. I went to the Tremont House
next. Saw Mr Carter of Troy and talked
with him. He has been in Boston for
some time on business - asked after Mrs
H - I wanted her to say a good word
to his friends at home if I saw them.
I went again to Mr Pease's, Uncle had
not come. I waited some time, then went
to the American House to find him.
When I got back the third time I
found him & talked with him an
hour or more, when I left him to go
to Concord at East Cambridge. I
took an Omnibus at Brattle St. It was
soon full; one gentleman besides myself
the rest women - after the seats were
filled four more of the fair sex jumped
in. The horses could not start them up the

hill and began to be fractious and bucked round
slowing the Omnibus into the middle of the
street. One woman who sat next to me
had a little child, a borrowed one as she styled
the "little boat" about 2 years of age; the
child was getting squeezed, so I took it in
my lap - Like a parcel of fido all these
women fourteen or fifteen of them then
jumped up & screamed - I was mad of
course, but calmly told them to be
seated, but no. The unruly creations
would jump out behind. The woman
with the child among the rest. She
begged of me to follow with the "little
one"; but no I was not going to make a
fool of myself so I sat still. So did the
other gentlemen I saw or two women to
their credit. The Omnibus turned around
(not over) I drove down Brattle St, took
a turn round the square & returned to
the head of the same. The woman with
the borrowed child came rushing in; "Where's
the baby! Where's the baby! Why she (was a Gal)

I came a little time up before I
I heard the young men come in from
visiting Mrs Thornton - about 6 or 7
ten - They called out Ho! Ho! - I
called the Guard is usual I never
down - Both the young men & Ellen
1st & Ellen 2nd asked after you how
staid the journey - Ellen thinks this
part of the home coming without
you - I won't say I do for you were
enjoy your visit & be very happy -
Your mother must not bother you
about your being a weak little thing.
I shall have to scold if they do
not all be very cheerful & make
your first visit after your marriage
very pleasant to you & to themselves.
Tell Mother what a good husband
you have got - I know good natured he
is to all who help him to make
his darling happy. Accept another
good night & as I should would say, my
best wishes for a "miserable time" etc -

Went to Martha. Then went on past the
Colleges. saw Henry with wife, Mrs
Hardy, daughter & Laura, in somebody's
garden. They came and inquired if you
got to the cars in season &c. said
Watertown Arsenal was about three
miles distant. So the boys & myself
concluded to go thither. I went with
them accompanied by a polite old clerk
to all the show houses, shops &c - saw
Capt Wainwright & the young Mr
Webber - don't think Watertown can compare
with Watervliet. not so large ^{many buildings} & half-
~~as~~ surrounded by a high peaked top
board fence. It is on a small stream
of water and the grounds within are very
neatly laid out - and are now looking fine.
I attended the trial of John Chapman
for the murder of Rogers in ~~the~~ committed
in Framingham Mass. The Court room is
but a step or two from Cousin Oless'. You
may remember. This Chapman is a small

handsome young man with beautiful
hair - He looks slender & innocent. I
(who do not mean to boast) believe I could
whip four of ~~such~~ as he is. Still if he
did the murder, he must have thrown a
big irishman, half as heavy again or himself
and struggled with him four through
two or more rooms to the outer door - and
all this he must have done against a
man of double his strength struggling for
dear life. When I looked upon the fair
face & delicate form of the youth I said
in my heart, it is incredible - He
came from Maine - I heard a part
of his defence - not very able - but
I don't think he can be pronounced guilty
of murder, though circumstances seem to
show that he was accepting - for by
a falsehood he deceived the old man out
to meet his untimely death. It was a sad
thing to me to listen to that trial yesterday.
I think the lessons I learned did me good.
How important it is to live in such a manner

as to completely disarm suspicion. Allie
Staggard is here - He was to have a
week's vacation from tomorrow. So I
asked his father to let him come
with me - He was a even partner for
me on my way back ^{will be} - Birds are
well - glad to see me back undoubtedly
fed them a little with large seeds from
my hand - You haven't been out of mind
since I entered this front room, except
perhaps while I was reckoning my
expenses & settling them down - All
well I find. Haven't been to the Major's
yet. Boggys says if I could go into my
old room - I sleep tonight I would wake
up tomorrow morning & think the
past three months had been a dream
and that I had not been married at
all. I should inquire & how you find
our mother & aunt & all, but expect you have
told me already by the letter that's coming -
My love to all - and may God bless & protect
my darling wife - Good night. - Otis. -

Which she had rather do, stay
 here or go there. Her health is so poor
 and is so feeble I am willing to do
 any way, almost. She finally says that
 she would not want to go till another
 winter. I see that she wants something
 to look forward to. I will write
 very often to you, my husband, and
 I wish you to do the same. Mention
 no secrets to any but me, but I
 need not caution you, I know.

Remember me kindly to my
 friends at Watervliet, and tell
 Mr. Boggs I shall surely stay eight
 days, but shall say nothing about
 the three weeks he mentioned. I
 would like to write to Miss Mary
 but with making and receiving
 visits I do not expect to find
 time to write only to you.

Now good bye, and believe
 I love you with my whole
 heart.

Your affectionate
 Lizzie

Auburn May 27, 1835

Evening 4 o'clock

My dear husband

I have been to
 Church - have had my afternoon sleep
 and now I do not know what to
 do with myself unless I write to you
 I hope you will mail me a letter
 before you receive this I am very
 anxious to hear from you, to know
 how you got home, and to learn
 how you get along alone at Wate-
 rliet. My darling Oh what shall I
 do! I see I must keep all secrets
 locked in my own bosom. (Even
 the thought of some puffed corn
 (We are at Aunt Sarah's) would you not
 like some), and think I shall go to
 Leeds this week and was telling
 Mother that if I made all my
 visits, and she got quite well
 I should not stay as long as

I intended. Mother is getting better very fast. I found her quite sick, and busy writing a letter to me. I wish she ~~to~~ was boarding where it would be more pleasant for her. The doc not wish to go to Waterville. I think she will board with Aunt Delay this summer. Uncle Thos does not like in any better rent than he did before they moved, so she cannot board with them. In the spring Uncle Everett thinks of building a new house, and tell them I wish she could find a pleasant boarding place, but if she can be contented where she is, I will say nothing. I only wish it otherwise because here she does not have a room to herself excepting her sleeping room. My dear Olis I have learned a great deal since I have been here, and learned it indirectly. I am going to tell you the truth and that is I do not want to come to Maine alone again. It is at this time of day - twilight that

I think most of you alone at Waterville. I ought to be there, and now I find myself disappointed in some things I wish to be back to Troy. I will be happy and cheerful all the time I am here, but when I get home I shall do just as I wish.

I spoken with Mrs Gould coming home from church. She leaves Lewiston next week.

Uncle Thos made us a call since I wrote to above. He has gone now. I hope to get your letter before I go to Leeds. I do not know as I shall wait till it gets here, but go to Leeds and have it forwarded to me. I think now I will go to Leeds Tuesday afternoon, and stay till Friday or Saturday. But I wish you to send all your letters to "Lewiston Falls" as I shall be here the most of the time. I am coming home just as soon as I can get away dear Olis. I like to be here and see my friends, but I want you to be with me. Evening nine o'clock I have been talking with Mother about going to Troy

rights are the power sort of times for widowers. Spitz-widowers doesn't you?

I must write to mother. I intended to do so to night. I did
not mean to write you, but a few lines when I began,
but here we are on the fourth page. I have
been at Maj. Seymour's only one evening since I came
back. Miss Mary & mother inquired affectionately for
you. So did Mrs. Thornton when I saw her on the door-
step yesterday evening as I was passing. All ask
how long you are going to stay from us. My
marriage does seem almost like a dream, and I believe
I would consider it as some waking fancy, were it
not for the little reminders I meet with in the shape of
birds, flowers, stars, periwinkle. How goes the new dress
I received the trimmings that you ordered at Albany.
If you think best, write immediately and I will send
them to you by mail. Give your mother a kiss for me & tell
her she must be well. When the officers that are
now at West Point are relieved this June, who
knows but Lieut O. D. Howard may be sent. If the
place is offered to me shall I take it? Kiss my
mother when you see her once for yourself & again for me.
God bless you darling - Goodnight. I must not
write more -

Your affectionate husband

Chas

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

May 29th 1855

My dearest wife

I received your welcome letter this
morning. I was looking for it, hoping to get it as early
as Saturday night or Sunday morning and therefore
was a little disappointed, but it is all right now.
I was sorry that you did not find mother in
better health and am glad on her account that you
have made your visit so early. Ellen has made frequent
inquiries for Mrs. Howard, seemed pleased to hear from
you through your letter and said tell her, when you
write that we wish her back. The little Ellen wanted
you here last Saturday and Sunday she said. We had
company Lieut McPherson of the Engineers stationed at
New York & Lieut Cogswell of the Infantry, instructor
of Infantry tactics at West Point, besides a Young Lawyer
Jackson from Albany, friend of Mr. Cogswell's. McPherson
is a classmate of Buzz's. I like him very much and so
would you, since he is a goodhearted, honest straight-
forward fellow. He wanted to see you much, and said
that though he had not seen you he must have his

kindest regards for you. He slept on Lewis' iron bedstead
and when he came into our chamber to adjust his
collar, I gave him a rose that had just blossomed on the
rose bush. He thanked Mrs. P. for it through me and put
it into his collar box to preserve it till he got home.
We had a great dinner on Saturday, and the young men had
a great time. The particulars I will tell you hereafter.
On Sunday, they got two carriages and went to the Shaker
village to witness their novel services. I let Ollie Hazard go
with them. I staid at home and went to church with Mrs.
Lansing, to hear her new minister at the South Church. I
liked him very well, though I fancied from his doctrine that
you would not be so well pleased. I came back and
accepted Mr. Lansing's invitation to dine with him upon
what he called his simple Sunday fare. I had a
very pleasant time. smoked a cigar with him after dinner
and conversed with the old gentleman & lady on various
topics. He declares the ladies always do have their own way
and made the grave assertion that Mrs. Howard was fast
getting the rule in my family. I laughed of course & told him
that I liked such government first rate. You will not take
advantage of this confession will you. Wouldn't be fair you
know as I am writing in confidence. I called to see Mrs.
Wool to day. She came in to visit you the day you left.
She seems so kind and affectionate, so much like Mrs. Pangham

William Ellis grandmother, that I can but like her. She says
I wish you & Mrs. Howard would not be so formal with me
coming in only five or ten minutes in the morning. I want
you & her to come in the afternoon, just when you feel like
taking a walk. Mr. Cogswell left Sunday night & the Phoebe
yesterday morning. The latter has been engaged recently
in surveying, sounding & cleaning out bars in the
Hudson River that were so situated as to impede navigation.
Ollie seems happy here; will return next week.
I hope father can be induced to let mother accompany
you as far as Boston. The birds get on finely. They were
exceedingly shy when I got back, but now like me
first rate. I gave them a warren from out of doors this
morning, and let them fly about the room. Ellen says
tell Mrs. Howard about the birds. The plant always comes
in at night. There are two new blossoms on it today.
They are beautiful & sweet. Only a few of our fox flower seeds
prove good. I water the beds frequently. Somehow I want
everything to look pretty & inviting when my Lizzie comes
back. Is my darling healthy because she is determined? The
value of a gem seems enhanced when it is lost - but the value
of a wife, who can tell when it is most? Give my love to your
mother I must I write. I would like to hear what they have
to say to you. Give my love to John, Helen & family. Uncle
Pick & all - for haven't I a big heart, with a heap of love in it?