

Rowland and Charlie must find it very pleasant living together. We have not heard from them since they went to Brunswick but hope they will soon write. It is indeed sad to hear that John Harrison is spitting blood. I presume it is not well for him to be confined to his office. Lamma I have not written to since I returned, but I think of her and all often. Mother & father will be with us this fall. I know not how soon, or that this will go to Maine. I cannot hardly realize that it is as late as Sept. I do not know where the summer months have flown to. It has seemed the shortest summer I ever passed. This has been writing to Mother, but has finished her letter, and now has gone to inspect the guard. Could you look in upon us you would say we looked very comfortable and happy. I have the clock striking ten, and will not write more this time. Please accept much love from your children and believe me affectionately your daughter, Linn

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Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y.

Sept. 9, 1856.

Dear Mother

We received your letter yesterday, and very happy indeed were we to get a long letter written by yourself. I do not wonder that you do not write as often as you intend, having so many duties around you that require your attention, and surely I would not overtask you with writing, if it is a source of great pleasure to us to receive your letters. I regret ~~much~~ to learn your health has not been good, but do hope with the cool weather it will improve, and that for the future we shall hear you are very well. We usually hear of you when we get a letter from Maine, and that is much better than not hearing at all.

I know I have been very delinquent

in writing to you ever since I could address you by the dear name of Mother, and have no reasonable excuse to offer as an apology.

Otis and I at present have enough to think about, we are arranging for house-keeping. We shall very soon sit at our own table, but I fear things will suffer under my direction. Otis does not seem to have so great fears, and with his encouragement, and by experience I hope to do better and better. We are to have one of the servants from the "Illness" for cook, and she is a very good, honest, faithful girl, that we can trust with anything. When we get settled I must give you a description of all our rooms. If I should make the attempt now I would not know where to begin or where to end, and you would think I did not keep a very neat or orderly house - I have bought a dining set of white French China, and Otis has

sent home a good supply of groceries yesterday. There was an auction here last Thursday, and everything belonging to the "Illness" was sold, with the exception of things we "bid in". Mr. Bogg is left alone as Mr. Thunk has been sent to West Point. Otis bought the cow, and as it will cost nothing to keep her, I think it will be a great saving. We shall not purchase so many things or have things so comfortable, as if we were permanently settled, and I find that is the way they do throughout the army. --- Otis and I have passed through the village of Waterford several times and have noticed the "Mansion House". It is quite a pleasant village about four miles north of us, and should we go there again, we should take more particular notice of the place, for it now is full of interest to us, since we have learned it was the place at which Otis' father stayed.

and gentle and yet very spirited. I bought a
well covered carriage for one horse (second hand)
for seventy five dollars. Lizzie and I have a
ride nearly every second day. My horse is
purely white and carries a very high head.
Lizzie can get him & feed him and is not the
least afraid to ride after him. I now go marketing
shopping & visiting with my own horse - and
since he can live on the forage I draw
for him I think he will more than pay
me the interest of his price. Perry Lee ran up
to see us last Friday. stopped to dinner with
us and went about the Post to visit the
different buildings. He had to hasten back
to N. York to see to unloading his vessel.
Perry looks better than he did: is in good
health & spirits, master of a vessel & receiving
very high pay. Silas was here on Sunday.
When Lizzie & I returned from Church we
found Silas waiting in the parlor. He had changed
so much in personal appearance that I hardly
knew him. His face was almost completely covered
by whiskers & mustaches and his manners were
changed. He was very quiet & seemed more unassum-
ing than ever before. There is quite a contrast between

the two brothers. Perry has a freshness & vivacity
of spirit that never has abated since he was a child
whereas Silas appears like a man more advanced in
life & more affected by the manners of those with
whom he has been thrown. They both appear
like perfect gentlemen. But Perry seems to carry
his heart in his face, whilst Silas has acquired more
of the social polish. Here I am married & keeping
house & two boys & playmates come to visit me
as grown men. We have gone forth to occupy
different posts & fill different spheres in the
multiplicity of human duties & human destinies. It
is pleasant to meet, pleasant to talk over the days of
boyhood. The incidents that have transpired since
we parted, and what about the navigative prospects
for each in the future. Aunt Ann will
accompany Perry in his vessel to Calcutta &
perhaps thence to the West Indies. Silas was
on his way to visit her before she left.
He is in a large publishing house in Buffalo.
A man of his acquaintance Capt. McKim of Boston
has recently established himself in Buffalo & invited
Silas to join him & be his book-keeper. His father
is engaged in the meat trade for the N. York Houses
in some of the Western States. I recently heard