
588 10/12/1855 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0539

Watervliet Arsenal

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal
Oct 12th 1855

Dear Mother,

I received Charlies letter Wednesday and found that only the wrapper belonged to me. I am glad he is getting on so well, and hope that his hard ears will cover his eyes and render them fit for use.

Last night without a word of warning Lizzie's mother drove up to the door - she had company all the way to Albany. She wrote us a letter & telegraphed besides, but we got neither message. I am sorry she did not see you before she left. She said she saw father on Monday before she left Lewiston. He was looking very well she said. I think Mrs W. will be very well now she is here. I shall take her out to ride often and it is a fine country for this. I would like to take you with my fine horse to Albany, Troy, Cohoes, Waterford, &c &c.

Charlie writes that Louisa is quite sick. Give my love to her & all at Warrens when you see them. I trust she will soon be perfectly well. It is raining very hard today. We have had very much wet weather lately. The river has risen considerably but not quite as much as in the spring, but if it keeps on raining as it does now I fear the lower part of our grounds will be overflowed again.

We have had plenty of melons & grapes as well as Hickory nuts, & white oak acorns, but no beach nuts. What Charlie wrote about having beach nuts made Lizzie say she wished she had some. Mrs Dunlop has some friends from England on a visit at her house, and gave us an invitation to meet them there this evening, but Mrs W's arrival will prevent, and it is fortunate for it is too rainy to go out.

I heard from Rowland a few days ago. He writes cheerfully, hopes Charlie will soon be back, says he is doing well, for he is eating voraciously. Maria & her husband has been to Maine on a visit it seems, went on a tour to Canada. Why couldn't they have made it convenient to pass this way and make a cousinly call. I wonder if Maria wouldn't be offended if I passed through Philadelphia and did not make her a visit. I don't like it because she did not come.

How is John Harrison. I hope his spitting blood did not amount to any thing. Was it much? Give my love to all at Uncle Ensign's.

Are you not lonely when the boys are all away? Lizzie & her mother send love. I have got to economize more & more now. It was against one of my cherished principles to buy any thing & not pay for it down. For example - my horse, but if I have my health I will come out straight.

Affectionately yours
Otis

589 10/27/1855 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: R. H Gilmore

OOH-0540

Bowd. Coll.

Source: Bowdoin

C.H. Howard
Bowd. Coll.
Oct 27 1855
To R. H Gilmore

Dear Brother Dellie

Although it has got to be rather late in the evening yet I think I will begin if I do not complete a letter to you. My health has been very good since I have returned. I entered my classes & so get my daily lessons with them & make up what I can. I shall have a hard task to get through by review which begins in two or three weeks. I should like to hear from you, to know how you are prospering in studies &c &c. You must write us soon. We have not heard from home since I left.

Rowland and I have talked some about your going to College. He says & I agree, that if you do conclude to go, you ought to find some good school which you can attend all the time when you do go to school, and that pretty constantly till you are fitted. We have thought of Andover Mass & Exeter N.H. But I don't know yet what father's mind is.

I hope you are doing well this Fall in Algebra. That is pretty hard for me here in College. Most of the boys had been through or partly through Smyths Algebra & I had only been over what is required for a fit.

This is quite a place for getting off jokes & making fun. The boys are getting "<grindo>" as they call them on to each other very frequently. Perhaps you would like to learn some of their terms & words which are peculiar to College. We are all seated according to the order of letters of our names. About half the class are "up" one day & half the next. Each one stands while reciting. When one makes no mistakes, he "makes a sail". When he fails & the teacher (tutor) questions him closely he "takes a screw".

So the other day we saw on black-board, put there by Sophomores a drawing of a screw like that of a Cider mill with a boy under the screw & the teacher turning it round. The boy appeared to be most squat in pieces. When my Freshmen come if they are good scholars & desirable fellows there is always much "fishing" for Societies i.e. persuading to join. When the teacher stays away from recitation for some reason, sometimes to please us & we have the same lesson for next day it is universally called an "adjourn". "Hold in" is where the Sophs try to hold Freshman into a room for a minute or two, as it is their privilege to go out first. Staying away from Prayers or from recitation without a good excuse is called "cutting". We have a "monitor" who marks out absences from Church & Prayers. All after leaving College hill is call "down town". 1st Coll. building is North Coll. or Winthrop hall. Next Middle C. or Main hall, next building is Chapel consisting of Picture Gallery. Chapel, where we have prayers, Library, & a large hall in one ell for other purposes. Each class has a class-prayer meeting. Three have been converted of my class this Term.

Give my love to Mother &c.
Affectionately,
C. H. Howard

P.S. Next to Chapel is South Coll, where I am, alias Appleton Hall. Room No 28 A.H.

Give my respects to Mr. Norcross. Get your piece well. Practice on it while going home or while at home down in the woods. Try to be natural. Have no affectation. It spoils all public speaking.

Yours
CHH
How go the spectacles?