

hair dye being too expensive for a married man -
The report is that we are soon to have another jail
within the Arsenal walls. Lieut Boggs vs. (as the law term is)
Maj. Mary Symington. As they have told me I made
me promise not to tell. I have a right to gossip.

The Indian war seems slowly progressing. Some
of my classmates were at the battle of Blue
Water. I am reading Popier's history of the peninsula
near of which father probably has some recollection
it being between 1808 & 1813. reading it with maps
particularly for military information. I am also
reading Mansfield's history of the Mexican Campaigns.
I completed first before I began these the history
of Charles the 5th who was King of Spain & Emperor of
the German states. It succeeded Ferdinand & Isabella
in Spain. I think I shall spend all the time I can get in
historical readings while here. I take a daily paper from N. York
besides the Portland Advertiser weekly. I should like to
have you visit us very much indeed. but would rather
for your sake you should come in the summer or
early in the fall. The prospect is that I shall be here
two or three years more. Lizzie & her mother send
their love to you & all. I hope Father is well
as well as yourself in the best of health & prosperity
Affectionately Yours son
this

Lizzie promises to write soon. but she is a little lazy. I say -

Hataoliet Arsenal N. Y.

Nov 4th 1855

Dear Mother

It seems a very long time
since I have heard from any of you. I have
a letter after Charles had recovered from his illness
but having had a word since. I don't know
whether he has returned to College or not. Maj.
Symington went on to inspect Augusta Arsenal a
week ago tomorrow. I sent a package to Rowland
by him. I had written him before in hopes that he
would meet the Major at the care. but he did
not and has not yet advised me of the receipt
of either the letter or package. I trust you are all
well and the boys at College. Mr Boggs was
away at the same time with Maj Symington, so that
I was the only officer on the Post, and I had to
be very busy, at least I had to have my mind on
my business, being like one new in command,
anxious to do all things well. On this account I have
put off writing any but business ^{letters} till now. You know
I have had a horse & carriage I suppose for a month

and upwards. Since Mrs Warts has been here the roads have been so muddy and the weather so inclement that we have not ridden much. Yet we have been to Cohoes falls on the Schoharie to Troy Cemetery where we have a more extensive view than elsewhere in this vicinity. It was a little misty when we went there - but soon after I took Lizzie to the same place in a clear day. It is on the Troy side of the river & about two miles to the north & about one mile east of the Hudson. The Cemetery comprises upwards of three hundred acres - has a large ground & pleasant grasses included and is intersected in every direction by fine gravel roads & paths. The Cemetery itself is comparatively new, but as fine a one as I have been in. The grounds are not level but consist of hills & gentle slopes. Many of the vaults belonging to the more wealthy people of Troy are extensive. On the highest point of these grounds & towards the river is a high & small observatory, that overlooks an extensive & beautiful section of country, comprising the valleys of the Schoharie & the Hudson for miles & miles. The former makes its junction with the latter right in front of you with two or three miles - You can see the whole of Troy & meet Troy & some little of

Albany towards the south. The Catskills & the woody country intervening, dotted with groves, forests & houses at intervals to the south west & west - to the north west Cohoes & the falls on the Mohawk - Waterford between the Mohawk & the Hudson & Lansingburg on the Eastern bank of the latter & several at hand. You can trace the rail-road lines to the north - south & west - & the great Canals to the north & west. It is a beautiful scene & particularly so at this season when the trees & fields have put on all the hues of the rainbow. I went to Waterford the other day with our Military Storekeeper Mr Lansing. He is a gentleman quite advanced in years & a native of this country. He said he knew Mr Fick of Waterford & would take me to the house where father stopped. The old public house has been burned to the ground & another built in its place. Mr Fick is driving an express between Troy & that place and no longer keeps a public house. Is Lizzie still at Monmouth? I am very anxious to hear from you & hope I shall before this letter reaches you. How is Louisa? Lizzie says: "you did not tell them, it is my birth day." I again: "I am 28 years old". She says my whiskers look like old pine bows - sort of brindle; true enough they have turned sort of reddish since my marriage.