

next Sabbath. My thumb was quite
painful for 4 or 5 days but is now
much well, were it not I could
not write. I could not set any
copies this week, but shall be
able to do so next week. Tell
Rowland, Linseott & Stetson have
taught this school. The former
two winters in succession. Washing-
ton Humphrey also taught two
winters. Last winter a Senior from
Waterville, name Bradbury taught
here. Two of my old classmates
Coleman & Marble teach in
neighboring districts. I hope you
will write me before next Friday,
and tell me how your health is now
& how the family are & where they are.
Bellie can write if you do not
and I think Rowland will soon.
I want to know if his school is
as pleasant as it was last winter.
I am now going to meeting.
A Methodist man by name of
Rhemie preaches. Your Affec. Son
Charles N. Howard

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Vassalborough Dec. 9. 1855.

Dear Mother

One week has passed
since I began my new sphere of
action. Now welcome Sunday has
come round & I find it a day
of rest. I am very much pleased
with my school. If I had had
my choice in all the schools I
ever saw I should have chosen
to teach this. Probably you have
seen Otis & he has told you how
he left me & where. I was not
examined at that school house
but soon returned home with
Mr Chadbourne, (who is a very
agreeable man) took supper, then
was examined by him. It was
not a very close examination. I
did not fail to answer any question.
The same evening he carried me
to Mr James Wiggins where I now

am. He told me I should have to
"board round" which I did not
like pretty well. I found Mr. W's
family ready to receive me to stay
a fortnight with them. They are
a very pleasant family & being
so near a relation to Mrs. Albert
Wiggin seem like old friends. There
are three children. Edward 20 years
old, Mary 19, Lucy 11. They are all
three my scholars. - After all it is
not so bad a circumstance to
board round where one can board
a fortnight at a place. I have
to walk but a few steps to the
school house. I find my school
consists of about 25 scholars, ~~about~~
half of them older than I am. I
have a class of 3, two girls & one boy
reading Virgil. Two classes of 3
each in Algebra. Two ^{cl. per} in Arithmetic.
1 in Grammar. Two in Geography.
You see my school is pretty well clad.

Everything goes on very pleasantly
now. They had been in the habit
of whispering, but for the last 4
days there was scarcely any. I
have stayed by my boarding
place very closely. Only have
called out one evening, at
Mr. Coleman's with whose son
and daughter I became acquaint-
ed at Kents Hill. The other
evenings I have spent in reading
till ten o'clock each night. I
have read one Vol. of Kibuki's
Rome through, which Rowland
will remember is a large book.
I see no reason why I cannot
read the other Vol. this week. I
think I shall go to Augusta
next Friday night & spend
the Sabbath with Otis. The car
go down about 7 o'clock in eve.
There is a meeting in my school
house today, but will be none hereabouts

Henriette Arnold Mc
Dec. 18th 1855—

My dear Mother,

You will have heard of our good fortune before this reaches you - but I cannot refrain from writing you a few words - Lizzie's sickness was rather severe, but the end was gratifying, that we can but thank kind Heaven for the blessings that are continually vouchsafed to us. She has been so courageous and lies there so peaceful & patient - that it makes my heart almost overflow with affection and sympathy for her. We have an excellent nurse - very kind, attentive and obliging - The little boy weighed 8 pounds. The nurse said he would have weighed more if he had not cried during the process of weighing.

The nurses well if then sleeps. But knows enough to cry when hungry - Charlie says he has a headache like mine. But I think him too young for resemblances. I carried Charlie to his school Monday morning - He likes

and seems to be very much liked at Vassal-
borough. I went into his school after I
got up there Friday afternoon and staid
till the close of his school. He has about
twenty scholars. One class in Latin and
another in Algebra. His thumb pained
him for several days and finally a
sore formed on the end of it & broke or
was opened. It was a felon but not so
deep as the bone, so said Dr Briggs.

Lizzie would send her love if she knew
I was writing. You must hasten & come
down to see your first real grandchild.

Perhaps you can think up a name for me.

I keep myself busy inside of the arsenals
nearly all the time - The enlightened and
liberal people of Augusta will not let
the Soldiers Children go to school here
in town on any conditions whatever. So I
am going to have them study in my office
for a while - It is late & I will not write
more tonight. My love to all - Ask Uncle
Heddelstern if he does not feel grand.

Affectionately Your Son
Otis -

(Manuscript containing) Lizzie's comments on the whole & early August.

members declare each
night. They have a paper
also when the schools
close. I attended the
other night. They
had some funny pieces.
One spoke an Indian
piece & was disguised
like an Indian with
plumes in his cap & face
& brown red. Some hawk
at his side & dagger
in his hand & think
he must have resembled
an Indian. Over on
down to Billie, Father
& the others & write on
when you can
Mrs E. Gilmore Chas. H. Howard

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Vassalboro Dec. 23. 1855.

Dear Mother

Another Sunday
has come and nearly gone. A
rain storm ushered it in, but
with us it cleared off before
noon. There is no meeting in
these regions. I went up to
Mr. Higgins about ten o'clock.
Soon he got the book to sing.
He sung several times &
then I read till dinner
in Hicwatha. After dinner
I read awhile, took my
clothes returned to Mr. App-
leton's changed them, read
some more, in Updorn's Interior
Life, now here I am by
their best bed-room window
pen in hand. Mr. A's is
down the hill East of Mr. W's.

I have boarded here 1 week
shall be here a day or
two longer. They are very
pleasant people. Do every
thing for my comfort possible.

I should like to hear from
Lizzie & that little nephew.

Otis wanted me to come down
next Saturday in the cars.

But I think I would not
go if Otis in 3 weeks would
carry me to Leeds, but I suppose
he it would hardly pay.

If I go I should be
pleased to see you or some
of our folks & I think Otis
expects Rowland to come.

My school is pleasant
mother & I am not sorry
I came here. I received
with much pleasure & Lizzie

letter a few days ago.

We have a party or meeting
in my schoolhouse this
evening. I think I shall
go. They have not paid
any for several months.

Otis was saying to me
he wished mother
would come and see
him now that he had
got settled. Said he did
not write you but should
write you soon.

I want Lizzie to
write me more about
his school next time
he writes. Does he decline
this winter? My scholars
want to decline.

They have a Lyceum
in the school-house
below, in which all