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618 8/1/1856

*From:* R. Arnold

*To:* John Beeson Esqr

OOH-0570

1st Lt. 3rd Arty.  
A.D.C.

San Franco  
Cal.

*Source:* Bowdoin

Benicia California

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Benicia California  
Augt. 1st. 1856

Sir:

I am directed by Major General Wool, who is at this time too much indisposed to write, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultima and to thank you for the kind sentiments therein expressed and for the information it contained and which accompanied it.

The latest news from Rogue river county were very flattering. All the Indians have moved to the Reservation and new Posts are being established, at the three passes leading to the reserve which will, I think, prevent a recurrence of the Past. The volunteers are disbanded, and if the people are disposed, quiet will again be restored, and everything go on prosperously.

Accept my best wishes for your future success and believe me

Very Respectfully  
Yr obnt. Svt.  
R. Arnold  
1st Lt. 3rd Arty.  
A.D.C.

To John Beeson Esqr  
San Franco  
Cal.

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620 8/3/1856

*From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0571

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal Aug 3d /56

My dearest Lizzie

Undoubtedly you begin to be anxious to hear from me & I confess I feel no little anxiety to learn that yourself & little Guy are over the summer disease & have not been exposed to the Small Pox. I have not found it convenient to write you til now, unless I had written yesterday, and if I had my letter would not have left till Monday. Although I feel somewhat downhearted at our separation, still I am very glad you did not come on with me, for they have not had a drop of rain for six weeks & it is considerably hotter here than at Augusta, though we are having a cool breeze to day.

Now I will give you a brief description of my journey. I left you Tuesday evening, arrived at Winthrop about 6 P.M., took tea with Mr Wood, who accompanied me to Augusta soon after. Pony went nicely, got over his cough entirely before the next day. I left Mr Wood at the Augusta house, put up the pony at the same place & staid all night at Charlie's. I did not make any calls.

The next morning Wednesday I took Wood to the Arsenal and introduced him to Capt Gorgas, got my goods &c, bade all good bye & went on board of the Secor. We started at the usual time and had a pleasant passage down the Kennebec, but it came in foggy so that we could see only a short distance ahead out at sea. We arrived in Portland however without accident about 6 in the evening. I left Wood to look after the baggage & pony and walked up to Uncle Edward's. Found himself & family away, gone to Freeport on a visit. I then returned to the boat which at seven, left for Boston. We had a dense fog, but the experienced Captain of the Lewiston, put us through without difficulty. Joshua Turner accompanied me as far as Boston on his way to N. York. At Portland I was introduced to Mr Dinsmore Editor of the Bangor Mercury, who proved to be a very pleasant & intelligent companion.

We got into Boston about half past five A.M. Thursday. I waited to get my pony & freight off the boat, took an express wagon, had pony hitched behind & with everything proceeded to the Worcester station. I put up the horse nearby, <carried> my baggage to the freight house & rode back with my little trunk to the Revere House, where I had promised to breakfast with Wood & Dinsmore. I met them there & took breakfast. After which I assisted Mr Wood to make his reports to Washington & elsewhere. ((By the way) he has rec'd his commission, being appointed a 2nd Lieut into the 1st Regiment of infantry & ahead of the present graduating class at West Point.) Then I accompanied him to Mr Earls the Army Tailors and to a place where he could get other necessaries for service.

We dined at the Revere at ½ past 2, thence walked to the Worcester Depot, made the necessary arrangements for transporting pony &c. I concluded to leave pony to his fate as I could not accompany him without going in the same car. I then returned to the Revere, for my trunk, took a carriage for the Stonington route for New York. Mr Dinsmore accompanied me. We reached Stonington about ½ past nine, then had a good supper on board the Vanderbilt & a pleasant passage to New York. We got in at six o'clock (Friday). I went to the Astor House. I got ready to leave for Cold Springs in the nine o'clock train, but Dinsmore who thought he should go on to the same place, could not go till twelve. So I waited for him. He afterwards found the people he wished to see in the city, so, I started alone at 12 on the Hudson River road got to Cold Springs about two, went to find Mr Gilbert, met him at the foundry, at his solicitation went to his house & took dinner, found Mrs Gilbert with a pleasant little family of four children around her. She set before me a good dinner, after which I strolled about the place till six o'clock, having in the meantime a little sleep on the settee at the Hotel. Mr Gilbert had not got the money ready, he did not know that I should let him have the place till a day or two before. He said that he would pay me the whole in two weeks from Monday - I shall go down there at evening & back in the morning. He is a man very much "before-handed" I should judge.

I arrived in Troy at about eleven o'clock that night, staid all night at the Union House & came over here in the morning. I dined with Mrs Boggs, and fixed up one room up stairs to dress & sleep in.

I found everything in good condition, excepting some of those rugs & an old comforter, which the moths have

been inclined to cut up. I have not opened the piano box yet. Pony came at 12 yesterday - "bright as a silver sixpence" & smart as a cricket. I found here - Major Symington & family - Mr Boggs, wife, brother and two sisters, the brother will not stay long. Lieut Johnston, nephew of Mrs Symingtons is stopping at the Majors & two Army ladies, Mrs Kearney & Mrs Colonel Steward, the former has two children. I met them all at Breakfast at the Majors. Johnston has been five years in New Mexico & Texas, ever since he graduated. He belongs to the Cavalry & is sent to Albany on a recruiting tour. He rode with me after the Pony to Albany yesterday evening.

I shall soon have a girl. I am going to try Bridget's sister. You remember Bridget, Mrs Boggs table & waiting maid? She is said to be a very fair cook & willing to do all sorts of things. I shall take my meals with Boggs for the present.

I want to hear everything about yourself & my little boy as well as about the rest of the family. Give my love to our mothers and all. My boxes hav'nt yet got through.

Kiss Guy once out of every three times for me. I shall write to Rowland as soon as I can get time.

Your affectionate husband,  
Otis

All inquired very affectionately for Mrs Howard. Haven't seen Mrs Thornton yet, nor Mr Lansing.

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621 8/3/1856

*From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0572

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 3 1856

My dearest Otis

I think you will wish to hear from me so much at this time, that you will not care if I do write with a pencil. Dear little Guy is sleeping and I am by the cradle writing and watching him at the same time. He is better than when you went away. I am quite well, but I find it great confinement to have the care of him alone and that is all the inconvenience about it. Mother has sent for my mother to come here tomorrow.

She (Mother Gilmore) will go to Commencement Tuesday with Dellie, Col G and I think Laura will go. I received a note from Ella wishing I would spend Com week with her, but I shall not go and leave baby. Charlie came in yesterday evening very unexpectedly. He came to Lewiston to listen to an Oration by one of the Seniors from Bowdoin. He will return to B. on Tuesday.

I am very happy here, but Otis darling, I do miss you so much, and Guy seems lonely, and looks about as if he knew something or somebody was missing. I know you will write me very soon, and tell me all about the house, and how you find the things, and when you will be at "house keeping." I am making rapid progress with my work, but you need not hasten thinking I will be ready to go so very soon. You are anxious to hear from Capt Turner's family. They have all had the varioloid except Florence. Capt T is now sick and Mrs Oscar Turner - we have not heard from them this morning. Charles and his wife are still at Augusta.

Thursday Eve Aug 7

My Otis dearest

I was so happy to hear from you this afternoon. I have been a little anxious about you since you went from here, and am very glad that you and Pony reached Troy in safety. I do think it is better that we should be here this month than at Troy. I am very happy here and do not feel but that we are most welcome. I try to make as little extra care for your Mother as possible. Dear little Guy is just as good as need be all the time. He plays with the kitten a great deal, and goes out door to see the hens and "Fanny", and observes many to him strange things. (I can scarcely write with this ink and if you can have patience to read it I shall be glad.)

Col Gilmore and Mother came home from Commencement this afternoon, had a very pleasant visit at Mrs Frost's, met Mrs P and Ella, much pleased with her. Rowland did finely. He is at Yarmouth this evening, Charlie and Dellie also, and they will be home tomorrow. Rowland will come the first of next week.

Laura did not go. Aunt Martha "bought" her off. I have so much to tell you that I don't know what to write first, and I forget something interesting while writing something not so important.

My dear baby is such a little comfort I have to play with him and kiss him a great part of the time. You say "my baby" but I shall say he is "my baby" now for he is with me. Dear little treasure. He got something in his eye yesterday and it is some inflamed now but better and by morning will be all well I presume. He has gone to sleep for the night now.

I am not at all surprised that the moths were in those rugs. Please [do] not keep them in the house for fear they will go to the carpets. Mother came here last Monday - is very well. We were alone two days last, except George Langley. Esther went to school. Baby seems to feel more at home than when he first came. He is now quite well, and I am perfectly so. Mother G has made him many useful presents.

I will bid you good night now. I wish I could come over and see you.

Morning Friday

I think you must have had rain by this time at Troy. Last Monday was very foggy and not since then have we seen the sun (excepting about half an hour yesterday evening). Much rain has fallen since that time but to-day, it looks as if it would be pleasant by evening. I have not heard from Capt Turners family this week - getting

better I have no doubt.

Mother stopped at Auburn a few hours on her way from Brunswick. Hellen is quite well, has a little boy six weeks old.

Mother received a letter from Uncle Edward saying that he had procured some shares in the Casco Bank for me but had not been able to find any for sale in the Canal. The balance is deposited in the Canal Bank.

I am very glad you find a girl so readily. I hope she will prove such a girl as we need. I know you are fixing things just as well as if I was there, and will suit me as well. I shall go to Lewiston in a few days not to visit but shopping, go in the cars in the morning and back in the afternoon, leave here at ten and get back at four o'clock.

It is going to be a very pleasant day. The sun is shining very bright and is cool enough for comfort. I found in my trunk your cigars, blacking brush, nail and tooth brush, one shirt and night shirt. When you will let your wife live with you, you can have them, but not before.

I want to see you so very much sometimes, and would be so happy with you but as long as I am as pleasantly situated, and am so very welcome I can be contented till all necessary arrangements are made for our comfort at Watervliet.

I will not write much more this time but hoping you are well, I remain your affectionate little wife  
Lizzie

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622 8/7/1856

*From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0573

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.

August 7th 1856

My dearest wife,

I take it for granted you will be glad to break the seal of another letter by the time you get this. If you have not done so, just take a pen and scratch me a few lines, telling me how you do and everything you know I am anxious to hear. How is Guy? A pretty good boy?

I have had as hard a time to get a girl as Capt Gorgas had at Kennebec. Three or four have given me the slip and not till to day have I been able to secure one. Her name is Kings, sister to one of the soldiers of our command. Her first name is Kate. She is stout and short. We first had the parlor washed and put the furniture in it. She washed the windows, mop board & floor and then dusted the furniture. I had the piano put together this morning and the box put down cellar. The crockery came through without breaking a single thing. This has been unpacked & put away. I am going to commence keeping house tomorrow. Katy is a very pleasant girl ready & willing to do everything. I hav'nt tried her at cooking yet.

It commenced raining last Saturday afternoon and has rained hard ever since. I hope it will clear away soon, for I cant get out to do anything. It looks a little like clearing up now.

Pony has had a good long time to get his mouth well, as he has not been out since Saturday. I carried my carriage over to the firm of Wittel & Jones to have it put in running order & have a few repairs.

Has Mother W come to you yet? If she has tell her I think Katy will be smart enough to suit her. I just found her putting the Kitchen in order. I told her if she would do all the work I would give her \$1.50 per week till you came & then you could make arrangements to suit yourself. I think you will be obliged to have a small girl to run to the store, wait on the table & take care of little Guy when we go out.

This is Commencement day and I presume Mother has gone to Brunswick. I hope she did not have such a rain to ride in as we have had.

I got a letter from Uncle Edward while at Augusta but did not answer it, as I expected to see him at Portland. I will write him immediately while I think of it. He said he could send mother \$150 dolls, at any time if she would tell where to direct it & also that he had your certificates of Stock in the Bank, which he would transmit.

Kiss Guy & tell him father sent it. My love to all.

Affectionately your husband  
Otis

I have written Uncle Edward to send you the certificates at Leeds.

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623 8/10/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0574

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

August 10th 1856

My dearest wife,

It will be two weeks next Tuesday since I left you and it is already one week since I arrived at Watervliet, and I hav'nt got a line yet. I expect, however, there is a letter on the way. I wont try to tell you how much I am thinking about you and Guy or how much I long for the time to come when you will be here to share my lonely home, for I don't believe I could tell you if I would. I trust you are all well and are fast abreviating Guy's dresses, shirts &c.

Lieut. Johnston relieves the monotony a little by taking tea with me now and then and by taking a smoke a little oftener. For his especial benefit I have put the lounge & window seats down in the dining room. I have sent away the table to be altered to more convenient dimensions and have had new window seats made for the parlor. I have put down the straw matting on the little room in which I now am. I am going to fix up the little back room that Mrs Boggs occupied once when her father lived here, for Rowland's studio. It has got two windows, is just large enough and will be very retired. I don't know as I shall put down any carpet till you get here. The rooms down stairs being oiled don't need any while the weather is warm. I think oiling the floors has killed out the moths.

We have had very comfortable weather for the whole weak past, plenty cool. I dined with Mrs Thornton yesterday & she asked me to do so again to day, wants me to live at her house till you come, but I prefer not to. She was away on a visit when I first came; had she invited me then I think I would have boarded with her. Her Girl works to suit me and I think would suit you after a little of your tuition. She does not stay here nights, but goes to sleep with Le Roys girl.

I have bought a nice cow. I went on Friday with Robert Boggs, the Lieut's brother on a ride into the country on purpose to find one. After several trials I came across a man that had one to sell that just suited me. I got her for 42 dolls, led her myself for six or seven miles into the edge of West Troy, where McGrath met me. She gives about 10 qts per day and is very gentle. I now have plenty of bread & milk. My family don't consume a great quantity of provisions.

I wonder if you want to come to me as much as I want you to. Walter Fillmore's wife is dead. He married her you know after we left. I met him and Charlie Church, when crossing the ferry on my way to the Arsenal when I first arrived. I have not seen any of the Troy people yet, besides them. As the appropriations are tied up the Army could not afford to paint my quarters, and coming to look at them I find them not a very good state of repair.

I want to know how soon you and Rowland can make arrangements to start for this region. What does Guy & Mother W think? Slap him a little bit for me. Mrs Thornton wants to see you and him. She had all sorts of questions to ask. I think I have done pretty well, got a girl, a cow, and the house pretty well arranged. Now if you have got the petty coats cut off, its all right, and the sooner you start the better. Manage to strike the steamer Lewiston at Portland and you will have a pleasant night to Boston, let the night be what it may. There were plenty of babies came up the night I did. I fear the journey will be hard for you without me, but Rowland will be a good substitute. If I could know when, I would meet you at Springfield. But may be I had better not if Rowland comes through. You must let me know just when you will start.

How is my mother, well, still? And how come on the neighbors with the small pox? I expect mother will be sad over your departure for undoubtedly she has become quite attached to little Guy. You cant be so lonely as I am for I have nothing to console me in your absence and you have Guy. I almost envy you. The Major says I ought to have a kitten.

I want to see Rowland about the manner in which Commencement went off & how he got through with his part, &c. Tell Rowland he must settle my account with Mr Carter as the Editor of the Advertiser and stop it. I

presume he will take a Maine paper while here and that will be enough for the family. Is Charlie at home and Dellie? My best love to them & to all. Tell Rowland my pony is just the thing for him. He goes to Albany and back in a short time. I went to Mr Gregory's Church this morning on this side of the river with Mr Lansing. Mr Lansing and wife were right glad to see me and want you to come and so do all especially your husband. I have got a bed made up in Mother's room for her, and one ready for Rowland.

Lots of kisses some for yourself & Guy  
Yr husband  
Otis



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624 8/15/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0576

Watervliet Arsenal, N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal, N. York  
August 15th 1856

My dearest wife,

I received yours of the 12th last night. I felt not a little disappointed to find that you would not be ready to come before the September election, four weeks from the present time because I had thought you would be here much sooner. I don't want to be selfish about the matter or be instrumental in hindering Rowland from voting, though I feel rather lonely and want your assistance as well as your company. I suspect that many times during our lives duty will keep us apart for longer periods than will suit our convenience or inclination and therefore it is best to live together when we can as well as not. Your work can be finished here as well as there.

There are very few people in town. All gone to watering places or places of summer resort, so that you will not be troubled with too many visitors. If you admit the above, the question will turn on Rowland's consent, if he can forego the pleasure of casting his vote for Hannibal Hamlin, I think you can come by a week from Monday. But I wish you to act according to your judgment. The girl is willing, but of less judgment and more heedless than suits my turn.

I was going to put down the carpet on the front room up stairs to day but as you are not likely to come so soon as I anticipated, I told the girl to begin to fix her own room. She prefers the little room, back of the kitchen down stairs. I am exceedingly afraid of the moths, have purchased some musk and put a little in the buffalo, the carpets and in my great coat pocket. The nights are very lonely. I read till quite late and then go to bed all by myself in the big house.

Yesterday in the afternoon I took Mrs Thornton's boys up to Waterford and gave them a boat ride, and in the evening went to Maj Symington's. The Major's people had all gone to Mrs Patterson's to a party excepting the Maj & Mrs Colonel Stewart. The Major told me all he knew of Col. Fremont. About his conduct at St. Louis while the Maj was there, and about his family that he knew of at Richmond. He told more things discreditable to the man than I imagined could be said with any show of truth, more moral & official delinquencies than I imagined could possibly believe even from the Major's candor. To these things, which I will not repeat, I had no reply to make for Major S spoke as he said from personal knowledge. I was very sorry to hear these things, for I thought his official conduct, personal merit & moral deportment had been above reproach and beyond cavil. According to the Major, Col Benton's influence has made him, supported him and crowned him with laurels actually due to Gen Kearsey, Com. Stockton., Kit Carson & the French scientific explorers. He says Mrs Fremont is a very nice lady. The old major is quite interested in politics this year. I was glad indeed that Mrs Symington was not there, for she "pays on" so heavily on politics that I can hardly keep my temper. She never has mentioned Fremont & I don't think she will to me.

I have written to Charles Mulliken and have had a word or two from him on an enclosed letter - all were well.

Kiss little Guy for me. I have got his crib at the house. Give my love to all and write me what is your final decision about proceeding to this Post.

Very affectionately yr husband  
Otis

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625 8/17/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Otis [Howard]

OOH-0577

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Leeds Aug 17th 1856

My dearest Otis

I received your letter dated the 13th last Friday. I am so happy to hear from you as often as I do. You have probably received two letters from me before this time, and I know they were received with as much pleasure as those I have received. How fast you are getting the house in order. I should judge from your account that you had already done all there was to do except putting down the woolen carpets and that I hope you will let be til we get there, and how long do you think it will be? Your last letter seems to say "come immediately", but I rather guess you had better make up your mind to live alone three weeks longer, but if you are going to be as restless as you usually are when waiting, I should prefer to come now alone. I know, Otis, dearest, you must be lonely and desire to see us very much but I was not thinking you could be ready and have done so many things in so short a time. I am getting ourselves ready as fast as possible and shall be ready about the time we set when you went away. I wrote about this in my last letter and I am waiting to get a reply to know what you think, so I don't care to say more about it this time.

Charlie and I went to Lewiston yesterday - rode to Aunt Sarah's where we left the horse, dined with them, then went shopping on both sides of the river, called at Uncle Hicks, saw him, very glad to see us. Aunt Novellia was out, walked back to Aunt Whitmans on Auburn side where we remained to tea. Charlie in the meantime called on Betsey [Jennings], found Roscoe not at all well. We got home about eight in the evening.

I feel as well to-day as if I had not gone. We are all very well. Col Gilmore had a sore gather on his lip last week and Charlie has had a slight sore finger like the one when he went to Vassalborough. Capt Turner was very sick but is out now and Charles and his wife will be here the last of this week. I went up to see Laura one day last week. John Harrison [Otis] and all his family were there spending a few days. Perry Lee was at Commencement, went to Hallowell and to Augusta to see us, did not come to Leeds. Charlie & I went raspberriyng one day, got enough for tea. I go down to see Cynthia [Gilmore] quite often & went to ride with Charlie down to Mr Boobyer's to get a girl for Mother. She comes to-night, Diana Boobyer. They live on the same road with Mr Joseph Turner, and a Mr Richmond the quaker.

I wish you could send me three things - my new black silk visitte, a round cape (like my old traveling dress, it is tan color lined with brown silk and has three rows of trimming on it, and a plain black silk <visitte> with fringe around it. I am not sure about the latter being at Troy. You will find them in the one of the middle drawers of the bureau left hand side with my green shawl which I do not want. How can you send them? Will it cost too much by express? If you could get a little paper square box to put them in you can fix that, and then Otis in the upper drawer you will find laces, ribbons, mitts &c. There are three pairs of black mitts and I want one pair. I do not want the long ones - neither do I want that delicate short pair - but I do want the short pair without fingers and shorter than the delicate pair. I want the traveling cape to wear on and Mother let Mother G have her new visitte, and she wants one to wear on. There is no express on this road, but they would come I presume if you should direct the package to Leeds or you may send them to Mr Samuel Hicks, Lewiston Falls, Maine. Please tell me about the time you send them. I need the cape more than anything, if you can do no other way, you could send that by mail, and not send the rest.

Evening 6 o'clock

Where are you dearest about this time. I do want to see you. I must try to go to Turner before I leave here. Uncle Sylvester W [Whitman] has gone west. His family go next month. I would like to see them and Grandmother. I thought we would be carried over there then go to Lewiston in the stage and then come back here from Lewiston in the cars.

Mother Gilmore and I walked down as far as Capt Turners gate and talked with them. They all came to the door. Soon after I heard Esther bringing Guy down. Florence was very glad to see him. We made Cynthia a long call. I fear her little boy is not perfectly well, but it may be because Guy seems so much older.

Col Gilmore has just come in with some blue berries, gave Guy some and said he supposed Otis would say his little wife must have some and gave me the rest. Rowland takes care of Guy ever so much. Charlie went for the girl, has not yet returned. What very good brothers I have got. Charlie has just come alone. That girl has gone to Lewiston to work. I am sorry for Mother, for she wishes to do many things for Rowland before he goes away. I hope she can get some one else. Now I must bid you good night. Guy begins to fret for his milk and the cows have not come.

I must not neglect to tell you that he did creep a few steps to-day. I will give him ever so many kisses for you and your little wife.

Lizzie

Sunday. Prizilla's sister Mary died this morning.

I do not think you have done too much for the house, but I just as lief you would not do more. You have got the house very comfortable and that will do nicely. Col Gilmore and Charlie go to Augusta tomorrow. I think I shall write a note to Mrs Mulliken and send by them. I wish you would see if the moths have got in to any thing in the bureau drawers, and your cloths hanging in the wardrobe.

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626 8/18/1856 *From:* Otis [Howard]

*To:* wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0575

Watervliet Arsenal N.  
York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N. York  
18th of August 1856  
(Wednesday morning)

My dearest wife

I sat down in our little room to cast up my accounts and now that I have finished I believe I will write you a word or two. I received your letter yesterday morning and was glad enough to get it and more so that it contained no bad news.

I am all ready for you to come when you can make yourself ready and for me the sooner the better. I have put the furniture in most of the rooms and could give you a fair chance to spend the night should you come this afternoon. I have put down the matting on this room where it belongs, procured the same sort for Rowland's room; only it is  $\frac{1}{2}$  yd wider in the breadth.

Katy is washing the windows & wood work of the same and I shall put down the matting this afternoon. I got a straw bed filled & with one of the feather beds Katy has made up in that room a comfortable sleeping apparatus. She does not sleep in the room yet. So I am my own watchdog.

I got a nice crib for little Guy and am having rockers put to it, with stops to make it fast when you want it a fixture, one side can be taken off at night when you put it by the side of the bed. Our table I have had reduced in dimensions and made of an oval form, a little larger than ours at Kennebec. I have had four new window seats square on the top and one inch lower than the old. I got oil-cloth for putting under the dining table. 2 yds wide &  $2\frac{1}{2}$  long in one piece. It is cheaper, as handsome and will not ruffle up like backing.

So much for household arrangements.

Robert Boggs, myself and Pony went up the Mohawk yesterday on a fishing excursion. The water being very muddy we did not catch many - had enough for breakfast however. Pony is fast getting fat under Thomas' care. The carriage will be done Friday. I am having a new lining and the top mended up. While this is being repaired, the carriage makers let me have a light wagon, the wheels of which pony makes turn in fine style.

Miss Carry Symington came here yesterday - looks just as she used to, will remain only till Thursday. I really wish you could see her and make her personal acquaintance. She says she believes it is her destiny not to see you. She wishes to and inquires after you & Guy. She has been with her father on a tour to Niagara and Saratoga. My new cow gives plenty of milk. I frequently have bread & milk for lunch and sometimes for regular meals.

Rowland will be home by the time this reaches you. I got a paper from him this morning, am glad for him that he did so well at commencement. You can say to him that I count upon his coming. His room will be cool and quiet and if there is a good place to study 'tis here. It will be beneficial to me and to him. If you want any more money get it of him or of father and I will repay it.

I want you to make up your mind to take a ride every other day. The weather is & has been since a week ago last Sunday as cool & pleasant as it was in Maine at the Arsenal. This side of the house is particularly pleasant for summer.

Let Rowland play with and carry Guy just as much as you can on your way to Portland. Mrs Boggs found the United States hotel the pleasantest & best and so I think. You will reach Boston early by the boat - take a United States carriage for the House & take a room if you wish to stop all day. But I would'nt stop in Boston if I got a good rest on the boat but come on in the first morning train. Get a "Stopover Pass" at Springfield if you are too tired there to come straight on. I would'nt go to Martha Jane's directly with the baby, for it would only tire you, but if you stopped till afternoon in Boston you might ride over & make her a call during the day.

The State rooms on the boat (Lewiston) are very fine, neat & comfortable. Don't go into the ladies cabin to be made sick by others unexemplary conduct. There wasn't a single person sick the night I came up, & I hope you will get a good large piece of salt fish for an antidote and keep clear this time. You & mother can have a nice time, leaving all care of the baggage to Rowland.

Drop me a line as soon as you know letting me know when I may expect you. I will ride to the Depot the first day you may possibly arrive & each day thereafter till you get here.

You need not think I have done too much for the house for you will have plenty to do after you get here. Tell Rowland if he is made a convenience of in traveling I will try to compensate him after he gets here. I suspect he will have some visits to make after he gets home before he can come.

I shall go to Cold Spring next Monday evening and back Tuesday morning.

I feel very sorry that I had to come away without seeing Charlie again. I want to hear from him. Give him my love. He has now got two brothers to emulate in the remainder of his course. I hope he will not fail to outstrip them both, though he will be better to fall behind than to get sick.

I want to hear about that class oration, how it came off, what applause &c. And Dellie I presume he has had some fine intellectual treats. Didn't he feel proud when Rowland stepped on to the platform? I am glad father & mother went to Brunswick & were pleased with Ella. I think I shall write her with Rowland's approbation.

My best love to my mother & to yours. I suspect the latter will have thousands of wonderful things to tell me about your little boy. Make haste & get here for I must have my share of him. My love to Father. I shall write him so soon as I close the business with Mr Gilbert.

God bless you all.

Your very affectionate  
husband  
Otis

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627 8/20/1856      *From:* Otis [O O Howard]      *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0578      Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
August 20th 1856

My dearest Wife

I have just received your long letter. The difficulty has been that my letters have all been written before these two, Rowland's last and yours were received. I didn't mean to plead my selfish wishes against your desire to remain in Maine or unnecessarily urge your coming. I can eat, drink, sleep and do my duties till you get ready to come. I don't want you to come alone without Rowland. Wait for him and when everything is in readiness, your husband will be here to welcome you. I am sorry I was foolish enough to give you so much uneasiness. I dread that projected journey to Turner & thence by stage to Lewiston. Tell mother she has forgotten about "your being so short a time for this world." The carriage is hard & the roads none of the smoothest, but go and save yourself as much unnecessary work as you can. That journey of yours going from place to place and carrying Guy will be harder than your journey to Troy I think and I fear you will return to Leeds all tired out if not sick.

On Monday I went to West Point. My pony took me as far as Albany. I intended to leave at one o'clock, but found that the first train that stopped at Cold Spring went at 4.45 P.M. I dined at Congress Hall with Lieut Green of the Infantry who is on Recruiting duty at Albany in Miller's place. I reached Cold Spring a little before nine, staid all night with Mr Gilbert, gave him my deed of the place, received the money in bank bills and left him in the morning. I found Maj Laidley at the Highland Hotel and delivered a letter sent him by Maj Symington. Maj Laidley inquired for you & sent his regards. Then I went over to the Point, first to the Hotel, and thence to Guard Mounting, where I found very few acquaintances. Miss Emily Berard & Miss Julia Nichols were there.

After Guard Mounting I accompanied them to Mrs Berard's where all seemed joyous to see me. Mrs B had been very sick, but had now recovered. I promised to dine with them and then went to see Warren Lothrop. He had more room than he used to have, was taking photographs - some of the best I ever saw. One of Professor Bartlett & another of Professor Wier were splendid. He was well & had many inquiries to make about yourself and Guy, and about his friends in Maine.

I went to the Band practice & then up to Camp. It began to rain then and has kept it up ever since. I saw at Camp all the present first class and tried to recall their names, but could not more than half of them. I sat down in a tent and they came in three or four at a time & called me by name and seemed glad to meet me. These were the Plebes when I was a first class man. Next year at this time I will know scarcely any body.

I dined at Madam Berards as engaged & left in the 2 o'clock train for Troy, arrived here safe & sound before dark with my money. When it stops raining I am going to Troy to make arrangements about sending it to Father. I will get those things, cape, visitte, etc, in the morning and send the package to you at Leeds by Express. The Express will take it as far as it (the Express) goes & is responsible for its safe transportation the rest of the way. I thought you had got traps enough with you without having more.

My pony is getting fat under Thomas' care & my carriage is very comfortable. It has a new lining, lace binding, & curtains. The top has been newly & neatly patched & oiled & all the tires reset.

Mrs Barard & her family want to get acquainted with you very much. I invited her to visit us after your return.

Boggs sisters will leave before you come & so will his Brother. This brother is the one who has just returned from Italy. He is quite an Artist & musician. He has got "sister Marys" portrait most done & brother Willies "under weigh". He has with him a Guitar & a bright dog call Reno. Reno understands both English and Italian, will walk across the room on two legs, climb eight feet on a small tree, and shut the door. Robert will play & sing finely to the edification of us all. I am really glad you are not coming till these young ladies are gone for one reason, one day while I took my meals with Boggs, at dinner politics got introduced. I didn't say much either way, finally Miss Pamella turned to me & said, Mr Howard, you are not for Fremont are you? I said why Miss Mella you ask the question right at me, then I said, Yes I am. Immediately I found a cold feeling run around the table. I took my meals in my own house as soon as possible.

I have'nt taken any notice of their prejudice and I reckon they begin to see that a Fremont man needn't be so much of a scamp after all. The reason I am glad they are going before you come is because these women are full of such strong prejudices that I don't think you would like them, though Miss Rebecca is a very quiet & sensible girl. I have had quite a number of sectional speeches to put up with. I think it best to keep clear of all quarrels, as my position will not admit of my entering the canvass.

Kiss little Guy for me. Bless his eyes, I would like to see him & you but good night. It is raining very hard. A hundred kisses. My love to all.

Your affectionate husband  
Otis

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628 8/28/1856 *From:* O [O O Howard]

*To:* Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-0579

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Thursday Morning Aug 28th [1856 written in pencil]

For Lizzie

My dearest wife,

I learned for the first time this morning that your mother was really ill. Mother calls it the erysipelas. I hope it will not prove like mine. I presume it is confined to her limbs. Having Guy and mother both to take the care of will be quite a tax upon yourself. I wish you were all here that I might assist. If mother is better or worse you must write me - just a line if no more.

I am very well, have been to Albany several times lately; what I saw and heard I will tell you after we meet.

Neither father, mother, or Rowland wrote whether you had received my last letter and your bundle. I found it as cheap to send the whole by mail and hope you have got it all safe.

I have received a letter from Charles Mulliken, who wrote that all were well at his house. Maj Symington is ill but not very sick to day.

Boggs has completely changed, has got to be very active & industrious, walks fast and don't stop in the day time. Mrs Boggs <is> about as of old, makes him a good wife. They <are> very affectionate to each other, much more so than anticipated. The Misses Boggs will leave with their brother <about> next Sunday night for home. On Tuesday night Mrs Crosby invited all from the Arsenal to take tea with her and spend the evening. The Major staid at home and the rest of us went. We met Mr & Mrs Dunlop & Mrs Hillhouse, all of whom inquired particularly for you & Mrs H said she wanted to see you very much. Mrs Dunlop has a sociable this evening but I think of excusing myself. I am officer of the day and the Major is ill will answer I reckon.

How is that darling boy? Forgotten his father of course? Ask him if he does not want to see me. Has he got so as to creep all over the house? Give my love to your mother. I wish to know the particulars about her illness.

My girl makes very good coffee & tea and succeeds admirably in housekeeping. The flies bother me considerably but we have not been troubled with mosquitoes yet. I heard one last night. The weather has been cold, more like the latter part of September than August. We had only one warm day after I arrived. After that heavy rain it cleared off cold & then came another rain. The river rose so as to overflow the lower Gardens, but did us very little damage before it subsided.

Give my love to all, and be pleased to accept what is due to yourself. I must see you soon.

Yr loving husb.

O.



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629 8/28/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Father [Col. John  
Gilmore]

OOH-0580a

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.  
August 28th 1856

Dear Father,

I received your note together with the enclosed note of hand this morning. I did not mean to make any charge. If you had dealt with me legally I should be one hundred dolls out of pocket. But our admirable congress seem disposed to embarrass me a little, and it becomes me to get all the change I can. My extra expenses from visiting Cold Spring the first time were \$5.00 My second trip R.R. fare both ways \$4.00. Paid for the draft on Boston Bank \$3.50. Making in all \$12.50.

I am sorry to learn that Lizzie's mother is sick. I shall enclose a letter to her with this. Who will be the candidate for Senator to replace Issacher?

Is Rowland's canvassing going for naught, rendering it impossible to unite Straight Whig's and Republicans in the coming campaign?

Very truly your son  
O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter to Mother]

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630 8/28/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0580b

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[Continued from the previous letter to Father]

Dear Mother,

I was glad to hear from you again by your own hand. I know it is hard to see sons, one after another leave their home and understand the struggle between a deep affection and the self denial that duty seems to require. But while Rowland is with me you will be happy in the consciousness that we are together.

I have been making inquiries so as to ascertain the best place for him to study, and think that he could hardly find a better place to study his profession than in Albany or Troy. At a distance from local interests and politics, he will here have every inducement to push forward in the legitimate study & practice of the law, will have good examples to follow and fair models for imitation.

Yesterday I visited Albany and went to the scientific convention, in the afternoon listened to a grand extempore lecture from Professor Agassis, ate my breakfast at seven in the morning and did not dine till after my return at half past six in the evening.

Don't work too hard - I trust Lizzie will not wear herself down on account of her mother's illness. My love to all.

Your affectionate Son  
O. O. Howard