
631 9/1/1856

From: Otis [O O Howard]

To: wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0581

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Sept 1st 1856

My dearest wife

It is Monday morning after breakfast. As I was coming to this place the Officer Murphy met me with a little white letter, which was welcome I assure you.

We have now got through the long month of August, the weather is pleasant and cool enough even for you. I have not said anything about the month of September, but if you can start on the ninth you know who will be glad to meet you at the end of your route. Rowland mentioned the tenth which is Wednesday. I am ready for you & have been for four weeks. I am glad Guy is growing & improving and that mother W is better. I have been a good deal anxious about her. The workmen were all disbanded Friday night, but the Army Bill passed Saturday & a telegraphic Dispatch called them together again to commence work this morning. The suspension of the regular appropriation caused much depression and anxiety here, but it is over now. Mr Robert Boggs left yesterday evening with his sisters. Miss Pamella after she had bidden me good bye came back and said "please give my love to Mrs Howard & Guy & tell her I am very sorry I could not have seen her. Mrs Laidley & the Major are here. She says she was in hopes to find you here. I believe you are half a head taller than she is. Don't you feel proud?

Major Symington is still unwell, confined to the house, but is much better. The good news that the Army Bill had passed did him a deal of good. Maj Laidley has become Captain in the regular course of promotion by the H.qrs. rule - being now full Captain and Brevet Major & Boggs is 1st Lieutenant. Stone has resigned. I will be 1st Lieut by regular promotion next July.

I have't told you about Lieutenant Syms of our corps. He was Asst. Professor in Prof Sproules department at West Point. About a month ago he was taken deranged from softening of the brain. It is thought to be hereditary. He was a young man of ability far more than ordinary. Maj Delafield has been sent to West Point as Superintendent and Col Hardee as Commandant of Cadets. Professor Sproule was summarily relieved from duty at West Point a day or two ago and replaced by Rev Mr French, Episcopalian. The Old Professor had no warning but was arbitrarily dismissed by Jeff Davis. He went to Washington to learn the reason. Jeff Davis told him the last report of the Board of visitors showed that he was inefficient in the extreme. It was probably effected by those professors & instructors who [did] not like him any too well.

We had a social party at Mrs Wool's on Saturday evening. Gen Wool is sick and is expected home as soon as he can get relieved. Mrs Wool & Mrs Hart inquired very affectionately after Mrs Howard. So also did Mis Emma Willard. <[torn page]> grand mother. Miss Mary Patterson also wished to be remembered to you. All had a good many questions to ask about Guy. My old instructor Guy Pick, seemed much pleased that I had called my little boy Guy. Miss Emma looks just as she used to. Her Grandmother, Mrs Willard I am sorry to say wants to have a private conversation with me. I fear she will take me to task about my delinquency in relation to her tidal theory. She has a sociable this evening, but I shall not go. Miss Symington treats me with considerable coolness lately. I suspect it is on account of politics or some other small matter. I call there quite often, however, was in last evening to see Major & Mrs Laidley, found Dr. & Mrs Viele & Mr Cady there. Miss Laidley likes Dr Viele as well as you do Dr Briggs & for the same reason I presume.

I stopped writing to inspect & report upon the fabrications for the month of August and have just resumed my writing.

I shall be glad when this week has passed if it does make me a week older. I am of the opinion it will make me a few weeks younger to have you all here. I don't know that I have any more news to write and I don't feel like moralizing.

As for my housekeeping I shant say anything about. I generally eat my dinner about two o'clock, which I don't find half as good an hour as one, sit down to my paper & a Cigar immediately after, and that is the end of the

matter. What do I eat? Why potatoes, tomatoes & corn with beef one or two days & then mutton chops. This is my dinner. I cant afford a desert only when Mrs Boggs sends me in one as she sometimes very kindly does. She always sends me a dish of soup when she has it for dinner. I like Madam Boggs very much, though I can hardly make it seem right that she is other than Miss Mary.

Guy, bless his little heart, what is he doing? Sleeping I will bet ten to one, when this arrives. Does he like to be kissed yet? He must have a kitten when he gets here. There is no use in asking all these questions, you & his grandmother will know a thousand & one of his wonderful transactions to tell after you get here, and there is hardly time to write them. Don't he get covered with dirt tumbling about the floor? Write me as soon as you get this what day you will certainly start and what day I may look for you.

Give my love to all individually. Charlie has gone back to Brunswick so you will not see him again. I don't know whether Rowland will be in Bath or at home when this gets to you. Yes Rowland will be quite an addition to our little family and will make time pass pleasantly. Mother continues well? She feels badly to have Rowland go. I don't wonder, Rowland, Dellie, & Charlie, all gone. 'Twill be almost as lonely as I am at Watervliet. Tell Rowland to cast his vote very quietly & not create a disturbance at the polls.

Kiss little Guy for me just once.

Your affection husb
Otis

633 9/13/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

To: Brother [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0582a

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy

Source: Bowdoin

Watervliet Arsenal West Troy
September 13th 1856

Dear Brother

I understand you, too, have gone from home, gone to Andover. I fear you are having a sober time of it. When you get time you must write me all about your situation and companions. You must keep a "stiff upper lip" and let nothing discourage you.

Rowland, Lizzie & the rest left home last Wednesday and reached here Thursday evening. They had a very good journey, no accident on the boat or on the road excepting that Mrs Waite got separated from her party at Springfield and was carried on towards New York as far as Hartford and was obliged to follow along to Albany in the next train which reached that place in the night. I was waiting for her at Albany and brought her up with my pony.

Guy seemed to enjoy traveling wonderfully, though he got a pretty dirty face before he reached Albany. Rowland is here. I am in his room and he is arranging his books. He has quite a pleasant little room, an iron bedstead, table, bookcase &c after a regular student's fashion.

Yesterday afternoon we went to Albany, went in my carriage. We visited the office of a young lawyer, Mr Jackson, had quite a talk and returned about night. Today Rowland & I went to Troy and visited the office of Mr Beach, one of the principal Lawyers of Troy. Rowland has not yet decided where he shall study. He may go to Law Lectures at Albany and study in Troy.

Guy has just come in to see us and seems to be very happy to visit such a literary place. He would not be satisfied till he had got my smoking cap. He is now pulling my hair and I cannot write.

You must let us hear from you often. I suppose you will be very industrious. You will have to be very careful of expense, since Board & everything else is so high.

Accept love from all of us. Rowland will fill this letter.

Your affectionate brother
O. O. Howard

[Continued on the next letter from Rowland]

634 9/13/1856 *From:* Rowland [Howard]

To: Dellie [R H Gilmore]

OOH-0582b

Watervliet Arsenal
West Troy

Source: Bowdoin

[Continued from the previous letter from Otis]
[Watervliet Arsenal West Troy
September 13th 1856]

Dear Bro Dellie

I am glad that you room in the same house with Humphrey and Henry Thompson. They are old scholars of mine & I think Humphrey particularly a good fellow for you to associate with. Do you board near Mrs Edwards who has a small select school for young ladies. That was the school that Ella & a number of other Bath girls were at for some time.

What latin book are you in? & what is your teachers name? I wouldn't care for a carpet if I were you. I did not have one till my Senior Year in College. The way is to begin small and go up & if you are two or three years preparing you will find that it requires the strictest economy to keep your expenses within reasonable bounds.

You must recollect that even a "Freshman" isn't much & any boy before he reaches that point is below it. Don't feel proud of your advantages. Otis went thru West Point after College & he don't "feel big". I have had some success, but I always endeavor to be kind & equal with all & when I reflect how much I have yet to accomplish before I can be anybody or even "get a living", I feel as if I was just nothing at all.

I was very much gratified at the result of the Maine Election. I did as much as I could to bring about that result, but now, I have got all through with politics. I have been invited to speak in New York State but have declined. I wouldn't say much about politics if I were you. Talk & write about your studies & your miscellaneous reading & then you will improve yourself & make no enemies. Father & Mother ought to stop over one train with you either going or coming from Easton. If you wish it I have no doubt they will.

Remember me to Merrill, Humphrey & Henry.

Rowland.

Vote of Leeds

Morrill 127 Read 42 Wells 162 = 1855

Hamlin 165 Patten 27 " 136 = 1856

Hamlin's maj - 2, but it was hard work