

I have been at home pretty much since
then attending to my reading, with an
occasional walk over to Troy or ride
down to Albany with Otis' horse. I never
would settle in such a country as this
among such a people unless I could make
double the money that any other place would
afford. Tell Father that I heard Gov. Ruder
speak a few evenings since. He is an honest
candid man & a powerful & eloquent speaker.
Fillmore is the man here for President.
His friends make all the noise & in this
region he will get a good share of the votes.
But I feel very confident Fremont will carry
the State & be the next President. A bargain
is being attempted between Fillmore and
Buchanan. If that succeeds, it will look
differently. Charles & Dillie have each written
me one letter. Capt. Patten one & Ella many
of course. But I want you to write, Mother,
& tell me about your visit & how you found
things on your return to Leeds. Tell them
their love & Otis will write before a great
while. Affectionately, Your Son, Harold

Water Street, Concord 457
West Troy Oct. 4. 1856

My dear Mother

I have waited till this time
before writing again because I supposed
you would not return from Mass before
this, if indeed you have now. We are all
very well. Guy grows more & more inter-
esting every day. He is not so quiet &
inoffensive as he used to be, but has some
pretty strong times & sets up a will of his own
& shows plainly that he knows enough to
have his own preferences. He walks by taking
hold of his hands and alone by chairs & the
Lounge. He has learned many playfree
& cunning ways which amuse us & make
him more closely to us all. Mrs. Waite & Lizzie
have enjoyed excellent health since they
left Maine. Otis had got the carpets down
& the house in pretty good order when we
got here. My own room is in the E. of the
house & is a very pleasant one. I have a little
iron bedstead just right for me alone. I

have also a very pretty & convenient Lounge -
Book Case. Round Table. Dining Table &c. One
side of the room was intended for hanging
clothes. We have suspended a Calico Curtain
before that & it makes a very convenient
Wardrobe - The furnace does not warm this
room & when it is a little colder I shall
have a Stove - Otis has gone into a pig and
a hen speculation - He has got two little
pigs which are fed on the Wops from our
quarters & the Barracks. and he is now
building him a Hen house & is going to have
20 hens. Of course he has bright visions in
the future of fresh pork. Chickens & eggs -
They keep but one girl & she does all the Kitchen
work & takes care of Guy at meal times.

Day before yesterday Col. Craig, the Superintendent
of Ordnance Dep. was here on his Annual
inspection. He is an aged gentlemanly man
with gray hair & quiet unostentatious manners.

We had the Col. & Mr & Mrs Boggs here to Tea -
& tho Lizzie was fearful that everything
would not pass off satisfactorily - I believe
there was no trouble - I sort of pity a young

housekeeper like her who feels so much
need of experience in the forms of a Society
to which she has not been accustomed
but to which she is expected to conform -

I have my Notes of a Mr. Beach, an emi-
nent Lawyer in Troy. & expect after I have
read the rudiments here in my room
to go into his Office & employ myself reading
then & making out Wills, Warrants &c for
the firm of which he is a member, who do
an immense business. The next Term of
Law Lectures at the Albany Law School com-
mence the first Tuesday in January. I
think I had better attend them. I will
have to go & come in the cars & the fare is
12½ cts. each way. The fee for the Lectures
is \$30.00. I don't think I shall have a
better opportunity to attend Lectures &
one accompanied with less expense. I wrote
to Nellie about the time I supposed you
would go to Mass & asked him to hand
the letter to you. If he did, you will
see by that some account of our expedi-
tion to Saratoga Lake with Mr. Lansing

your journey & visit, I hope I
can go next year, Did you
go to Uncle Henry's? Did father
enjoy his visit? Is he engaged
in Harvesting? I should like
to spend a week, like the rest,
at Hopme. Many of the students
have been home on a visit but
it is much better not to be absent.
Who will teach our school? I
could send excellent teachers if
they paid good wages - but I
don't care to recommend anyone
to Leeds. I have got my lesson
for tomorrow morning & shall
go to bed pretty early. I hope
you are enjoying health & happiness.
I have thus far been quite success-
ful in my College-course & if it
will add any thing to your happiness I
am very thankful. Your Affec. Son C. H. Howard

Bond Coll.
Oct 10, 1856

My dear Mother

I have not yet heard
whether you have returned from
Mass. but I venture to write you
a letter knowing that you can get
it when you do return. I am getting
along well only I don't have
any letters from New York or from
home or very often from Belle.
I have been spending the afternoon
since I declaimed at 2 at a show
of glee-working. I am now writing
with a pen wholly glee which I
got in exchange for my ticket &
this cost 15 cts. To be sure it is
not the best pen I ever saw but
it is wonderful that it will write
at all. We have very pleasant

weather at present. I hope you are
so as to enjoy it. I expect to get
a letter soon. I should think you
would be a little lonely. Nellie writes
that everything does not go perfectly
smooth. He has had a little trouble
with his breeding-trusts but it has
all been settled. He has probably
told you about a little difficulty
with Mr Taylor - he mentioned it to
me but did not give any particulars.

I want to hear how you enjoyed
your visit. My studies are not
very hard this term. I have Friday
afternoon to myself, but usually
have a Theme to write or a decla-
mation to get. It is a great
curiosity to see these men work
with flap. They have a steam
engine complete which keeps in
motion - made wholly of flap.

They make all sorts of toys &
every one has a right to a present
who goes in. This pen is quite
a curiosity. I shall put it away
& try to keep it to show to
you. There is to be a cattle show
& fair in Ypskane next week.

Elba will be up then. I took
a walk over there this morning &
called at Mrs. Frost's & took the
children out with me. They bought
the ground of Mrs Frost. They
have fenced it in with a high
fence. They have also built a
high building for the fair &c.

I suppose I shall go over next
week. This pen of mine will write
quite fine one way as you see it
does now & one side writes coarse
as you see just above. I hope
you will give me a long account of

Remember to give my love to Laura & Aunt Ensign & Aunt Martha. I hope
they are all well. Lizzie sends you her love, says she can't find time
to write now - I hope to hear from you soon. etc

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Naturalist Arsenal West Point
Oct. 21st 1856

C. O. Howard
Oct 21/56

Dear Mother

I suppose you have been to Massachu-
setts and back since I have heard from you - at any
rate Delle writes that he saw you at Andover.

I should like to get a letter from you and hear
all about your visit, whom you saw and
how you found all our friends &c. I am now
in Rowland's room writing at the same table
with himself. He appears to like us here pretty
well. Says it appears to him that he is on a
visit all the time. He seems however to act as
if he was at home. He must speak for himself
with reference to his studies. He has plenty of
books around him and sundry papers.

We have taken Mr & Mrs Lee to board for the
present. Mr Lee graduated at West Point this
last June, was married in the ensuing July and
subsequently assigned to this post. He was
the only one of his class attached to our corps.

Thus you see we have a pretty large household
which increases Lizzie's cares and my own. Lizzie's
health continues good as also her mother's. Guy
has had one or two ill turns. Slight attacks of the

Stomach complaint, which have weakened him
him for the time, but have done him no great harm.
He grows taller but is not so fat as when at Andover and
he is a little more spoiled I fear. He is, however, a very
good boy, always sleeps at night and wakes bright and
early. St. Gilman has been here and brought Malee
my horse back. This has discommoded me somewhat
as I have not been able to sell either Malee or the
pony and it costs me too much to keep both.
Rowland & I went to Schenectady yesterday and
visited Union College. On account of what I had heard
of old Union I thought at least to find good buildings, but
on the contrary they are old & somewhat dilapidated. The rooms
hardly fit for pigs to stay in. In the engineering department
however, we found not only a good professor & a good
set of rooms, but apparatus superior to any I have
yet seen. We drove up with the pony and after
spending a very pleasant day returned, reaching home
at seven o'clock in the evening. I am now engaged in
drawing, generally spend the forenoon in this way till 2 in
the afternoon. How is everybody at home? I presume
you don't hear so much about rail road matters
as you did. We hear from Nellie and Charlie
frequently. Nellie was very much interested in
Franklin Pierce when he wrote last, as Andrew had
had a visit from him. Nellie says he got within
six feet of him, near enough to satisfy himself how
the man looked. Give my love to all. Affectionately Yours
O. D. Howard

Albany - The State House is not so good as
ours but the Library is magnificent.
It is in a noble room. has many thousands
books & various valuable & interesting
relics of Revolutionary times & those
previous. I saw the very papers
with Arnold's signature, which he
gave Andre to facilitate his escape
when he had been to see him about
his treason. There was the "Charter" of
New York granted by George III. - papers
coins & medals without number. That
it would take weeks to examine & months
to describe. Hug is very well. He is
getting a little roguish & mischievous. He
likes to ride on my head & shoulders
when he can get up then he laughs
and crows merrily. Lieut Lee & his
wife board with us. - so our family
is now quite large. Otis will write
you before long. All the family are
well & send their love to you. You must
write me pretty often & see how nice
you will make your letters look -

C. C. & R. B.
Howard
Oct. 22. 1856

Watervliet Arsenal

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October 22. 1856.

Dear Brother Nellie

I was glad to hear from
you in your letter to Otis & hope you
are still enjoying as good health and
spirits as then & are still progressing
well in your studies. Let nothing I
beg of you detain you from them. I shall
try to ascertain from yourself and your
Teachers just what progress you are
making this Term. If you don't succeed
in getting the first principles of Latin
pretty well fixed in your head I shall
hardly advise your staying at School
where you are subjected to so great
Expense - unless you derive some pro-
portionate benefit. I suppose Mr. Fine
is the first President of the A. S. whom
you have seen. May you live to see
many greater & better ones. Still I hardly
think it possible that in History Pierce's
Administration should stand so low as it

does now - or be so universally condemned
as it is by his contemporaries. who are
actuated more or less by Party feeling and
blinded by Party zeal.

Since the elections in Pennsylvania &
Indiana I have wholly despaired of Mr.
Fremont's election & tho' I am very sorry to
come to this conclusion. I think it is sus-
tained by sound political knowledge & sound
judgement. I may be wrong. It is hard to be
deceived in regard to the final result
so late as I was in 1852. viz. the day
after the election. I have not time to give
my reasons but I think we must
wait four years longer for the National
triumph of Republican principles. This I
am thankful that we have got those fellows
down whom they will lie still a spell in
Old Maine. In the Nation we can afford
to wait 4 years for political power better
than they, the Pro-Slavery Party can. There will be a North
four years hence if there is none now. Otis & I went
up Schenectady to visit Union College last
Monday. It is a fine circle of the circles tho'

a fertile country. Schenectady is about the size
of Portland & a place of great business. The Erie
Canal & Central R.R. pass thro' it & there is also
a R.R. to Whitehall at the foot of Lake George.
Union College is on high ground East of the
City. It was founded 1795 & there are two college
buildings 200 ft long & 4 stories high. They are
very old & much more dirty dilapidated &
out of repair than Bardonia. President Nott
is 84 years old & has been President 52 years.
He is very rich - has given the college \$600,000 &
is said to be worth \$1,000,000. When he dies
they will make great improvements in the
College. The Old Man does not like to have
them changed now. There are 120 in the
Senior Class & 2 from Maine, whom Otis & I
found & got acquainted with. I am still
busy with the Law. It is rather dull work
but must be done. When does your Term
close? I hope you hear from Mother. We
haven't heard a word since she left you
for Eastern. Write us if you have heard from
her & the news from home. Last Week
I visited the New York State Library at