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635 10/4/1856

*From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0584

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
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 interesting 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 playful & cunning ways which amuse us & endear 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 L 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, Dressing 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 slops 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 of 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 Ordinance 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 form of a Society to which she has not been accustomed, but to which she is expected to conform.

I have my Books of a Mr Beach, an eminent Lawyer in Troy & expect after I have read the rudiments here in my room to go into his Office & employ myself reading there & making out writs, 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 commence the first Tuesday in January. I think I had better attend them. I will have to go & come in the cars & the fare is 12 ½ 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 Dellie 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 excursion to Saratoga Lake with Mr Lansing. 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 & Dellie 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. All send their love & Otis will write before a great while.

Affectionately, your Son  
Rowland

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636 10/10/1856 *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0585

Bowd Coll

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Bowd 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 Dellie.

I have been spending the afternoon since I declaimed at 2 at a show of glass-working. I am now writing with a pen wholly glass 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. Dellie writes that everything does not go perfectly smooth. He has had a little trouble with his boarding mistress 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 declamation to get. It is a great curiosity to see these men work with glass. They have a steam engine complete, which keeps in motion, made wholly of glass. 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 Topsham next week. Ella will be up there. 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 and & one side writes coarse as you see just above.

I hope you will give me a long account of 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 past, at home. 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 successful in my College-course & if it will add any thing to your happiness I am very thankful.

Your Affec. Son  
C. H. Howard

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637 10/21/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0586a

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy  
Oct. 21st 1856

Dear Mother

I suppose you have been to Massachusetts and back since I have heard from you. At any rate Dellie 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 Sunday 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 terms, slight attacks of the summer complaint, which have weakened him for the time, but have done him no great harm. He grows taller but is not so fat as when at Leeds and he is a little nearer spoilt I fear. He is, however, a very good boy, always sleeps at night and wakes bright and early.

Lt. Gilman has been here and brought Malec my horse back. This has discommoded me somewhat as I have not been able to sell either Malec 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 it best to find good buildings, but on the contrary they are old & somewhat dilapidated. The rooms hardly fit for pigs to sty 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 railroad matters as you did. We hear from Dellie and Charlie frequently. Dellie was very much interested in Franklin Pierce when he wrote last, as Andover had had a visit from him. Dellie says he got within 6 feet of him, near enough to satisfy himself how the man looked.

Give my love to all.

Affectionately your son  
O. O. Howard

Remember to give my love to Laura & Uncle 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.

Otis

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638 10/22/1856 *From:* Rowland [R B  
Howard]

*To:* Brother Dellie [R H  
Gilmore]

OOH-0583

Watervliet Arsenal

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
October 22, 1856

Dear Brother Dellie

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 proportionate benefit. I suppose Mr Pierce is the first President of the U.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 sustained by what political knowledge & sound judgement I may possess. It is hard to be undeceived 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, tho' I am thankful that we have got those fellows down where 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 ride of 14 miles thro' 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 Bowdoin. 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 \$5,000,000. 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 Easton. Write us if you have heard from her & the news from home.

Last Week I visited the New York State Library at Albany. The State House is not so good as ours but the Library is magnificent. It is in a noble room, has many thousand 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.

Guy is very well. He is getting a little roguish & willful. He likes to ride on my head & shoulders when he can get up there 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.

Remember me to Mr Merrill & the Thompson boys.

Very affectionately, Your Bro  
Rowland