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642 12/1/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

OOH-0589

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

Leeds  
Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Dec 1st 1856.

My dear Mother,

It is a fortnight yesterday since I wrote you and I have received one letter since then from you, giving an account of your visit to Massachusetts. I should be glad to see Mrs Ames & get better acquainted with father's relatives, but I may never have the opportunity. Should any one of them come my way I would be very happy to have a call & should any opportunity I would be pleased to pay a visit to Easton & its environs.

Lizzie wrote a little in a letter to you, the last one I sent. She loves dearly to get letters from you and I think would enjoy writing if she would write oftener, so as not to get out of the habit entirely. She depends on me entirely to keep up the correspondence. Sometimes a longer time slips by than I am aware of between my letters. Before I was married home was always in my thoughts, but now my cares have increased and my anxieties have been extended over a wider circle. I don't love you less since Guy has been given us, but more. I more fully appreciate parental feelings.

But I have more little things to divide my attention. When I feel like writing a letter, I am not so much alone and master of my time as I used to be. If I have griefs & vexations I don't have to trouble my mother with them as I used to, when I have pleasant surprises I don't think of taking my pen as I used to & telling my mother of them. This you will bear me witness is one of the bad fruits of getting married & having a domestic hearth of your own. Still there need be no interruption of warm sympathies & old fashioned confidence. Surely I don't mean there shall be. My heart is as tender as it ever was and I am as capable of kindly feelings as I ever have been and I don't mean to let age or care change me in these respects.

We are all very well. Guy & his mother have just come into "Uncle Rowland's" room to bother. He is showing "Uncle" his new mittens, and his new shoes - now helping him lock his trunk - now playing with the round looking glass. He is still fat, almost as tall as the table. Eyes dark blue, when pleased expression pleasant, when observing things new & strange he has a little of the Howard concentrating scowl. He plays hard, talks not much; mimicks the chickens & the Kitty, says "cut - cut - cut - dah!" "Tate tare", for take care, "pa-pa & ma ma". He runs alone quite well, but he topples over occasionally, and now & then gets a bump on the head. He is a lively, sprightly boy, always wide awake and ready for a frolick till sleepy time, but he has'nt got a tooth yet, and though his bottle has been laid on the shelf he will put his thumb in his mouth when he is hungry & to go to sleep with.

So much for Guy. I amused Lizzie by telling her what Guy would be saying to little John Francis when they meet, how Guy would talk about the canal & such things as he saw in New York to the admiration & wonder of the latter & how John Francis would show Guy strange & new things on the farm.

How is Cynthia, Roland & the little one? Remember me & Lizzie to them. Tell them if they chose to make it so, theirs may be a quieter & more comfortable life than ours, but comfort and domestic happiness may attach any where even to a flying camp if the hearts are only right.

I manage to keep my expenses within bounds. I have deposited 150.00 dollars in the savings bank since my return and have supported my family & kept out of debt on my pay. My horses are too expensive, but I have not yet been able to dispose of either to advantage.

We have had a heavy snow storm, commencing Saturday. To day I have taken Mrs Lee & Lizzie to town (Troy) in a sleigh. This accounts for Guy's new things. Lizzie & myself are going to New York by the Boat Tuesday night, on a week's visit. She has been rather unwell & I am in hopes the visit will refresh her. Perry Lee is now at Brooklyn. We had a letter from him a day or two ago.

We had a letter from Uncle Ensign and Laura, were very glad to hear from Lewiston. Uncle Ensign says he has at different times written reminiscences of his younger days in which father bears quite a prominent place. I

should be delighted if he would continue & give me these accounts. Uncle Ensign always treasures up events of interest; whether time & frequent repetition has suffered a vivid imagination to color them slightly or not, they are all as real to him & would be as interesting to me as anything I know of.

Charlie must have gone to his school. Is Dellie at home? How is father this winter (for I believe winter commences to day). My love to all &c.

Believe me as ever your most affectionate Son  
O.O. Howard

To  
Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Leeds  
Maine

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643 12/15/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0590

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal West Troy N.Y.  
Decr 15th 1856.

My dear Mother,

I told you in my last letter that Lizzie & myself were intending to go to New York & spend a week. We did so and returned last Tuesday night. We left here Tuesday preceeding in the large steamer Commodore that runs by night between Troy & New York. We were hindered by a snow storm three or four hours on the way so that we did not arrive till late on Wednesday, but we had a good State-room & a good night's rest - and an excellent breakfast on board. When we reached the wharf we found it raining hard. I left Lizzie on the Boat & threaded my way across the city to Frank's office, where I found him & got the necessary directions to his house in Brooklyn and returned to Lizzie at the boat.

Landings if you remember, for the Hudson River boats are on the western side towards Jersey City and not very far from Broadway. I took the valise & a bundle and Lizzie the carpet bag & we walked up to Broadway, followed by little boys, crying "shall I carry your baggage"? "Will carry it to any part of the city." We came out near Trinity Church & took an Omnibus for South Ferry. We crossed, went up Atlantic St. till we came to Henry turned to the right down Henry St & went on till we came to Harrison, turned to the left & walked up Harrison till we came to No 54.

This may serve you as a direction should you ever visit Brooklyn. We found Sarah not very well, troubled considerably with a sick head-ache. Aunt Ann was very well. She feels Uncle's [Ann's brother John Otis] death very grievously. She cannot speak of him without crying. Sarah's little boy is an active little fellow, just beginning to talk. He is quite tall of his age & very spare. He made us think Guy quite young by comparison. Perry was at home, wanted me to give his love when I wrote. He cleared for Jamaica last Thursday & will visit England & Bremen before he returns again. Rowland says he wrote you that he took Freddie Strickland with him. The latter came after we had been there a day or two. He is a great fat boy isn't he? He was much pleased with the idea of going to sea, more I presume than he is at this present moment.

Aunt & Sarah had a good deal to inquire about you & wanted me to send their love in my next letter. They have at present a very large family. Edwin & Grenville Darling, Frank's sisters children & a boy by the name of Allen McClure (son of a clergiman at Nassau) were boarding with them. Frank's brother Charles who is in his office also takes his breakfast, supper & lodgings there. Lizzie and Sarah spent Thursday shopping in New York, while I walked about & talked with Perry. Lizzie came back at night pretty well used up.

On Friday we went over to New York & thence to Governor's island starting near South Ferry in a barge belonging to the Government. This boat is manned by six oarsmen & runs back & forth between the Island & New York regularly. The wind was strong & the waves ran high. Lizzie though a little timid at first was not sick. The "New York Arsenal" belonging to the United States is situated on this Island as well as Fort Columbus.

Capt Whiteley of our Department is stationed there. We visited his quarters but found him & his wife both gone to the city. I found other officers of my acquaintance. Lizzie & I went into the fort to look about, called upon the wife of Lt Carroll & returned to Capt Whiteley's just as they were coming in sight. We stopped & dined with them & had a very pleasant visit. Capt W sent us over to Brooklyn directly about 5 o'clock P.M in his own boat. We got to Sarah's about dusk took tea & went to New York to spend the evening at Walack's Theater. We were entertained with a tragedy & a comedy both in very good taste & pretty well acted with less affectation perhaps than usual. The scenery was most excellent.

I would like to delay here & give you a description of what I saw & heard but I must hasten on for Lizzie is waiting for me to leave Rowland's room & go to bed. The next day Saturday I went shopping with Lizzie in New York. She bought her a cloak & Guy the materials from which to make one. She got him also a little hat, with which he is much pleased, never pulls it as he did his handsome bonnet.

On Sunday we went to Church three times, in the morning to Mr Chapins, who is probably the greatest

Universalist preacher in the world. The Church is situated in New York about a mile from South Ferry on Broadway. It was crowded full. Mr Chapin is indeed an eloquent man & apparently most sincere. We went in the afternoon to hear Professor Hitchcock formerly of Brunswick, Me, but were disappointed, having to listen to rather a dry discourse by a Professor Smith. In the evening we went to the Church of Henry Ward Beecher. It was crowded to overflowing. It is a Church of a peculiar construction & will seat as many as three thousand people, and there were probably upwards of four thousand there that night. I never listened in my life to such a discourse. In originality, power & eloquence it far exceeded my highest expectation. It was as strong an appeal as could well be made to young men.

Tuesday Lizzie went out again a little while with Aunt Ann. Aunt says she will visit us at Christmas. We came up Tuesday night on the Harlem road, had a collision on the road 38 miles beyond Albany - were thrown from the track & detained all night, but nobody was seriously injured. We found all well. Rowland attending Law lectures at Albany & Guy trolling all over the house. Lizzie Thursday evening last went up to bring me my cap, for I had opened the scuttle window & gone out in the housetop to shovel off the snow, & when she was returning the window fell down on her head and cut it quite badly. She is now most well.

Affectionately yr son  
Otis

I have sold my horse Malec and bought a sleigh in partnership or rather as a joint owner with Mr Lee. I am writing this marginal note on the 16th Guy Howard's birth day. All send love. Rowland leaves here at 8 A.M.

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644 12/22/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0591

Watervliet Arsenal W.  
Troy N. Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal W. Troy N. Y.  
Dec. 22nd 1856.

Dear Mother,

I am sorry not to have more time to write you a long letter, before I leave for the South. I received orders to report to the Commanding General in Florida as soon as practicable last Thursday evening. I did not feel sure of going even then, for Mr. Boggs had just sent an application to be sent south during the winter. But he has not heard from Washington & I am certain he will not be substituted for me. This duty is not permanent but nobody knows how long I shall be there. It is an important Command. I have charge of the Ordnance Department in the field, to purchase, make requisition for or otherwise obtain, arms ammunition &c and issue them to the troops as they are required. I will have a detachment of men & be ready to make all the necessary repairs. I shall go first to Fort Myers. (Fort Myers is on the western coast & south of Tampa Bay). My order don't specify that Fort, so I must look out for Genl. Harney & find him where I can.

I have sold my pony, sleigh, harness & robe this forenoon. Lizzie will remain here till Rowland's Law lectures are over & then (say about the first of March) go on to Maine. I will leave it to Rowland to explain in detail. Lizzie, mother Waite & Guy are well & wish their love sent to you. It is rather a hard case to break up & be off again so soon, but I regard it as somewhat to my advantage. I shall leave here tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent. I may not leave N. York till Saturday.

God grant that we may meet again in the best of health. May his blessing rest with you all & my little family is my prayer.

You will hear from me often on my journey & after I arrive, I will write when I can get the time. My best love to Charlie, Dellie & father. Remember us to Roland and his family. I am cheerful & not much displeased with my duty.

Very affectionately your son  
Otis

P.S.

I enclose a letter from Ella which I thought might be interesting to you as it gives some account of her ancestors. By "Grandpa" she means Capt. Hunter. Will you please to put it by & keep it safely for me. Some of it may be a little unintelligible to you, but what you can understand may interest you. She wrote very hastily as she has to now, since she is "Housekeeper" & taking care of the children. "Abby" is a seamstress & "Mary" an Irish girl "Julia" is Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Foote's daughter.

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645 12/24/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0592

Brooklyn N.Y

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Brooklyn N.Y.  
Decr. 24, 1856

My dearest wife,

I am at Frank's. We left Albany about eleven, the train being delayed waiting for the Troy train. We came straight through without much delay & no accident on the H.R.R. We reached Chambers St. by 5 P.M. and I came straight here. I met with an officer Lt. Hemer, who got aboard at Garrison's. He had been in Florida & told me the route. It is by Steamboat to Savannah & thence by Steamboat to Palatka on the St. Johns River. Thence by stage to Tampa. This will be my route. I leave Saturday at 3 o'clock p.m. I shall go to Governors Island tomorrow & next day to Fort Hamilton to Lt. Wm. Webb, who has just come there. I went to see Mr. Parke the auctioneer at Albany. He says he will go to see you & the <> furniture the first time he goes to Troy. I hope <> are well & happy. My love to all. <> and kisses to Guy.

Yr loving husband  
Otis

[Bottom left corner torn off] <> sends her best love & hearty sympathy. Frank <> confined to his room.

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646 12/26/1856 *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

OOH-0593

N. York City

*Source:* Bowdoin

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N. York City  
Dec. 26, 1856

My dear Mother,

I came here from Watervliet last Wednesday, got in about five P.M. It was very stormy when I left Troy. I rode to Albany in an open sled & had a cold ride, but the rest of the way we talk on very well. I found Frank Sgt. confined to his room. He has been bleeding at the lungs, but from the upper part. All think he will get well. He has no cough. Sarah & Aunt Ann are quite well. I went to Governor's Island yesterday and dined with Capt. Whiteley of the Ordnance. I have attained considerable information with reference to Florida from officers who have recently come from Tampa. I went back to Brooklyn last night. I resolve to go Saturday next in the Steamer Alabama to Savannah and thence by Steamer to Palatka on the St. Johns River in Florida & thence by stage across the country to Tampa. This morning I went aboard the Steamer Alabama and then went to the office in Broadway, where I paid my passage through to Palatka thirty-three dollars. After this I went to the Paymaster's office and then met Lieuts Vincent and Haynes. The latter had just arrived from Florida he told me about the route. Says he got through in seven days. He says I will be permanently located at Tampa, and that Arms will be sent into me for repairs. I can't tell anything certain about my return. It may be in three or four months & I may be there much longer

Give my love to all. If I can get time tomorrow I will write to Charlie & Dellie. I shall write you again to send a letter from Savannah, till then farewell.

From your very Affectionate Son  
OO Howard

I am at Frank's office.

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647 12/26/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0594

New York City  
Paymasters Office

*Source:* Bowdoin

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New York City Dec. 26, 1856  
Paymasters Office

My dearest Wife,

I shall enclose you herewith a check for 50 dolls endorsed over to your order. If you don't want it immediately please put your name on the back & deposit it to my Credit at the State Bank Troy. Get Mr. Lansing to go with you & introduce you. You will thus be enabled to be recognized at any time you may wish to draw.

I visited Governors Island yesterday and spent the day with Capt. Whiteley. The Capt. & Mrs. W. sent their love & sympathy to you. The Capt. says I will have a permanent station probably at some settlement and arms will be sent me for repairs &c, perhaps at Tampa or Ft. Myers. It was rougher when I went over in the morning than when we went, but the Capt. sent me to Brooklyn in the evening, when it was very calm. I dined with Capt. W & had a fine Christmas dinner. I met several officers there, one of whom Lt. Ward had a son born the night before. He was in most excellent spirits. It was his first child. It forcibly recalled the anxiety & subsequent joy of Dec 16, 1855, when our darling guy made his ingress.

Remember my darling wife that your husband's heart will be with you in the coming trials. Be very cheerful and bear up nobly. God will help you. Your happiness will not be mired in the end by this separation & what is to come. I feel it and know. Don't retire at night without asking Heaven's blessing on your absent husband & yourself. Give my best love after yourself & Guy to Mother & Rowland. My love to Mr. & Mrs. Lee and the rest.

I have paid my passage to Palatka thirty-three dollars. It is so much less than I anticipated that I have resolved to send you fifty dollars for your use when needed. I have been on board the steamer Alabama in which I go to Savannah. I might delay and go with some troops next Tuesday over the same route but would risk losing my transportation.

I have had none too much time in N. York to do everything, otherwise I would have been most happy to have returned & spent a day or two with you. Write to mother if you can and tell her how handsome are my prospects for a pleasant command & pleasant duty. You will not hear from me again till I reach Savannah unless something happens to detain me. Take good care of yourself darling & <> our little boy as much as you please. Tell him not to grow too fast for me to know him.

Yr loving husband  
Otis



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648 12/28/1856 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Mr. Rowland B Howard

OOH-0595

Andover

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Andover Dec. 28, 1856

Sunday eve 9 o'clock

My Dear Brother

I have long been trying to get time to write you a letter, and I have now found time to do so. As it is late I cannot write a very long letter so you must keep up with what you can get. I started from home on Friday the 12th inst. and went to Boston or rather Summerville. I was landed on the ground about 20 rods from any building whatever but seeing a building on the railroad at some distance, I started for it, and soon found it to be a watch house for the man who tended the gate. No one was there, I walked along following the directions given me by father until I met an Irishman of whom I asked the way to Winter Hill. He directed me so that I found Uncle Henry's after walking over a due amount of land. I got there about 8 o'clock in the evening after the girls had gone to bed; Aunt Martha soon got me a dinner and supper and I eat like a good fellow. I went to bed.

When I awoke the first thing that I thought of was what was best to do. At last I concluded to walk to Boston with Uncle and see the "Elephants". He went with me to see a great many buildings of importance and finally landed me in the Old State House in pursuance of the directions given him by Oliver Hazard. I must wait until Mr. Hazard came who was coming soon, but if I had waited until he came I should have stayed until the next day which I was in no way disposed to do as you may imagine. After staying there about one hour and a half I was very much relieved by seeing Oliver come himself who soon took me to the Omnibus office with him where we found what we wanted viz. an Omnibus (t). After I was seated in Mr. Hazard's parlor. Soon we eat dinner, then Roddy and I started for the tour of Boston which we duly accomplished in the course of the afternoon to my infinite relief. In the evening we I read, talked, thought, played, moped, sat still, &c until I got sick of it, and with pleasure accepted the invitation to "retire". Went to church in the forenoon of the next day and stayed in the house in the afternoon. In the evening I accepted the invitation to go and see Mrs. Mount an old acquaintance of mothers. Came home, went to bed.

Went to Boston in the morning and took an omnibus for Summerville, where I arrived much earlier than I was expected; but for all of that aunt said she was glad I had come. I stayed round in the house some, read some, talked some and did other things some. In the afternoon I followed aunt into the cubels. She stayed with me some time and as she found that I had a notion of staying some time longer she gave me an opera glass and told me to amuse myself as long as I pleased.

The next day I went alone!!!!!! (How funny) alone to Bunker Hill Monument and after paying the "fee" a man put a lantern in my hand and told me to take care of myself which I accordingly did!!! When I got back I found it was most dinner time. I amused myself then until it was time for the girls to go to school and after receiving a due amount of shaking goodly hands and..., They went to school. At two o'clock I started for the depot having previously learned what time the cars were to go by Summerville. When I got most there the cars were just starting from the depot but I knew that they only went to Reading so I didn't care. The depot master told me to go down to a white post which was down on the railroad and the cars would stop there. But when I got there I found that, that post was not the only white post as there was another about 50 rods below, how could I tell which one it was? Well I thought I would stand about halfway between them run the risk of getting into the cars. Now you see I run the risk of it and had to RUN too, but I got on board and in about an hour was found standing in the depot at Andover Mass. I looked around, found my baggage where it had been put on the night that I went to Boston. Man carried them up and after paying a 25 cent piece to him I found my chum.

I got settled that night mostly and was admitted into the club. That night it was cold, Wednesday it was colder, Thursday Coldest, the thermometer was 14 below 0. I have not done any thing since I got here of any importance except getting my lesson. My Chum is a rogue. Is about half sailor and half lands man. His father is a lobster fisher. I don't think he and I can do much together but I shan't say anything to disturb the harmony. Don't say anything to mother about my chum because she will be troubled more about me than she is now. Had I better accept an <agentsy> which I can obtain? Write me what you think about it. I wish to make some money if I can and not depend entirely on father for all I wish for as I do not know how he will be able to furnish us all, with money and I want to relieve him some if I can by any exertions of my own. Give my love to Otis

Lizzie Mrs. Waite, & Mr. Guy.

I remain &c your brother,  
R.H. Gilmore

Mr. Rowland B Howard

P.S.

I should not do anything with my agency except in vacation. I will send you a paper showing what it is before long. I have sent it home now and as soon as I can get another I will send it to you. The fellow who rooms opposite me supports himself by means not near so good as this. He said he would give anything if he could get it. He is now a senior and does not get a cent of money that he can't earn himself and he gets it all by this business.

Rodelphus

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649 12/28/1856 *From:* Otis [O. O. Howard] *To:* Wife [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-0596 Steam Ship Alabama

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Steam Ship Alabama  
Dec. 28th, 1856

My dearest wife,

It is now eight o'clock Sunday night and I am several hundred miles away, on the ocean & out of sight of everything besides the stars, the water & the ship with its contents. We are going on smoothly, have had a remarkably good passage thus far. I haven't been sick yet. Slept soundly all last night and was up bright & early to see the sun rise up from its watery bed, but was disappointed for there were clouds to obscure it then, though we have had it bright and warm all day. We have 40 or 50 passengers aboard, a dozen of whom are ladies.

I will give you what I have scribbled down in my diary so as to account for myself since I wrote you in the paymaster's office. I then enclosed you fifty dollars which I hope you received. I want you to write me directing your letter to Tampa Fla as soon as you get this if you haven't done so already.

I went from the paymasters with two Lts. Vincent & Haynes (who by the way had just returned from Tampa & gave me quite an idea of the place) to the Treasury office to get my check cashed & then to the post office to mail your letter. I bought two pairs of shoes & a semi-uniform cap like that of Mr. Boggs. Then went to Chambers St. Depot where I had left my trunk, put my things in and sent it by an express man to the ship. After this I proceeded to Maiden Lane & bought a sword, then went to Frank's office, where I wrote a short letter to mother and returned to Brooklyn & spent the night.

Now for the diary for the rest: viz:

"Dec. 27th. I took leave of my friends in Brooklyn about ½ past 9 a.m. to day and went to see that my trunk was on board the Steam Ship Alabama & find my room. I then went to Appleton's to procure a travelers guide & was surprised to find an old acquaintance and distant relative of my wife, Emerson Whitman, a clerk in the establishment. I talked with him a while. He had been there over a year & lives in the city with his wife & child. I went to Frank's office in South St. to bid them good bye & then returned to Appleton's & bought several presents. One being the "Margaret" with illustrations in etching struck my fancy. I bought it & directed it to be sent to Lizzie for a New Year's gift. Emerson & I took dinner together at a Saloon & then walked to pier no 4 to the ship. He stopped with me about an hour & then bade me good bye.

This is the first time I have been on a steamship & I find much that is new to look at. I had a curiosity to scrutinize the countenances of those who were to accompany me on the voyage. Striving to get at their character, profession & place of nativity by their physiognomy, their language & their manners, as they were coming on board talking with the friends they were to leave behind & who had come to see them off. I stationed myself for this purpose near the gangway. I soon however left this place & went on deck, walking about generally. After a while I made the acquaintance of a Navy officer Mr. Thomas & through him of the captain of the vessel, who has the Euphonic name of Schenk. I was also introduced to a young man by the name of Gosner. The Navy officer is on his way to Pensacola Fa under orders. We smoke, talk & walk together.

In the meantime the hawser is thrown off & the wheels begin to move. The passengers crowd upon the upper deck & wave handkerchiefs to friends left behind who return the compliment with interest. We now move off in a graceful & easy manner. New York begins to recede. The forest of shipping at the docks begins to bristle in the distance as we take in a more comprehensive view. Now we are gliding in between the Sea-Girt Isle (Long Island) & the Jersey shore. How beautiful (a panoramic window) is this part of the harbor.

We stopped before we reached Sandy Hook to put off two men who would not pay their fare, had a good supper at five, went on deck to smoke a cigar and then down into the cabin where the passengers amused themselves with reading, games of chance &c. Now I am in my room. The boat is very steady, trembles a little, but not enough to do any harm, even to a weak stomach.

It is 10 o'clock & I will try my bed. I am fairly on my way. Goodbye Lizzie & Guy & all. Good bye New York. May

the time not be long before I see you again.

Dec. 28 (Sunday) I went to bed at 10 last night & had a comfortable sleep till seven this morning. We have had delightful weather. I have not been sick at all yet & really there is nothing to make me so. The ship has moved on as steadily as a riverboat. I have been on deck the most of the forenoon."

It is now Monday morning and the sun is bright & warm. What a delightful passage we have had. Last night I retired before nine o'clock & had another good nights rest. As we passed Cape Hatteras we had a little swell & many passengers were sick, but I was too sleepy for that & came out in good shape this morning. My companion of the Navy is a very pleasant man. There is a strong fellow feeling between us, not only that we both belong to the Service but he too leaves a wife & one child in New York.

(Monday evening) I am about to "turn in" my dearest wife and I will finish up this letter as I expect I will have little time in the morning for we will get to Savannah pretty early. I couldn't have enjoyed a passage more than I have this, except if you had been along & been well. We have breakfasted at eight lunched at twelve, dined at three & lunched again at one half past nine. Our fare has been first rate. The machinery is so covered that you do not have that oily smell that you object to on the steamboat. I suppose you are sleeping & that little boy is kicking you as he did me. I would like to kiss you both before I go to sleep, but cannot.

Give my love to all. You & Rowland must be the best of friends. Write me everything. I want to know all your little troubles & great ones. May heaven bless you. I hope yr mother is in good health & spirits. Good night. I do hope you will get on well. It won't be many days before I write again.

Yr affectionate husband  
Otis

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650 12/30/1856 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

*To:* Husband [O O Howard]

OOH-0598

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy N.Y. Dec 30, 1856

My dearest Husband,

I was very happy to receive two letters from you while you remained in New York, and knowing you will be happy to hear from home as soon as possible I will write this early, hoping it will reach you soon after your arrival at Tampa.

It is now Tuesday evening. Dear little Guy had but one nap to-day and has gone to sleep so early this evening that I will have time to write a long letter to you, dearest. I desire so much to hear of your safe arrival & to receive a letter written after you have arrived at the end of your journey. I do think of you constantly, and cannot help feeling lonely sometimes, but my best Otis. I do bear this our first separation with fortitude, and you would say so if you could see me a day. My dear little boy is so doubly dear to me now, and I do pray that he may continue in health and be spared to us many years. He does not miss you as much as I thought he would, but I think it is because Mr Lee and brother Rowland play with him so much.

My dearest Otis I feel and am convinced of the truth of all you said to me in your second letter from N.Y. and will anticipate the future full of pleasure and happiness and not pain. I received yesterday by express my beautiful present you left me. I like it very much indeed, nothing could have pleased me more, and what you wrote in it is so pretty. The writing looked so natural and the "Two hours before leaving for Florida" and the pleasure of getting something from you I must say brought a few tears that I could not suppress.

Mr Lee and brother Rowland have gone to the "Lyceum lecture". We all went last eve to hear brother R and I did not know and had never heard Mr Holland (who lectures this evening) therefore preferred to stay and write this letter. I have received a letter from Mr Bernard Gilpin saying "I am very much obliged for the tracing received, think they will be quite sufficient for my purpose. I have instructed "Mssrs J.N. Lawton and Bro" of Boston to transmit to you \$20.48 &c", by the next mail came from them a check to the order of Mr. O. O. Howard on the firm in New York. "Mssrs H. W. Haydock & Co." 71 John St., N.Y. Check dated Dec 26. I intend to see what I can do about it at the Brokers here, shall ask Mr. Lansing. Rowland acknowledged the receipt of it for you. You see I am well supplied with money and shall not need more from you for some time.

Mr Parks called to see me yesterday. I told him "Lieut Lee might purchase my furniture, but if he did not I would like his assistance". I get along exceedingly well with every thing. I shall settle the bills for the month tomorrow, and do a little shopping in Town. I hope you will not give yourself an unnecessary anxiety about us, who are at Watervliet. Brother R says his term finishes about the 22d of Feb. Therefore I think we will be in Maine the first of March. I do not feel that it will be hard work to get ready to move. I know Mr Lee will purchase many things, and some I do not wish to sell, so there will be very little if any to send away. I think only the sofa and table.

I have been collecting all your letters today looking them over and not keeping those of no consequence whatever: then I came to our two boxes, and have selected our letters from all others (excepting a few from your Mother and brothers) and arranged them in this manner. I put my first letter to you in the same envelope containing your first letter to me, and so throughout the whole correspondence. Not every one of your letters has a letter of mine enclosed, but just where they belonged (by the date and year there they are enclosed. I shall reread them some day and would you not destroy those unpleasant ones!

Darling how much 'I love you' now, truly love you. In many of my letters I saw that expression but then Oh! it did not mean then what, or half it does when I say now, I love you; even those words do not seem to express my affection for you. No, my darling Otis, not one night has passed, or shall pass without my asking God's blessing to rest on us, and that He will be with you during your absence, and teach us all to love him more and more, and to turn to Him for support in times of trouble. I have already written a long letter to our Mother. I wrote as cheerful as I could, told her the brightest possible view of the change and that I would always write her as soon as I ever heard from you. We received a letter from Dellie to-night who has just returned to Andover from

vacation.

The clock just struck ten and as I have nearly covered this sheet I will not write more tonight but finish tomorrow or let brother Rowland add the next sheet. With the kindest and best feelings of affection towards you I remain your little Wife.

Lizzie