

---

1092 11/5/1859

*From:* M. H. Wright

*To:* Lt. O. O. Howard

OOH-1032

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Watervliet Arsenal  
West Troy, N.Y. Nov. 5th. 1859.

My Dear Friend:

Having become pretty well settled, & learned some little of the "Management of the Ropes &c" I begin to feel a little at home, & will now try & let you know how I am situated & how pleased.

Lieut Sill & I occupy the North Bank Barracks, & have Mrs McCarthy (alias Ellen) to attend to things for us. No doubt you have some remembrance of Ellen, & could wish always to have such a woman to manage affairs about the house. I am up stairs, & have the back room. Sill occupies the small room down stairs, adjoining "our Parlor". So we have 3 Rooms "furnished", of course you will not ask us how? However we are comfortable, & support a "carpet" for each room.

Lt Balch who now messes with us, marries next Tuesday 11.20 A.M. Miss H. Cushman, & will occupy the South Side of the Qrs, up by the Bridge.

Strong occupies the North half.

I find the Situation very pleasant, in many respects. Major Mordecai & Family are very kind & agreeable. The Young Ladies very interesting and intelligent of course. I mean not to criticise, at all.

The duties I need not mention. I've only had two or three drawings to do. Have, I fear, however, a plenty in Contemplation.

I have not yet decided where to attend Church. I've been to the Episcopal & Dutch Reform, on this side, & once to Troy. I find no church of our (mine) Denomination here, I mean the C.P. Church. I would of course, prefer attending it, were there one here; not that I am peculiarly Sectarian on the subject, but I think one should always pay that respect to his own church. If not, why join it? True it matters little where we go, for we should go, not for the Sermon, but to worship. As to the forms of worship, it matters little, their differences, provided they conform with Christian usages.

The Episcopal is most convenient, but you know, although I'm much attached to their customs, that it is not my preference. The Dutch Reform is next at hand, but I am not so well pleased there as I should like. Think I will try it again, though.

The Presbyterian in E. Troy, Dr Bunan (?), I've not seen. I heard an excellent sermon in the Unitarian Church in Troy, last Sabbath. Text - "The answer of a clear conscience to God".

My desire is to go where I may be of most service. Not that I would put myself up as an example &c, but that I would gladly lend a helping hand towards enlightening any poor soul on the subject of Jesus & Him Crucified.

I must say that I almost wish to be a Cadet again, just to enjoy those Sunday afternoon labors, fruitless as they may have been.

I cannot make any promises about how I may do. I will only say, I will try & do right, by the help of Divine Grace. I sometimes, nay too often, feel very sad. I know I am a great sinner, & do not my work faithfully, as I ought. I feel that I need much help, nay all, from above. My poor weak self, is often sorely tempted. I wish you to ever pray for me.

I often think of the remark you made to me, as I was about leaving - viz: that I was in great danger, from flattery, or Praise. I humbly thank you for it. It has done me, I trust no little good. It has ever been ringing in my ears, & I could always keep before me the word, beware: of growing pride. Visiting my numerous friends at home, who I know loved me, & fully appreciated me, I had often to bring to mind your words. For you know how ones

friends looks upon a boy, as I was rightly considered by them all. They think they can say any thing to him, & are often guilty of stirring up his vanity, when they would only express their love & feelings. I mean not to boast of being highly esteemed, I speak as to a kindred soul, and you know the advantage of confessing our sins one to another.

I trust my Dear Friend Mrs Howard, is well & those dear little cherubs. How happy to have the guidance & holy instructions, of such Dear children. What a charge it is - & how great the responsibility. May the Lord bless you & them. I will be happy at any time see you, & shall certainly expect to hear from you often.

Give my love to Mrs Howard & kiss the children. I pray that the Prayer Meeting may still be blessed, & that the Sabbath School may progress well.

With my best love to all,

I am most truly,  
yr. friend  
M. H. Wright

Lt. O. O. Howard  
U.S. Army

---

1093 11/8/1859 *From:* F. T. Sargent

*To:* Dear Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1033

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

New York Nov 8, 1859

Dear Otis

I was glad to get your note a few days ago and have tried to find time to get up & see you, and had Sarah not been ill last Saturday, I think I should have gone up, but it is now out of the question, for I have a matter on my hands that keeps me here every day and I fear now I shall not get through with it. It is in relation to the titles of my house. Sarah & I regret very much not being able to see you all, and that our children could not have met & known each other, but it seems that it is not to be so this time.

We expect to leave on Friday next in the Steamer, and in five days thereafter hope to be in Nassau.

I am very glad to hear that your meetings are larger and more interesting, and trust that the Lord will smile graciously upon the efforts that are being made for the bringing in of Souls into His Kingdom. I have been traveling about so much that I have enjoyed to a very limited degree the means of Grace. We had no preaching at Leeds, and but little any where else. I heard from Uncle Ensign yesterday. The folks are all well there. They have a minister settled (Mr Chapin) and I sold them a bell for their meeting house. I hope their minister will do them good, and preach nothing but Christ.

Sarah joins in regrets that we are not going to see you, and in love to you. We are very glad that Charles is so much improved, but should he have a recurrence of his troubles and want to go south I think I can get him a good position at Inagua. Remember me to him and believe me

Yr aff Cousin  
F. T. Sargent

---

1094 11/11/1859 *From:* E. Waite

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1034

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Portland Nov 11th 1859

Lieut O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I wrote you on the 27 Ult and enclosed \$72- in Bills on Canl Bank, as follows \$50 bill No 137, \$20 bill No 913, \$2 bill Atlantic Bank Boston. I have not heard whether you recvd it. I also made some allusion to A&S L Rail Road Stock. It is thought by some who pretend to see ahead, that this Stock will not always pay 6 per ct.

Yours Truly  
E. Waite

P.S. Novm'r 29th

I laid this aside for a day or two after it was written and had forgotten it until to day. All well.  
E.W.

---

1095 11/13/1859 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

*To:* Lieut O. O. Howard

OOH-1035

Bowd. Coll  
Brunswick

West Point N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Bowd. Coll Nov. 13, 1859.

My Dear Brother:

I received your & Charles letter last evening. I carried Charles letter to Nettie immediately. She didn't seem to like the idea of Charles writing her through me as she got a short letter thereby.

I think you grossly mistook my idea of secret societies in my letter to Charles. There is no one that dislikes some of the evils of secret societies more than I do and as for debating while I am a Freshman, I don't care to do that but I like to attend literary meetings and listen to Literary exercises of every kind. In college we are now enjoying the excitement attendant upon making alliances for the next Freshman election and next spring term is as likely to witness as hard a <torn corner> has been seen in the election <[torn corner]> parties are very equally divided, there being 22 votes considered sure on one side and nineteen upon the other with 21 doubtful votes, from which must come the material to decide the contest. I am on the side that can count upon 22. The ΔKE & ΨΥ composing the alliance with me as the only "ouden". All the other "oudens" go with the ΧΦ, ΘΔΧ, & ΑΔΦ alliance.

I write this partly for you and partly for Charles benefit as he probably is much more interested in these things than you are.

The prospects now are decidedly against us. Our men are lazy, i.e. they don't think it is best to do anything till next spring, while the other side are now sending men all over the state in order to get voters pledged. I don't care which way it goes, although I shall be Historian if our side carries the day.

Nettie is well and sends her <[torn corner]> Otis & Lizzie and kisses for <>. She doesn't send her love to Charles. Perhaps she thinks it needless to have it go through more than one channel.

The religious interest in college is, I am pained to say, at a rather low ebb. The prayer meetings are thinly attended and by professors of piety alone. Our prayer meeting of the Freshman class seems to be best attended, for we usually get about ten or a dozen while in the other class prayer meetings they have six or eight. The Thursday noon meeting is thinly attended and the meeting of the Praying Circle on Sabbath morning does not seem to create a great deal of interest. As for the prayer meetings in town, those only are well attended which are held on Sunday evening. The week day meetings are so thinly attended that it really seems discouraging and it also makes us feel that many attend on <> evening for other than religious <> Pray for us. We need the prayers of every earnest christian man, with the decline of that interest in religion & the desire to increase the interest in Temperance.

Intemperance and those other vices peculiar to college life are visibly increasing. During the first eight weeks of the term it is said that not one "hard drunk" had taken place either in this or the other end of North College but within the last four weeks they have taken place a number of times. "Roasts" are frequent and the robbing of hen roosts more so. I am sorry to record all these things but I thought it necessary in order to direct your special attention to the subject, so that you and all with whom you have an influence will pray more earnestly for us. I am glad to be able to state that these evils exist to a less extent in my own than in any other class in College. There are only two in the class that have the <> of having taken any <> and they have now both signed the Temperance pledge. But I am told that students don't usually commence drinking during the first term of their Freshman year but as most of those who are now in College of our class have signed the pledge I am in hopes that we shall have quite an exemplary class in that respect.

I had a letter from mother not long since. She talks seriously of going to Augusta this winter and staying with father, but what are their arrangements more than that I am unable to ascertain as mother don't seem to be very communicative on the subject, perhaps not knowing exactly what to do herself.

I shall spend Thanksgiving day at Bath if nothing "turns up" unforeseen to prevent. My school will commence at Falmouth on Monday after Thanksgiving day. How I shall succeed, the result only will show.

I have been to hear the Unitarian minister this p.m. I like Mr Wheeler very much. The sermon was delivered for a funeral sermon - Miss Sarah Thompson's brother died of the Yellow Fever in Havana. Charles knows Miss Thompson. I had heard that she was one of his old "flames" and it is for his benefit that this is written.

I shall write him and you often. You will remember when I commence my school at Falmouth, so that my letters may go there instead of Brunswick.

Give my love to Lizzie, Charles & the children. Charles will hear from me ere long. Pray for me always.

Your very affectionate brother  
R.H. Gilmore  
Brunswick

Lieut O. O. Howard  
West Point N.Y.

<[Torn page]>

I saw Rowland when he was here last Saturday and also on Tuesday and Wednesday. He seemed to be enjoying good health and generally in good spirits.

---

1096 11/25/1859 *From:* Rowland [B Howard] *To:* Dear Bro Otis [OO Howard]

OOH-1036

Leeds

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

Leeds Nov 25th 1859

Dear Bro Otis

As I wrote Charles last, this shall be to you. In spite of the rumor wh. we all rev'd via West Pt, & which on some accts. I would like to have been true.

I did not go to Bath Thanksgiving & never intended to or hinted that I might. I don't go there now-a-days unless by going in the vicinity to preach in the Sabbath. I can save half my R. R. fare. Ella forwarded yours & Charles letters & I was just as glad to read them in Leeds. I came here Wednesday & found all well.

I preach in Winthrop next Sabbath & so came home to Thanksgiving & will return to Bangor Monday. Please don't take any trouble to "keep the run" of me but write to Bangor as often as convenient. I intend to be there all the time except Sundays. We had a pleasant Thanksgiving. Mother staid at home but father & I went to meeting. He is very lame with Rheumatism today - can hardly rise from his chair without assistance.

They have a real good Methodist like minister. He is 35, has a wife & no child & has been but two years out of the Semry. He will labor for a Revival & let us pray for his success. The M. H. is improved, but not so much as the same money & good workmen & good taste might have improved it. The bell is a fine one & the pulpit convenient. Warren & Louisa, Roland & Cynthia & their families & Georgie Gilmore were here yesterday. Warren & I prayed & sang before we separated in the evening. You & Charles would have enjoyed it greatly. He is very earnest & fervent.

It is excellent sleighing & I have been up & dined with Laura & called on John & the minister, Mr Chapin. Laura boards the School master & would be quite happy if Helen would forgive her for marrying Uncle & would treat her kindly. I don't dare to say much lest I should widen the breach. All the Leeds people are proud of their M.H. & bell & my prayer & hope is that - by looking at the cross on which he is hung they may catch a view of brazen Serpent. O that the hearts of this selfish mean - penurious people could be turned into their God.

Two weeks ago tomorrow I rode down to see Vaughan Otis & staid an hour. He appears like a confirmed consumptive. He is well cared for in body, but I fear he will not recover. He speaks in a whisper & does not go out. He is too weak to go to Texas or Nassau. He has had two or three bad bleedings at the lungs. Aunt Martha Jane has written Mother a good long letter about her new baby &c. I hope you & Charles will write Vaughan. I did not speak to him this time about his Soul, because I could not see him away from his family.

Ella seems to have enjoyed her Thanksgiving. She attended the wedding of one of her cousins - gives a glowing acct. of the silver plate & says she hopes the custom of giving will hold out till we are married!

Mother thinks now they (father & herself) will board at Laura Anns. I hope they will. Mother has been so long accustomed to the narrow circle of home that it will be quite a change to her to receive & give "calls" to "dress" in the afternoon &c. but her good sense will secure respect anyhow.

It bids fair for a storm to go to Winthrop in, but what are outward difficulties compared with these inward struggles & failings. The church in Winthrop is very cold & dead generally & sometimes it seems like mockery to preach to such a people as if they were alive, but Jesus preached just so to everybody.

I hope you have been to see Tuthill as you proposed. I know he will be glad to see you. Tell Lizzie I hope she will use her sewing machine more than Ella does hers. Tell Guy those kisses that he has sent were rather dry before they got to Maine.

Charles rather hints in his letter to Mother that some do not "love & respect" Nettie as much as they ought. If he thinks that of Ella I want to disabuse his mind. I am the greatest enemy Nettie has in the family & how much of a one I am, let my future acts testify. Words, after all, are but of small account.

Mother says she would like very much to write Otis. I hope my writing will not discourage her. Tell Charles I don't want Mr Wells to make an Episcopalian of him & I wish that effort at Buttermilk was for Mr. Greys church, altho' the Methodist Minister that visited Aunt Ann seemed like a very good man.

I enjoyed last Sabbath at "Upper Stillwater" very much - had a good attentive audience with some marks of penitence in the congregation. The meetings were never so full at the Center as now. They hope that a brighter day has dawned for the Railroad but there are some rather dangerous contingencies yet.

Speaking of Thanksgiving I have the most to be thankful to God for, & the most wicked & ungrateful heart of all. Albert Patten is at Sea with a Capt. Drummond. His uncle is at home. Hannah Lizzies flow of animal spirits has been almost uninterrupted in spite of her troubles. If they would sadden, it seems as if they might benefit her but who could wish her to be less cheerful. Mother sends love.

Yr. Aff. Brother  
Rowland

It seems to me that the excitement of preaching will be bad for Charles at present & he had better avoid it experiments will prove.

Tell Gracie, Uncle Rowland wishes to see her doll.